

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

June 18, 2021 • Volume XVII, Number 8



Cecilia Zeranski danced the part of a Raven in Hope Garden Ballet's "The Ugly Duckling." More pics on page 2.



Cindy Lopez, student volunteer from SUNY Binghamton, uncovered some local history. Read about the discoveries on page 14.



Marine Major Jeshua Alston gave a powerful message in praise and honor of a man and his service. Learn who the man was and why he was honored on page 18.



Zihan Ahmed and Carson Smith were part of the winningest season in PHS history! For more on their accomplishments, turn to page 19.

Town Manager Search Yields Numerous Applicants

By Link Hoewing

At their June 7 meeting, the commissioners of the Town of Poolesville received an update on the search for a town manager. Consultant Wade Yost noted that the deadline for submitting applications for the position had expired; twenty-eight applications had been filed with the town; and the town had received five applications to serve on the citizen advisory committee that the commissioners decided should help review and assess town manager applications. All but one of the applicants for the committee live in Poolesville.

During the discussion about the situation, it was brought up that the exact size of the committee had not been established nor had its role in the process of selecting a new town manager been precisely set out. For example, it is not clear whether the

committee will actually be tasked with interviewing likely nominees nor whether they will have the responsibility for narrowing down the applicants to a short list of eligible candidates. These matters were discussed in general terms when the committee idea was approved, but they have not been finalized.

The commission decided to hold a special meeting on June 14 to set out the details of how the committee will work and what its specific role will be. The commissioners also were slated to hear from the two top Human Resources (HR) firms that had responded to a Request for Proposal or RFP that was sent out on May 4 at that meeting. The HR consultant is supposed to help the town improve and revamp its personnel systems and practices and help the new town manager implement needed improvements.

The two firms presented at the June 14 meeting were MMC Consulting, based in Prince George's County, and Bryant and Bryant, a Pennsylvania-based company. Both companies discussed, in different ways, how they would go about reviewing the town's HR practices, what work would be needed to revise and update personnel practices and manuals, and how they would go about reviewing the structure of the town's government and employee salary and benefit levels. The primary differences between the two firms seemed to hinge on the number of hours each estimated would be needed to do the work the town requires. Yost was asked to get references from one of the firms that had not been submitted and to work on trying to narrow and make more

Continued on page 3.

Sounds of Silence Slam the Door on the African American Historic Sites Project

By Rande Davis

After five years of diligent research and labor-intensive work, the efforts of the African American Historic Sites Sign Committee (AAHSC) appears to be dead in the water over terminology concerns. The purpose of the committee's work was to guide the development and placement of heritage interpretive signs throughout Montgomery County, noting twenty-four locations of historical significance to the county's African American community. Each marker was to explain the importance of each site to visitors.

Committee volunteer members, Tina Clarke (chair), Warren Fleming (co-chair), Anita Neal Powell, Charlotte Coffield, and Patricia Tyson, published the proposed verbiage to be used on each sign, information that explained

the historical importance of each site. These committee members all brought personal and lengthy leadership experience to the table as part of the black community, each having substantial background working with the county's African American population on civil rights matters.

The committee determined it is essential that in instances where the word negro or colored were used as designation for black persons, that that historical fact remain part of the explanation in the signs. Councilmember Craig Rice called the use of the terms on the signs as "hurtful and painful." As noted by the eighty-three-year-old Tina Clark in response, who lived through each stage of the Civil Rights

Continued on page 12.



Tina Clark, civil rights leader, stands on principal in disagreement with the county.

Family Album



The Ugly Duckling (Leah Santizo) sat dazzled by seeing her future as performed by Charlotte Gularson.



Emily Ponciano en pointe as the Nightowl.



The beautiful Leah Santizo played the Ugly Duckling as these other adorable and talented ducklings surrounded her.



Director of Hope Garden Ballet, Madame Fran Ichijo, addressed the largest crowd in Whalen Commons in more than a year.



Ducklings and dragonflies thrilled an appreciative audience.



Japan's Hyuma Kiyosawa, on loan from the Chicago Joffrey Ballet, Aubrey Dorman, and Charlotte Gularson led a most remarkable performance by Hope Garden Ballet at Whalen Commons.



Dansaur Sava Brizhik was taunted by persistent mockingbirds.



Aubrey Dorman floated away from the reeds.



These hatching ducklings smiled and waved at their whole new world.



The smiling crowd seemed as a fairy tale while enjoying Hope Garden's rendition of "The Ugly Duckling."

Continued from page 1.

Town Manager Search Yields Numerous Applicants

comparable the work hours each firm estimated would be needed. A final decision on an HR firm is likely to occur at the next commissioners' meeting.

In terms of the citizens' committee that is being appointed to review candidates for town manager, Yost laid out a process the committee will follow. It involves the committee meeting and preparing a timeline and process for reviewing the twenty-eight applications that have been received, establishing an evaluation process and matrix to use to rank candidates, and developing a system for narrowing the number of viable candidates to be recommended to the commissioners. Commissioners are strictly forbidden from meeting with or influencing the committee during this process. The commissioners would meet in closed session once the work of the committee is completed to go over the recommendations and decide which candidates are to be interviewed. The entire process is supposed to be completed within just a few weeks.

In other business at the commission's June 7 meeting, two public commenters offered suggestions. One citizen, Katie Stowers, said she had been closely following commission meetings and did not get the sense that the commission really responds to citizen questions. She said she felt that concerns were too often "brushed off." She did concede that it is possible responses were sent specifically to the citizens who raised them, but she felt that, in many cases, a number of citizens had similar concerns and should know the responses that have been made.

Commissioner Jeff Eck said he felt that a "mechanism should be put together to respond." It was pointed out that the public comments segment of the meeting is not set up to be an interactive forum with questions and responses. Instead, it is supposed to be a time in which citizens can put issues and concerns on the table for commissioners to consider. It appeared, however, that most of the commissioners agreed work needs to be done to better respond to citizen comments and questions regardless of the intent of the public comments segment of commission meetings. What that process will look like is not clear at this time.

Christine Rai appeared to say she believes Poolesville should consider implementing a "native lands acknowledgement" to encourage a more "inclusive history of the town." She said she is just beginning her research on the topic but feels that the role of Native Americans in the Poolesville area has not gotten the attention it deserves. The commissioners asked her to get back to them with her findings so they can consider the issue.

Town Events Coordinator Cathy Bupp appeared to advise the commissioners that the Events Committee for the town had begun to meet again and is planning to start holding events on the Commons in the near future. It appears a couple of movie nights, some live bands, and possibly some kid-themed events such as a reptile show or a magic show are being considered. These will likely occur in June through August. About five events are planned right now. Normally, the town would hold about ten such events during the summer. A brewer event with craft beers is also being considered for late August. In addition, the Big Flea in October as well as the Scarecrow Contest are being planned, and the annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony is also on the schedule.

It was also announced that Poolesville Town Hall would reopen to the public by July 6. In-person meetings will resume at that time, but plans are being made to try and continuing using YouTube to show the meetings to those who want to remain at home.

Finally, Commissioner Eck mentioned that the July 4 fireworks event is being planned by the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department, and the Poolesville Day Committee just met and decided that the annual celebration that has been held each year since 1992—with the exception of the pandemic year in 2020—will once again take place on September 18.

Fun Fact...

China is credited with the invention of fireworks. Legend talks about a Chinese cook who mistakenly invented fireworks while mixing charcoal, sulphur, and saltpeter (potassium nitrate). The mixture was compressed in a bamboo tube and eventually exploded. Other accounts say that the Chinese used fireworks to scare away mountain men perceived as threatening.

Italy deserves the credit for making fireworks bright and beautiful. They discovered the use of metallic powders creating specific colors. Blue is the hardest color to make.

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Rande(m) Thoughts My Way or the Highway: African American County Leaders Are Made To Feel Invisible

By Rande Davis

The *Monocle* is pleased to have two articles related to African American history in this issue. While one about the archeological survey research by the Sugarland Ethno-History Project at the family home of Basil and Nancy Dorsey (adjacent to historical St. Paul's Church) is positive, the other, is most disturbing on a number of levels.

The story of the former begins on page 14 and is an exciting and promising project of discovery and insight into early black history in the county. It is also the personal story of the Basil and Nancy Dorsey family. Basil had the rare distinction of serving in the Civil War not only on the Confederate side but technically on the Union side as well. He first was recruited by the Confederates which, according to his 103-year-old grand-daughter, impressed him with the pay offered which he considered extremely helpful to his family. Ironically, when approximately 115 local ex-slaves were drafted into the Union Army, he officially became a Union soldier but died before he could actually serve on the Northern side (see insert on black slaves in the Union Army on page 14 this issue).

The problematic story concerns the stonewalling by the county council in moving forward with an important project to raise the knowledge and awareness of black culture in the county.

The story of generations of county African Americans whose strength, resilience, and perseverance in the face of slavery and Jim Crow laws is remarkable and must be allowed to be told through a road tour of such important historic sites.

Nearly eight years ago, the journey to raise that awareness of the history of Montgomery County's African American community began and found support from proposals by then Councilmember George Leventhal and in his appointing the committee. Council President Tom Hucker first proposed a committee to identify and write black history through interpretive signs at important sites in the county.

Finally, six years ago, the African American Heritage Sign Committee (AAHSC) began the task of selecting the sites, most often churches, communities, farms, and places where historical events occurred to be included

The county, through the Parks and Planning Department, allocated \$50,000 in 2017 to fund the project; however, this worthy project was put on hold once all of the committee members (all African-Americans) refused a requirement of council representatives to "whitewash" history. County Council president Tom Hucker and Councilmember Craig Rice insisted they remove references to the terms "Negro" and "Colored" in the written texts of the interpretive signs. The terminology was considered to be "hurtful and painful" by the councilmembers. Tina Clark has pointed out that the African American National Museum is replete with these terms throughout their displays.

The committee fully believes the use of such terms, offensive in the vernacular today, is an important reminder of the journey toward full civil rights and that to falsify that history is a distortion of history.

Perhaps even more disturbing to the committee has been the lack of communication between them and the council.

The committee believes they have been deliberately ignored for nearly two years now without any response from Hucker or Rice to the many inquiries sent via formal letters, informally to department heads, and emails of questions and concerns in their attempt to get the project back on track. This silent treatment came to a head in an April 29, 2021 news conference in which the committee members made their most recent formal request to meet with the council. Over a month later, still only silence. The message of silence is clear: Until the committee submits in advance to the politically correct demands of these two councilmembers, this worthy project may be dead in the water.

The committee has publicly stated they "have been made to feel as if invisible." All of the committee members are substantial and outstanding leaders within the African-American community in Montgomery County who have put years of hard work into the project and, as such, deserve to be treated with simple respect. "My way or the highway," a most immature approach by the councilmembers in ignoring this group of dignified and worthy citizens, is totally unacceptable.

Letter to The Editor

I eagerly await Maureen O'Connell's Garden column in each issue of the *Monocle*, but I must take issue with her June 4 tirade against *Tradescantia*. Spiderwort may be weedy in Maureen's garden, but it is not invasive. Invasive plants are by state definition "exotic" — that is, they did not evolve within Maryland (see the applicable law here: www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/comarhtml/15/15.06.04.02.htm). Virginia spiderwort is a native plant. Herbarium specimens at the Smithsonian collected in Frederick and Montgomery Counties date from the late 1800s. Tea made from the plant's roots was used by Native Americans for stomach and kidney ailments; the leaves were poulticed and used to treat insect bites and stings. Spiderwort has been here for a long time, so it's not exotic, and therefore, not invasive.

It normally grows in forested habitats, usually where there's a bit of extra moisture and a neutral or basic soil pH. I have found it along the towpath, and this spring in Green Ridge State Forest, where it is perfectly well-behaved, but give it amended garden

soil, lots of sun, supplemental water, possibly fertilizer and space, and it takes off. I have let it run in my garden, enjoying the deep purple-blue flowers and wind-drifting foliage. It makes a superb cut flower, as successive flowers mature in the inflorescence one by one.

Other examples of native plants that are beautiful and beneficial to wildlife but can run amok in a garden are Celandine or wood poppies (*Stylophorum diphyllum*), wild or river oats (*Chasmanthium latifolium*) and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*). None of these is invasive. Each has been called a "weed" when it's growing where somebody doesn't want it. "Weed" is a term that is completely cultural in origin with no biological basis. "Invasive" is a legally defined term in state statutes and regulations. Invasive plants identified by the state and whose production or sale are curtailed in some manner, based on scientific documentation, are listed here by the Department of Agriculture: mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests/Pages/maryland_invasive_plants_prevention_and_control.aspx.

Happy gardening!

—K.L. Kyde (Maryland DNR, retired)

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Local History

A Family Affair

By Jack Toomey

A hundred years ago, the Edwards Ferry area near the river was the home of many poor people who built their own shanties or made do using whatever buildings the Union Army had left behind after the Civil War.

Frank Baker was described as a thrifty man. He lived at Edwards Ferry with his wife Irene and their children. What went on behind the walls of his modest abode wasn't of any concern to the neighbors who had their own lives to live. Irene, however, constantly complained to her brother Maurice Nokes about Baker's cruel treatment of her and the children. In fact, Irene had a murderous streak about her and, on one occasion, poisoned Frank's soup but failed to kill him; it only made him sick and ornerier.

Finally, Irene had had enough. She enlisted her brother and his friend Clarence Pinkett who lived across the river in Loudoun County. On the evening of December 5, 1921, Pinkett rowed across the river and met with Irene and Maurice. It was decided that Irene would kill Frank with an axe. They waited until Frank retired for the night, and all three crept into the bedroom. Irene took the axe and prepared to swing it at her sleeping husband but couldn't bring herself to do it. Pinkett, growing frustrated, took the axe and struck Frank in the head and killed him in bed. They then called to Nokes, who was standing guard outside, and he and Pinkett took the dead body and dragged it less than a hundred yards and dumped it into the river. They then cleaned up the bloody mess, and their lives went on.

Sometime in the middle of March, Frank's body was found in the river near Pennyfield Lock. Because of the obvious signs of foul play, Sheriff Alvie Moxley and States Attorney Dawson were notified and began their investigation in Poolsville. Quickly enough, their trail led to Irene's house at Edwards Ferry. Irene, Nokes, and Pinkett were all taken to Rockville and questioned. It did not take long for the officials to ferret out the truth. Irene described in great detail how Frank had abused her over the years and that she thought that her only way out was to kill her husband. The other two conspirators confessed their guilt, and they were held for the grand jury.

All three went on trial for murder in May 1922. Three judges, one from Montgomery County and two from Frederick County, presided, as was the custom of the day in murder cases. In a one-day trial, all three were found guilty. The three judges conferred and sentenced Pinkett and Nokes to be hanged; Irene was sent to prison for life.

The date of the hanging was set for June 23, and Sheriff Moxley began putting together the scaffold that would send Pinkett and Nokes to their deaths. Townsfolk remarked that it would be the first double hanging in Rockville since the execution of the two bandits who killed the owners of the Slidell Store in 1891.

Nokes and Pinkett were represented by a competent attorney who filed a motion of reconsideration of the sentence. The judges conferred and agreed to reduce their sentences to life in prison.

Today, the scene of the crime is a tangled mess of vines and trees. The federal government now owns the property where, a hundred years ago, Frank Baker met his end.

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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Present Virtual Programs

Are you ready for new activities that stretch your mind, renew your body, and lift your spirits? Then visit the website for Poolesville Seniors, poolesvilleseniors.org, to register for a wide variety of Zoom virtual events which are open to the community.

Mondays

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

Wednesdays

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

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

Trivia Game Night— Now on Wednesday

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

Fridays

Breath-Mind-Body with Kathy Jankowski. 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. Please register for each Friday class.

June 17

Kenny Sholes Ag Reserve Properties—Canceled

Life Behind the Camera

IJ Hudson returns to discuss his role reversal from in front of the camera as the long-time WRC-TV reporter to nature photographer behind the camera. 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 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.

July 1

Hello, Hoewings!

Two generations of the Hoewing family will discuss their history and perspectives of Poolesville and Montgomery County over the last sixty years. 7:00 p.m.

July 8

Related to Abraham Lincoln

Suzanne Tallia will recount the story of tracing her family roots to one of our most famous presidents, Abraham Lincoln. 7:00 p.m.

July 15

Historic Properties with Kenny Sholes

Local historian, Kenny Sholes, will introduce the history of several homes in the Agricultural Reserve to help us better understand the land and the people whose dreams, goals, and struggles shaped the Agricultural Reserve. 7:00 p.m.

July 22

Genealogy and You: Discovering Your Family's Past

If you ever wondered about your ancestry, join Maggie Nightingale Library's own Sharat Buddhavarapu when he explains how to access the

Continued on page 7.

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Continued from page 6.

Senior News

genealogy and family history resources available through our Montgomery County Public Libraries. 7:00 p.m.

July 26

Book Club

Join Poolesville Seniors as we discuss Britt Bennett's novel, *The Vanishing Half*, which explores the consequences of both the past and race as the Vignes twins live in different worlds, one black and one white. 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...

What a strange thing it is to wake up to a milk-white overcast June morning!

The sun is hidden by a thick cotton blanket of clouds, and the air is vapor-filled and hazy with a concentration of blooming scent.

The world is somnolent and cool, in a temporary reprieve from the normal heat and radiance.

But the sensation of illusion is strong. Because the sun can break through the clouds at any moment...

What a soft thoughtful time.

In this illusory gloom, like a night-blooming flower, let your imagination bloom in a riot of color.

— Vera Nazarian,
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Tidbits

2021 Outstanding Athletic Achievement Award

Congratulations to Poolesville High School seniors, Jessica Mense and Aden Godsey, for being recognized for their outstanding athletic achievements. Both students were honored by coaches and teammates for their positive impact on their sports, coaches, and teammates. The student-athletes demonstrated outstanding leadership while modeling good sportsmanship, dedication, and commitment to competing at the highest levels in their sports. Jessica played lacrosse and field hockey for all four years. Aden participated in football, wrestling, and lacrosse.

Rebuilding Together Celebrates Thirty-Year Anniversary

For the past thirty years, Rebuilding Together Montgomery County, has provided hope and help to Montgomery County's most vulnerable neighbors, who, although they have achieved the goal of home ownership, can no longer afford to keep their homes safe, secure, and accessible. Among the more than 2,600 families and individuals served over thirty years are seniors



Jessica Mense and Aden Godsey, PHS Athletes of the Year 2021.

who wished to age in place, veterans with financial and physical challenges, people with disabilities, and families with children.

Congratulations to the Poolesville High School Class of 2021

If the class of 2020 is to be forever tied

to the COVID-19 pandemic, perhaps the class of 2021 will be associated with the seventeen-year emergence of the cicadas. Graduate Ethan Rolls seemed to have made that clear during graduation this June.

June 11, 12, and 13 Marked the Beginning of Full Recovery

While masks and social distancing are still being practiced on a wide scale, clearly the weekend of June 11 to 13 seemed to be the bellwether of better things to come. The Poolesville Presbyterian Church sponsored a gospel concert and pot-decorating event on Friday; the American Legion Daniel-Jeffers Post 247 in Poolesville hosted its annual picnic at the Calleva Farm and honored ninety-five-year-old Sarge Remp for his marine career and service during World War II, Korea, and Viet Nam; and the Historic Medley District was able to reintroduce its popular



If the Class of 2020 was the Pandemic Class, 2021 surely will be the Cicada Class, as proved by Ethan Rolls.

annual picnic and member get-together. Perhaps the most inspiring was a full ballet performance on June 13 in Whalen Commons by Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre. It was a busy weekend, but boy are we glad we finally had one.

Poolesville Family Practice Winding Down COVID Vaccinations

After finally getting approval to offer COVID-19 vaccinations, the Poolesville Family Practice reports administering 895 first doses and 765 second doses. They still have vaccinations available if anyone who qualifies still wants to get one.

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

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Things To Do

See Poolesville Seniors events on page 6.

June 19

Meet and Greet—Book Signing with Local Authors!

No need to go far from home for written talent! Six local authors show and tell their stories.

Steve Vogel, *Betrayal in Berlin—The True Story of the Cold War's Most Audacious Espionage Operation*

Sugarland Ethno-History Project, *I Have Started for Canaan: The Story of the African American Town of Sugarland*

Rev. Dr. David Williams, *Our Angry Eden—Faith and Hope on a Hotter, Harsher Planet*

Jane Perini and Wib Middleton, *Plenty Magazine's* new summer issue!

Christine Rai, *Rainbows in the Rain and Stars in the Dark—Inspiration for Positive Living*

Bernard Jankowski and Ed Ramsburg, *Shadows of the Monocacy*, poems and paintings capturing the spirit of living in and exploring our region.

Locals Restaurant, Poolesville. 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

June 20

Bikes and Breakfast—Maryland

Motorcycle meet-up with coffee, breakfast, and bikes. Thanks to Dunkin' Donuts and McDonald's. Custom bikes encouraged, but all bikes welcome. *BB&T parking lot, Poolesville*, every first and third Sundays of month. 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

June 21

Potomac Cars and Coffee

Bi-monthly car meet is focused on the love of the automobile and the great stories that go with them. Come join us and share your stories. *BB&T parking lot, Poolesville.* Every second and fourth Sundays of month. 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

June 25

Gatherings by the Garden: Good Stewards of the Earth

Concert featuring Evan Gross. *Poolesville Presbyterian Church.* 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

June 26

Memorial Service for Winsome Brown

Original service delayed due to pandemic. *St. Peter's Episcopal Church* followed by reception at the church. 11:00 a.m.

June 28

Potomac Cars and Coffee

Bi-monthly car meet is focused on the love of the automobile and the great stories that go with them. Come join us and share your stories. *Parking lot of BB&T Bank, Poolesville.* 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

July 4

Annual UMCVFD Fireworks

Music by Semi Hollow, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream, Big Creek Café Truck, Corned Beef King, Julia Gourmet, Flipside Gastro, Rosie's Funnel Cakes, and Grandma's Kona Ice. *Soccer fields at Hughes and Sugarland Roads.* \$5.00 per car. Gates open at 5:00 p.m. Fireworks at dusk.

July 7

Gatherings by the Garden: Fruits of the Spirit

Stepping stone craft project. Open mic concert. *Poolesville Presbyterian Church.* 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

July 13

UMCVFD Pit Barbeque Sales

Picnic plates: pulled pork, beef sandwiches, coleslaw, and baked beans. *Firehall in Beallsville.* 11:00 a.m. until sold out.

July 14

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

In-person meetings resume at *Poolesville Town Hall.* 7:30 p.m.




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Market Minute
The Long & Foster

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

| Zip 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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Foundations

Examples of Historic Preservation Here in the Ag Reserve

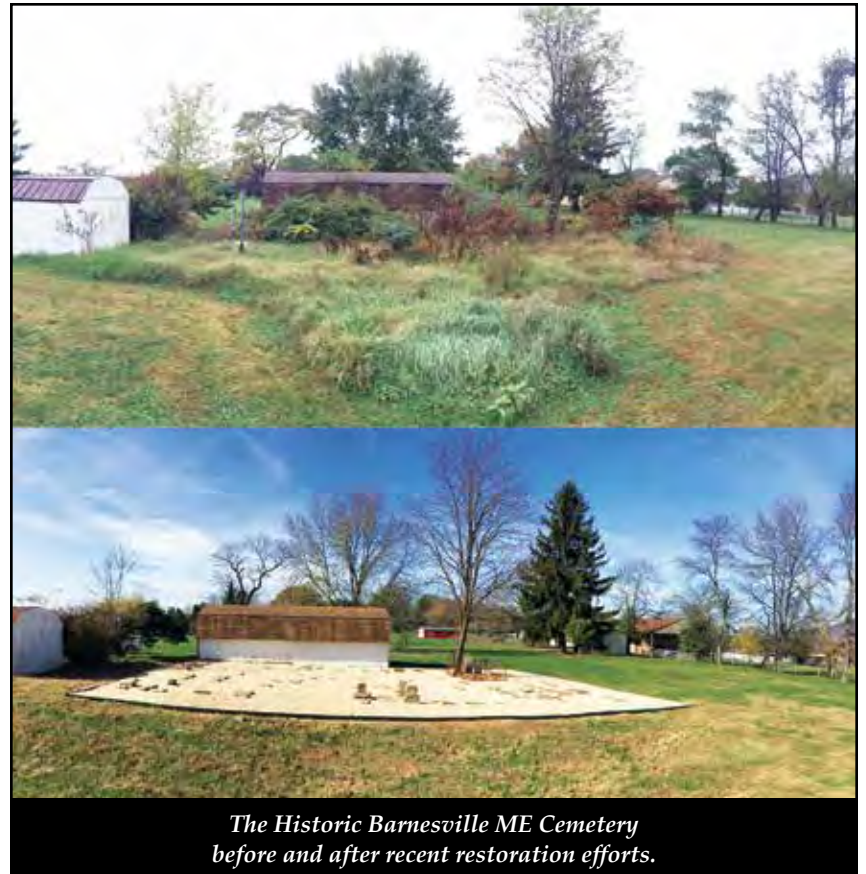
By Kenny Sholes

I speak often of historic homes in the Ag Reserve that have been lost over the last few decades. It's an issue that I believe is of pressing concern, but there are also a number of great examples of historic properties being preserved and restored—ensuring that future generations of Ag Reserve residents are able to enjoy them as we do today.

One recent example of incredible preservation and documentation work occurred in Barnesville. The Barnesville Methodist Episcopal (ME) Church was organized in 1845. Located across Barnesville Road from St. Mary's Church, the ME Church is no longer standing; however, a cemetery associated with the church was rediscovered in 2008 during research into local burial records. Upon initial survey, the cemetery was completely neglected, with old car parts, burn barrels, overgrown vegetation, and other debris left scattered on top of the graves.

Over the last two years, under the leadership of Glenn Wallace—a member of Monocacy Cemetery's Board of Directors—a small team of concerned Ag Reserve residents have worked together to restore the cemetery to a more acceptable condition. Not only is the cemetery now accessible and clearly marked, but Glenn has catalogued each burial in the cemetery online at the Find a Grave website, ensuring those looking for details related to the individuals buried can be discovered.

Another example of incredible preservation work can be seen as you drive from Poolesville towards White's Ferry at the intersection of White's Ferry and Martinsburg Roads. It was here—at a site now referred to as the Warren Historic Site—that the presence of the Warren United Methodist Church, Martinsburg Negro School, and Loving Charity Lodge Hall served as the center of the Martinsburg Black Community. For the community, started shortly after the Civil War, these structures represented key tenets of freedom: education, faith, and congregation.



The Historic Barnesville ME Cemetery before and after recent restoration efforts.

The Loving Charity Lodge Hall provided a place where community members could work together to acquire insurance and other benefits. The structure also served as a community gathering place for celebrations and other events. Built in

Continued on page 11.



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Continued from page 10.

Examples of Historic Preservation Here in the Ag Reserve

1914, the Charity Hall had fallen into a dilapidated state by the 2000s; however, the Warren Historic Site Committee, working with other concerned citizens and with funding from multiple county and state level preservation organizations, was able to fully refurbish and restore the hall. Furthermore, ongoing preservation work is taking place at the church and the negro school, ensuring that future Ag Reserve residents are provided a tangible link to the important role black communities play in the reserve's history.

A final example is the Dr. Thomas Poole Home in Poolesville. Possibly more recognized as the location of the Blue Hearth until recently, the home was built around 1835. The home has had many lives. It has served as a dental office, the home for the PHS principal, and three different restaurants (The King's Head Tavern, the Country Peddler Inn, and the Cross Country Inn). What I love about this home is that it appears timeless. Go back and look at old pictures and it looks identical to what you see today. As beautiful a home as it is, we almost lost it. In the late 1980s the home was abandoned and there was strong consideration to demolish the structure. Luckily, the Historic Medley District stepped in, bought the home, and restored it.

Historic preservation is hard work. It's tedious, often expensive, and frequently involves plenty of bureaucracy. Despite the challenges, the effort is worth it. When we think about the things that make the Ag Reserve a special place in which to live, a big part is the physical landscape and the stories they hold. These old places serve an important function, and we need to protect them.

Know of a great example of historic preservation in the Ag Reserve? I'd love to hear about it! Send me a note to kcs7110@gmail.com.

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

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Continued from page 1.

Sounds of Silence Slam the Door on the African American Historic Sites Project

Movement, “My father’s birth certificate said he was negro, I was labeled colored, my sons were noted as being African American, and now my grandchildren’s birth certificate calls them black. You don’t have to tell me it was a hurtful and painful time, I lived through it all.” Still, she says it would be wrong to try to whitewash the history.

Council President Tom Hucker, who admirably was an original proposer of the committee and is the project’s official government representative, along with Councilmember Craig Rice, decided that all reference to the offensive terminology must be removed from the signs.

The committee did agree to adjust the signs to allow for a caveat and explanation at the top of each sign noting the use of the offending terms was to properly and factually place the information in historical context; however, they did insist on including the terminology and refused to remove them from their proposed marker signs.

While the \$50,000 allocated for the project remains in the Parks and Planning budget, all communication between the council and the committee has ceased and reportedly will not be initiated again until, according to a statement attributed to council president Tom Hucker, such time as the committee submits to the council’s requirements of censorship.

Clarke was the African American Liaison Officer under former County Executive Doug Duncan throughout his three terms of office. It is also interesting to note it was Tina Clark’s two-story historical family home which was dismantled piece by piece and moved from Poolesville to be now on display in the African American Museum in Washington, D.C. She accurately noted that both terms are used often throughout the national museum. As the use of descriptive terms is historically correct, the committee will maintain its position of not changing history. Sadly, at this point, after the five years of arduous work, the \$50,000 project remains in complete limbo.

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Poolesville Day Update

Poolesville Day, The Annual Parade, And Grand Marshal Nominations Are On Once Again

By Link Hoewing

In 1992, Poolesville held its first Poolesville Day. The event was a small affair, but it continued to be held each year, growing in size and in the number of vendors, entertainment venues, and attendees.

Every year since that time—until the pandemic struck—Poolesville has observed its annual festival, celebrating the Town of Poolesville, its residents, and the communities of the Upcounty of which it is a part. With the pandemic easing and a sense of normalcy returning, Poolesville Day is once again being held, this year on September 18.

A hallmark of Poolesville Day has always been its parade down Poolesville's main street, Fisher Avenue, beginning at Poolesville Elementary School and ending at the intersection of Fisher Avenue and West Willard Road. Leading the parade has always been the Grand Marshal, a person or group nominated by the citizens who symbolizes community involvement, leadership, and commitment to bettering our community.

Grand marshals are selected by the Poolesville Day Committee from nominations submitted by residents. The committee uses a set of guidelines to consider the nominations and asks those submitting the name of a person or organization to be grand marshal to "describe a specific act or acts (personal or civic) of outstanding service which has been generally recognized as placing the individual or group (nominated) in a category well above others for sustained and distinguished service and commitment to the Town of Poolesville and its surrounding areas."

It is important to note that the guidelines do not specify that any person or organization nominated has to live in Poolesville or its surrounding areas. The nomination is focused rather on what the person or organization has contributed to the health and well-being of the Poolesville area. It is possible, for example, that a county or state official who does not live in our area may have done a lot to make the lives of citizens in the Poolesville area better, for example, by introducing and passing legislation that is extremely beneficial to all of us.

Interestingly, not all nominees for grand marshal have been individuals. A number of organizations involved in community service in the Poolesville area have been nominated in the past. Jake Perkins, a founder of Poolesville Day and its leader for many years until his death in 2007, was posthumously named grand marshal, and his aunt and uncle appeared in the parade in his place.

The following is a list of people or organizations who have been selected for grand marshal, going all the way back to 2004:

Gwendora Reese, 2019

Historian, Founder Sugarland Ethno History Project

Link Hoewing, 2018

Past Commissioner, PTSA Leader

Jerry Klobukowski, 2017

Commissioner, Education Liaison

Tim Pike and Margaret Valega, 2016

Local Business Owners

Grace Sheppard, 2015

Elementary School Teacher

George Hillard, 2014

Fire Chief

Maggie Nightingale, 2013

Local Activist for Poolesville's Library

Jim Brown, 2012

Commissioner, Local Business Leader

Ray Hoewing, 2011

Long Time Local Activist

Jane Stearns, 2010

Founder of Local Charity WUMCO

Betty Jean and Roy Selby, 2009

Long Time Owners of Local Grocery

Odd Fellows Lodge Poolesville, 2008

Local Charitable Services Group

Judy and David Feigin, 2007

Aunt and Uncle of Jake Perkins

Mary Chiswell, 2006

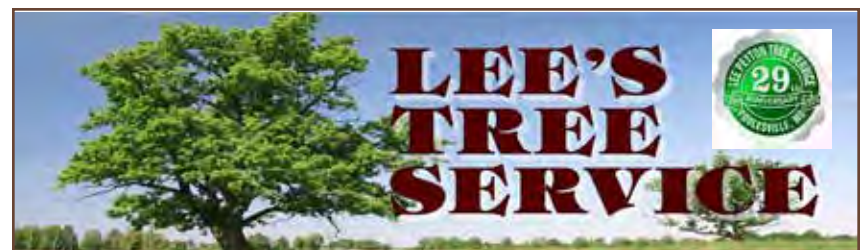
Teacher, Oldest Poolesville Resident

State Leaders of the Local Charitable Services Groups, 2005

Lions Club, Odd Fellows, American Legion

Earl Moore (UMCVD Fire Police and Fire Leaders Chief) and Sgt. Frank Brown (MCPD, County Police, Fifth District), 2004

The Poolesville Day Committee welcomes nominations for this important position. Nominations will be accepted starting on July 12 and ending on July 30. Entry forms will be available on the committee website during that time and can be submitted directly on the site: www.poolesvilleday.com.



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Local News

History Unfolding at Sugarland Home Site

By Rande Davis

Sugarland Ethno-History Project (SEHP), which began in 1995 by recording the history of the post-Civil War former slave community called Sugarland, has undertaken the archeological survey of an important home site. Sugarland was so named for its sugar maples, and not, as legend had it, due to the sweetness of its young ladies.

SEHP has partnered with faculty from Montgomery County to complete an archeological survey and investigation into the home of prominent Sugarland resident, Basil Dorsey, and his wife, Nancy.

Leading the excavation are college professors Tara Tetrault, professor of Archeology and Anthropology, and Ron Nunn, adjutant professor of Anthropology, both from Montgomery College. The survey and testing project is designed to be used to create a public record of the community and a virtual exhibit introducing the excavation and artifacts from the Dorsey farm.

Sugarland, a community founded by freed slaves, thrived economically and included at least twenty-six families, a church with a cemetery, and stores that were the central buildings of the community. It also had stables, a post office, school, meat house, milk house, pig pen, hay and corn fields, and fruit orchards.

Since its formation by descendants of the community, SEHP has promoted and highlighted the local African American experience from slavery to the present day. To date, the historical society has been able to collect over one thousand artifacts and documents that help tell the stories of its residents and families.

Typical among people living in Sugarland who attended St. Paul's Church would be those who played in the community band and who helped each other with butchering, harvesting, and canning fruit for the winter. The Dorsey home was small but housed at times up to ten people. Although it was among the smallest of homes built by black homeowners in Sugarland, it boasted a wood stove and glass windows instead of a fireplace and shutters only.

According to the memory of former Sugarland resident Tilghman Lee, the house was a one-and-a-half story log house with a low attic suitable for storage only. Its façade contained two bays, a front door off to one side, and a window with a double hung sash containing six panes in each. There was a wood-shingled gable roof. There was a wood stove served by a brick flue or possibly stone flue. There was no fireplace. In the plan of the living space, there were two rooms downstairs with a framed shed added on the back which contained two rooms, a kitchen, and possibly a bedroom with the front rooms off the main block, possibly used as a sitting room and/or bedroom.

The history of Sugarland, one of the forty-four nineteenth century rural African American communities in Montgomery, is very important to telling the story of African Americans from Montgomery County.

Basil Dorsey was born in April 1828, and his wife Nancy was born in January 1830. They were among the leaders of the community. According to the 1880 and 1890 census records, Basil was a farmer and day-laborer, and Nancy kept the house. He volunteered to serve in the Confederate Army but was also drafted into the Union Army later on (see insert on ex-slaves drafted into the Union Army on this page). One of their daughters, Mary Dorsey, married Nathan Johnson the first U.S. postmaster of Sugarland and the second known black postmaster in Maryland. The couple had eight children, six of whom lived in Sugarland in the twentieth century.

Sugarland is the story of how people grew their own businesses and created a thriving community with musicians, entertainment, education, and even established their own court system while facing extreme economic hardship and prejudice. It is an important story to tell our next generation of children in schools because it expands the conversation about who built Maryland communities to include rural black and mixed communities like Sugarland.

Basil Dorsey: In Service to Both the Confederate and Union Armies?

By Rande Davis

Jim Poole sent the *Monocle* information from historical documents that showed, along with over 115 other ex-slaves who were drafted or volunteered into the Union army, that Basil Dorsey, as an ex-slave, had the rare distinction of someone who volunteered in the Confederate Army but was also drafted into the Union Army.

In September 1865, the federal government announced suspension of a bounty payment program to former slaveowners for ex-slaves who were drafted or volunteered for service in the Union Army. A bounty of \$300 for each ex-slave was allowed, but the board suspended payments on and after the first of September 1865.

Up to that point, 3,857 claims by owners of ex-slaves were filed against the General Government and considerably more than that for the state bounty of \$100. As reported at the time, the regiments of "colored" troops in service from Maryland consisted of the 4th, 7th, 8th, 19th, 30th, 38th, and 39th including two companies from the 2nd and 1st, and twenty-one "colored" cavalry regiments, including a number of naval recruits and some detached companies of infantry.

One owner of an ex-slave who never received the bounty was Cyrus Viers, who had been the master of Basil Dorsey. In the *Montgomery County Sentinel* dated 12 March 1880, it is reported that "Basil Dorsey (colored) died last Sunday night. He was a noted darkie in our midst, and had served through the late war on the Confederate side." Although drafted into the Union Army, he never served.

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Youth Sports

Long Rallies and Close Games Marked the Efforts of the Coed and Boys' Volleyball Teams

By Jeff Stuart

Going into the playoffs, the coed volleyball team had a 4-4 record.

"The kids have done a really good job with every day getting better and working hard during practice," said coach Megan Warner. "I think we are finally reaching our peak...Having only three seniors has been an adjustment on and off the court with leadership, but the underclassmen have stepped up and it's showing.

"Despite all the adversity with the COVID protocols, wearing our masks during the games, the athletes have been absolute rock stars and never once have I had to question their ability to follow the rules, and in the gym, our focus has been on volleyball, taking one step at a time, and that's the main reason we have all improved. We are really looking forward to starting playoffs and competing. Our opponents underestimate us, and we use that to our advantage."

The Falcons lost 3-2 in a tie-breaker at higher seeded Bethesda-Chevy Chase in the playoffs.

In boys' volleyball, the effort was there for new coach, Rod Nubgaard.

"We finished strong second half of their season with a hard-fought win against Quince Orchard in the final regular season game making them the twelfth seed," said Nubgaard. "We lost a close match against Northwest on June 2, showing how much we grew during the season. There were three hard-fought games. With no seniors on the team, if the entire group returns, they will start with a very strong base and experience. I look for them building from this season next year. This team was led by juniors, Robert Song and Filip Lukomsky, who were my steadfast captains and dedicated leaders of this team. We have a strong freshman and sophomore set of players. They started the season after one year off due to COVID restrictions and after four matches began gelling as a team. They worked hard to improve their game and help each other get better. I appreciated their dedication and effort to finish off with their strongest performance yet."



13-Edward Wu, 11-Sarah Tang, 10-Sara Stanely, 8-Mary Abbago, 7-Flynn Barger, 6-Anusha Krishnan, 4-Christine Kim, 3-Jordan Su, 2-Kelsey Alfaro, 1-Ainslee Barger, and 00-Alex Chen. Not pictured 9-Miranda Wang.

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- A big CONGRATULATIONS to all grads — *and* all students — who still found success during this very challenging time
- Another congratulations goes out to **Shareef Hamm**, winner of this year's \$500 PHS Scholarship!
- Thank you **Rhonda Gimbel** for an informative Zoom Networking Breakfast Session about insurance
- The **PACC needs a new President** as **Monica Molina** says goodbye and heads to the sunshine of Florida!! If interested, please contact the chamber at the email below!

secretary@poolesvillechamber.com • poolesvillechamber.com

Monocacy Nature and Wildlife

A Village of Volunteers Save Fallen Baby Hawk

By Susan Petro

'Tis the season for lots of baby animals, including many baby birds. Unfortunately, some of these babies fall out of their nests before they are ready to be on their own. That's exactly what happened on May 31 when Poolesville resident, Patty Cooper, was startled to find a rather large baby hawk on the ground below a tall pine tree. Actually, it wasn't Patty who discovered the young red-shouldered hawk—her tiny rescue dog, Juno, found the huge baby frantically flapping its wings in an effort to scare off the dog. When Patty heard Juno barking and a commotion out back, she saw the frightened baby hawk.

Patty had suspected she had a hawk's nest in one of her tall trees after seeing and hearing the hawks coming and going, but she had never expected to find one fending off her dog in her backyard. Juno did not harm the hawk. Luckily, Owl Moon Raptor Center, a highly-regarded raptor rescue group, is located in nearby Boyds. Patty called them for advice, and within the hour, Baby Cooper (affectionately named after the rescuer) was scooped up by a volunteer from the rescue and taken to the facility to be checked over.

Baby hawks, like other raptors, need to learn how to be a hawk and are best taught by their parents—or in some cases, foster parents—how to hunt for food and become independent. Cooper needed a few more weeks with its parents before it would be ready to leave the nest.

Once at the facility, Cooper was given fluids and checked for injuries or other reasons it may have fallen from the nest prematurely. Director Suzanne Shoemaker said the baby had a case of botflies in its ears which may have caused balance issues; otherwise, after a two-day observation and treatment, Cooper was given a clean bill of health and was ready to be returned to the nest.

Of course, returning a hawk to its nest is not a job for just anyone. It's no easy feat to return a hawk to its home in the sky located near the top of a very tall, mature pine tree approximately sixty feet in the air. That's where Mike Fried and Jason Beach, from Comprehensive Tree Care, Inc., came to the rescue. In their



Baby Cooper learning how to be a hawk.



Precious cargo returned to its nest in a tree bag.

spare time, the pair volunteer their services to rescue and return raptors to their homes high in the sky. They receive approximately thirty calls each season asking for help.

Not only did the pair safely return Cooper to the nest, but they also brought another baby hawk (Claude) that had fallen from its nest located somewhere near the C&O Canal tow-path. His nest was never found, and he needed a foster family to help it reach maturity; however, Claude didn't stay in his foster nest and was found in a neighbor's yard the following day. Still unable to fly or care for himself, he was picked up by another volunteer and taken back to Owl Moon Raptor Center to come up with another plan.

Continued on page 20.



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As a former mounted marine, Sarge Remp appreciated receiving a challenge coin from Corporal Marc Fanelli of the Montgomery County Parks Mounted Police.



Staffer Ron Washington from Congressman Trone's office, present a flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol to Sarge Remp. The ninety-five-year-old vet is always ready with a friendly quip.



Those from the newest generation were thrilled to meet a hero from the Greatest Generation.

Below: Post 247 Commander Julien Singh introduced three-time war vet, Roger "Sarge" Remp. Honoring him were Pastor Joel Gilbert, Poolesville Baptist Church, Ron Washington, staff from Congressman Trone's office, Marines Major Jeshua Alston and 1st Sergeant Neil Sevelius, and Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich.



Brian Zarchin was thrilled to meet mounted police officers Marc Fanelli and Officer Eric Baca. Truth be told, Legionnaire Nick Markoff and Brian's father Luke Zarchin were thrilled, too.



Post 247 Commander Julien Singh welcomed Sarge Remp as a new member of the Poolesville American Legion.



AMERICAN LEGION HONORS THREE-WAR VET



Major Jeshua Alston, 1st Sergeant Neill Sevelius, Adam Singh, Mathew Singh, and Commander Julien Singh.



County Executive Marc Elrich presented a laudatory proclamation of service to Sarge Remp.

Youth Sports

Boys' Tennis: First 2A West Region Tennis Champions In School History

By Jeff Stuart

With six wins in eight matches, the Poolesville High School boys' tennis team, coached by Tom Lang, lays claim to the most successful Falcon squad this spring. Their only two losses, 4-3 and 5-2, came at the hands of undefeated Quince Orchard.

Poolesville went on from the regular season to win its first 2A West Region Tennis Championship in school history at Oakdale. They scored forty-three points to twenty-five for second place Liberty. Jae Yi won at boys' singles (6-4, 7-5); Angie Zhao won at girls' singles (6-0, 6-1).

In boys' doubles, Robert Xu and Jeeva Padmanabhan took the title (6-1, 6-4); in girls' doubles, Suzy Xu and Kaviya Kandaswamy won (6-3, 6-3).

In mixed doubles, Shriya Yavasani and Zihan Ahmed placed second after placing first in the sectional. Winners advanced to the state semifinals at Wilde Lake Tennis Center on June 18 and 19.

The boys' and girls' tennis teams both captured the Class 2A West Section II Championship on June 11 at Oakdale, taking all five individual titles.

The *Monocle* interviewed junior captain, Zihan Ahmed, about the super season.



2A West Region Champs!

What do you think was your team's best moment?

We were blessed to have many team moments, whether during warm-ups in practice or even cheering on our teammates in close matches. In the past, the tennis team would usually become closer through team lunches and spirit events; however, we were still able to become a more tight-knit group. I felt that closeness was a crucial component to our team's success this year. A culminating example of all this was when we all got to witness our singles 1, Jae Yi, make a major comeback in a set and tiebreaker to eventually win the match against Quince Orchard. It was definitely a true example of perseverance and composure for the team, especially as he remained stable despite the pressure put on him by his opponent. We were able to see many of our players face difficult situations and succeed as well. One of the freshmen on our team, Amoson Shu, took up the challenge of playing singles against Clarksburg, and he was able to win the match for us with his aggressive strokes. Overall, with the kind of season we had, it would be difficult to choose one "best" team moment as each player was able to contribute to overall group success.

What was your best personal moment?

My selection as captain was a major personal achievement. After being an alternate in freshman year, it felt great to see improvements in myself, and I was thrilled to lead a group of people I felt close to. From a tennis perspective, I would say that a great personal accomplishment was when my doubles partner, Carson Smith, and I were able to beat Northwest in our second time playing them. In our first match, we lost a nail-biting match in a third set tie breaker. Being able to defeat them in our second attempt was another marker of progress not just for us, but it was a common pattern for our team as well with more players being able to find their rhythm on the court.

Did you practice or play during the pandemic?

Fortunately, my friends and I were able to play outdoors in the past summer, and I started tennis lessons again during the winter (with masks and social distancing, of course). While I was able to get some movement on the court, many of my teammates hadn't touched a racket in over a year due to the

pandemic. We were thrilled to hear that we would still have a season despite the conditions. Participating in school sports provides not just enjoyment but a sense of normalcy and hope that we are so close to the end of this pandemic. Personally, I am very glad to be able to make so many friends in the past few months as a result.

Did you win the division or did they have divisions this year?

Unfortunately, we did not have divisions this year; however, we did play eight matches total, and I am sure both the team and I are very grateful for that. We played our best, and we look forward to trying to become division champs again next year when circumstances hopefully become much better.

Playing at first singles was Jae Yi. Second singles was Nikhil Narayan. Jeeva Padmanabhan and Robert Xu were at third and fourth singles, respectively. The first doubles pair was Akash Raghu and Varun Das. Ziyang and Carson played second doubles, and Marco Torres and Michael Esser were at third doubles.

Alternates were Amoson Shu and senior Daniel Liang.

PHS coaches are Tom Lang and Andy Johnson.

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Remembrance

Andrea Stump

Andrea Stump, 53, of Poolesville, passed away on June 8, 2021.

She was the loving wife to Charles Stump II.

Born on July 13, 1967 in Van Nuys, California, she was the daughter of the late Keith and Marie Kile.

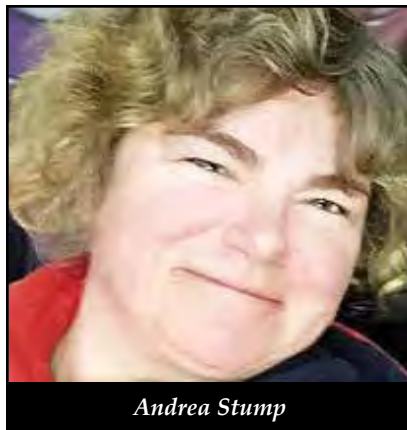
Along with her husband and mother, Andrea is survived by her brother Bob Kile, her sister Vicki Kile, her sister-in-law Jennifer Kile, and nephews, Andrew Kile and Timothy Kile.

Andrea graduated from Virginia Tech in 1989 with degrees in math and computer science. At Virginia Tech, Andrea was a little sister in the Theta Xi fraternity. She later earned a Master's degree in computer science from Johns Hopkins University.

Andrea had a long and distinguished career as a Software Architect and spent her entire career with IBM/Loral/Lockheed Martin/Leidos. She helped design and build many of the air traffic management systems in use today in the U.S. and Europe.

Andrea was an avid sports fan. She played both volleyball and soccer for most of her adult life. She loved to watch rodeo and attended many of the major rodeos throughout the U.S. and Canada.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Wounded Warrior Project.



Andrea Stump

Continued from page 17.

A Village of Volunteers Save Fallen Baby Hawk

Going above and beyond the call of duty, after Beach and Fried returned baby Cooper its home, they came by a second time when no parents were seen caring for the baby for two days after it was returned. No one wanted to leave Cooper alone in the nest if the parents abandoned the nest.

Luckily, when Fried and Beach brought Cooper down from the nest, Shoemaker was onsite to check out the baby hawk. She immediately noticed that Cooper had a full crop (a pocket located in the esophagus where excess food is stored). That meant that even though Mom and Dad had not been seen, they were clearly caring for their baby. Back up in the nest Baby Cooper went.

Today, Cooper is doing well and learning how to be a hawk. Homeowner Patty hears the parents coming back and forth now, and she is relieved that he has not fallen from the nest again.

To learn more about Owl Moon Raptor Center, check out their website at owlmoon.org. One should always call a professional before offering any care to wildlife in need, especially during this busy season when baby birds are fledging from their nests. In many cases, a parent is nearby and caring for their offspring, but in the case of Baby Cooper, he needed some helping hands. Thanks to a bevy of volunteers, this baby hawk should be flying free any day now over the skies of Poolesville.

Even our red-shouldered hawks recognize the benefits of living in the Town of Poolesville where everyone looks out for their neighbors, even if the neighbors live high in the treetops.



After two falls, Baby Cooper decided nest life was the place to be until he's ready to fledge for good.

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



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Remembrances

Bonita L. Williams

Bonita "Bonnie" L. Williams of Poolesville, passed away peacefully in her home on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at the age of 73.

Born November 28, 1947 in Somerset, Pennsylvania, she was the daughter of the late Frank C. Harned and Mary L. (Nair) Harned Toaso and stepfather, Joseph A. Toaso. She was preceded in death by her older brother Ronald L. Harned of Martinsburg, West Virginia and stepsister Janis E. Toaso of Indianola, Pennsylvania.

She is survived by her loving husband of forty-eight years, William Clifton "Cliff" Williams; their daughter Amanda M. Williams of Frederick and son Bradley M. Williams (Michelle) of West Mifflin, Pennsylvania; and grandchildren Abigail Williams and Bradley Williams, Jr.

In addition to being an incomparable wife, Mommy, and "Gamma," she was a beloved sister-in-law to Carol Ann Harned, Rodger W. Williams III (Gwen), and Emily Jane Perry (William).

She was the wonderful aunt of Ronald Harned II, Ronda Honsinger, Rodger W. Williams IV, David (Teri) Williams, Patricia (Terry) Jacobs, and Rodger Perry, as well as many great nieces and nephews.

Bonnie graduated from Somerset Area High School and earned an associate's degree in computer technology from Pittsburgh. She then moved to Maryland with her lifelong friends Sandy Thompson and Emma Witt and began her career as a banker, where she would meet her future husband, Cliff. After the birth of their second child, she left her career to focus on motherhood and became an even more active member of the Poolesville community. She organized many fundraising events for both the community preschool and elementary school. She served as a former treasurer for the Women of St. Peter's and on the Altar Guild at St. Peter's Episcopal Church for many years helping to organize the annual church bazaar and rummage sale. Later, she re-entered the work force to brighten everyone's day as a cashier at Selby's Market. Greeting everyone with a smile and a jolly laugh, she radiated warmth, care, and humor, much as she did throughout her whole life. Once retired, Bonnie spent time with her husband, children, and grandchildren, who were the light of her life.

The family would like to thank the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department and the staff at Montgomery Hospice for their help and care for our precious Bonnie.

Due to COVID-19, out of precaution, the family will hold a Celebration of Life service to be announced at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department, umcvfd.org/donations or St. Peter's Episcopal Church, www.stpeterspoolesville.org.



Bonita L. Williams

Mieke Davis Frishman

Mieke Davis Frishman passed away on June 15 in the loving presence of her family. She was the daughter of Rande and Laura Davis of Poolesville, Maryland.

She resided in South Riding, Virginia and is survived by husband Craig Frishman and their children, Leif, Alix, and Femke; brother Colonel Sean Davis and wife Camille (Ft. Belvoir, Virginia) and sister Juliana Downey and husband John. She is also survived by her nieces and nephew, Alexandra, Josh, Rosemary, and Helena.

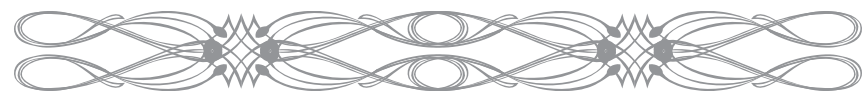
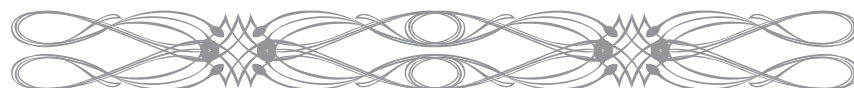
She was a graduate of Poolesville High School and George Mason University where she earned her B.S. in Biology. After graduating college, she worked as a research scientist in the study of female cancers. Later she transitioned into a career in scientific equipment sales starting with Digenes Corporation in Germantown and advancing to the most current position as Senior Account Manager with Thermo Fisher Scientific Electron Microscopy Life Sciences at Thermo Fisher Scientific Washington, D.C. where her lead client was the National Institute of Health.

Highly regarded for her dynamic personality of pronounced passion, humor, and deep love of her family and dogs, she was the full definition of the "can-do woman." Nothing intimidated her. She readily took on any task ranging from any form of home repair to parachuting out of an airplane. Beyond her professional career, Mieke became a trained volunteer firefighter and EMT. A talented athlete, she was a four-year varsity player in softball and field hockey. The power of ability to hit the field hockey ball caused her teammates to nickname her the Terminator.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, she would encourage a donation to any charitable organization specializing in the care of dogs.



Mieke Davis Frishman



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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Current Crime

Assault: 14600 block of Hughes Road.

Theft: 17600 block of Zullo Drive.

A task force of officers from the Maryland State Police, Montgomery County PD, Gaithersburg City PD, and the Rockville City PD made a concerted effort to stop the proliferation of cars with loud exhaust devices, sports cars, and autos exceeding the speed limit on June 8. The officers patrolled Route 355 between Professional Drive in Gaithersburg and Hungerford Drive in Rockville. In total, they made about two hundred traffic stops and issued forty-two traffic citations, one hundred warnings, and issued forty-one equipment violation citations.

Past Crime: 1925 to 1930

County police had been searching the county for Miss Minnie Ryman of

Barnesville whose parents had reported her missing. In a day when people seldom reported missing people to the police, this was a major effort on the behalf of the department. Officers Roy Bodmer and Chief Charles Orme led the investigation.

The largest and most intense murder investigation in the county's history was underway in the little village of Hunting Hill. Edward Mills, one of the most successful dairy farmers in the county, had been found slain in one of his fields. A gunman had been seen fleeing the scene. Detectives from Washington and Baltimore had been brought in, and numerous private citizens were deputized to assist. Nearly a year later, a Bethesda contractor was arrested but acquitted at his murder trial.

A nineteen-year-old female high school student was knocked senseless by a boy after she refused to go to the movies with him. At her Bethesda home, he struck her in the face and she fell backwards down the front steps.

A neighbor summoned the police who arrested the young man and put him in jail.

Officer Joe Nolte was recognized for his excellent work after he went out on a call regarding a parked car on the Colesville Pike. Nolte became suspicious when the driver could not prove that he was the owner of the car, and the auto bore license tags that did not belong on the car. Nolte ordered the man to remain with the car while the officer returned to the station, obtained a search warrant (unusual for the time), then returned and, miraculously, the car and driver were still there. Nolte searched the car and found 338 gallons of illegal whiskey. He then arrested the driver.

Judge Peter handed out three harsh sentences to criminals at the Circuit Court. He sentenced a Takoma boy to four years in the House of Corrections for a series of street robberies in Silver Spring. Next up was Raymond Dorsey of Rockville who went away for fifteen years for

shooting a female acquaintance in Rockville. Last was Ernesto Vasquez who admitted to pulling a series of embezzlements that gained him thousands of dollars. Vasquez preyed on guests at some of Montgomery County's finest hotels.

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

Fun Fact...

That's life (that's life), that's what all the people say

You're ridin' high in April, shot down in May

But I know I'm gonna change that tune

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- Frank Sinatra
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Catnip and Silver Vine: They Are More Than Just a Weed Your Cat Likes

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

Catnip and silver vine are two naturally occurring weeds in the northeast U.S. They have the ability to activate cat opioid systems, repel mosquitoes, enhance feline euphoria, and relaxation.

Catnip and silver vine send cats into bliss by activating their opioid system, according to a recent study. Rubbing their faces against the plants also may help defend them against mosquitoes. Several additional studies indicate that the oils (Nepetalactone and Nepetalactol) in these vines have potent anti-mosquito lighting (landing to bite) properties.

Researchers described that pair of findings in the article, “The characteristic response of domestic cats to plant iridoids allows them to gain chemical defense against mosquitoes” by Reiko Uenoyama and Tamako Miyazaki published January 20 in *Science Advances*. The researchers examined the effects of exposing domestic cats and zoo big cats to the plants and two compounds within them: nepetalactone in catnip and nepetalactol in silver vine.

The studies included exposing domestic cats to chemically-synthesized nepetalactol equal to the amount found in 10 silver vine leaves. The researchers found the cats had elevated plasma beta-endorphin concentrations, which activate the opioid system and, in humans, produce rewarding and euphoric effects. Wait, catnip does not do the same thing for people, so just let it go. The researchers also found fewer *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes landed on the heads of nepetalactol-treated cats versus controls.

The cats enjoy the effect on their euphoria, so rubbing and rolling responses transfer nepetalactol from the plant leaves onto the cat’s face and head where it acts as a mosquito repellent. Finally, science has unwrapped the 300-year-old question: Why do cats love this weed?

An interesting side note, researchers also found nepetalactol exposure produced similar behavioral responses in big cats, such as the Amur leopards, jaguars, and Eurasian lynxes.

There is also some early information that just having these plants in your gardens and along your decks and porches can reduce mosquito populations. There may be some evidence that they help protect other plants in the same area from other invasive bugs.



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