

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

September 23, 2022 • Volume XVIII, Number 14



A great family day of fun, food, and frivolity. Check out Family Album on page 2 for more pictures.



This mini-food bank at Poolesville Presbyterian is now part of a global initiative. Learn more on page 3.



Poolesville Day is all about community. See pictures on page 8.



Maybe the best Poolesville Day parade ever! See for yourself on page 9.

Town Approves Major Spending Projects to Improve Sewer Plant and Sewer Lines

By Link Hoewing

Town Manager Wade Yost announced at the September 19 Town of Poolesville commissioners' meeting that the town had been awarded a \$7 million state grant to upgrade the sewer plant to lower nitrogen levels. The town had been working to get the grant for three years, and the Maryland Department of Environmental Services would likely be focusing next on improving sewer plant treatment of pharmaceuticals which are increasingly found in sewer systems everywhere and are harmful. The plant has already undergone improvements regarding nitrogen treatment, but this grant is intended to bring the plant's performance up to meet and exceed state and national standards.

Yost and town engineer John Strong also reported on a proposed project funded by American Rescue Program (ARP) funds to continue to improve and eliminate leaks in the sewer pipes in town along Fisher Avenue. The

million-dollar project continues the ongoing Inflow and Infiltration or "I and I" work the town has been doing for years to help reduce leakage into sewer pipes which overtaxes the sewer system. Even after approving this project, the town still has more than \$2 million in ARP funds that can be used for other capital projects.

Before approving these major projects, the commissioners heard from local Boy Scout Jason Woodman who proposed a major project for his work to earn the Eagle Scout award. Woodman proposed a detailed plan to build a pollinators garden in Stevens Park. The garden is on a strip of land that Yost explained had already been identified as a suitable location for such a garden. Woodman, who could not appear in person due to his participation in a sporting event, asked the commissioners for \$5,000 to support the project; however, he also committed to trying to raise private funds to

support his efforts. The commissioners approved the request unanimously (Commissioner Kerri Cook was not present). The project is planned for completion some time in 2023.

In the announcements segment of the meeting, Commissioner Jeff Eck noted that the Parks Board, where he sits as an *ex officio* member, is actively considering building a bouldering park at Dillingham Park near the existing skate park. Bouldering parks are another term for a form of climbing and outdoor exercise facility like a climbing wall; however, such parks are designed to resemble rocky outcrops that can be climbed as might be the case in natural settings. The board is also considering improving the existing skate park and helping protect it from excessive wear and misuse. The work is in its early stages, and more will be heard about the effort in coming weeks.

Continued on page 18.

Locals Restaurant: The House(s) That Viers Built

By Jon Wolz

Few people today know the name Franklin Veirs or the legacies left behind after his life as a carpenter. The buildings he constructed are still in use today in Poolesville, long after his death in 1857.

With the successful opening of the popular Locals Restaurant in Poolesville, I have read stories about the building that houses the restaurant. One article referred to the building as the "Stevens House (circa 1840)," and other online information refers to it as the Veirs-Stevens House. Who was Stevens? According to *The History of Poolesville*, by Dona L. Cuttler and Dorothy J. Elgin, it was Lawrence "Larry" Stevens who lived in the house after 1968 with his wife Elizabeth Stevens. Larry was a Poolesville Commissioner

and Planning Commissioner for nearly ten years. Poolesville's Stevens Park is named after Larry Stevens. Larry died in 1998, and Nancy Fost, a daughter, became the next owner. She operated the Hand Made'ns Gift Shop. Charles H. Jamison Real Estate owned the house before the current owners David Therriault and Sandy Wright purchased the property.

Who built the house that is at 19929 Fisher Avenue? It was built by Franklin Veirs in 1844 and a member of the Veirs family lived in the house until 1916. Franklin was born in 1818, most likely in Poolesville, to Levi and Sarah Veirs. Levi was born in Dawsonville in 1772, and Sarah was born in "Montgomery County" in 1780. Levi

Continued on page 12.



Locals Restaurant is just one of many remaining structures built by Franklin Veirs.

Family Album



Tidbits

Poolesville Presbyterian Church's Little Free Pantry in a Nutshell

Neighbors helping neighbors. Whether someone has a need for food or has food to share, Poolesville Presbyterian Church's Little Free Pantry is there to make sure everyone eats. The pantry is located in the parking lot of Poolesville Presbyterian Church and is always open and available.

The pantry provides on-the-spot access to food items for a meal. The pantry stocks shelf-stable food, toiletries, and fresh produce when available. They work with WUMCO, Community Farm Share, and the Grow an Extra Row Program, as well as neighbors who donate directly to keep the pantry stocked.

Congregants try to provide a wide variety of food choices, recognizing that people have many dietary needs, and encourage people on specialty diets to share foods they know will be helpful to others (gluten free, sugar free, low sodium, etc.).

Little Free Pantry was awarded an \$800 matching grant by the Montgomery County Neighborhood Events matching funds program, and on Saturday, October 1, the church will be assembling some meal kits created with shelf-stable ingredients from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

The kits will include all the ingredients needed to make the meal or food, with recipe directions. By challenging our neighbors to try and create a meal with shelf-stable ingredients, they hope to raise awareness about the difficulty of preparing meals on limited budgets

with limited ingredients. We also hope to show neighbors how meals can be created from limited and shelf-stable options, a little beyond the regular boxed mac and cheese every night.

The concept originated in 2016 in Fayetteville, Arkansas with a wooden box on a post containing staples of food and items of personal care. The idea stemmed from the Little Free Libraries that began sprouting up throughout the nation at the time. Today, there are over 2,300 mini pantries that exist throughout the country.

PACC Awards Winner of Best Booth for Poolesville Day

The best Poolesville Day booth by a Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce member was awarded to Essence Studios Dance and Performing Arts (Claire Jones). Over thirty PACC members were represented on Poolesville Day.

Monocacy Lions/PACC 5K Race a Runaway Success!

Congratulations to the Monocacy Lions and PACC for hosting and managing a most successful Poolesville Day 5K with a record number of registrants at 377. Special congratulations are in order to Milton Andrews who, at 85, is the winner of the 80-89 category in the 5K race.

Top Finishers:

Overall:

- 1: Hasan Hobbs – 19:04
2. Blake Monson – 19:23
3. Zachary Antonishek – 19:24

Top Female:

Lisa Levin – 21:16

Continued on page 7.



Claire Jones was excited about winning PACC's best booth for Poolesville Day 2022.



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UMCVFD recently added the responsibilities of swift water rescue to its list of services. UMCVFD now has two complete swift water rescue units. Each unit is complete with a primary boat and a secondary boat, plus a tow vehicle that carries additional rescue equipment.

With the addition of the swift water rescue apparatus and planned additional units, UMCVFD needed to expand. The expansion project is well underway. The construction of three new drive-through bays began just a few weeks ago.

UMCVFD greatly appreciates the ongoing support from the community. Please scan the Donate QR code to support the building project.



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Rande(m) Thoughts Hurray for Poolesville Day!

By Rande Davis

Over the years, my favorite part of Poolesville Day was getting to 4:00 p.m. As the vendor tents began coming down, you could almost hear a collective "Phew!" floating in the air the entire length of Fisher Avenue. The day is great, but it sure is exhausting.

This year was different in that I didn't participate in helping with the 5K, the march with the American Legion, or the parade as John Poole, Jr. for the Historic Medley District. I took full advantage of being one of two grand marshals as an excuse to keep my involvement minimal. I did organize a tribute to the founders of Poolesville Day and the original commissioners that set the whole thing in motion in 1992, though. It was nice to see those people get the credit they deserve. Maybe a float of every Poolesville Day Committee chairperson can be offered next year. The originators of Poolesville Day had high hopes, but I think even they would be the first to express surprise and pleasure on just how well it has developed over the last thirty years.

Of course, I have written a number of times before about our town's history of offering up festivals. Historically, Poolesville has been a party town! The first Montgomery County fair was here. Back in the 1930s, one-day festivals seemed too limited, so Poolesville hosted a three-day Chautauqua. No parade or grand marshals, but they had everything else from serious lectures and seminars to vaudeville acts. Performances began in the morning and went on into the evening hours—for three days! The cheapest tickets were the three-day ones. They set up in tents where the Baptist Church is now. The Chautauqua story is one of my favorite Mystery Histories and, yes, I will repeat it again sometime for those who still have not read its story in the *Monocle*. We not only celebrated our 150th anniversary, we did so twice. The first time was in 1954 to commemorate the town's opening of a post office in 1804. Even during the Civil War, our folks sang and danced in the streets on Saturday night. There was a hot time in the old town a lot.

The size of the Poolesville Day Committee today is gratifying to see. Some of the committees in which

I participated had only a little more than a half dozen participants. Big hearts all, with very tired feet come four o'clock.

Each Poolesville Day has so much history now, and it may seem like it is just the same every year, but it has had real improvements every year. Clearly, the children's rides have gotten more exciting than in the past. Food vendors have remained constant more recently, but I really do miss Smokin' Ray's barbequed chicken or St. Mary's Smallwood Farms brisket. The menu is more diverse, but I have to admit liking the more local hometown selections from the past. I am happy to report that all of our restaurants seem to do quite well even with this temporary flood of competition.

The parade this year, without question, was the best ever. I say that not because I had the incredible honor of being its co-grand marshal. The unique parade participants and the cultural diversity is amazing, especially for such a small rural town. Who'd a thunk it?

I don't mean to bring up a very sore subject but seeing Seneca Valley High School's marching band brought a much-longed-for heart-thumping beat to the parade. Poolesville has a long, wonderful history of having local, community bands. If the high school administration is incapable of getting a marching band going after at least twenty years, maybe some of the more talented musicians in the area could organize a marching band and perhaps a concert orchestra. The school has a complete set of white, marching band uniforms locked away somewhere. It was only about six years ago that an innovative music director got the kids in these uniforms for Poolesville Day, but, alas, parents complained the kids were forced to do so, and lo and behold, the good man got fired.

We have talked a lot of having more community center space available in the new high school. Surely there will be room to start a real festival band. I barely learned to play the recorder and only amused myself with a kazoo, so I am not the person to take on the task. If there is anyone wanting to take on the Bring-on-the-Band Committee, I will help publicize it.

Bottom line, though, congratulations to Poolesville Day Committee chairman Kevin Schramm. You and your team did a truly outstanding job this year. Please know that the entire town is truly grateful. The memories ahead for our young folks should warm your hearts.

Foundations

The Men of the 20th Massachusetts

By Kenny Sholes

A few years ago, a local historian buddy of mine showed me this interesting black-and-white photo of what is clearly a military band from the Civil War era. I was told that the band was from the 20th Massachusetts Infantry and that the picture was taken in 1861 at Camp Benton, just outside of

Poolesville. This is exactly the kind of picture and storyline that causes me to dive into rabbit holes to learn more. Who were these men? Where exactly was this picture taken (yes, at Camp Benton, but where was that)? What more can we learn about the house far off in the background?

First, let's learn more about the 20th Massachusetts Infantry. Formed in the late summer of 1861, the unit is sometimes referred to as the Harvard Regiment because of the number of Harvard College graduates that were among its ranks. This included Oliver

Continued on page 5.



The 20th Massachusetts Civil War military band.

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Continued from page 4.

The Men of the 20th Massachusetts

Wendell Holmes, who in years after the war, would go on to serve as an Associate Chief Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. The unit, which fought for the entirety of the Civil War, experienced its initial trial by combat here in the Ag Reserve. Arriving at Camp Benton in September 1861, the 20th was largely responsible for patrolling the shores of the Potomac River to ensure Confederate forces would not attempt to cross the water and move on Washington. In October, about a month after arriving at Camp Benton, the 20th was involved in the Battle of Balls Bluff—an engagement that went poorly for Union forces from the beginning and left many members of the unit as casualties. The 20th would go on to fight in nearly all significant battles throughout the Civil War, including Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. While it's unclear who specifically the men in this picture were, we can be confident that they saw their fair share of combat and at least some were likely wounded or even killed.

Next, let's locate Camp Benton. Using Civil War-era maps of the area in addition to accounts from letters written by 20th Massachusetts soldiers, we know the camp was located between Poolesville and Edwards Ferry. Henry Ropes, an officer in the 20th, kept an extensive account of his time with the unit at Camp Benton via letters that have been preserved (for those who want to learn more about the Civil War and Poolesville, I highly recommend you look them up online). In the letters, Henry noted that the camp was two miles from Poolesville. Ultimately, we can pinpoint the location of Camp Benton to a large field sitting to the immediate south of the intersection of Edwards Ferry Road and Westerly Road (if you are driving from Poolesville to Edwards Ferry, look to your left when you get to the T-intersection with a stop sign where Westerly ends). Interestingly, it is said (and I have no proof of this!) that there is a spot in this field that, to this day, will not allow for the growing of crops, blamed on the ground becoming sterile due to a Camp Benton stove that was located on the spot during the war.

Now that we know more about the band's unit and the location of where this picture was taken, what can be learned about the home in the background of the picture? From historic records and maps, we can be certain this home was the Williams Family Farm. While the farmhouse at this location is certainly an old home, it's not the same house depicted in the picture. That home was demolished after the Civil War and the current one built in its place; however, what can also be seen (barely) in the historic picture is a small log smokehouse standing next to the farmhouse. This smokehouse is still standing. Adding to the intrigue is the idea that the log structure shown in the famous Civil War artist Winslow Homer's painting "Officers at Camp Benton, Maryland, 1861" is the same one still standing today. This is likely impossible to prove but certainly adds an interesting wrinkle to the story.

So there you have it: These nameless men of the 20th Massachusetts were photographed standing with their instruments in a field just outside of Poolesville at the very beginning of what would become a bloody struggle to preserve the Union. I hope the next time you take a drive or bike ride down to Edwards Ferry, you think of them and the sacrifices they made in their short time on the banks of the Potomac.

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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Presents Virtual and In-Person Programs

Are you looking for activities that stretch your mind, renew your body, and lift your spirits? Then visit the website for Poolesville Seniors, poolesvilleseniors.org, or call 301-875-7701 to register for a wide variety of virtual and in person events. **Registration is required, but all events are open to the community.** Speer Hall is located at the Poolesville Presbyterian Church.

September 27

Civil War Medicine

National Museum of Civil War Medicine volunteer, Brad Stone, will discuss medicine in an age before ambulances, anesthesia, antiseptics, triage or sterile conditions, and the medical advancements precipitated by the Civil War. This family-friendly event will include demon-strations on a life size mannequin. 7:00 p.m. *Speer Hall.*

October 1

Social at the Seneca Polo Club

Join Poolesville Seniors for a Saturday night social at the Seneca Polo Club Grounds. Experience this state-of-the-art Ag Reserve treasure and meet up for a friendly one-hour pre-match social gathering. Register and bring your own picnic and drinks. 6:00 p.m. Learn about polo at 6:30 p.m. *Seneca Polo Club Grounds, Poolesville.*

October 6

History of UMCVFD

We all expect the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department (UMCVFD) to come when we need them, but what is the story behind this area institution so necessary to residents? How did it come into being? What keeps it going? What did we do

before we could count on them? 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

Weekly Events

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

Outdoor Pickle Ball. *Stevens Park.* 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Tuesdays

Bridge and Other Games

Snacks provided. Registration required. *Speer Hall.* 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesdays

Tai-Chi with Maureen Ivusic. 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Virtual. New day and time.

Zumba Gold with Karen McPhatter.

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Virtual.

Trivia Game Night

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

Thursdays

Mahjong with Joyce Kral.

Beginner and seasoned players are welcome. *Speer Hall.* 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

Fridays

Breath-Mind-Body with Kathy Jankowski.

Please register for each Friday class. 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. Virtual.

For more information or to register for any of the programs listed here and 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 their YouTube channel. 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

Continued on page 7.

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Continued from page 3.

Tidbits



Milt Andrews took first place in the over-80 category!

By Age:

- Under 18: Zachary Antonishek – 19:24
- 19-29: Marty Micheals – 21:18
- 30-39: Blake Monson 19:23
- 40-49: Hasan Hobbs – 19:04
- 50-59: Keith Stonski – 20:06
- 60-69: Phil Andrews – 23:14
- 70-79: Kathleen Rattie – 51:21
- 80-89: Milt Andrews – 48:52

Continued from page 6.

Senior News

and Password. Call or text them at 301-875-7701 to learn how.

Fun Fact...

September

The breezes taste
 Of apple peel.
 The air is full
 Of smells to feel—
 Ripe fruit, old footballs,
 Burning brush,
 New books, erasers,
 Chalk, and such.
 The bee, his hive,
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— John Updike
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Poolesville Day Parade

Photos by Terri Pitts and Hilary Schwab



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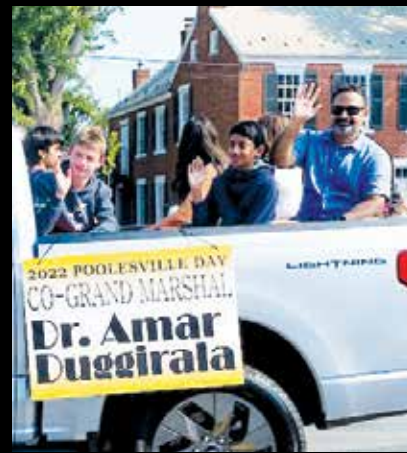
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Youth Sports

PHS Girls' Soccer Looks to Remain In the Spotlight

By Jeff Stuart

On Wednesday, September 14, on the astroturf field at Seneca Valley High School, the Poolesville High School girls' soccer team won a dramatic 1-0 victory in overtime. You would have thought that would have been a big thrill (and it was!), but this is a team that won the division last year and participated in the inaugural county championship game. Even with at least one key member of last year's team having graduated, the coach and players have high expectations.

"The win last night was very exciting," said senior midfielder Lexi Hinds, "but a lot of us were definitely frustrated at how it was going. In the end, we pulled it out. It was an amazing goal in overtime. Junior forward Bre Salovich made a run down the left side, and her shot went right by the goalie's foot, just perfectly into the center of the goal, and then we all went over and cheered. We were so excited. It was a big deal for all of us, but before

that we thought we were not playing to our best ability. We were making things a little overcomplicated for ourselves, and one shot went off the side post, one went off the cross bar, and one went over the goal. Things like that.

"We beat Wheaton away on September 6, 3-1. It was a pretty good opening to the season. I think we were still trying to get to know each other and how each other plays. Alex Sosna scored twice, and Bre scored once. It could have gone better, but we got the win. I think the Churchill game at home was our best quality game. Even though we lost, we held our heads high because we played to the best of our ability. I am personally looking forward to the Quince Orchard game. Because they are one of our big rivals, and I think we have a good shot at beating them this year."

The game at Quince Orchard is at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 8.

"Our energy level was very high for the Churchill game," said senior defender and captain Lizzie Kovacs. "We tend to sometimes slack off in the beginning of the game and then pull it together at the end, but this game really stood out because we started off very strong and kept that level of intensity up. Last year, we lost to them, 7-0, so for us to have a very competitive game, have good possessions, have



Lizzie Kovacs, Lexi Hinds, Marissa Edwards, Zoe Antonishek, Avery Penn, and Stephanie Windall.

some chances on goal, and even score a goal was huge. They scored twice before we scored.

"Junior Sophia Deng has stepped up a lot this year. She did not get a lot of playing time, but now she is a core player. You can definitely tell she has worked a lot in the off season. She usually plays outside back, but she is a very versatile player and can play basically anywhere. Alex Sosna has played really well. Last year, forward Erin Cherian scored the majority of our goals, but she graduated. Alex is only a sophomore, but she has definitely stepped up to fill in that role. She plays

a lot now. She always plays hard and has a good attitude."

"I felt the intensity of the girls at practice the day before the Churchill game was so high," said coach Rod Nubgaard. "They looked forward to the game. This is one of the few teams that I have had that looked forward to playing a good team like that, rather than worrying about playing it. They were excited to play the game. They were looking forward to it. They wanted to see how good they are. That carried over to the warm-ups and carried

Continued on page 17



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Save the Sugarloaf Mountain Area



A once-in-a-generation plan to protect almost 20,000 acres in Frederick County from commercial development—including Sugarloaf Mountain and the surrounding area—is under serious threat.

Opponents, led by the Livable Frederick Coalition, seek to weaken the Sugarloaf Treasured Landscape Management Plan and exempt nearly 2,600 acres along I-270 east of the mountain. If their efforts are successful, portions of this land could be opened to commercial and residential development.

That would represent a sharp break from long-standing efforts to prevent such development west of I-270 and to preserve the land for farming, low-density housing, natural habitat, and rural heritage.

The board of the nonprofit organization (Stronghold, Inc.) that operates the 3,400-acre mountain also seeks exemptions from the plan. Members of the board have gone so far as to threaten to close the mountain to the public if they don't get what they want. Sugarloaf's roads, trails, and picnic areas operate under a trust set up in the 1940s by Gordon Strong that preserves the mountain as a private park for the "benefit of the public." The park has been a Registered National Natural Landmark since 1969.

We oppose property carve-outs or exemptions from the Sugarloaf Treasured Landscape Management Plan and proposed Rural Heritage Overlay Zone. We urge residents of Frederick and Montgomery Counties to follow these proceedings and make your opinion known to the Frederick County Council.

Here are actions you can take:

- ✓ Get more information on the websites of the Sugarloaf Citizens Association, Montgomery Countryside Alliance and Sugarloaf Alliance.
- ✓ Sign a petition at the Sugarloaf Alliance's website.
- ✓ Learn more about the plan by searching: "Frederick County Sugarloaf Area Plan."
- ✓ Email the Frederick County Council as a group at councilmembers@frederickcountymd.gov or write individual members from the Council's website.
- ✓ Attend the public hearing on the plan Sept. 27 at 5:30pm at Winchester Hall in Frederick.

Development pressures in the Sugarloaf area and Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve continue to grow. That could mean a loss of farmland, increased traffic, and detrimental changes to recreation areas and water resources. The Sugarloaf Management Plan is a bold and necessary step to protect and preserve the rich natural beauty of the area.



www.sugarloafcitizens.org | Linden Farm, Dickerson, MD
301-349-4889 | info@sugarloafcitizens.org

Continued from page 1.

Locals Restaurant: The House(s) That Viers Built

and Sarah were married in Poolesville on January 1, 1811. Franklin Veirs first appears in the 1850 census. Prior to 1850, Franklin built the red brick house that he lived in and was known as the Veirs House. He married Ann Elizabeth Hall on December 14, 1846, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church that was located in Beallsville at the time. Franklin Veirs built the new St. Peter's in Poolesville between 1845 and 1847 for \$2,000. In 1848, Franklin Veirs built the Poolesville Presbyterian Church and, as with St. Peter's, it had a gallery for enslaved people. Later, another building in Poolesville was built by local Baptists, that now houses Professional Cleaners. While I could not find specific documentation as to who built the church, it clearly is a Viers design.

By 1850, Franklin aged 32 and his wife Ann aged 22, were living in their new home. Franklin was a carpenter, and there was no occupation identified for Ann. Two Veirs children were living with Franklin and Ann, and they were Sarah, 2, and Levi, 8 months. Also living in the house were John O. Merchant, 34, and William Walter, 20. Both John and William were carpenters. In 1850, living at the Veirs address were five enslaved people, including two males, 30 and 7, and three females, 30, 5, and 8 months.

Franklin and Ann had a daughter Luta born in 1851 who died in 1852 and a fourth child Lucy born in 1854. Franklin Veirs died in Poolesville in 1857 and was buried in the Humphrey Cissel Farm family cemetery which is located near Poolesville down White's Ferry Road. That farm is now privately owned, and the historic cemetery has not been found.

In 1860, Ann Veirs was listed as head of household in the Veirs house, and the value of the real estate at \$2,000, and her personal estate was \$4,800. Living with her were three children she had with Franklin: Sarah, Levi, and Lucy. Sarah and Levi were attending school. William Walter was living in the house too. He was identified as William "Veirs." There was no occupation given for William. By 1860, John Merchant had married and had moved out with his wife Margaret. John was a carpenter with a personal estate of \$100. He would later be the coffin maker for Poolesville with his shop on "Back Street" which is Wootton Avenue today.

By 1861, William Walter had married Franklin's widow, Ann. William and Ann would have three children together. Son William was less than one year of age when he died in 1861. Son Maurice was born in 1868 and died in 1892. Daughter Ida was born in 1871 and married John Boxer. Ida died in 1913. William, Maurice, and Ida along with her husband are buried at the Monocacy Cemetery.

In the early 1860s, William Walter had become a businessman. He owned a store known as Walter's Store that was located where the current Odd Fellows building stands. He co-owned the Walter's-Reed Cabinet Shop that was located on the corner where the Crown station is today. William Walter also owned a few rental houses in Poolesville. In August 1863, Confederate Lt. Colonel Elijah V. White led a raid on Poolesville where his troops raided Poolesville stores including one owned by William Walter. On another Confederate raid, a lieutenant, trying to escape capture, hid in the Veirs house in an upstairs bedroom under an overweight servant. The Union soldiers searched the house and looked under the bed where the servant lay. She protested loudly, refusing to get up. The soldiers left the house, and the lieutenant rejoined his unit.

In the 1870s, William Walter's occupation was "village merchant." Living with him in the Veirs House was his wife, Ann (Veirs), Walter, Sarah Veirs, 22, Lucy Veirs, 16, Ida, Walter, 2, and the Brown family who were African American. The Brown family included Levi Brown, 25, Eveline, 23, Alice, 6, Edward, 4, and Mary, 2. Eveline was a domestic servant, and no occupation was provided for Levi.

By 1879, William moved his store to across the street to the corner where the Crown station is located today. By 1879, the Odd Fellows had a building on the corner where William Walter once had his store. In 1880, only William and Ann lived in the Veirs House, along with children, Ida, 13, and Maurice, 12. William was "keeping store" and Ann was "keeping house." Both Ida and Maurice were attending school. Ann Veirs died in 1885 at age 58 and was buried with her first husband, Franklin, at the Humphrey Cissel family farm. Ann left the Veirs House to her two daughters, Sarah and Lucy. In 1872, Lucy Veirs married carpenter Charles Sellman and they purchased the Veirs House in 1888. William Walter was still a merchant in 1900 and was living alone on Cobb Avenue in Poolesville. He died at the Memorial Hospital in Frederick in 1909 at age 81 and is buried in the Monocacy Cemetery. Charles Sellman died in 1902, and his wife Lucy died in 1913. Both Charles and Lucy are buried in the Monocacy Cemetery.



Franklin Veirs built St. Peter's Church and Poolesville Presbyterian Church. The design of the once-Baptist Church (now Professional Cleaners) looks like one of his, too.

Beginning in 1917, George and Mary Willard owned the Veirs House. The Willards were followed in ownership by William and Helen Pendergast who owned the house from 1949 to 1968. This is what I have learned about the building that houses Locals Restaurant. Hopefully, the history of the building will be remembered.

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Things to Do

Save the Date: October 14 and 15

St. Peter's Fall Rummage Sale

Featuring toys, kids' books, baby stuff, Halloween and fall décor, and linens. *St. Peter's Church, 20100 Fisher Avenue.* Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Saturdays

Poolesville Farmers' Market

Produce, cheeses, meats, crafts, plants, and more. *Whalen Commons.* 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

September 23

PHS Varsity Home Game

Football versus Rockville. 6:30 p.m.

September 24

Poolesville's American Legion Annual Barn Dance

The Daniel-Jeffers Post 247 will be hosting its annual barn dance. A great family event and time, it will feature square dancing for those who are new dancers or experienced, young or old. Light refreshments. \$10 per person. *Calleva Bank Barn, Martinsburg Road.* 7:00 p.m. to 9:45 p.m.

September 25

Poolesville Farm Honored at King Barn Mooseum

One of Montgomery County's farms will be honored at the King Barn Dairy MOOseum in Boyds. The descendants of the Clarence C. Offutt, Sr. family will tell their family story of the Offutt farm which was south of Poolesville on the corner of West Willard and West Offutt Roads. *King Barn Dairy MOOseum, 18028 Central Park Circle, Boyds.* 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

September 27

PHS Varsity Home Games

Girls' soccer versus Watkins Mill. 7:15 p.m.

Girls' volleyball versus Magruder. 6:30 p.m.

September 30

PHS Varsity Home Game

Field Hockey versus Damascus. 7:00 p.m.

October 1

PHS Varsity Home Game

Girls' soccer versus Rockville. 7:30 p.m.

October 3

PHS Varsity Home Game

Girls' soccer versus Kennedy. 7:15 p.m.

October 6

PHS Varsity Home Game

Boys' soccer versus Magruder. 7:15 p.m.

October 7

PHS Varsity Home Game

Field hockey versus Springbrook. 3:45 p.m.

PACC Night at the Haunted Forest

Registration is now open at the PACC website for members to attend a network event at Markoff's Haunted Forest. Tickets are \$20 per person and may be purchased at Poolesville-chamber.com. The event includes light refreshments, one complimentary beer or wine during the 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. happy hour; then a backstage tour of the Haunted Forest costume shop, and free time at a bonfire. For those wanting to go through the forest, tickets can be purchased separately at the Markoff's Haunted Forest website. *Calleva, Martinsburg Road.* 5:00 p.m.

October 16

PACC Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Official opening of WUMCO's new location. *Poolesville United Memorial Methodist Church.* 2:00 p.m.

PACC Public Forum for Poolesville Commissioners' Election

Candidates' open discussion. *Poolesville Town Hall.* 7:00 p.m.



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Focus On: Poolesville, Dickerson, and Northwestern Montgomery County Housing Market February 2022

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Remembrance

Kevin William Dorsey

Kevin William Dorsey, 55, of Boyds, passed away in his home on September 6, 2022.

He was the loving husband of Dawn Marie Dorsey for thirty-four years. Born on February 28, 1967 in Maryland, Kevin was the son of Larry Dorsey and the late JoAnn (Magaha) Dorsey.

Kevin was many things to those who knew him. To some, he was a coach, to others, he was a U.S. Army veteran, a business owner, a jokester, a hunter—the list could go on infinitely—but to all who had the pleasure of meeting him, he was a good friend, a mentor, and a role model. He was truly an altruistic man. In health and in sickness, he never wavered in his commitment to family, friends, and community. He always preached hard work and perseverance, and during his eight-year battle with ALS, he showed everyone exactly what it meant to work hard and to be a fighter. He was a one-of-a-kind, inspirational, honest, hard-working, fun-loving man who will be missed by all—the type of person who made everyone and everything around him better.

Surviving besides his wife are his children, Samantha Jo Wrathall, husband, Michael, Cody William Dorsey, wife, Lauren, and Jessica Anne Dorsey, boyfriend, Nick Katsikas; two sisters, Karri Morningstar, husband, Patrick, and Susan Francis, husband, David; two brothers, Keith Dorsey, wife, Krista, and Kris Dorsey, wife Karen; two grandchildren, Annabelle Gail Wrathall and Georgios William Katsikas; and seven nieces and nephews, Kyle Morningstar, Kaysie Steele, Lexi Dorsey, Sydney Francis, Katelyn, Kristina, and Kolton Dorsey. The Dorsey Family, including Kevin, would like to thank the dozens—if not the hundreds—of family, friends, and the entire town of Poolesville, that have given our family their love and support over the last eight years.

A celebration of life will be held on October 15 at 21325 Beallsville Road, Dickerson. Drop-in times are 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. with a short service at 1:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Warrior Canine Connection, 14934 Schaeffer Rd, Boyds, MD 20841, warriorcanineconnection.org.

Please dress comfortably. Kevin chose this location. It's a hayfield! It's okay to bring a miniature Crown Royal—if you know, you know!



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Remembrance

Dr. Csaba Magassy

By Rande Davis

Dr. Csaba Laszlo Magassy, M.D., from Poolesville, passed away on September 18. He was born in Budapest, Hungary on November 5, 1938. Dr. Magassy was a renowned plastic surgeon with offices in McLean, Virginia.

At six years old, this Hungarian Catholic boy, along with his family, had been interned in a Nazi concentration camp. It was in being rescued by Patton's Third Army Division that he made a commitment to one day join the American military.

This most impactful experience is recounted in the June 3, 2022 issue of the *Monocacy Monocle*, still available online to read. He told of when Patton's Third Army, seemingly out of nowhere, arrived at the concentration camp in a long convoy of military vehicles. The camp prisoners watched the beautiful sight as the convoy literally busted through the gates to the wild cheers and excitement expressed as only a newly-freed people can do. The joy was all around. "I will never forget the kindness of the soldiers of the Third Army. They got us so much food, hams, and turkeys. It was my first experience eating spam, and I loved it, even though I cut my finger twisting the attached key to open the can."

Since the family was quite prominent in Hungary, his father was inclined to return there; however, his mother, recalling the terrible stories of the Russian occupation, adamantly wanted to go to America. "We had heard all sorts of horror stories about what the Russians were doing during the occupation, so my mother said under no circumstance should we go back, she felt we must go to America."

His dad was a doctor, so he did receive acceptance as an intern in a hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota where the family originally settled as new immigrants.

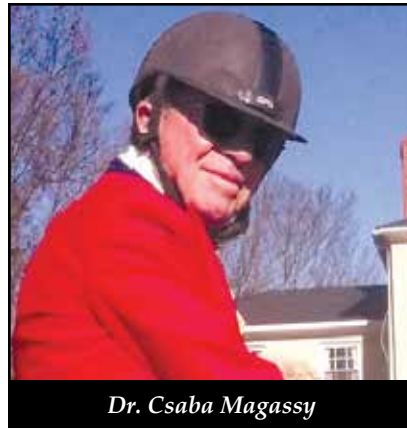
Dr. Magassy graduated in two and half years from Creighton University with majors in biology, chemistry, and a minor in philosophy, totaling 134 credits. He went on to graduate from Creighton Medical School. Near the end of his studies in medical school in 1962, he made the decision to become a pilot and joined the U. S. Air Force. He spent eight years in the air force, stationed at various locations like Randall AFB in San Antonio, Luke AFB in Phoenix, Arizona, and with the 3rd First Fighter wing in Homestead, Florida. He served during the Cold War and had overseas posts in Japan (concern with North Korea and China) and in Turkey (concern with Russia). Dr. Magassy logged six thousand hours of flying time in F100 fighters serving in Japan and Turkey. During his final two years, he served with the Thunderbirds, the famous precision demonstration flying group as a spare pilot and flight physician/surgeon.

He went on to surgical training at George Washington University and the University of Southern California for plastic surgery, setting up a renowned practice in McLean, Virginia before settling on his equestrian farm near Poolesville. He was a longtime member of the Potomac Hunt Club.

Dr. Magassy was the son of Gabriel Louis Magassy and Georgette Marie Gyorko. He was preceded in death by brother Gabriel Atilla Magassy and survived by sister Georgette Magassy Dorn. He was married to Frances Helene Kay for forty-six years until their divorce.

He is survived by his children, Matthew Csaba Magassy, Stephen Laszlo Magassy, and Michelle Alexis Magassy (fiancé Jason Todd Dungan); and one grandson, Clayton Laszlo Dungan.

The family will be receiving friends on Friday, September 23 from 11:00 a.m. to noon at Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic Church in Poolesville. A Catholic Mass will begin at noon. Reception to follow at Centurion Farm.



Dr. Csaba Magassy

Continued from page 10.

PHS Girls' Soccer Looks to Remain In the Spotlight

over to the game. They made that game difficult for Churchill. It was 1-0 at halftime. At one point it was 2-1. They gave Churchill a scare. They just did not stop. I was impressed with that effort. That is why I think it was our best game so far.

We don't have a pure player like we were blessed with last year with Erin Cherian. I think the team is picking up the scoring it needs to pick up, so it takes an entire team effort. The first three weeks of practice we emphasized building a team. What's a team? How do we get there? At the meeting before practice today everyone was contributing feedback, telling me what their thoughts were, even giving feedback to the coach. That to me is huge when a team can have that much trust and confidence to give feedback to each other and to the coach.

"The Seneca Valley game was a tough game because we could not score if your life depended on it, but the girls kept their heads in the game and supported each other. When I saw the way they came out in overtime, I thought, 'Game over.' They just had a different intensity. They were like, 'We got to put this thing away.' I was proud of that. I have had teams that would have collapsed in a game like that. That did not happen with this group, so their DNA is their own DNA. This is this year. They are very special. I think they have a lot more in them. I have been able to push them because of that, and I am going to push them even further."

Other seniors are goalie Marissa Edwards, defender Zoe Antonishek, and midfielders, Avery Penn and Stephanie Windall. Other juniors are midfielders, Abigail Hoy, Allie Webster, Courtney Hurbaneck, and Morgan Smith; and Gabby Montemurro and Adriana Carrillo on defense. Other sophomores are forward Amelia Goetsch and midfielder Rylan Smith. Freshmen are forward Zoe Hornyak and defenders, Jazmine Vanegas and Camila Henao-Pina.

Remaining home games are against Watkins Mill on September 27, Rockville on October 1, Springbrook on October 11, and Wootton on October 17, senior night.



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or milestone you would like to share with our readers?

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Continued from page 1.

Town Approves Major Spending Projects to Improve Sewer Plant and Sewer Lines

A major part of the meeting concerned a proposal to improve the existing pickle ball courts at Stevens Park in the near term and over the longer term to both expand and repave the courts. Approximately \$4,000, Eck said, was being requested by the Parks Board to reline courts and buy new netting. An additional \$20,000 was requested to begin planning and design for repaving courts and possibly to expand the number of courts to eight. Currently there are six courts at Stevens Park and a tennis court. Expansion of the pickle ball courts would mean there would be no remaining tennis courts at Stevens Park.

There was strong support for the proposal among the commissioners. Yost pointed out that the entire project would cost roughly \$50,000, and the town planned to seek state or county grants to fund the balance of the project.

Commission President Jim Brown expressed his support as well but wanted to make sure that the Parks Board carefully considered the conversion of remaining tennis courts to take into consideration the needs of tennis players and demand for courts.

Former planning commissioner and current member of the Poolesville Area Senior Center George Coakley said that he plays both pickle ball and tennis and that the Poolesville area is a "tennis players' paradise." There are courts in other parts of town, at the middle school, the high school, and at Owens Park.

The commissioners approved the \$24,000 request with additional funding and final plans dependent both on receiving the needed grants and further work by the Parks Board.



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or upcoming event in **Things To Do**? Then let us know!
Send it along to editor@monocacymonocle.com

Fun Fact...

discoverpoetry.com

September

Now the Earth yields her strength!
The teeming ground
Seems lighten'd of its curse: on every side
The hills rejoice, the valleys far and wide
Stand thick with corn, and
harvest-songs resound.
The garden its rich dainties scatters round,
While lane and copse, by Nature only till'd,
An ample store of humbler fruitage yield,

Berries and nuts by Autumn
suns embrown'd
But, ah! amid such visions of delight,
Those few rich tints upon the forest boughs,
Like the fine flush, so ominously bright,
Which on her victim's cheek
Consumption throws,
Too truly speak of wasting and decay,
And, sighing, I pursue my woodland way.

- Rebecca Hey

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Sometimes It Is Not Good to Be the “Fat Cat”

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

Pet obesity is a huge problem in the United States, with nearly 60% of all U. S. dogs and cats classified as overweight or obese in 2018. It is interesting that this correlates with the percentage of humans in the U.S. that are overweight to obese.

As the complexity of feeding our pets grows, with the increasing amount of online information available to pet owners, it becomes harder for pet owners to understand if, when, and what foods should be considered when a determination that their pet is overweight to obese is made by their veterinarian.

It is unfortunate that in the U. S. there are so many weight loss, weight change, and weight management programs. Each has a different rationale for how the weight is to be removed and how that is to take place. Pet owners further have a wide spectrum of beliefs when it comes to their own pets and that pets' weight. Many think that a little extra weight is good or “healthy” for their pets. Others believe trying to lose weight for your pet never gives permanent results.

The evidence is clear: The only current proven treatment for pet obesity is a therapeutic diet plan combined with lifestyle changes. Typically, when a human member of the family decides to lose weight, the pet benefits from being given less treats and getting increased exercise.

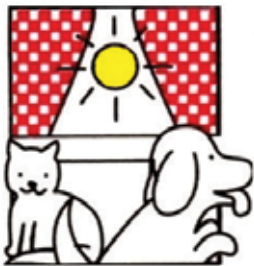
New weight loss and management diets are highly researched and trial-tested for effectiveness and safety. Amazing research, weight-loss formulations, and nutritional technology have been placed in a convenient bag or can of therapeutic pet food for easy use by the owner for the pet.

Weight control and weight loss are as much art as science in the 21st century. Attempting weight control for your pet is not often a “one and done” event. It takes a great deal of interaction between you and your veterinarian along with a truthful review about what you are or are not feeding your pet outside of the recommended therapeutic diet.

If you adjust your pets' diet, exercise, and/or lifestyle, there should be positive changes to their weight within 90 days. It is highly recommended to weigh your pet at your veterinarian's office and not at home. There is a greater chance you will maintain your weight loss plan if weight is reviewed by someone other than yourself.

Owners that place themselves on a weight management program along with their pets have a much greater chance of being successful with their pets' weight control and their own.

Weight loss, simply put, requires fewer calories per cup, higher protein, lower carbohydrates, and more soluble fibers. This along with getting repeat weigh-ins for your pet will give you the best chance to help your pets lose weight and maintain a new leaner form.



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