

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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A New PHS: Progress but True Equity Remains Elusive

By Link Hoewing

The Montgomery County Council just gave final approval to the FY22 budget. Included in the budget is around \$60 million that will go to the construction of a new Poolesville High School. Added to accumulated funds, the total budget for construction of the new school is a little over \$70 million. It is welcome news and is in many ways a historic event.

Even with this initial step forward, the county's commitment to building a truly new and modern school ready to serve the needs of all students now and in the future is not complete. The budget for the school is more on par with the funding needed to build a new middle school, not a new high school. Despite the new design for the school which has received positive reviews, the county has still refused to include critical features—including a new, competition-size gymnasium



Artist rendering of the new Poolesville High School.

and a student Wellness Center—that would demonstrate that it is “all in” when it comes to rebuilding PHS.

This is not the case with other high school projects. Seneca Valley High School, with its new Wellness Center and massive new gym that can be

divided into three usable parts, as well as its completely rebuilt outdoor stadium and playing fields, comes immediately to mind. Some twenty years of advocacy have yielded fruit,

Continued on page 16.

The Cicada and the Ant

By Dominique Agnew

Spring has sprung, and the cicadas are singing. For some, singing wouldn't be the right term, making noise would be more like it, but for others, the song of the cicada is inspiration—for poets, musicians, and other artists.

In this area, cicadas are certainly something special—they only come out like this once every seventeen years. What if they didn't? What if there were cicadas every year? Would they still inspire artists? Maybe yearly cicadas would only inspire fabulists, people who write fables.

Jean de la Fontaine, the fabulous French fabulist of the seventeenth century, must have found just this kind of inspiration. Like most fables, the main characters of his tales were insects and animals; and like all fables, there was a moral to each story.

Continued on page 5.



"La Cigale et la Fourmi," by Jean-Jacques Grandville

Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



WWII vet Otto Wernlof joined in the community memorial service at the Poolesville Presbyterian Church. More pictures in Family Album on page 2.



Read about the abbreviated PHS spring sports season on page 3.



Stocking town ponds for better fishing. Details in Tidbits on page 8.



Looking through Lock 25 from the upstream end of the lock. Read more about the lock on page 10.

Family Album



Students lined up for their turn to place memorial flags on the lawn.



Lisa Koeser and Jane Wonnell organized the PPC's Memorial Day remembrance in the Community Garden.



PES students placed American flags in honor of those who died in military service.



A massive display of American flags on the front lawn of PES.



Rick Normoyle played the patriotic music at Poolesville Presbyterian's Memorial Day service.



Gina Beck sang at a Memorial Day event.

Youth Sports

Falcon Athletes Fight Hard for First Wins of Truncated Seasons

By Jeff Stuart

An abbreviated spring sports season has seen the Poolesville athletic teams fighting hard for wins. The Falcon girls' tennis team picked up their first win of the season against Rockville on May 13.

"Though our team has no seniors, they defeated rival Quince Orchard convincingly, 6-1, at home on May 17 and followed up with another convincing 7-0 win at Damascus," said coach Andrew Johnson. "Narrow losses to Northwest and Sherwood were hard-fought matches. Co-captain Angie Zhao and Suzy Xu give Poolesville one of the best #1 and #2 singles combos in Montgomery County. Co-captain Kaviya Kandaswamy and Sanjana Konka fill out our singles squad. Our top doubles team of Shriya Yavasani and Malavika Kattuparambil clinched the QO victory and continue to improve against tough competition. The second doubles team of newcomers Veera Singh and Marie Valouski remain unbeaten and always find a way to win the close match. Yoksha Muruganantham and Angelina Araj anchor the third doubles slot and have great chemistry on the court."

The girls' softball team picked up their first win at Clarksburg on May 18, defeating the Coyotes, 3-0.

"Ainsley Hagen pitched a complete game shutout, striking out seven and walking only one batter," said coach Laurie Wohnhas. "In the top of the sixth, Lexi Burdette led off with a single. Taylor Rohde was walked, Catie Galant got hit by a pitch, and Ainsley Hagen got hit by a pitch to score Lexi Burdette. The next batter, Colleen Hueting, hit a single to right field, and Taylor and Catie scored. We held them the next two innings with one, two, three straight outs in each. Hagen struck out the last two batters bottom of seventh. We still have some work to do, but it was a nice win for the girls to help with their confidence."

The Poolesville boys' lacrosse team endured a brutal opening stretch of games against traditional 4A powers, Quince Orchard and Sherwood, and an always strong team and rival Damascus. The Falcons lost a very competitive game to Damascus at home on May 14, and they almost earned their first win against Northwest at home on May 21. A young and quickly-growing Falcon squad lost in overtime, 10-9.

"The senior group has done a great job of working with me to help the team persevere through the truncated season," said coach Stuart Orns. "It's great that we are out on the field, and they get a chance to finish out their senior year playing some games. Vlad, Andrew, Jay, Aiden, and Ian all have bright futures, and I am lucky to have been able to coach them through the years."

The Falcon baseball team is 2-4 on the year so far, with two one-run losses to Quince Orchard and another one-run loss at Clarksburg. The coed volleyball team won their first game of the year at Northwest on May 11, sweeping the Jaguars in three sets. The Falcon boys' volleyball team took the home Quince Orchard Cougars to a fifth-set tie breaker before losing, 3-2, on May 10.

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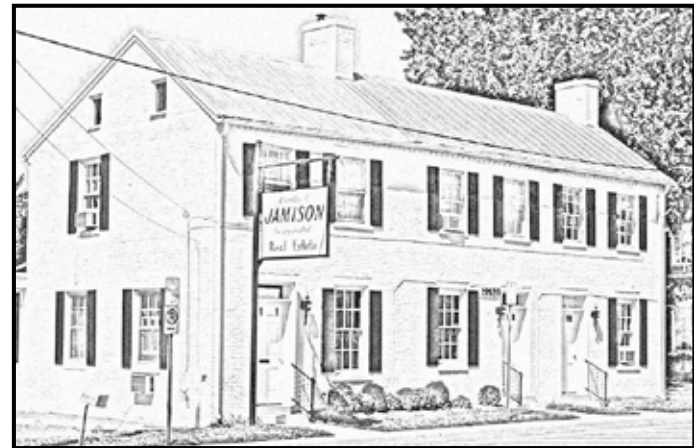


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History Alive!

Rande(m) Thoughts It Makes Me See Red, Thankfully

By Rande Davis

It's hard to pin down the origin of "seeing red" as a reference to being angry. It is guessed that it comes from red apparently often being associated with anger and pas-sion, so seeing red refers to one's overheated emotions. I would not usually be thankful about "seeing red," and without question, being angry is not something anyone would ordinarily be thankful for; however, that changed with this issue's front-page story.

Link Hoewing, who is one of the most experienced advocates from our area for public school equity, has provided a much-needed historical review of our journey to get a new Poolesville High School.

It has taken decades of dedication from quite a number of local residents who at some point should be identified, hopefully without leaving anyone out. At times, it even took seeing red or being angry to get our voices heard.

Success comes to those who are prepared to seize it—either when the opportunity comes or by creating that opportunity for it to come. The

leadership of the Fair Access Committee (FAC) fueled by outstanding local support at many levels has been the key ingredient in reaching our goal for a new school. There is still time for the county to look the other way. Nevertheless, in many ways, FAC has helped create that opportunity that we now have, and clearly without them, we would not be in a position to seize the moment.

The county school system's newest evaluation process used to determine which schools and what things need updating has also led to our new opportunity. Bottom line, the infrastructure of each school was evaluated and given a color-grade based on the urgency of need. Red codes meant the quality of the particular feature was unacceptable and had to be completely rebuilt. Yellow meant the feature needed to be upgraded but could be fixed. Green meant the feature was in good shape. Each school was then graded with an overall color grade. Yep, although we in town are not surprised, PHS was the only high school in the system with an overall color grade of red. Our plight could no longer be simply ignored. It's terribly unfair that we and PHS were allowed to get to this point, but at least now it's as plain as black and white—and red!—for all to see, and I could not be more thankful that the simple truth is now so obvious!

Garden

War on Weeds

By Maureen O'Connell

As we head into early summer, annual weeds are joining perennial weeds to invade your gardens and lawns, but before we declare war on them, let's define the word "weed." It is often described as a flower out of place or a plant growing where it is not wanted. Commonly, these plants are undesirable in human-controlled settings, such as farm fields, gardens, lawns, and parks. Our human activities create weed problems since no plant is a weed in nature.

Of the 391,000 species of plants in the world, according to a report by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, U.K., only three percent are recognized as undesirable plants. Weeds do have a purpose. They are the first species to germinate in the bare-naked landscape. They provide a cover to prevent soil erosion from heavy rainfall until hardier brush, shrub, and tree life return to fill in the void. Weeds growing along riverbanks and shorelines prevent the earth from sliding into the water. Some are edible to humans and provide habitat and food for wildlife.



Tradescantia in author's upper garden.

When are they problems? Weeds can cause economic losses and ecological damages if they are growing in undesired areas, such as Johnson grass growing in a farmer's hay fields. They reduce crop yield and compete with the desired crop plants for water, nutrients, space, and light. Farmers are

Continued on page 14.

Fun Fact...

It is widely thought that "see red" derives from the sport of bull-fighting and the toreador's use of a red cape to deceive the bull.

The phrase is known from the early twentieth century and is easily pre-dated by the ancient sport, and more to the point, the knowledge of bull-fighting parlance in English-speaking countries which dates from the mid-eighteenth century.

That proposed derivation is backed up by the existence of the earlier phrase, "like a red rag to a bull." This is found in Charlotte Mary Yonge's novel *The Pillars of the House*, 1873: "Jack will do for himself if he tells Wilmet her eyes are violet; it is like a red rag to a bull."

www.phrases.org.uk

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Published and Edited by
John Clayton and Rande Davis

John Clayton
Production
Financial
301.461.8840
jclayton@monocacymonocle.com

Rande Davis
Advertising
Circulation
301.509.9232
rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

Dominique Agnew
Copyediting
dqagnew@gmail.com

editor@monocacymonocle.com
advertising@monocacymonocle.com
www.monocacymonocle.com

Monocacy Press, LLC
John Clayton, President
Rande Davis, Vice President
P.O. Box 372
Barnesville, MD 20838-0372
301.461.8840

Contributing Writers

Link Hoewing
linkhoe@aol.com
Maureen O'Connell
mafoconnell@msn.com
Tor Ofsthun
torofsthun@yahoo.com
Susan Petro
bsusan424@gmail.com
Kenny Sholes
kcs7110@gmail.com
Jeffrey S. Stuart
sark10@juno.com
Jack Toomey
jack21262@aol.com
Jon Wolz
wolzjon@hotmail.com
Andrew Sojka
Student Reporter, PHS News
andrewsojka2021@gmail.com

Contributing Photographer

Terri Pitts
terri.pitts@gmail.com

Layout and Graphics
AnyArt Solutions LLC
sales@AnyArtSolutions.com

Fun Facts Contributor
Laura Muncy
laura@AnyArtSolutions.com

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The Cicada and the Ant

What do you think is the moral of his classic fable, *The Cicada and the Ant*? Many Anglophones recognize this tale as *The Grasshopper and the Ant*.

Here it is in the original French (you have studied French in school, right?) and in English.

La Cigale, ayant chanté
 Tout l'été
 Se trouva fort dépourvue
 Quand la bise fut venue:
 Pas un seul petit morceau
 De mouche ou de vermisseau.
 Elle alla crier famine
 Chez la Fourmi sa voisine,
 La priant de lui prêter
 Quelque grain pour subsister
 Jusqu'à la saison nouvelle.
 "Je vous paierai, lui dit-elle,
 Avant l'Août, foi d'animal,
 Intérêt et principal."
 La Fourmi n'est pas prêteuse:
 C'est là son moindre défaut.
 Que faisiez-vous au temps chaud?
 Dit-elle à cette emprunteuse.
 – Nuit et jour à tout venant
 Je chantais, ne vous déplaïse.
 – Vous chantiez? J'en suis fort aise
 Eh bien! dansez maintenant.

Mrs. Cicada, having sung
 The whole of the summer sun
 Found herself lacking
 When the summer heat went packing
 There was not left a single bite
 Neither flea nor little mite.
 So she complained of her hunger
 To Mrs. Ant, her neighbor;
 She pleaded with Mrs. Ant to lend her
 Some seeds to tide her over
 Until the new season.
 "I will pay you," she reasoned
 "I assure you, before the month
 of August,
 Principal plus interest."
 But Mrs. Ant did not like to lend
 Among her faults, this is the least.
 "What were you doing during the heat?"
 She asked Mrs. Cicada, without amend.
 "Do not become displeased,
 I was singing
 To all visitors, all day and all night."
 "Singing? Is that right?"
 Well, then! Now, go dancing."

—Original Translation from the French by Dominique Agnew

It has been noticed by scholars that there are little problems with the cicada in this story. Cicadas don't eat other insects like grasshoppers, they argued, they suck the nectar from the trees. La Fontaine may have used literary license for a number of reasons. First of all, la cigale just rolls off the tongue much more nicely than la sauterelle (grasshopper). Also, cicadas, in the Era of Antiquity, symbolized the poet in all his insouciance. "I am the beloved insect of the poet and of the gods," wrote Jean Aicard in his *Poèmes de la Provence*.

The other little problem that astute readers may have noticed is that by the time it starts getting cold, cicadas have long been in the ground—details, details. Who has time to be bothered with these petty nuances? If only someone had noticed that these insects are talking to each other—in French, no less.

Photo courtesy of christian.richet.pagesperso-orange.fr/fablab.html



"La Cigale et la Fourmi,"
 by Christian Richet ©.



French Stamp of
 "La Cigale et la Fourmi"

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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Present Virtual Programs

Poolesville Seniors is offering a wide variety of virtual programs in June that will meet the needs for exercise, information, and socialization. Visit their website at 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.

Tuesdays

Trivia Game Night

If you love Trivia, come join a team with Poolesville Seniors. Email info@poolesvilleseniors.org for more information. 7:00 p.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.

Fridays

Breath-Mind-Body with Kathy Jankowski. 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.

June 9

FREE Virtual Quarterly Social

Mary Ann Jung will entertain, educate, and inspire all with her History Alive interpretation of the courageous aviatrix, Amelia Earhart. 2:00 p.m.

June 10

MC and Me: The Gift That Just Kept Giving

Lon Anderson will join us to discuss his career as a journalist, photographer, lobbyist, and spokesman for AAA, and his life in Montgomery County as he traces the role Montgomery College has had on his career. 7:00 p.m.

June 17

Historic Properties Lecture

Join Kenny Sholes for another episode in his series about historical sites, properties, and people of the Ag Reserve. 7:00 p.m.

June 24

The History of the C&O Canal

Jon Wolz will be sharing history of the C&O Canal from its initial vision

Continued on page 7.

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A Monocacy Moment Lost in Time



Patriarch Frederick Sprigg Poole, Sr. with daughter Florence Priscilla Poole seated next to him. The first woman standing to the left is unidentified. The following three couples are Florence's daughters and spouses: Louis and Mary Hankins, the Rev. William and Frances Eleanor Williams, and Walter and Anna Cost Williams.

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Senior News

by George Washington to its heyday as a hub of commerce and importance during the Civil War as well as the importance of preserving this national treasure. 7:00 p.m.

June 28

Book Club

Join in the dialogue as we discuss *Yellow Bird* by Sierra Crane Murdoch. Murdoch's first book chronicles a murder on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota, tracing the trail of Lissa Yellow Bird, as she searches for an oil worker who went missing from the reservation. 7:00 p.m.

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 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.

Fun Fact...

Why Was June Made?

Why was June made?—
Can you guess?
June was made for happiness!
Even the trees
Know this, and the breeze
That loves to play
Outside all day,
And never is too bold or rough,
Like March's wind, but just a tiny
blow's enough;
And all the fields know
This is so—
June was not made for wind
and stress,
June was made for happiness;
Little happy daisy faces
Show it in the meadow places,
And they call out when I pass,
"Stay and play here in the grass."
June was made for happy things,
Boats and flowers, stars
and wings,
Not for wind and stress,
June was made for happiness!

— Annette Wynne

<https://discoverpoetry.com/>



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Tidbits

It's On! Poolesville Day 2021

The Poolesville Day Committee (PDC) has officially announced the great news: Poolesville Day 2021 is a go! Mark your calendars for September 18 and make sure you sign up for your vendor spot, and if in the parade, don't forget you must sign up for that separately. The last event was in 2019 and was an extraordinary success. Despite one-year unplanned hiatus, with PDC now hard at work, everyone is looking forward to the resumption of this great annual community get together.

The committee needs continued strong sponsorship, so if you were a sponsor before, let them know you are coming back; if your company or organization has never sponsored before, this would be a great time to join them. This is your opportunity to support our community and get your company name out to thousands of people.

Here is the link to the Poolesville Day website: www.poolesvilleday.com. Just click the link for sponsors, sign up, and send a check. Reminder that your name goes on the website as soon as you become a sponsor, so you receive extra advertising exposure at the same cost. Our refund policy is the same as it was in 2020: If Poolesville Day is canceled due to the pandemic, all sponsors will receive a hundred percent refund.

Wonder Woman Moves to Virginia

The women of the Rural Women Republican Club said a fond farewell to one of their own in May, and in so



*Back row: Ryan Duncan, JP Williams, Liam Slonski, and Landon Puglisi.
Front: Anthony DePasquale, Klay Dimmerling, Dean DePasquale, Patrick Mercer,
Nicolas DePasquale, Lola Morris, and coaches, Matt Duncan and Dean DePasquale*

doing, spoke for many other groups in the Upcounty. As Sharon Bauer prepares to move to Virginia, these are the groups also sending her well wishes for her future:

Current President Montgomery County Federation of Republican (4 years), Former President Rural Women's

Republican Club (4 Years), current National Capital Area Garden Club Treasurer (4 Years), Monocacy Garden Club various board positions (10 years), Trinity United Methodist Church in Germantown (current Finance Secretary and many board positions (20 years), Questers Curio

Chapter – President (4 years), Historic Medley District, Secretary (13 years), Sugarloaf Regional Trails – Treasurer (10 years), Potomac Hunt Club, Former Treasurer (20 years), Montgomery Countryside Alliance Former Board member (6 years), and finally, Black Rock Center for the Arts Gala (4 years). Phew, not sure about you, but we are exhausted just thinking about all her good works.

Undaunted and Undeclared

As the PAA Black 10U baseball team went undefeated this spring, they certainly have much reason to smile despite the winding down of COVID-19. The *Monocle* is so pleased to share their success with our readers.

Gone Fishin'

With our own Jack Toomey leading a clarion call for more fishing in area ponds, the town government with the help of the Department of Natural Resources of Maryland stock channel catfish in to Collier Circle pond and Hunters Run pond next to John Poole Middle School. It comes with a mild warning, please be respectful of the area and the fish and most importantly, have fun.



Sharon Bauer with Patsy Dillingham at luncheon honoring her many years of service.

Things To Do

Saturday Farmers' Market

Whalen Commons. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

June 7

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

No official announcement on intentions regarding in-person meetings. Entry to town hall remains barred to public. *Poolesville Town Hall, Zoom only.* 7:30 p.m.

June 11

Good Stewards of the Earth Celebration

Pot decorating and seed planting; featuring Sunnyside Faith Singers, Gospel concert. All are welcome. *Poolesville Presbyterian Church.* 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

June 12

Hope Garden Ballet: Outdoor Spring Performance

This highly-acclaimed local ballet is preparing a wonderful program that will thrill your spirit and get you ready for summer fun. They also promise some surprises. *Whalen Commons Bandstand.* 1:00 p.m.

Poolesville American Legion Post 247 Annual Summer Picnic

The legion will honor Richard "Sarge" Remp, veteran of WWI, Korea, and Viet Nam. All veterans and their families are invited. *Calleva, Dickerson.* 1:00 p.m.

Monocacy Lions Resume In-Person Meetings

The Monocacy Lions have announced that they will be resuming in-person meetings. Approaching their seventy-fifth year, they welcome new members for those persons wanting to contribute in a meaningful way for all those in need. Persons who have been vaccinated do not have to wear a mask, but those not vaccinated must continue to wear one and social distance themselves. For details, email monocacylions@gmail.com.

June 13

John Poole House Community Picnic

The Historic Medley District invites you, your families, neighbors, and friends to our annual picnic at the JPH. Bring lunch, snacks, and blankets or lawn chairs and reunite with your neighbors after long COVID restrictions. There will be fun games for children. The JPH will be open for tours. We ask you to please wear masks, and there will be staggered entries. Locals will be open with their delicious baked goods and drinks. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Would you like to announce a meeting, club, or upcoming event in **Things to Do?** Then let us know! Send it along to editor@monocacymonocle.com



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Focus On: Poolesville, Dickerson, and Northwestern Montgomery County Housing Market April 2021

Zo Code(s): 20837, 20838, 20839, 20841, 20842 and 20871	Units Sold	Active Inventory	Median Sale Price	Days On Market
	73	45	\$630,000	20



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Vs. Year Ago



Up 20%
Vs. Year Ago



Down -80%
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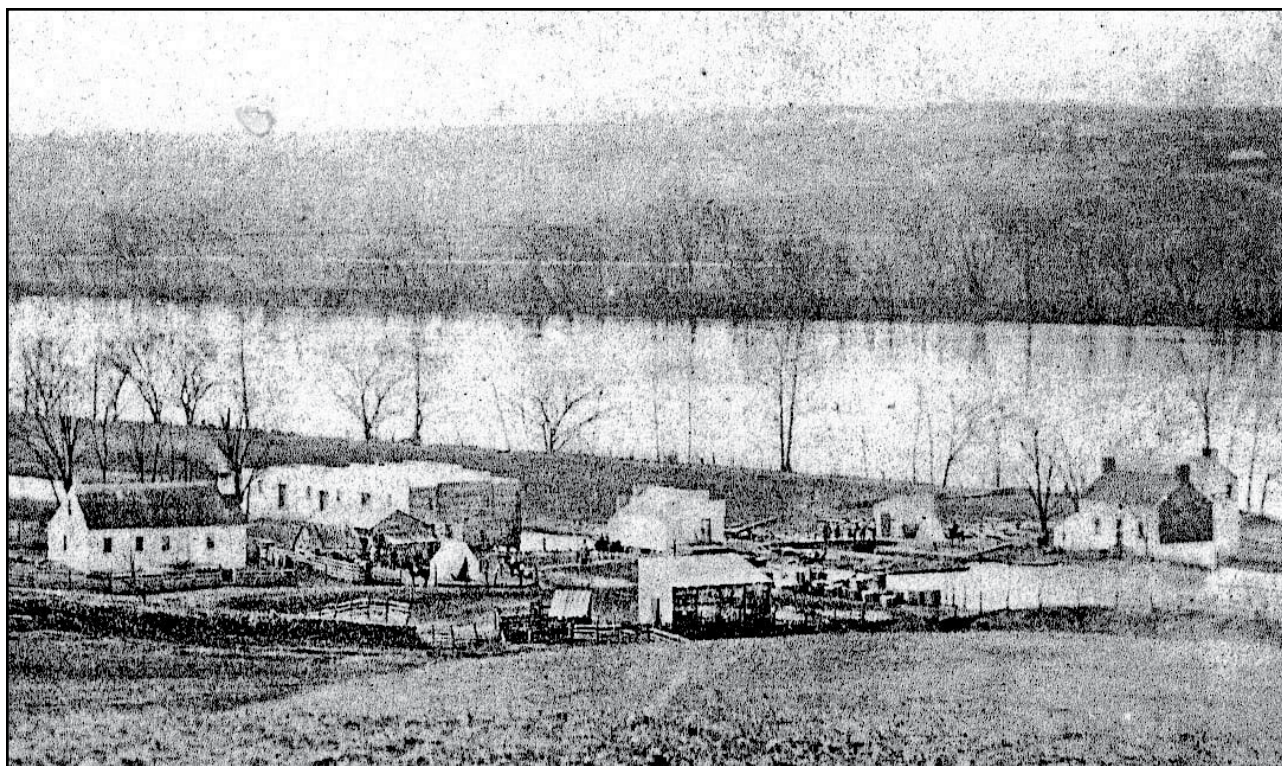
Lock 25—Edwards Ferry: Part Two

By Jon Wolz

Part one of this story appeared in the May 21, 2021 edition of the Monocacy Monocle.

By 1860, the Federal census shows William Henry Rollison as the lockkeeper at Lock 25 with personal assets totaling \$60, and he could not read or write. William's first wife Henrietta died about 1855.

He was born May 13, 1812 and died November 1, 1893 and is buried in Union Cemetery in Lovettsville, Virginia. Living with him at the lockhouse was his son William, Jr., age 24, whose occupation was "boatman." William, Jr. enlisted in the Union Army, and in the January 22, 2021 Monocacy Monocle there is a piece about William, Jr. titled, "The Forgotten Story of William Henry Rollison, Civil War Veteran and Ferryman." Living at the lockhouse in 1860 was a daughter, 20, Frances, and another son, 16, John. A twenty-year-old laborer, John France, lived at the lockhouse as a boarder. On January 2, 1865,



Edwards Ferry during the Civil War under the occupation of Union soldiers. The large white building towards the left was the granary, and the lockhouse is on the right side. The Fletchall Store is behind the lockhouse. Soldiers are standing on the pivot bridge over the lock. (Photo provided by Jim Poole).

William married again to Sarah Rebecca Criswell, 34, in Montgomery County.

An 1865 Map of Montgomery County, Maryland shows W. Rollison, Sr. as the

lockkeeper at Lock 25, Edwards Ferry. Also, there is mention of a "Rolison" on John T. Fletchall's canal boat log for the "Col. Spates." Local Poolesville area historian Jim Poole shared with me the log from 1867 that shows "Rolison" was paid 75 cents as a boat hand. This would have been one of the two Rollison sons who very well could have been living with his father and family at the lockhouse in 1867.

William, Sr. and Sarah had three children between 1865 and 1869. The first two children were born in Maryland and the youngest child was born in Loudoun County, Virginia on January 30, 1869. It is probable that William, Sr. served most of the 1860s as the Lock 25 lockkeeper.

With the outbreak of Civil War in 1861, Edwards Ferry as well as the

entire C&O Canal were in the position of being located on the border between north and south and came under martial law.

Trade across the Potomac River at Edwards Ferry was halted, and canal traffic came under attack by Confederates. On October 21, 1861, people in the Edwards Ferry community witnessed the Battle of Ball's Bluff between Union and Confederate forces, just across the Potomac River. After the battle, the citizens of Edwards Ferry opened their homes as hospitals to Union soldiers wounded in the battle.

In December 1861, up to fifty thousand Union troops were stationed at Edwards Ferry to guard the

Continued on page 11.

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Continued from page 10.

Lock 25—Edwards Ferry: Part Two

crossing. During 1861, scientist and inventor Thaddeus Lowe used his specially-designed hot air balloon for reconnaissance purposes, floating above the trees and surveying the movements of the Confederate troops across the Potomac River in Virginia.

The river was shallow at times at Edwards Ferry, and the crossing was often used as a place where opposing soldiers would wade into the Potomac and actually meet and exchange pleasantries. One Minnesotan wrote in a letter home that when the river froze over, Union pickets crossed the ice to shake hands and exchange buttons with their Confederate counterparts.

In late June 1863, during the march that would culminate with the Battle of Gettysburg, seventy-five thousand Union troops, under the command of Gen. Joseph Hooker, crossed the Potomac at Edwards Ferry, Virginia using two 1,400-foot-long pontoon bridges. According to Jim Poole, in George Spates's War Claim for damages, "He had a shipment of lumber for a new barn waiting to be picked up at Edwards Ferry in June of 1863 (bad timing). As the whole Army of the Potomac began to cross into Maryland,

it started to rain. The grade from the pontoon bridges to the canal became so slick with mud, the men and wagons could not make it. They ended up using his lumber for a road up to the canal."

It was reported by the *Baltimore Sun* on July 14, 1863, that eight bodies of Confederate soldiers were pulled from the Potomac River at Edwards Ferry who were thought to have drowned while attempting to cross back to Virginia after the Battle of Gettysburg.

On November 22, 1863, the *Baltimore Sun* reported that a party of ten to twelve Confederates crossed the Potomac River in a flatboat and landed near Edwards Ferry. They captured two Union soldiers who were on duty, and they took the contents of a canal boat that was laden with goods totaling \$3,000. Among the items taken from the boat included a man's wedding suit, wines, brandies, cakes, and candies intended for a citizen of Montgomery County who was to be married a few days later. After loading their flatboat, the Confederates went back to Virginia where they "frolicked" with music and dancing with one of the soldiers putting on the wedding suit.

The *Washington Evening Star* reported on July 15, 1864 that on the previous

day, Confederate Maj. Harry Gilmore and "his gang of horse thieves and incendiaries were among the last of Early's men to cross the Potomac which they did a little above Edwards Ferry." Gilmore's force totaled about two to three hundred cavalry. As part of Early's Maryland invasion, Gilmore's cavalry was to free Confederate prisoners of war at Point Lookout, Maryland but failed to reach their goal. Instead, they created havoc in Baltimore and Harford Counties.

Once the Civil War ended on April 9, 1865, Edwards Ferry served as a United States parole site. Former

Confederate troops were officially pardoned if they took the Union Oath of Allegiance. In May 1865, life at Edwards Ferry began to return to normal. The border reopened, and the ferry started running again.

In January 1868, the *Baltimore Sun* reported about a man who was handed over to the custody of the jailer, under a commitment by Justice Hilliard. The man was charged with having broken into the store of John T. Fletchall & Co. located behind the lockhouse and took \$25 in currency and a Colt revolver valued at \$15.

To be continued with the year 1870.

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Continued from page 4.

War on Weeds

criticized for using Roundup to kill grass tissue and developing rhizomes and are strongly encouraged to practice sustainable agriculture, but for them, the challenge of sustainability is enormous. Without a significant change in human behavior and adequate economic, social, and environmental policies, plans, and projects to address this issue, the challenges to farmers remain. Herbicides to kill unwanted plants is too often the “cure” used by home gardeners, as well as farmers with large tracts of farmland. There are synthetic and organic herbicides. Whatever type you use, they should be used, if at all, sparingly and with great care. Just because a product is organic does not mean it can’t be toxic to humans, pets, livestock, all wildlife, and “good” plants.

Types of weeds. There are many varieties: wild violet, chickweed, dandelion, purslane, crabgrass, broadleaf plantain, lamb’s quarters, bindweed, to name a few. Depending upon their growth habit and potential for damage, weeds can be classified as noxious (any plant designated by federal, state, or local government officials as injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation sites, wildlife, and property) or invasive (plants that establish, persist, and spread widely in natural ecosystems outside the plants’ natural range; they often lack natural enemies to control their growth). Field bindweed is considered noxious. It is very common in our area and is extremely difficult to eradicate. An invasive weedy plant is tradescantia, a species of spiderwort. This might be surprising to you as it is sold in many garden centers. True it has beautiful bright blue flowers, but it is invasive! It self-seeds and grows everywhere in the yard, growing in tight bundles choking out other plants. The roots go down two to three inches, making it difficult to remove. This article’s accompanying picture shows it growing in one of my large garden plots. Many years ago, I planted one plant, along with Siberian Iris, David Austin’s ‘The Poet’s Wife’ rose, Shasta daisy ‘Becky,’ phlox ‘David,’ and sedum ‘Autumn Joy.’ Over the years, it spread and now it takes over about eighty percent of the garden, smothering most of the other plants. Every spring I dig up as much as I can of it, but it still returns. Don’t plant it!

How to deal with weeds. Prevention is better than cure. There are many alternatives to spraying herbicides in your garden plots. If you are creating a new

bed, prepare the soil. Cover it with garden cloth or newspapers and cover it with a thick mulch. It works wonders, suppressing seeds in the soil below and making any seedlings that arrive on top easy to pull out. Don’t let them go to seed. The most effective time to weed is when the first leaves appear. Hand weeding is easy when the plants are small. Another method is spraying a home-made mixture of white vinegar, Epsom salts, and blue Dawn dish soap. Vinegar alone will kill weeds, but it is more effective when combined with the soap and salt. The salt and the acetic acid in the vinegar dehydrate the plant by pulling out its moisture, while the dish soap breaks down the plant’s outer coat (cuticle). Be careful when spraying as the liquid will also kill good plants. It might take a little longer than Roundup, but it does work. Mow your lawn regularly to keep the weeds from seeding. Establish a perimeter around your garden beds by edging with rocks, strips of metal or polyvinyl, or bricks. I prefer trenching as it allows you to mow along the edge without any objects to damage the mower or weed whacker. The underground portion of a metal border prevents any plant roots, good or weedy, from growing outside the bed, while keeping grass in the lawn.

Don’t go overboard with worrying about some weeds in your garden. I have several varieties in mine. Some I can live with, such as wild violet, but some seriously annoy me, such as bindweed. I just keep pulling it up, and I have noticed that every year I see fewer straggling my flowers. They do love to climb up my beautiful Oriental lilies. Life goes on in the garden.

Remember, it doesn’t have to look like Versailles.

Fun Facts...

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- Pot decorating & seed planting–6:30–7:00 pm
- **Sunnyside Faith Singers, Gospel concert 7:00–8:30 pm**

June 25 Fri, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

- **7:00–8:30 pm**
Concert–Evan Gross

July 7 Wed, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

- “Fruits of the Spirit” – 6:30 Stepping Stone Craft Project
- **Open Mic/Concert 7:00–8:30 pm**

July 17 Sat, 2pm–3pm

Concert–Bluegrass

3pm–4 pm – **Rande Davis**, lecture
“Poolesville and the Civil War”

4pm – 6pm – **Concert,**
Bobby Lewis Blues Band

July 30 Fri, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm – “Ours is the Earth & Everything in It”

- **Silent Auction**
 - **Sunflower Painting Class–** 6:30–7:00 pm, Sunflower field visitors welcome!
- Concert – TBA – 7:00–8:30 pm**

August 7 Sat, 9 am–1pm

- **RUMMAGE SALE** –Speer Hall - *clothing, housewares, and furniture accepted after June 15*

August 13 Fri, 6:30–8:30pm

- Silent Auction
 - Acrylic Paint Pour 6:30–7 pm
- Concert – TBA – 7:00–8:30 pm**

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Continued from page 1.

A New PHS: Progress but True Equity Remains Elusive

but Poolesville and the Upcounty are still not being treated fairly in all respects.

As an example, consider what happened in November of 2013 at a town commission meeting. Then-superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Joshua Starr announced that the promised modernization of the already decades-old PHS would be bumped from 2022 to 2024. This was not the first time such a delay had happened, and the reason, according to the county's Office of Management and Budget, had a familiar ring: "funding constraints."

Then-Councilmember Roger Berliner, who represented the district including Poolesville, appeared before the town's commissioners at a hearing just after the announcement by Starr. He gave verbal support for a new high school. In truth, though, neither Berliner, nor the council as a whole, nor MCPS had ever given unflinching commitment to fund a new Poolesville High School.

For decades, since organized efforts to support a new high school began in the late 1990s, MCPS had consistently noted that PHS was the oldest high school in the county (parts of the school are older than even Damascus High School which was built in 1950). PHS has been put on the modernization list several times, starting in 2001, under a facilities evaluation process that has since been superseded. In every case, other priorities took center stage, and PHS was removed from the list. Budget constraints were always cited as the reason.

Repeatedly over the years, witnesses from the PTAs, the town government, as well as individuals appeared before the county council and the school board to press the case for a new high school. Parents were urged to come out in support of the witnesses, and on many occasions, dozens of citizens came out with signs to show they cared. Poolesville sent large contingents to Annapolis too in an effort to show support for state funds for Montgomery County, hoping that these efforts and additional funding would result in putting PHS on the modernization list. Despite seeing the school included on the lists on a number of occasions over the last twenty years, nothing stuck.

This in no way impugns the work of the many PTA leaders, citizens, and commissioners who fought diligently for decades to get approval for a new high school. I was one of those leaders twice serving as Cluster Coordinator for our PTAs and as an officer more than once in all of our Poolesville Schools. Other PTAs in the county used similar tactics and conducted similar campaigns, and it was how everyone, including the politicians involved, expected things to work.

The problem is that this approach made it hard to differentiate Poolesville and the Upcounty and their very unique needs from other parts of the county. With its small population and distance from the centers of power, it was difficult to make the voices of our area heard. The result was that Upcounty residents lived in a "services desert," an area far from the services and programs provided routinely elsewhere in the county, such as a community and senior center, extensive county programs for seniors, teens, and recreational activities, and health services through a clinic or student Wellness Center.

Three things occurred a few years ago that began to change the dynamics of the situation: First, a local group of citizens got together to launch the Fair Access Committee (FAC); second, term limits were enacted; third, the school system adopted a new process for evaluating schools for construction and modernization called the Key Facilities Indicator System or KFI.

After the repeated failure to get PHS rebuilt, a number of long-time advocates and residents got together to see if changing the advocacy model would help create a new dynamic around the issue. Jim Brown, Jerry Klobukowski, Kevin Schramm, and Rebecca Munster among others came together to create a new committee, sponsored by the Town of Poolesville, advocating for fairness for the Upcounty. It could do a few things the PTAs could not do as well or at all.

It could lobby actively and frequently both in person and via email and through letter campaigns that were designed to harness the support of as many citizens as possible throughout the Upcounty, whether PTA members or not. It could focus solely on key issues of equity relating to the Upcounty, such as funding to build a new high school. PTAs typically have a wide range of issues on their plates from fundraising to curriculum issues.

The FAC could also conduct extensive research and develop both fact papers and messaging that helped explain the issues and support them with well-developed letters, emails, and media campaigns. Its release of a white paper in 2018 that laid out the case for a co-located community center with a new high

school offered strong and substantive proof that the Upcounty deserved to be treated fairly. It made it much harder for officials to ignore the evidence.

The FAC could also do things like sponsor a breakfast launching the committee at Poolesville Day that was widely attended by county politicians. Members of the committee also attended the debates among county executive candidates during the 2018 election constantly getting the message out that the Upcounty deserved fair treatment, including a community center and new high school. The group's job was to become gadflies who never let an opportunity go by to advocate for fairness for our area.

The enactment of term limits in Montgomery County in 2016 was also a significant factor in increasing attention to the needs of our area. The county has not had a competitive political system for a number of years, and as a result, one party tended to dominate all offices. This also made it possible for people to be elected to office and face limited competition, holding their seats for many years.

That all changed after the adoption of term limits. Many new councilmembers came on board in 2018, including Andrew Friedson who has been a breath of fresh air in terms of our area. He lobbied personally for including PHS in the "major capital projects" program for the school system. The county executive race was also highly competitive, and Marc Elrich almost immediately expressed sympathy for the lack of services in our area and the need for a new high school.

Finally, the school system also abandoned its old evaluation system for school construction and modernization programs which too often led to annual jockeying among school advocates to see who could "rise to the top." The new KFI program, while not immune to political pressure, did have a major redeeming characteristic: It used recognized architectural standards to evaluate a large number of physical features of each school. These evaluations led to both quantitative reports and color-coded charts that showed how each school ranked on a host of physical features such as the quality of the roofs, ADA compliance, and the condition of the HVAC system. Red codes meant the quality of the particular feature was unacceptable and had to be completely rebuilt. Yellow meant the feature needed to be upgraded but could be fixed. Green meant the feature was in good shape. An overall assessment came out of these codes for each school, and out of all the high schools evaluated, only Poolesville ranked red. Seeing all of the schools ranked with only one standing out with a red indicator provided hard-to-ignore evidence that something had to change.

All of these factors helped lead us to the situation today where we have finally gotten a major construction project approved to rebuild the high school. All of our history should teach us one thing though: We can never let our guard down. The success of the FAC is due in no small measure to the work all of you as concerned citizens have done. We will need you even more going forward, not only with regard to the high school but other issues of fairness affecting our area. It is true in politics that the "squeaky wheel gets the grease." We have shown we can be that squeaky wheel, but we can't let it go silent.

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Remembrance

Dr. Robert T. Walker

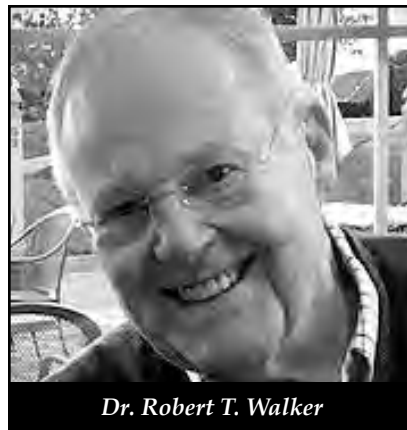
Dr. Robert T. Walker, Jr., 84, of Boyds, passed away on May 29, 2021 at home.

He was the loving husband to Kathleen East Walker.

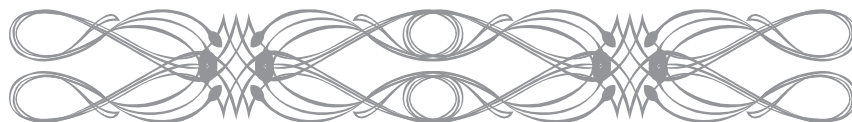
Born October 28, 1936 in Washington, D.C., he was the son of the late Robert Thomas and Margaret Virginia Muehlhauser Walker.

Along with his wife, Tom is survived by his three children, Allison Walker Fiore (Stephen) of Orlando, Florida, Kate Walker De Mattos (Herbert) of Boyds, and Matthew Walker of Warrenton, Virginia; two sisters, Ellen Carr of Ellicott City and Merrellyn Fields (E. William Fields) of Jessup; and five grandchildren.

Tom was a member of the Sugarloaf Congregation of Unitarian Universalists. Dr. Walker was also a founding faculty member of the Montgomery College Germantown Campus. In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made to the "Montgomery College Foundation." On the memo line, write "R. Thomas Walker Athletic Endowed Scholarship for the Humanities," and mail to Montgomery College Foundation, 9221 Corporate Blvd, Rockville, MD 20850. To make a secure online donation, please visit and, when prompted, write in "R. Thomas Walker Athletic Endowed Scholarship for the Humanities."



Dr. Robert T. Walker



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- Sustainable Barnesville and others have promoted the "Plant an Extra Row" program for local gardeners who are encouraged to plant an extra row in their gardens to donate to those in need through WUMCO. We are starting to get beautiful greens, radishes, and other veggies through this program.
- Locals Farm Market (19929 Fisher Ave, Poolesville) has opened their cold room in which gardeners and farmers can drop off fresh produce for distribution through WUMCO and other food pantries.
- The WUMCO office and pantry are open Monday through Friday, 9 am to 1 pm for people to drop off perishable fresh produce and non-perishable food items as well.
- Despite the cicadas, food is being grown, and we are fortunate to have generous gardeners and farmers who are sharing their bounty with those in need.

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Do you have an interesting story to share?
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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Recent Crime

Assault: 14600 block of Hughes Road.

Identity Theft: 17200 block of General Custer Way, 17600 block of Cobb Ave-nue.

Drunk Driving Arrest: 20900 block of Beallsville Road.

Past Crime: 1925 to 1930

Montgomery County Police were investigating how a two-week-old infant ended up on the front porch of James Neal in Clarksburg. Neal had found the baby girl at about 6:00 a.m. and called the police. Officer Harry Merson took the baby to police headquarters in Rockville. He and county social worker Estelle Moore

then took the child to Montgomery General Hospital where it was examined by Doctor Bird. Police announced that if the parents were not located, the baby girl would be a candidate for adoption.

Miss Hitt of Brookeville was allegedly assaulted in the kitchen of her home. She told police that she was talking on the telephone, and after the call, she noticed a man in her house who grabbed her wrists and tried to drag her into the kitchen. He left the house, and the only injury she suffered was a bruised wrist. Before the arrival of police, she had called two of her friends who had telephone service. She could give no description of the man except that he was wearing a blue cap.

Police responded to a call at the Villa Roma nightclub on the Rockville Pike. Two officers arrived several minutes apart and found a large-scale fight in

progress. Four men from Virginia were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. One of the men claimed that someone had tried to pick his pockets which led to the fight. At the time, the Villa Roma was a notorious place and attracted gamblers and outlaws from other counties.

Officers Shoemaker, Rodgers, Dosh, and Clagett received information that Clarence Ash was active in the bootlegging trade, so they somehow surveilled him until he crossed into Washington, and on the Rock Creek bridge on Connecticut Avenue they stopped him and found the staggering amount of 336 quarts of liquor in his coupe. Ash was taken back to Maryland where he appeared in front of a magistrate and was jailed. Police found two phonograph records on the shelf of his car. One was "Prison Bound Blues" and the other was "How Long, Oh How Long."

An all points bulletin was issued for Montgomery County and the surrounding jurisdictions for a truck that had supposedly knocked a boy off his bicycle in Barnesville but did not stop. State police in Laurel reported that they had stopped such a truck and needed more details. In the meantime, the boy, Clarence Harper, aged 13, had been taken to the hospital in Sandy Spring. Deputy Sheriff Orme of Barnesville was unaware of the excitement and had investigated the accident since it happened near his home. Learning of the lookout, he called the police station and told them that there was no truck and that young Harper had simply fallen off his bike.

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

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The Post-Pandemic Problems of Pet Separation Anxiety as Their Humans Return to the World

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

The pandemic was an unexpected boost for the adoption of homeless pets of every type. So many people were and are still spending most of their time at home. This has created a generation of new pets that do not know what to do when their humans leave the Cave.

The pandemic was the perfect storm for spending large amounts of time with your new furry friend. Its end will produce a very rude introduction to a behavioral condition known as separation anxiety. Separation anxiety has been studied, discussed, and offered a variety of treatments by trainers, veterinarians, and board-certified veterinary behaviorists. Results can often vary, and constant training sometimes with medications is needed in many cases. The new extreme companion time without leaving the house (at all, for any reason) produced by the pandemic has pushed the separation anxiety knob to 11.

Some of your furry friends, dogs primarily, become unhappy, sad, and annoyed when their humans leave the home. This is not true separation anxiety, but the puppies trying to train their humans. Consistency, a little time, and a solid routine is all that is needed to get the young animal to understand that the human will return—and often with good stuff to sniff or eat.

Other members of the fur team have true separation anxiety. This condition causes the pets to bark consistently, tear up bedding, drapes, flooring, doors, windows, and personal items of their humans. This group of pets feels real fear and loss of control over their ability to remain in contact with their humans. Remember, animals are pack creatures, dogs especially, so they feel that the pack should move as one, and there should be no separation without good cause. Going straight from being home all the time to their humans being now gone for four, six, or more hours a day is a very real perceived threat to them.

There is even a bigger issue on the horizon: how the new normal work/home/play environment will evolve. Many people still have

not gotten specific guidelines from their employers on how and when they will be required to return to work in a remote location. For this reason, trying to prepare the pets for this change could be difficult.

There are some things you can do now to try to evaluate if and how bad your furry friend will be when you leave. Try to leave the house just for one to two minutes, going around the corner of your house or outside your apartment door and listening for any indication of stress from your pet. Return into the house and quickly and briefly praise your friend. Treats are fine. Do not make it “the return of the king/queen” praise, just a quick “good job”. Then go on about other issues. You can then extend this time away for minutes to hours. Upon returning, give the same quick praise.

Giving your furry companion something to do while you are gone can also be a positive way to reduce the issue. Use of one of the hard chew toys that has “nooks and crannies” is a popular diversion technique. Spray cheese, peanut butter, or some other semi-solid treat can be packed into the openings, then frozen for a few minutes before you are planning to leave, take it out and present it to your pet. Then quietly leave without a big production. The first couple of times you give the treat-stocked toy, stay at home, and see how long it takes them to render all the treats eaten or licked clean. You can then plan to be away that long minus five minutes the first few times you leave. This will allow the pet to know that while they are busy you come back each time. Little by little, they will be better at your longer absences.

Some of our furred friends need additional help. Discuss the issue with your regular veterinarian. They have good information and can recommend additional resources, training, or expert behavior help.

It is always harder to fix a problem than to preemptively solve it.



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