

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

March 31, 2023 • Volume XIX, Number 2



Nina H. Clarke shared the amazing history of Poolesville's Beauty Spot. What happened here was done all over America. Read more on page 3.



The Sweet Lemon hosted a cutting-edge fundraiser for WUMCO. Details in Business Briefs on page 4.



Sharing love through heart-shaped pillows. Learn how you too can play a role on page 18.



Virginia Hall received the Distinguished Service Cross from Office of Strategic Services (OSS) director Maj. Gen. William Donovan. Details in Tidbits on page 21.

Kuhns' and Local Governments' Combined Offer to Open White's Ferry Rejected by Virginia Landowners

By Rande Davis

The over-one-million-dollar offer would have enabled the ferry to reopen in thirty days.

Chuck and Stacy Kuhn, the current owner of White's Ferry, worked closely with the State of Maryland, Commonwealth of Virginia, Montgomery and Loudoun Counties, including their economic development authorities and transportation departments, and previous ferry owner Herb Brown, to develop a proposal to purchase the Virginia landing site from Rockland Farm in an effort to get the ferry reopened for its nearly 1,100 daily users. Unfortunately, Rockland Farm's owners rejected the bid—which was well above the land value—and has caused White's Ferry's owners to pursue selling the land and operation to Montgomery County.

The proposal was submitted by the two counties to Rockland Farm this past January. The plan had called for Rockland Farm to sell the 1.4-acre landing site for \$1.1 million—well above the appraised value for the flood plain land. The offer included funds from White's Ferry's owners, both Montgomery and Loudoun Counties, and additional funds from Herb Brown, the original ferry owner. Under the proposal, the landing site would be limited to public use and passage along White's Ferry Road, including potential modifications to facilitate vehicle travel, pedestrian and bicycle passage, or improved ferry operations.

"We are grateful for the significant and good faith efforts of our local and state governments on both sides of the Potomac to help us reopen White's

Ferry. It's unfathomable that one family is standing in the way of people's livelihoods. We have run out of options and will now seek to sell the ferry land and operations to Montgomery County, so it can work to invoke eminent domain and acquire the Virginia landing site. This is not what we had hoped, but we understand the importance of White's Ferry to the region's economy—and the ferry needs to get moving again," explained Chuck Kuhn, Owner, White's Ferry.

In rejecting the offer, Eliabeth Devlin reported to the *Monocle*, "Rockland Farm will not accept a flat fee for its Virginia landing. We favor a volume-based fee that varies with the amount of traffic infringing upon our land.

Continued on page 9.

Idea for Grocery Co-op Surfaces at Town Meeting As Town Readies FY2024 Budget for Enactment

By Link Hoewing

At their March 6 meeting, the Town of Poolesville commissioners heard from a couple who is beginning the work of trying to establish a food co-op in town. While the effort is just at the very early research stage, it is a welcome development in the long history of disappointment in the town's efforts to attract a grocery store. The Upcounty and Poolesville have been without a grocery store since 2012 when the family-run Selby's Market closed its doors.

Commission President Jim Brown opened the discussion by saying that the town has "talked to everyone over the years" who is involved in the food store business. There was a short-lived effort a few years ago to work with a small grocery chain that had a store already down county, but its efforts to lease space next to Tractor Supply fell

apart. Brown admitted the effort to try a co-op was "driven by failure" in part, but he said he drew hope from the fact that Lovettsville, a town less than half the size of Poolesville, already has nearly finished construction on its own co-op store.

Nathan and Jennifer Lloyd came forward to talk about their initiative to start the co-op. They noted that they had only recently moved to Poolesville and had established the headquarters here for their international avocado exporting business which has its operations in Kenya. Their company generates several million dollars a year in revenue. Nathan Lloyd said that they were just beginning to do research on the co-op model, how it works, and how to finance a co-op. He said they will "do all we can to make it successful." Jennifer Lloyd said the first step in the process is to have a market study

conducted that would lay out the potential market for the new store, what elements would make it successful, and what its financial model would look like. They asked the town to help fund such a study. The price for the study would be \$7,500.

After the Lloyds appeared, Don Street and Soledad Aguilar of the Sustainable Poolesville Committee came forward to discuss research Aguilar had prepared about dual-stream waste recycling. Street and Aguilar both avowed that the committee is "one hundred percent behind dual-stream recycling." In making this point, they pointed out that dual streaming does a much better job of ensuring that waste intended for recycling is actually recycled.

Aguilar said the key question they thought needed to be answered was:

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Family Album



PHS Principal Mr. Mark Carothers awarded the American Legion Post 247 Oratorical Contest Winner, Faith Nah, her certificate and a gift card to the Sweet Lemon.



The Tall and Small Ball held at Poolesville's Baptist Church was a fundraiser for Riverworks Art Center.



The Tall and Small Ball was not just Father-Daughter but Mother-Son, too.



Once again, the Ceili dancers were a huge hit at St. Mary's annual St. Patrick's Day dinner.



Whether coming or going, the Irish dancers were a crowd pleaser.



Ceili dancers of all ages performed at St. Mary's annual St. Patrick's Day dinner.



Ty Conlon and Jim Cappuccilli of American Legion Post 247 during the post's tour of the Marine Museum.

Local News Events

The Intriguing Story of African American Schools of the Upcounty

By Maureen O'Connell

On Wednesday, March 15, 2023, Historic Medley District (HMD) hosted, to a full house, a presentation at the Old Town Hall Bank Museum on the African American schools of the Upcounty in the days before desegregation in 1956.

The discussion was attended by numerous guests who had unique personal and family knowledge of these schools and who shared their recollections with the audience. Also present were elected officials and staff of the county government, as well as members of the Town of Poolesville Commission.

Knight Kiplinger, board chair of HMD, was the moderator, and the featured speaker was Ralph Buglass, a noted authority on rural schools in our region. Knight opened the talk with a broad overview of the origins of separate White and Black school systems in Maryland in the first decade after the Civil War, when an 1874 national civil rights law failed to include integrated schools among other public accommodations opened to Blacks, such as hotels, restaurants, and transit cars.



A large crowd turned out for an HMD presentation about the history of Black schools in Montgomery County.



Knight Kiplinger, board chair of HMD, was the moderator, and the featured speaker Ralph Buglass, is a noted authority on rural schools in our region.

Ralph continued the discussion with a detailed slide show of maps and photographs of the schools, documents, and student bodies. His main sources were *History of the Black Public Schools of Montgomery County, Maryland, 1872-1961*, by Nina H. Clarke and Lillian Brown (1978); Montgomery County Public School records; Maryland Historical Trust documentation; and Freedmen's Bureau documents online at the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

He focused on the following eight local schools. Some remain today as museums; others have been torn down or neglected and lost to the knowledge of the community in which they were located.

Boys Negro School: This one-room, 22-by-30-foot wooden building, heated by a wood stove, served as the only public school for African American children in the Boys area from 1895 to 1936. The school, standing in its original location at 19510 White Ground Road, has been restored and is now maintained by the Boys Historical Society.

Martinsburg: Located along a half-mile stretch of White's Ferry Road, west of Poolesville, this is the only site in Maryland with a school and two other community institutions still in existence. The site is now maintained by the volunteer Warren Historic Site Committee.

Old Union School: A short-lived school that met in a community hall. It served the Black families in the Jerusalem and Jonesville communities outside Poolesville, as well as the so-called Texas community near Beallsville.

Continued on page 10.

JIM BRINGS THE BUYERS!



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Rande(m) Thoughts Can We Put Our Money Where Our Mouth Is?

By Rande Davis

Now that the *Monocle* is a monthly publication, we have maintained our commitment to being your best source for complete and accurate information on Upcounty news. Sometimes the news is big because it is startling and dramatic, like the bank robbery of a few years ago. Sometimes it's big only because it's filled with many small but important items. This month, the news is both. Our paper this issue is full of important but mundane news stories, but all that is a bit overshadowed by the headline of a million-dollar offer to open White's Ferry being rejected.

I had hoped the long-awaited and very dramatic reopening of White's Ferry would have been heralded in this issue. That did not happen, and at this point, I have a growing fear that it will never reopen. A million bucks for a little over an acre of land is generous by any standard. Rockland Farm has made only two proposals to agree to allow the use of their landing: Either make Rockland Farm a fee-per-car partner with the current owner running the operation and solely responsible for all operational costs, or bring in a third party to run the operation with the current owner still solely responsible for all costs.

Even if agreed to, no contract could prevent Rockland Farm from demanding a fee increase at a future time and forcing the ferry to close in a legal dispute again—putting everyone right back where we started.

For Chuck and Susan Kuhn, owners of White's Ferry, any form of partnership that is fee-based is untenable. A perpetual non-negotiable use arrangement is the only way anyone could agree to invest funds into the ferry service. For the first time, I am very doubtful the ferry will ever reopen. In the end, everyone loses—the town, our businesses, and our residents who would lose the convenience of the service—and most certainly Rockland Farm which, in the end, loses a million-dollar gamble.

In the area of the more mundane news, the selection of Titus Trash Service returns a local company to providing the town with our important trash and recycling services. How much of the pandemic and difficulty in maintaining enough employees played a part in the general dissatisfaction of

the Bates Trucking Trash Removal Service cannot be determined. When Titus lost the contract a few years ago, the town's objective was based more on a desire to reduce costs and less on any concern of the quality of their service. We hope for the best from Titus. They served us well in the past, so I expect they can now.

I am intrigued by a new proposal to form a committee to research and possibly create a food co-operative that would be designed to provide many grocery items not now available in town.

I may be the only person in town who does not think a standalone grocery store, either through a co-operative or private enterprise, can succeed. A supermarket will not be coming to our area as our population is far too small, and our past purchasing history demonstrates that we will not support a grocery store to the degree it needs in order to survive. Our ability to be loyal to a local supermarket, even when owned by a very beloved local family, is highly doubtful. We did not adequately shop at Selby's when its new store opened. A grocery co-op, with a very vertical, restricted inventory demand might work, but it still will require a very strong percentage of all residents using it regularly to success.

For much of the year, we have a significant supply of fresh local farm products. Lewis Orchards, open from June to Thanksgiving, is a great farmers' market with a very wide and changing inventory of fresh vegetables and fruits, along with an array of auxiliary items like Boar's Head meats and cheeses, and McCutcheon's jams and jellies. For fresh apples, peaches, and Asian pears we have Kingsbury's Orchard. Then there is R.B. Savage in Dickerson that sells pasture-raised beef, pork, poultry, fresh eggs, goat cheese, goat milk soap, Poolesville Pickers BBQ Sauce, seasonal products, and hand-crafted gifts, and they also offer McCutcheon's Preserves and Condiments.

Soon the Market at Deere Valley in Dickerson will open with fresh beef and produce. All this, and we also have Calleva Farm Store and Locals Farm Market in the center of Poolesville.

From 2011 until 2015, after Selby's closed, we had Mixed Greens Market in the center of Poolesville, a cute little market with fresh local vegetables, local dairy and eggs, and local meats. It was run by Monica Bulat, and she had even had plans to expand to a commercial kitchen and restaurant. She had a small but loyal customer

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Business Briefs

WUMCO Fundraiser: A Cut Above

Jim Cappuccilli, a member of the local American Legion, Post 247, suggested to Katie Horan (owner of the Sweet Lemon) that they sponsor a Legion fundraiser to assist WUMCO. Jim, as an avocation, sharpens knives, and the idea was to have the gift shop host a knife-sharpening event. While it would be free, donations would be

accepted to benefit the local food and health service.

Jim and Katie were colleagues at Poolesville High School for about thirteen years before they left PHS, he retired as a counselor and Katie was a classroom and staff development teacher.

Katie describes Jim with great respect when she reflects upon their years at PHS. He coached her as a young teacher, and she describes sitting in awe

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Jim Cappuccilli and Alex Markoff of Poolesville's American Legion Post 247 joined the Sweet Lemon for a fundraiser to benefit WUMCO.

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Published and Edited by
John Clayton and Rande Davis

John Clayton
Production
Financial
301.461.8840
jclayton@monocacymonocle.com

Rande Davis
Advertising
Circulation
301.509.9232
rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

Dominique Agnew
Copyediting
dqagnew@gmail.com

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

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

Contributing Writers

Link Hoewing
linkhoe@aol.com

Maureen O'Connell
mafoconnell@msn.com

Kenny Sholes
kcs7110@gmail.com

Jeffrey S. Stuart
sark10@juno.com

Jon Wolz
wolzjon@hotmail.com

Student Reporters

Max Bingham
Kaitlyn Schramm

Contributing Photographer

Terri Pitts
terri.pitts@gmail.com

Layout and Graphics

AnyArt Solutions LLC
sales@AnyArtSolutions.com

Fun Facts Contributor

Laura Muncy
laura@AnyArtSolutions.com

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Business Briefs

of him while he navigated tough situations, always with the right thing to say (or maybe it was the way he said it—he didn't give a chance to doubt him!). She fully trusted Jim, professionally. Katie reflects on how she was vulnerable in learning experience, and "Jim would respond with authentic advice, sometimes unconventional and sometimes tough to take. Probably because he was mostly right."

The knife-sharpening event at Sweet Lemon, an otherwise innocuous event meant to bring some visibility to the American Legion or maybe just to get Jim out of his wife's hair (his words, not ours!) brought some new faces into our little boutique. Jim sharpened knives, yes, but the whole afternoon was so much more than that. Jim shared himself as he had for decades at PHS. A former student, Sam Cooper (Class of '06), came just to see Jim, and Sam's unfeigned excitement in simply catching up with his former guidance counselor was humbling.

Originally, when Katie asked Jim what he'd like to charge for his knife-sharpening skills, he stated he wanted nothing. Jim said this community has given him so much over the years that he was happy to do it because he enjoys

doing it, and he is proud to represent Post 247, so Jim, along with his dear friend, Chief Markoff, donated their time, their humor, and their life experiences to whomever was lucky enough to walk through the door and engage with these wonderful men.

Katie told the *Monocle*, "You know when an extraordinary moment disguises itself as seemingly ordinary? When you keep thinking about it, but you can't quite articulate why it's on replay in your mind? That was today for me. Chief said it best: 'This place has such a great vibe'—and it did, thanks to you, Chief and Jim. They came for knives and got both of you. What a privilege." Thanks to Jim, more than \$400 was raised for WUMCO.

Sip and Stich Away!

K2 Café organizes a special event called Sip and Stich in the café. It is hosted by K2 Café manager Suze Creedon and Jen Ansara of JK Fiber Designs who comes and volunteers to help people. The group meets every other Tuesday from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Persons who want to join in can simply come with whatever they're working on—needlepoint, crochet, sewing, knitting—you name it. All are welcome to sip their favorite toasty beverage and stitch with other folks and friends. The next Sip and Stich events will be on April 4 and 18.



K2 Café sponsors a twice-a-month event called Sip and Stich.

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.** Most in-person events are located at Speer Hall at Poolesville Presbyterian Church.

April 2 Croquet

The Sugarloaf Citizens' Association will host the Poolesville Seniors' croquet afternoon. Instruction will be provided, and there will be access to restrooms. Two croquet courts will be set up for a maximum of twelve players. The event is weather-dependent. Registration required. *Linden Farm, Martinsburg Road.* 1:00 p.m.

April 6 European Travel Planning

Join travel specialist Barbara Paulson to discover how many countries/cities to include, how to pick hotels, money, packing tips, planning on what sites to see, what time of year to go, etc.; ending with getting to the airport. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

April 11 Naval Medicine during the Civil War

Discover the unique medical challenges faced by the Union Navy during the Civil War, as well as some of the advantages it had over the Union Army when maintaining the health and welfare of its men. Brad Stone will highlight the bold initiatives needed to maintain a healthy environment aboard its ships. Registration required. 7:00 p.m.

April 17 PS Book Club: *Magpie Murders*

Magpie Murders by Anthony Horowitz uses a story-within-a-story format to follow Susan Ryeland, an unmarried, middle-aged editor. When she receives the latest mystery novel from the publisher's star author, her search for the missing last chapter has unforeseen consequences. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

April 18 Bingo

Bring a friend or neighbor for an afternoon filled with congenial conversation, competition, snacks, and prizes. Our guest caller will be former on-camera NBC-TV reporter, photographer- par-excellence, competitive pickleballer, and humorist, I.J. Hudson. Open to all ages. 1:00 p.m.

April 20 Historic Ag Reserve Properties with Kenny Sholes

Celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the B&O Metropolitan Branch with local historian Kenny Sholes and the next historic Ag Reserve Properties presentation. Learn about the changes to the economy and culture with the coming of the railroad. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

April 21 Friday Movie Night

Watch *Devotion*, a 2022 release starring Jonathan Majors, Glen Powell, and Christina Jackson which retells the comradeship between naval officers Jesse Brown and Tom Hudner during the Korean War. Action, drama, war. PG-13. Snacks will be provided. 7:00 p.m.

May 5 Glenstone Museum

Meet us in nearby Potomac at the world-class Glenstone Museum, with 64,000 sq. ft. of gallery space on 300 natively-landscaped acres. It is the largest private contemporary art gallery in the U.S. New exhibits feature works by Ellsworth Kelly, Cecily Brown, and Kara Walker. **Registration required and limited.** Meet at *Glenstone Museum Visitor Center.* 10:00 a.m.

May 11 Enjoying European Travel

Join European Travel Specialist Barbara Paulson to get the most enjoyment out of your European travel. Barbara brings us tips on how to pace your days, deal with the weather, travel between locations, secure your safety, experience the local food, culture, language, customs, and pack to come home. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

Weekly Events

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

Indoor Open Play Pickleball. *Poolesville Baptist Church Family Life Center.* 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Outdoor pickleball will resume at Stevens Park on April 17.

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.

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

Indoor Ladder Play Pickleball. Limited to a maximum of 24 players. *Poolesville Baptist Church Family Life Center.* 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Outdoor play resumes at Stevens Park on April 6.

Mahjong with Joyce Kral. Beginner and seasoned players are welcome. *Speer Hall.* 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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

Continued on page 9.



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Continued from page 4.

Can We Put Our Money Where Our Mouth Is?

base, but broader support from the public did not meet her requirements to stay open.

The problem with a co-op is that the line of products will be primarily the most expensive, least profitable grocery store items. The inventory will be too over-represented by a product line with very low profit margins along with an exceptionally high risk from spoilage from fresh vegetables, fruit, meat, dairy, and fish. If our shopping pattern in a co-op is a little erratic, the loss from the spoilage kills the potential of success. Even if a co-operative operates on a very low profit margin, spoilage is the real destroyer of potential.

What we are missing is not a "store" but certain products no longer available. When you envision a supermarket, consider the "center aisle" items. These are things we are not lacking in our town. Both CVS and Dollar General have filled our non-fresh food, personal care, and household item needs and have done so with a price structure with which a co-op will not be able to compete.

What we really are missing is what I would call "against the wall" product lines. This would be the year-round produce section, fresh meat and fish deli, and bakery with large selection of fresh and pre-baked items. For those who shopped Selby's, think about all the products displayed against their walls. It is those items, simply put, that we have lost when they closed. Nearly everything else is available in town, albeit in limited selection. Should a co-op primarily feature natural and organic products, while lauded as a good healthy product line, it will succeed only if it is still able to attract a very high percentage of the entire potential consumer base. The fact is such stores like Whole Foods and Trader Joe's, although smaller in size than the standard supermarket, require an even higher population consumer footprint to succeed.

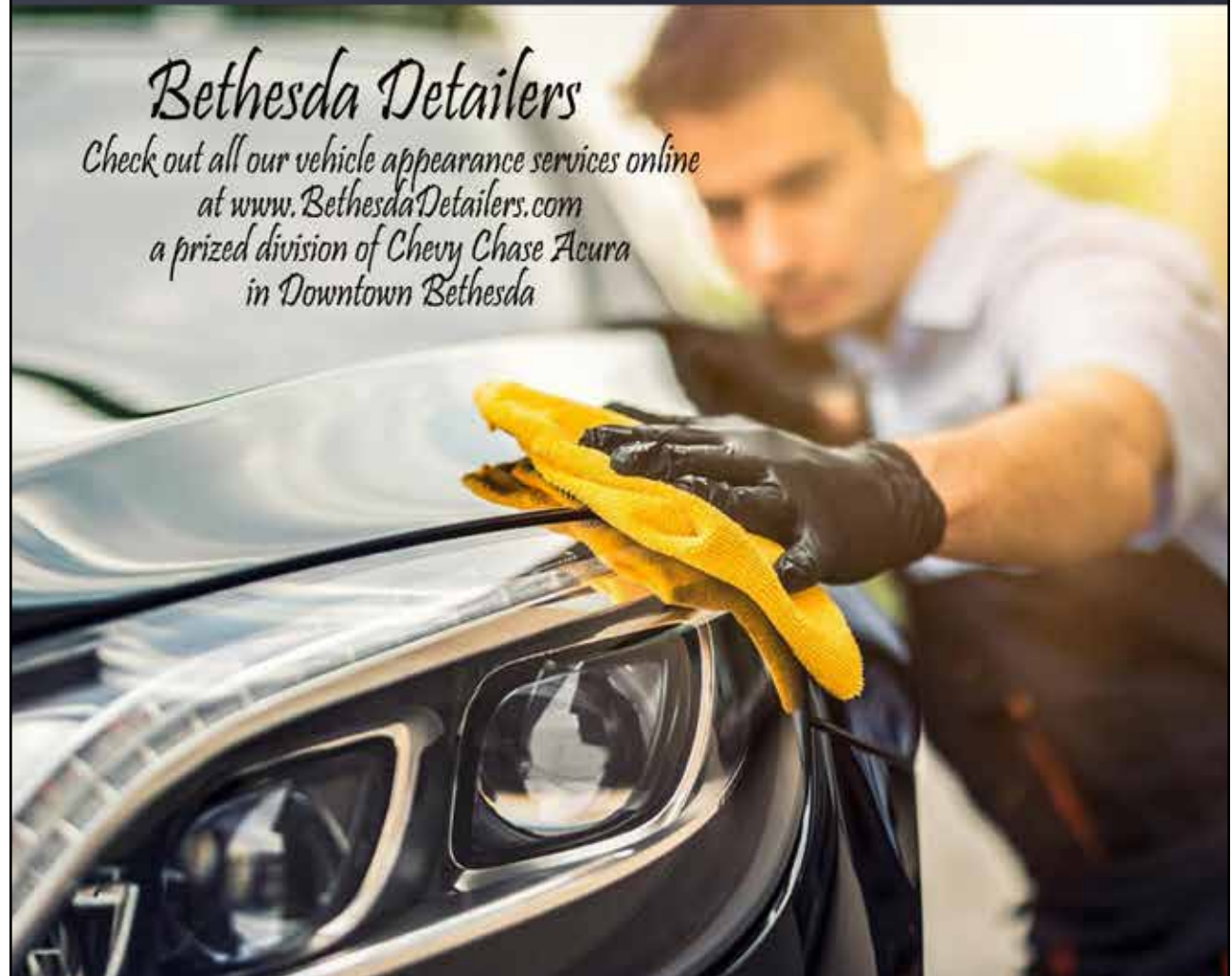
I endorse taking steps to explore the potential of a co-op, but my real concern is the reality. We talk a lot about wanting a grocery store, but when we had one, we used it as a convenience store. Supermarkets and grocery stores will always fail in that environment. We did not put our money where our mouth was. We talked a big game, shouted how much we loved Selby's as people, and then shopped elsewhere.



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School News

Learning How to Give Back at MES

Monocacy Elementary School (MES) fourth and fifth graders are making an impact in our community. Twenty-eight students at the school just gave \$1,000 to the Homeless Children's Playtime Project.

These nine- and ten-year-old students participated in Kids for Kids Fund, a program of the Giving Square (www.thegivingsquare.org). The Giving Square believes children can be community builders and that when we give children the tools, permission, and support, they will make a positive impact on our families, schools, and communities, now and throughout their lives.

The Kids for Kids Fund program is a fun, interactive way to empower kids to help and culminates with the kids voting to give a local organization that helps kids \$1,000. Students claim the identity of "philanthropist," one who gives of themselves for the good of humanity. They use their expertise as kids to identify what kids need. Then they examine specific needs kids have around homelessness, healthcare, and disabilities in creative ways. They shared their own experiences and put themselves in the shoes of kids who have needs in those areas. One day, to experience what it would be like to be someone with differing abilities, they folded paper airplanes only using their non-dominant hand and had to pick up something across the room while blindfolded and relying on a partner's guidance.

The students nominated, then shared with their peers more than twelve local organizations that help kids they thought should receive a \$1,000 grant. The top eight nonprofit organizations the kids decided upon faced off head-to-head in a March Madness-style bracket. The MES final four were: Comfort Cases, Tree House, Great and Small, and the Homeless Children's Playtime Project. Students asked other students questions about the nonprofits, such as, "What would the organization do with \$1,000?"

This is the fifth year of the Kids for Kids Fund program at MES. All the students who participate are encouraged to discern how they can continue to be philanthropists and build up our community. They identify ways to provide help to others with the skills and resources they have. Making our community a better place for every person involves all of us no matter what our age because we each have unique experiences, skills, and resources to offer to others.

Derek Longbrake has led the Kids for Kids Fund program at MES alongside amazing school staff and parent volunteers and is glad to share more about the program via email at dereklongbrake@gmail.com.

Principal Robbins Honored

Poolesville Elementary School (PES) principal Douglas M. Robbins has been honored with the Nancy C. Walker Award for Outstanding Support to a Library Media Program for the 2022-2023 school year. The award is given annually by

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Clair Ketchum, media specialist at Poolesville Elementary School; Principal Douglas Robbins; and media assistant Rebecca Fisher.

Coming Soon to Dickerson!

Looking forward to providing the community with farm raised meats and other products.

Holy Week **ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

Palm Sunday	April 2
8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms & Holy Eucharist	
Maundy Thursday	April 6
7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Foot-Washing & Stripping of the Altar	
Good Friday	April 7
7:00 p.m. The Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday	
Holy Saturday	April 8
7:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter	
Easter Sunday	April 9
8:00 a.m. Easter Festive Eucharist with hymns 10:30 a.m. Easter Festive Eucharist with brass and choir	

**EASTER EGG HUNT
AFTER 10:30AM SERVICE
ALL ARE WELCOME**

Continued from page 1.

Kuhns and Local Governments Combined Offer to Open White's Ferry Rejected by Virginia Landowners

"We have also made an offer to both Montgomery and Loudoun Counties for a permanent easement on our landing in exchange for a volume-based fee. That offer is still on the table."

Chuck and Stacy Kuhn bought the ferry in February 2021 to help protect this important and Potomac River crossing with a long history. The purchase included the ferry, the store, and the Maryland shoreline that supports the ferry operation. Established in 1786, the ferry ceased operation in December 2020 after the previous owner Herb Brown could not come to terms with Virginia's Rockland Farm. The farm's proposed price of fifty cents a car each way would have resulted in a fifty percent reduction in operating income, making the ferry business unviable. In addition, the farm's stipulation that it could shut down the ferry at any time without notice made it too risky a business to pursue. Since purchasing it, the Kuhns have been working with Rockland Farm and the local and state municipalities to find a good faith resolution.

"We needed an agreement that we could build a business model around. Owning landing rights would enable us to understand and manage ferry costs so that we could offer the best product at a price the users can afford," added Kuhn. "The states, counties, and towns involved all understand this. Sadly, one entity—one family—refuses to be part of the solution and is hurting real people and our local communities."

The economic impact of resuming ferry operations (based on travel time savings, travel cost savings, safety savings, the value of emissions avoided, and the value of trips not taken) will be over \$9 million this year alone and will result in a travel time savings that equates to up to \$1.7 million a year, according to a Montgomery County Department of Transportation study. While working through the efforts to regain landing rights, the Kuhns invested in needed upgrades and repairs, ensuring that the ferry could reopen within thirty days of an agreement with Rockland Farm.

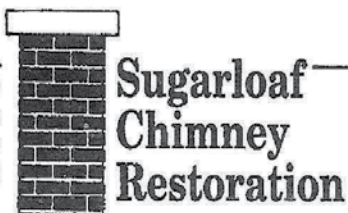
White's Ferry fits in with the Kuhns' interest in conserving land and history. Through JK Land Holdings, the Kuhn family seeks land acquisitions that can be sold, leased, developed, placed into conservation easement, or utilized by sister companies JK Moving Services and CapRelo. Over the past decade, they have placed more than 22,000 acres of its purchases into conservation easement, ensuring that vulnerable vistas and habitats are preserved and protected for future generations.

Continued from page 6.

Senior News

need a computer to participate? You can join the Zoom presentation using your smartphone or just listen in using the local telephone number from Zoom and the Poolesville Seniors meeting ID and Password. Call or text them at 301-875-7701 to learn how.

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Continued from page 3.

The Intriguing Story of African American Schools of the Upcounty

Rosenwald School, Poolesville: It is located on Jerusalem Road, within the county's highway department garage and fueling center and waste transfer station, known as the Beauty Spot. Many people may pass this facility and be unaware of the historical significance of this school building, which was enlarged and is hidden amongst other small buildings and trucks. The Rosenwald School building program played a prominent and pivotal role in the education of African Americans in the early twentieth century. Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Company, had established the Rosenwald Fund in 1917 "for the betterment of mankind," and in partnership with Booker T. Washington of the Tuskegee Institute, established the Rosenwald School project to provide matching grants for more than five thousand schools, shops, and teachers' residences in fifteen southern states between 1917 and 1931. There are several other Rosenwald Schools in Montgomery County.

Sellman School, also called Barnesville: No longer standing, it served one of the county's largest and earliest Black communities, founded by free African Americans in the early nineteenth century.

Big Woods, between Barnesville and Beallsville: The founding families settled there between 1813 and 1846, with most of them owning their own land.

Seneca: A small church and schoolhouse once stood along Violette's Lock Road, serving a community of families who worked on the canal and in the nearby Seneca sandstone quarries and cutting mill. The church later moved to Berryville Road (today's Seneca Community Church), but the cemetery remains at Violette's Lock.

Sugarland: This community, located about three miles southeast of Poolesville, included mainly previously-enslaved people who, in the early 1870s, acquired land by purchase and gift from nearby White landowners. A church was built there, which was probably also used as a schoolhouse. In 1924 and 1925, it was replaced by a one-room Rosenwald school, later converted into a private residence which no longer stands.

The community's history has been well preserved by the Sugarland Ethno-History Project, established in 1995 by Gwen Reese and other descendants of Sugarland's founders. Suzanne Johnson, president of the project today, attended and spoke at the HMD discussion.

Edward U. Taylor School, Boyds: Opened in September 1952, it was one of four modern brick elementary schools built in the county in a very belated attempt to bring educational facilities for some Black students almost up to the standard of White schools. Two years later—on the eve of the Supreme Court's banning of separate schools for Whites and Blacks—it was expanded, and in 1960, became the first and only previously-segregated Black school to become a mainstream integrated facility.

The school's namesake was a long-time Supervisor of Colored Schools in Montgomery County, who died just before the opening of the school. Among the honored guests at the forum were Taylor's daughter, Joan Kelly, and her husband John. Mrs. Kelly spoke movingly of her father's legacy and the importance of education to the African Americans of Montgomery County.

Another participant, Dan Seamans of Boyds, spoke of his experiences as one of the first White students to attend Taylor Elementary after integration in 1960 and 1961, as a fifth and sixth grader. When asked if the integration was successful, he replied, "Not one hundred percent." He said that his stepfather, as the PTA president, sought to bridge the emotional distance and sometimes suspicion between Black and White parents to create a unified student body. "The kids did better than the parents," Dan remarked.

Tina Clarke, a longtime resident of Jerusalem Road, who has been active in county civic affairs, spoke eloquently and at times emotionally about her own and her family's experiences in the Black schools of that era, when dedicated teachers did their best to overcome the inadequate resources available to their schools.

A niece of historian Nina H. Clarke, Tina is also the granddaughter of Noah E. Clarke, a towering figure in the promotion of Black education in Montgomery County in the early twentieth century. Besides raising the funds to build the Poolesville Black elementary school on Jerusalem Road from 1925 to 1927 (with matching funds from Rosenwald), Mr. Clarke also doggedly pressed the county, over seven years, to create the county's first high school for African American youths, which opened in Rockville in 1935.

Asked by moderator Kiplinger why she chose to remain at that school, George Washington Carver High, after integration in 1956, rather than transfer to a

White high school like Richard Montgomery or Poolesville, Tina cited the excellent education and nurturing support she received from her teachers at Carver. She said they prepared her well for college at American University.

On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court, in the *Brown v. Board of Education* verdict, reversed the concept that separate school systems could be equal, and it ordered an end to school segregation.

"Separate but equal" had never been a reality in segregated education. The Black schools had poor supplies (especially schoolbooks), their teachers were paid about half what White teachers earned, the budget for Black schools was way below those for White schools, and the schoolyear was shortened for the Blacks when funds ran out. The pay disparity was finally erased in 1938, in a landmark case brought by a Black county teacher named William Gibbs, represented by a young Thurgood Marshall.

The *Brown* decision in 1954 was condemned by southern White political leaders, who vowed to defy it.

In Montgomery County, Kiplinger said, the longest and most vehement protests of school desegregation took place in Poolesville, with shouting, sign-carrying picketers—a minority of White parents, it seemed—trying to disrupt the start of classes in September 1956. Some parents kept their White children out of school for a while, until county officials brought truancy actions against them. The protests eventually fizzled out.

Montgomery County completed the integration of its schools in 1960 and 1961. The school system had eighty-five thousand students and a \$70 million budget. It became the largest system in the Washington, D.C. suburbs.

Today, any success story of Black education in the U.S. is due to the Black communities' commitment after the Civil War to the importance of education and the dedication of teachers and other people, both Black and White.

At the end of the evening, Knight distributed "A Petition to Honor a Legacy," asking the audience to sign this request to the Montgomery County government—county executive, council, and staff—to recognize the Rosenwald School at the Poolesville Beauty Spot with interpretive signage and, eventually, restoration of the school to its original look, as a historic site.

The petition will be available shortly at various sites in Poolesville, Commission President Jim Brown told the audience. Please add your name to this important endeavor.



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Local News

Scout Project Brings A Monarch Butterfly Pollinator Habitat To Poolesville

On a very rainy cold morning on Saturday, March 25, local fifteen-year-old Poolesville High School freshman, Jason Woodman, led a group of sixty volunteers in building a half-acre monarch butterfly pollinator habitat at the entrance to Stevens Park off Wootton Avenue near Collier Circle.

Jason is with BSA Troop 1094 out of Darnestown, but he lives in Poolesville. His planting crew consisted of fellow Troop 1094 scouts and leaders, Poolesville BSA girls Troop 2027, Poolesville BSA Troop 496, teammates from his Upper Montgomery Lightning high school ice hockey team, Sustainable Poolesville, and other citizens from the community. Despite the heavy rain and massive amount of mud, Jason and his crew constructed seven gardens planted with Maryland native straight species pollinator plants. "There are close to four hundred one-gallon-size plants that we put into the ground," explained Jason. "My goal is to have the habitat bloom from spring until fall to attract monarch butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, and other pollinating insects. Soon I will also be installing educational signs along the walking path to inform those who walk there about the importance of pollinators to the community. Then I will be spreading native wildflower seeds around the seven gardens." Jason worked with Bernie Mihm and Melinda Boswell of Fine Earth Landscape on the plant selection and design.

Jason's pollinator habitat planning started last summer. He decided that for his Eagle project, he wanted to make an impact on the environment that would



A large turnout of volunteers assisted in the building of a Monarch butterfly habitat.

be long lasting. While researching his ideas, he realized there is another rare scouting award, the BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award (DCSA). In order to earn the DCSA, a Scout must research, plan, and lead two significant conservation projects, then conduct follow-up work to ensure that the projects achieved their intended goals. This award goes beyond just the requirements for an Eagle project. Including the follow-up work, a DCSA project can take several months to over a year to complete. The Scout also must earn several conservation and wildlife-related merit badges. This award encourages exemplary environmental stewardship and service. As of this writing, only one scout in the BSA National Capital Area Council (NCAC) has earned this prestigious award. Jason so far has spent over a hundred hours planning and executing his ideas for this pollinator habitat. His budget came in at just over \$7,000. Thanks to the Town of Poolesville, Fine Earth Landscape, Ashley Signs, Kristopher's Pizza, Sustainable Poolesville, and his generous parents, the project is fully funded.

Continued on page 14.

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Local History

Desegregation Documentary by Local Student

By Rande Davis

When Joey Geehreg was a freshman at Poolesville High School, he formed a real passion for history, and his teacher, Mr. Turner, recognized this potential. When the history of the desegregation of the school in 1956 sparked Geehreg's interest, Turner challenged Joey to make a documentary about those difficult ten days in September 1956. "The local African Americans from those days are getting older, and if their story is to be told, someone needs to do it now," Turner had said. Although not having any real understanding of how to make a video documentary, Joey nevertheless decided that this was something he desperately wanted to do. With that decision made, his over-four-year journey began.

Today, Joey is a freshman at Virginia Tech where he plans to major in filmmaking and was excited to have so many additional tools available to him this year to complete the project he began four years ago.

His film follows the time when, sparked by outside anti-desegregation activists, a group of Poolesville parents decided to protest the court order to desegregate schools. As Montgomery County began to take steps to integrate, the process advanced until it got to Poolesville. An outside anti-integration agitator, Everette Severe, convinced a significant number of parents to keep their children home in protest of classes integrating African Americans.

Such an anachronistic perspective is hard to imagine today, even among those who may still be alive today. Mr. Turner was able to provide Joey with the history from the 1950s and general background of the days leading up to the actual protest outside of the school.

Geehreg's interview with George Barnes, who at nine years old was one of the nine students who were the first Blacks to attend the Poolesville School. The pain and hurt experienced is well within his heart today, but he rose above the challenge of the objections and taunts to become a stellar scholar-athlete and went on to major in biology in college, having been inspired by PHS science teacher, Mr. Albert Cicheskie.

Poolesville's Skip Etheridge, whose family ancestry in the area dates back many generations, provides the viewer of the video with insight into the perspective of the African American experience.

I first met Joey a couple of years ago when he requested an interview with me as I had written in the Monocle several history pieces on local African American history, including the origins of the Rosenwald School, whose edifice still stands today at the county's Beauty Spot. I offered the perspective that although those times present a very dark time in our history, it is important to remember that once we passed through the crucible of these initial changes, the town was able to begin its process of acceptance, healing, and growth, leading to full relationships among our diverse population. Those students who were held out of school represented about forty percent of the student body, and within ten days, all students were in class.

For the Black students, they had to go through a long period of personal difficulty from some individuals who continued to harass them, but ultimately, the Black students emerged with many friendships that have lasted till this day. In the mid-fifties, Poolesville High School was repeatedly threatened to be closed by the county school system. Without the growth from the Black student population, the school may very well have been shut down.

The documentary is extremely well done, and I recommend it for everyone as a reminder of how far we have come as a community within just one generation. I'm grateful to Joey Geehreg for bringing this story to life.



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School News

the Montgomery County Educational Media Specialists Association to highlight the role of administrative leaders in supporting library media centers.

Robbins supports having PES media specialist, Mrs. Clair Ketchum, participate in weekly grade-level planning meetings and is enthusiastic about the new flexible scheduling shift. This allows Ketchum to bring lesson ideas, enrichment opportunities, and field trips that integrate media into existing elements of the curriculum in a timely manner.

Robbins values the media program by ensuring staff aren't pulled in various directions that might interfere with lessons or activities. He volunteers to cover classrooms or asks his assistant principal to help before pulling Ketchum to do so.

He works with the PTA to help buy books and fund makerspace activities. He also has relocated the PTA-run book fair to ensure that media center activities can continue.

Robbins encourages Ketchum to be a leader and to use her position to be a central part of school operations. He helped her complete an administration degree by mentoring her for the internship during the last year of the program. Robbins "even gave me the chance to be teacher in charge for three days while he and the assistant principal were away, so I could get a real feel for the job," Ketchum said.

Finally, she said that Robbins "ensures that the school library serves everyone—that all students can find a range of materials to meet their informational needs, reading interests, and materials representing diversity."

Fun Fact...

guinnessworldrecords.com

The oldest known library was assembled by Ashurbanipal, King of the Assyrians, between 668 and 631 BCE. It was located in his royal palace in Nineveh (in present-day northern Iraq, near Mosul), and included some thirty thousand clay tablets, inscribed with cuneiform writing.

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 ❖ Worship, 10:45 am

Friday, April 7, Good Friday
 ❖ Good Friday Service, 7:00 pm

Sunday, April 9, Easter Sunday
 ❖ Easter Sunrise Service at BBC, 6:30 am
 ❖ Sunday School, 9:30 am
 ❖ Worship, 10:45 am

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	04/07 Good Friday.....8:00PM
	04/08 Holy Saturday..... 10:30AM Easter Basket Blessing
	04/08 Confession..... 11:00AM
	04/08 Easter Vigil..... 8:00PM
	04/09 Easter Sunday.....8:00AM 10:00AM 12:00PM
	04/09 Easter Egg Hunt... 1:15PM

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Continued from page 11.

Scout Project Brings a Monarch Butterfly Pollinator Habitat to Poolesville

Jason’s project doesn’t just stop with this one planting day. Look for him at Poolesville’s Springfest on May 6. He will have his own booth with photos from the project, pollinator plants on display, and a list of pollinator plants you can plant in your own backyard. According to Jason, “The more pollinating plants we have in town, the more it helps the surrounding Agricultural Reserve farmers with their planting.” When we asked Jason what is next with his scouting achievements, he said, “I plan to sit for my Eagle board of review in May. After that, I will begin planning my second DCSA project here in Poolesville.”




Monarch butterflies feasting on a native plant Eutrochium purpureum, commonly known as Joe Pye weed.



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Garden

The Truth about Roses

By Maureen O'Connell

Many rose aficionados have many tips and tricks on how to grow the perfect rosebush with perfect blooms. Some swear by talking to your roses, dousing them with brewed alfalfa tea, spraying with a mixture of vinegar, water, baking soda, dish soap, and cooking oil, red pepper sprays, and milk-and-water sprays. Sorry to say, none of these methods completely work to ward off rose diseases and pests. Let's sort out fact from fiction. From my many years of growing roses in Barnesville, I have learned that they cannot exist in our climatic conditions on their own. Oh, you might get some blooms, but usually, the shrub will not be very pretty to look at. Roses, like many other flowering plants, are susceptible to many diseases and insects.



Author's Rosa rugosa

There are basic conditions to first consider. For one, the site: roses need at least six hours of sun daily; the soil must drain well and supply nutrients; mulch to protect the soil from drying out; frequent inspection for damage; and careful pruning. You still have to deal with the creepy crawlies and many diseases waiting in the wings to attack your rose.

The American novelist and poet Gertrude Stein (1874 – 1946) wrote in her 1913 poem "Sacred Emily": "A rose is a rose is a rose." This is often interpreted to mean that simply using the name of a thing already evokes the imagery and emotions associated with it. I don't think that that is necessarily true. There are more than 150 species of roses; every rose has its thorn—but each type has its own characteristics. Most horticulturists divide them into three main categories: Wild Roses, Old Garden Roses, and Modern Roses. Among these, we find: Climbing Roses, English Roses, Floribunda Roses, Grandiflora Roses, Groundcover Roses, Hybrid Tea Roses, Rugosa Rosa, Miniature Roses, and Polyantha Roses. Roses are more varied in bloom style, color, fragrance, growth habit, and size than any other group of plants.

I have often stressed the importance of selecting the right plant for the right location under the prevailing climatic conditions. In David Austin's Handbook of Roses, he breaks down his rose selections by best for: fragrance, health, flowering, cutting, attracting bees, hot and humid climates, poor soil, hot and dry climates, and shady areas. Most of those specific situations are pretty straightforward; the best for health category can be a little tricky and hard to pin down. Many roses are described as disease- and pest-resistant. David Austin said that he believed that 'Olivia Rose Austin' is the finest and most disease-free rose he ever bred. This acclaim can be misleading as disease reactions can vary from one location to another, depending upon disease pressure and climate conditions. Pest populations can also vary from state to state and from neighborhood to neighborhood. What works for me in Barnesville may not work for a garden in Poolesville, Darnestown, or Potomac.

In my forty years of living in Barnesville, I have had over one hundred rosebushes. Mister Lincoln, Charles Darwin, Emily Bronte, Falstaff, Gertrude Jekyll, Queen Elizabeth, The Pilgrim, Just Joey, Barbara Streisand, Princess Grace, Peace, Winchester Cathedral, and many others have all at one time visited my gardens. They were all very healthy and beautiful, but that was because every Saturday morning they received their chemical cocktail. No insects or diseases crossed their lush green foliage and opening flower buds—but about ten or fifteen years ago, I decided I could not continue spraying when I faced what it was doing to the environment, man, bees, butterflies, birds, and beneficial insects such as ladybugs. Without me, my roses eventually all died.

I missed my roses. Three years ago, I decided to plant two soft pink 'Olivia Rose Austin' roses and one rich yellow 'The Poet's Wife.' The two Olivias live in a new small garden with sun and partial shade. They share the bed with sage, rosemary, thyme, *Allium* 'Purple Sensation,' dianthus, and the Oriental Lily 'Casa Blanca.' 'The Poet's Wife' lives in an older garden in the Upper Garden and

Continued on page 34.

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April

Poolesville Commissioners' meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m. Visit town website to watch live from home.

April 4

K2 Café Sip and Stitch

Social and participation group for those who do needlepoint, crochet, sewing, knitting, or other needle arts. *K2 Café, 17610 W. Willard Road, Poolesville*. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

April 6

American Legion Daniel-Jeffers Post 247

Monthly meeting. *Calleva offices, Poolesville*, next to Anytime Fitness. 7:00 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Game

Boys' lacrosse versus Clarksburg. 7:15 p.m.

April 12

PACC Network Breakfast Event

Businesses helping businesses morning get-together, featuring Claire Jones of *Essence Studios*. Refreshments provided. *Essence Studios, 19710-E Fisher Avenue, Poolesville*. 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

PHS Varsity Home Games

Softball versus Northwood. 3:45 p.m.

Boys' tennis versus Sherwood. 3:30 p.m.

Boys' volleyball versus Northwest. 5:30 p.m.

Coed volleyball versus Northwest. 7:00 p.m.

April 13

PHS Varsity Home Games

Boys' lacrosse versus Damascus. 7:15 p.m.

Softball versus Damascus. 3:45 p.m.

April 14

PHS Varsity Home Game

Baseball versus Damascus. 3:45 p.m.

UMCVFD Auxiliary Bingo

Featuring cash and gift cards with door prizes. Refreshments available for purchase; no outside food and/or beverages. Admission is \$20 which includes a game card and three chances to win in each game. *UMCVFD Fire Hall, 19801 Beallsville Road, Beallsville*.

Doors open: 5:30 p.m., Games start: 7:00 p.m.

April 15

Riverworks Arts Center Community Roundtable Event

Writers and Painters: A Conversation – *The Earth that Sustains Us*. Details on facebook page. *Locals Farm Market*.

April 17

PHS Varsity Home Games

Boys' tennis versus Quince Orchard (at JPMS). 3:30 p.m.

Girls' lacrosse versus Watkins Mill. 7:00 p.m.

Boys' volleyball versus Damascus. 7:00 p.m.

Coed volleyball versus Damascus. 5:30 p.m.

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m. Visit town website to watch live from home.

April 18

K2 Café Sip and Stitch

Social and participation group for those who do needlepoint, crochet, sewing, knitting, or other needle arts. *K2 Café, 17610 W. Willard Road, Poolesville*. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

April 19

Riverworks Arts Center Community Roundtable Event

Writers' workshop with Lisa Couturier. Details on facebook page. *Locals Farm Market*. 6:30 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Games

Girls' tennis versus Wheaton. 3:30 p.m.

Baseball versus Rockville. 3:45 p.m.

April 20

Storytellers Series: Connecting Creatives to the Community

Co-authors Lennon Gross and Christine Rai discuss their book project, *Haunted House Histories of the Ag Reserve*, a collection of local folklore and legends which captures the rich history and unique beauty of Montgomery County and the Ag Reserve. *Riverworks Studios at Alden Farms, 19215 Beallsville Road, Beallsville*. 6:00 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Games

Softball versus Rockville. 3:45 p.m.

Boys' lacrosse versus Churchill. 7:15 p.m.

April 21

PHS Varsity Home Games

Boys' tennis versus Seneca Valley (at JPMS). 3:45 p.m.

Continued on page 32



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In Your Own Backyard

Lock 24 Stone Etchings: Part 2

By Jon Wolz

The 1870s were a boom time for the canal with five hundred canal boats carrying mostly coal from Cumberland to Georgetown. The 1870s saw the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company making a profit with only 1879 showing a deficit of \$12,256. The most profitable year was 1874 with a surplus of \$290,208.

There was a canalboat in the 1870s and 1880s owned by Upton Darby of Seneca named "Seneca." Upton was a farmer and miller who owned the Seneca Ford Mill up Seneca Creek from Lock 24. The Seneca canalboat would be loaded up at various times with flour, mill feed, wheat, and corn to be delivered to Georgetown.

In the 1870s, the nearby Seneca Quarry was booming, employing many quarrymen and sending stones down the canal on canalboats. At the quarry, William Love was the superintendent with two quarry bosses, including Alexander Liles and Thomas Muntz. The quarry had many workers of differing ethnicities in the 1870s.

There are some C&O Canal records from the 1870s and 1880s that survive. There are records from 1873 and 1874 and some from the 1880s from the archives that were transcribed by historian William Bauman. These transcribed records appear on the C&O Canal Association webpages. In looking at records for those two years, I found some familiar names, including Allen Benson, Mary Benson, and James Brashears.

As lockkeeper in 1873 and 1874, Allen Benson made \$50 a month. In March 1873, Mary Benson served as a cook for a canal work crew consisting of twelve men. Mary worked for three days, earning \$1.50 per day. She had \$1.50 taken from her pay for board, leaving her with a net pay of \$3.00. She does not appear again in the labor records. In July 1873, she gave birth to twins, Thomas B. P. Benson and Elizabeth Benson. Thomas died in July and Elizabeth in August 1873. They are buried at the Monocacy Cemetery, and their gravesites have no gravemarkers.

James Brashears was a laborer on canal work crews in 1873 and 1874, earning \$1.50 a day. His best month was in May 1874 when he worked twenty-eight days for a gross amount earned of \$42 with \$15 taken out for board.

It was noted by Superintendent J. R. Maus and Engineer Brannon in March 1873 that the Seneca Aqueduct could go out at any time. The berm side (opposite the towpath) wall was bulging, and water streamed out of the aqueduct. Both Maus and Brannon concluded that they could make the aqueduct stand up for the 1873 boating season by building cribs and shoring it up.

In the winter of 1873 and through March 1874, the Seneca Aqueduct needed to be repaired. The berm side parapet (wall opposite the towpath) needed to be rebuilt, and the spandrels were taken down and rebuilt. On March 9, 1874, the *Washington Evening Star* newspaper reported, "The Aqueduct at Seneca, 22 miles from this city, has been completed, and boats are expected tomorrow."

There are no labor records beyond 1874 for the 1870s, and James Brashears does not appear in the 1880 census nor in the 1880s labor records. There is no

record of his death. In 1875, Mary Benson gave birth to son Jackson Benson. Mary died in 1878 at age forty-four and is buried at the Monocacy Cemetery. In August 1879, Allen Benson (52) married forty-six-year-old Brittanina Anne Walter. Brittanina went by the name Annie. She was the daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Walter. Thomas was once the long-time lockkeeper at Lock 27. Annie did not have any children.

The 1880 census had the following information: Allen Benson (worked on canal—payroll records show he was the Lock 24 lockkeeper) age 53, Annie Benson (kept house) age 48, William Benson (worked on farm) age 18, Annie Benson age 16, Arthur Benson (attended school) age 13, Mollie Benson (attended school) age 12, Florence Benson (attended school) age 10, Jackson Benson age 5. William Benson went to school through the seventh grade, and it is likely the Benson children attended the Seneca Mills School (Seneca Schoolhouse). All of the Benson children could read and write.

In 1880, there were many more families and people both Black and White living near the lockhouse. There were canal workers, laborers, a grocer, servants, and children attending school for White children. Black children

Continued on page 29



Photo of William Benson taken in 1945. His initials are etched in a stone inside Lock 24, circa 1870.



A circa 1900 photo of Seneca Mills School children, including two children of William and Nettie Benson. Arthur Benson is standing on the far right, and Bruce Benson is seated third from the left in the front.



WUMCO food requests have increased 40% as compared to this time last year.

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Shelf-stable food can be dropped anytime in the box in the Pike & Valega parking lot at 19601 Fisher Ave, Poolesville.

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Pulse

Pillows of Love: Bringing Comfort to Deserving Children

By Rande Davis

Jayson Lee, a senior at Poolesville High School, has been with the 4-H Youth Program since 2017 and has taken on a leadership role at Montgomery County 4-H clubs, serving as secretary.

As a member of 4-H, he has promoted the group and its mission to his community, recruited more members to join 4-H, and led multiple clubs' parades and handmade crafts projects for county and state level agricultural fairs.

He recently began a Diamond Clover Project, an initiative to make five hundred heart-shaped pillows to give to children in need and recovery who are in local foster care centers, hospitals, etc.

The National 4-H Diamond Clover Project consists of six levels, each with a corresponding gemstone identifier, which requires a 4-H member to plan and accomplish a broad range of age-appropriate goals, acquiring valuable life skills as they progress. Level 6 corresponds to Diamond, which is similar to the Boy Scout's Eagle Scout level.

In 2022, he began working under High Schoolers for Frontliners to create service projects such as heart pillows, masks, stuffed toys, etc. This inspired him to begin a project to make more service opportunities within 4-H for his Diamond Clover 6 project. In doing so, he set a goal of creating at least five hundred heart pillows by September, of which, over 250 have already been completed. "My dream is to inspire others to be better and create an environment in which people can thrive. If each and every one of us strives to push positivity instead of negativity, our world will become a better place."

Jayson's mission is to organize 4-Hers across the state (possibly to include other states with 4-H clubs, too) and his school community to hand-make the heart-shaped pillows to donate to Comfort Cases foster center and patients in local hospitals. He is planning to host a workshop on April 16 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Gaithersburg.



Jayson Lee, a senior at Poolesville High School, created a 4-H project to warm the hearts of children in need.

Google form signup: <https://forms.gle/73rYdhpdaY13xtZP9>

Jayson is an excellent example of how 4-H reaches youth beyond the rural community. Rural members carry on the multi-generational experience of raising and caring for animals, but his participation exemplifies a mission for those in more urban settings.

If you or your youth group would like to be join in his mission of making pillows of care, you may do so. To those who want to support Jayson's Diamond Clover Heart Pillow Project, please make a check payable to Clarksburg Helping Hands 4-H Club, and mail the check to Mr. Lee, 22505 Gateway Center Drive, #922, Clarksburg MD 20871.

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- Seneca Showdown April 30
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Focus on Business

Healthy Hub's Kailee Perno: Delivering an Oasis of Delicious Nutrition and Joy

By Rande Davis

If you have ever doubted the clarion call of Dr. Norman Vincent Peale's time-honored slogan, "the power of positive thinking," then you have not met Healthy Hub's Kailee Perno.

As a businesswoman, Kailee epitomizes the great American entrepreneurial spirit, a spirit fueled by vision and energy. An accounting graduate from James Madison University, she found working part-time at her mother's Kentland's Nutrition smoothie shop very rewarding. The experience dovetailed with her passion for healthy living and with her natural call for building positive relationships. While her café sells healthy smoothies and energy teas, it is the sanctuary of positive energy in a friendly ambience that makes Healthy Hub so special. The only way to truly understand how she does it is to experience it yourself.

Entrepreneurs always follow their vision, something the Pernos did in moving to Poolesville. It was just over five years ago that she and her husband Kevin discovered Poolesville after visiting the sunflower fields at the McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area. New homeowners at the time, they made a ten-year plan to eventually sell and move here. Those who know Kailee would not be surprised to discover her ten-year plan became a two-year realization.

Her mission? To help people feel healthier and happier. "We love when people tell us that they always leave feeling so much happier than when they walk in, and our goal is to do that while offering not just a healthy option but also to greet them and serve them with love, respect, and positivity that helps them to feel special and lift their spirits."

While the demographics for Poolesville blend well with her high-energy smoothie café, her timing couldn't have been worse. As the whole world was locking down in the middle of the pandemic, she opened her store. Hidden behind Poolesville Hardware in a space preciously occupied by Bob's Bikes, the location was less than ideal. Few discover her place just by walking by. In business, it is often said that success requires good timing and that "everything is all about location, location, location." While she started with two strikes against her, she hit the ball out of the park with a highly-nutritious yet amazingly-delicious drink, a perfect food substitute for breakfast or lunch. What made it a home run was her joyous personality and mission to spread positivity. You just don't get a drink; you get a hand-written positive quote on your cup. As she explains, "The world can be a bit of a negative place at times, and we always want to keep the space and energy we have in here positive, uplifting, and welcoming to all. It is music to our ears when we hear that people's energies are lifted just from walking through our doors."

In July, Kailee will celebrate her third anniversary, and in May she will have her second child, the first was born just a few of years ago. That's right, she did all this while she was pregnant most of the time.

Their smoothies are full-meal replacement energy drinks, perfect for a healthy breakfast on the way into work or lunch on the go, or they can also be used as a healthy snack as well. All the smoothies are water-based with twenty-four grams of plant-based protein, low in carbs, and with over twenty-one vitamins and minerals. All the smoothies have less than 250 calories, but most importantly, they are just plain delicious.

The smoothies are also very customizable: any of the flavors can be offered in kid sizes, or if someone prefers extra protein or if someone has a preference for a different type of protein powder, the Healthy Hub can offer something to fit just about anyone's needs.

Healthy Hub is also well known for its energy teas. They have different levels of teas to meet everyone's needs. Their most popular Boosted Teas are made with a green tea base, vitamin B12 booster, aloe for healthy digestion, and then flavored with a plant-based stevia! The best part is the long-lasting energy and mental clarity from the B12 booster.

They offer hydration refreshers for children who want the fun colorful drinks but no caffeine. These have healthy electrolytes in them for the kids. They also offer hydration and fruit slushies as well. They have even more items like Flu Fighter teas loaded with echinacea, zinc, and vitamin C, or protein muffins and donuts, great with their protein coffee that you can get hot or cold.

It's not just the menu that Healthy Hub is all about. With their goal to be a safe, positive, and uplifting space for everyone, they offer free WIFI for persons



Kailee Perno welcomed PACC members to her Healthy Hub for a Thursday networking event.

to come in, relax, and enjoy. They offer a place when the work-from-home adult needs a change of scenery and comes to set up shop. "We love seeing the high schoolers come gather for lunch or after school. We have a whole kid area that moms can feel safe to bring their kids and let them just play while they sit back and enjoy themselves and for the person that just needs a friend and comes sits up at the bar for as long as they need for some friendly conversation."

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Tidbits

Promoting the John Poole House

Heritage Montgomery, in conjunction with the Historic Medley District, LLC, has released a three-minute video presentation of the John Poole House with some history of Poolesville included. Congratulations to Heritage Montgomery's Sarah Rogers and Barbara Grunbaum, videographer Carlos Fernandez Gonzales, and HMD's president, Maureen O'Connell, who wrote the script and hosted the film. To view the video, search "Heritage Montgomery John Poole House" on YouTube.

American Legion Oratorical Contest

Congratulations to Faith Nah, the 2023 American Legion Post 247 Oratorical Contest Winner. Faith is a junior at PHS in the Humanities Program, and this is her second time in a row winning the post's contest.

Congratulations to Centenarian Jill Chadwick

The Rural Women's Republican Club recently celebrated member Jill Chadwick's hundredth birthday. Jill, for many decades, was also an active member of St. Peter's and participated in the Women of St. Peter's and the Altar Guild. The party was held where she now resides at Buckingham's Choice where the over-55 Aerobics Dance Group performed for her and the group.

Not Just a College Scholarship: A Unique Program for Students Seeking Post-High School Education

The Rural Women's Republican Club is offering a \$3,500 scholarship for a vocational school, trade school, or certification program, including a certification from a community college during the 2023-2024 academic year.

This scholarship is intended for students attending Poolesville High School, Damascus High School, Clarksburg High School, Gaithersburg High School, Seneca High School, and Northwest High School. Students about to complete their senior year of high school, students already enrolled in a trade school, and non-traditional students under the age of 21 are eligible to apply. The student



The Rural Women's Republican Club celebrated the hundredth birthday of a founding member, Jill Chadwick, seated in the middle of the front row.

will need to complete an essay question as part of the application process. All inquiries, as well as any questions regarding the application or essay, may be directed to the following e-mail: hgballet@aol.com or call/text 301-466-1906. Applications and essays must be received by Friday, April 28, 2023.

Former Barnesville Resident Honored

The Hungerford's Tavern Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) recognized former Barnesville resident Virginia Hall for Women in History Month. Virginia Hall's contributions to military intelligence during World War II became public after her death in 1982. She served with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), the predecessor of the CIA, and received the highest commendations, although kept secret during her lifetime. She is often called the

Continued on page 23.

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Mass Saturday at 5 pm

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Holy Thursday, April 6

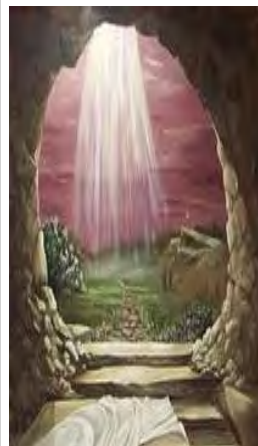
Morning Prayer at 9 am
Mass of the Last Supper at 7:30 pm
Adoration 8:30 - 11 pm

Good Friday, April 7

Morning Prayer at 9 am
Confession at Noon
Stations of the Cross at 3 pm
Service of the Lord's Passion at 7:30 pm

Holy Saturday, April 8

Blessing of Easter Food at Noon
Easter Vigil at 8 pm



Easter Sunday, April 9

Sunrise Mass at 6:30 am

8:30 & 10:30 am - Mass

Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 am

All are Welcome!

Youth Sports

Falcon Baseball 2023 Has Talent, Optimism

By Jeff Stuart

At the beginning of March, there was new grass on the field—literally. The infield at PHS had been resodded, awaiting the start of the baseball season.

“We were 9-7 last year, and I would expect to have a slightly better record this year,” said baseball coach Scott Davis. “We have six or seven pretty tough games versus down-county schools. We play Whitman and Wootton twice this year as we play them over spring break. We will have a couple of other key games against Quince Orchard, Northwest, and Clarksburg.

“Our key returning players are Luke Pearre, Van Rosenbaum, Aaron Deluna, and Andrew Brill in center-field. I expect big contributions from third baseman, Parker Pearre, and Ian Harper. Other starters that I expect to make big contributions to the team this year include Tanner Ivusic, Leo Szego, and Aiden Roe.”

“I am very optimistic about this season,” said senior first baseman Chuck Roe. “We have a lot of guys back. We have some upcoming players from JV who really developed over the season. I expect good things. We have Parker Posey back, a big bat and a good middle infielder. We have freshman Sam Lewis in the outfield. It will be something to see how he does in his first high school season.



The 2023 Poolesville High School Varsity Baseball team.

I expect to play more this year. I was playing behind senior Danny Butler last season. He played great for us. Now I am trying to fill his shoes. Our outfield is looking good. We got a lot of pitchers who play the outfield, so they will be moving around a lot, but overall, it is solid.”

“Our infield is looking pretty solid this year,” said senior shortstop Rosenbaum. “We have a lot of guys who can be moved around and play different

Continued on page 28.



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Continued from page 21.

Tidbits

greatest American female WWII spy, and numerous books and movies have chronicled her life. Through Hungerford's Tavern Chapter's efforts, Virginia Hall will be added to the DAR Women in American History catalog.

Deadline for UPN Mural Contest Extended

For those considering participating in the Upcounty Prevention Network's (UPN) mural contest, the deadline has been extended! They heard from our talented youth that this spring is already crowded with important projects and responsibilities. When they requested more time to enter the contest to design a mural for Poolesville, the answer was: Yes, of course! Designs for a mural on the theme "Mindful of the past, hopeful for the future" may now be submitted until June 11. Visit the UPN website upcountypreventionnetwork.org for contest specifications and rules.



Poolesville resident and Hungerford's Tavern DAR member Pat Hermanns, holding the DAR certificate honoring Virginia Hall.

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Continued from page 1.

Idea for Grocery Co-op Surfaces at Town Meeting As Town Readies FY2024 Budget for Enactment

"Where does our recycled waste go and how much is actually recycled?" There is no easily obtainable data on this question, and she had done the best she could to come up with information that might allow for some comparisons and assessments about how trash companies deal with recycling. Given this caveat, they believe that Montgomery County is one of the better jurisdictions with regard to recycling. According to Aguilar, fifty-nine percent of the waste material sent to Montgomery County's transfer station is, in fact, recycled; however, there are no publicly-available studies comparing recycling rates among jurisdictions.

Aguilar said that Poolesville's current trash company, Bates Trucking, actually takes recycled material to Prince George's County to be disposed of, presumably because it is cheaper for it to do so. A lot of Poolesville's single-stream recycled waste ends up in the incinerator. Her best estimate is that only nineteen percent of Poolesville's waste is recycled.

Based on her research, Aguilar recommended that the town entertain two contract proposals from each trash company, one with single stream and one with dual stream. She also said that it would be important to establish a monitoring and reporting system to see how the town's recycling program performs in the future. Finally, she and Street said that while there are environmental benefits from not having twice-a-week pickups of trash, as is the case now (i.e., less pollution from trucks driving more frequently back and forth), they thought it might be advisable not to immediately move to a once-a-week schedule. Instead, they felt that a gradual transition might make more sense. They also noted that in the contract proposals that have already been received by the town in response to its RFP, it does not appear dual streaming is much more expensive than single streaming.

Both Street and Aguilar said that public education about the benefits of recycling will be important to making the effort as successful as possible. Brown agreed and said that will be part of the discussion about the trash contract. The issue of composting food waste was also raised. Street mentioned that Sustainable Poolesville is looking into this issue and will have some recommendations for the town regarding the matter soon.

Town Events Coordinator Cathy Bupp appeared before the commissioners to discuss her proposed budget of \$56,000 to support the many events the town sponsors each year, from the holiday lighting ceremony to the Friday on the Commons events to the Big Flea. The budget is \$11,000 higher than the request for last year, but two new events will be added this year, including an additional fall event and an April kids-oriented event. Moreover, some additional expenses will be needed to support continuing events like the Holiday Lighting Ceremony where an additional train ride will be added due to the high demand for the attraction.

Town Manager Wade Yost commented that six proposals had been received in response to the town's RFP for trash and recycling collection services. Aside from the costs of the proposals, which ranged as high as \$1 million to as low as just over \$500,000, he remarked that things like an assessment of what types of trucks and equipment the companies have and how many vehicles they have will be important. This information can help the town determine whether a particular company can actually do two pickups a week without having to have trucks in town for an entire week to make the runs. This could happen if a contractor only has a few trucks and simply can't do a complete pickup in one day. It is also important to look at the equipment and see who really can operate a dual-stream pickup system using a single truck with separate bins for each type of waste. Again, companies without such equipment might have to send more trucks out to pick up waste because they do not have the right equipment.

Finally, Yost said that the budget hearings and review process leading up to the adoption of the budget will be getting underway soon. The public hearing on the proposed budget will take place on April 3 with adoption scheduled for May 1.

During their second meeting of the month on March 20, the commissioners heard public comments from local citizen Dan Levine. He pointed out that there had been twelve water main breaks in the town during the winter and commented that this has happened during a very mild winter where temperatures were not extremely low for any period of time. He said he understood that older pipes in Westerly in particular were installed on bedrock in many places and may have been built in an improper manner based on today's standards. A neighbor with a disability had to have help flushing toilets because the water was out for twenty-four hours in one case. He wondered whether town staff might be

"out of their depth" with regard to some repairs but made clear he was not criticizing their commitment.

Town Manager Wade Yost said that experiencing extended "deep freezes" does not necessarily lead to higher levels of water line breaks. A key cause of line breaks is substantial differences in temperature levels above ground and below. In many towns, water in the systems contains high levels of various chemicals that can lead to corrosion and buildup in the pipes and more breaks. Poolesville is fortunate in that its water is relatively free of such chemicals. Town staff does routine maintenance by flushing pipes to remove any sediment. The twenty-four-hour water outage was an outlier and had never happened before. Staff can generally fix broken pipes, but in some cases specialized equipment is needed, and the town must call in contractors. There is no way, in general, to find where weak spots may be in water pipes, but the town has identified some places where pipes are more likely to need replacing and is doing so over the next few months.

The commissioners next moved to consideration of the town trash and recycling contract which is up for renewal on June 1. Yost said that six contract proposals had been received in response to the RFP. After reviewing the ability of the six companies to provide dual stream service and twice-a-week pickups, and after carefully assessing the equipment and staffing resources of the companies, town staff recommended that local contractor Titus Trash be awarded the five-year contract. Titus had the contract before Bates was selected to take over trash and recycling services several years ago. Aside from assessing their equipment and pricing, Yost said they had checked the reputations of the contractors with some of the jurisdictions they serve. Titus got high marks from their clients.

Yost also said that Titus is locally-based and has already begun to assess the operations of the current provider, Bates, and check out the routes and trash and recycling loads. An interesting side note is that Titus has told the town that the trash loads it sees in Poolesville are high from its experience. This suggests that composting of food waste in particular, something not covered in the new contract, is important. Commissioner Ed Reed said that Sustainable Poolesville is assessing composting and will have a report for the commissioners shortly.

The commissioners unanimously voted to award the contract to Titus Trash.

The next item for consideration was the proposal to conduct a market study of the proposal to establish a food co-op in town that was raised initially at the March 6 commission meeting. Dakota Worldwide Corporation, which specializes in market studies for co-ops and has done work for both the Common Market in Frederick and the new Lovettsville co-op that is now under construction, proposed to conduct a study for \$7,500 plus an estimated \$2,000 in travel expenses. All commissioners were supportive, but Commissioner Jeff Eck said that he was sure that if Poolesville residents were surveyed about whether they shopped at Selby's when it was operating, "virtually everyone would have said yes." His implication was that the survey might be skewed because everyone in our area is now well aware of the inconvenience of not having a nearby grocery store.

Link Hoewing, who has been working with Nathan and Jennifer Lloyd, the husband-and-wife team leading the effort to establish a co-op, said that the team had met with the manager of the Common Market in Frederick who had also worked at one time with Dakota Worldwide. The Frederick co-op was doing quite well even though it is only a mile from a Giant Foods store and close as well to a Wegman's. The reason is that the market survey for the co-op established that it could thrive if it focused its marketing and strategies on products and services not provided well by its competitors, particularly organic foods. The commissioners approved the contract with a stipulation that total cost not exceed \$10,000.

The commissioners next considered a proposal raised by Commissioner Ed Reed to have the town sponsor a meet-and-greet-style event for nonprofit groups in town. The idea is to both introduce the many nonprofit groups in the Upcounty to the public and help build better bridges between these groups as well. The initial idea is to have such an event at Locals, and town staff will work with Reed to pull the event together.

In the final issue of the evening, Yost presented the proposed FY2024 budget and tax rate for the town. It proposes to maintain the constant property tax rate of just under 18 cents per \$100 of assessed value for homes and businesses which generates \$1.8 million annually. The town also gets almost the same amount of money from income taxes each year. In addition, it receives state money for roads, and revenues also come in from various grants and from rentals and fees of various kinds including for the use of water and sewer services. Total revenue is projected to be a little over \$5 million in the coming year.

Continued on page 25.

Continued from page 24.

**Idea for Grocery Co-op Surfaces at Town Meeting
As Town Readies FY2024 Budget for Enactment**

Much of the money spent by the town each year is for general operating expenses, everything from staff salaries, which this coming year will see a 6.5% bump up due to inflation, debt service, community events support, town administration, parks maintenance, and trash removal. In total, expenditures for all of these items will come to \$3.8 million.

The town also funds many capital projects each year totaling \$640,000 in the FY2024 budget. These include park repairs and maintenance, replacing equipment such as trucks, town hall maintenance, and enhancing the town's technology and administrative systems.

This year, for the first time in recent memory, the town will not need to make a grant from the general fund to cover the costs of running the sewer and water systems. These systems are designed to be funded entirely from water fees (excluding capital expenditures), and in years past, funds had to be transferred from general operations to cover sewer and water operations. That is not true this year. The budget also does not include any increases in water rates.

The town's budget is balanced as required by law. It also maintains a reserve fund totaling 17.5 percent of the total income for the town for FY2024. A public hearing on the budget is set for April 3.

Continued from page 12.

Desegregation Documentary by Local Student

This May, Joey plans to schedule a film debut in Whalen Commons, and he hopes to have a commemorative plaque made recognizing the contribution and courage of the nine black students who were first to be part of the school community. Their presence and those of other African American students who followed led to the school we have today.



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Poolersville
Presbyterian Church*

**April 2
Palm Sunday at 10:30 a.m.**

**April 6
Maundy Thursday, Agape Meal at 7:00 p.m.**

**April 7
Good Friday Service at 7:00 p.m.**

**April 9
Easter Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m.**

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Youth Sports

Poolesville Softball Looks to Rise

By Jeff Stuart

"Our team goal is to build upon last year's 9-8 record, including a playoff victory at home," said coach Laurie Wohnhas. "The team has experience and will rely heavily on our seniors to lead the team. Those seniors are pitcher Emma Orders, Erin Dower at catcher, Lindsay Chu in centerfield, Michelle Ramos at third, and Kaitlyn Schramm in the outfield. Returning juniors, Gabby Montemurro and Lauren Doring, should see considerable playing time. Sophomores Cara Porch, Kacey Raines, and Paige Soskin are players that will make a positive contribution on offense and defense. Newcomers, Allie Bender and Anna Linteris, round out the team and have looked great thus far this season."

"It's been good to see a little bit faster live pitching," said senior pitcher Emma Orders after the team's first scrimmage of the year against visiting Northwest. "It is a little different speed than we see at practice, and Northwest's pitcher is pretty fast. It is a good way to get ready for the season. I am very optimistic about this year's team. I am looking forward to the Clarksburg game. That is where I live. I know a lot of people on that team, so I am looking forward to playing against them. As for my favorite moment in the years I have been here, there have been a lot of great games, but honestly I think our practices are some of the most enjoyable parts of the season. We work to improve but we get to know each other better." Emma had a big RBI triple to right in the scrimmage.

"I am also very optimistic about this season," said senior catcher Erin Dower. "We have the same girls except for a handful. We made a positive impact last year and this year, and we are going to have an even greater impact this year. Allie Bender, a junior catcher, is a newcomer. She came from Watkins Mill. She is a great addition. As for shoutouts, Emma is our team leader. She is going to do great this year."

The Falcons won their opener at home against Quince Orchard on March 22. "It was a 2-0 victory," said Coach Wohnhas. "Emma Orders had eleven strikes,"

Continued on page 29.



Erin Dower, Lindsay Chu, Emma Orders,
Kaitlyn Schramm, and Michelle Ramos.

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FIRE HYDRANT FLUSHING

The Water Department will be flushing hydrants during the month of April to reduce and remove the accumulation of rust and iron in the water mains. The flushing may cause discolored water from the loose sediment, and we advise residents not to wash white clothes for 24 hours following the flushing.

April 10

Elizabeth's Delight, Tama, Woods at Tama, Brightwell

April 11

Westerly, Bennett Way, Meadowlark Manor, Hunter's Run

April 12

Fisher Avenue, Meadow Valley, Wootton Heights

April 13

Wesmond, Wootton Woods

April 14

Seneca Chase, Sumner Ridge, Stoney Springs

Holy Week & Easter Services



Come Worship With Us!

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 2

9:15-10:15 am

Adult Sunday School

9:30-10:15 am

Child & Youth Sunday School

10:15-11:45 am

Nursery (6 mo – 4-yr-olds)

10:30-11:30 am

Palm/Passion Sunday Worship Service with Communion — (In-Person & YouTube)

Holy Thursday, April 6

7-8pm

Maundy Thursday Service with Communion (In-Person & YouTube)

Easter Sunday, April 9

9:15-10:15 am

Adult Sunday School

9:30-10:15 am

Child & Youth Sunday School

10:15-11:45 am

Nursery (6 months – 4-year-olds)

10:30-11:30 am

Easter Worship Service — (In-Person & YouTube)

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Continued from page 22.

Falcon Baseball 2023 Has Talent, Optimism

positions. We are an athletic team. I expect big things from senior Aaron Deluna, and Luke and Parker Pearre. Our whole team is solid. I am looking forward to the season. We had a battle in a scrimmage at Blake. We won. It came down to the last few innings. We pulled it out. We do not give up. We believe we can win every game. Aiden Roe had a big double. Ryan Griffith, one of our juniors, hit a clutch two-run RBI single up the middle. That scored two runs to tie the game. I am looking forward to the QO game as well. I think we will win the division this year."

In a previous scrimmage, the Falcons defeated Seneca Valley handily.

"I think our pitching will be better this year," said Deluna. "I am looking forward to the Walter Johnson game because I know a lot of players on that team. My shoutout goes to Luke Pearre. He means a lot to this team."

In the bottom of the eighth in the home opener against Quince Orchard on March 21, Deluna hit a hard line drive off the third baseman's glove with the bases loaded and one out. He beat the throw to first to score the winning run. Two walks and a single to left preceded that hit. It was the second year in a row that the Falcons defeated QO in extra innings on opening day.

The Falcons scored three runs in the bottom of the first to take a 3-1 lead. They led 4-1 after four innings behind a strong start by Luke Pearre. Luke struck out seven in five innings, but the Cougars scored two in the fifth inning and two more in the top of the seventh. Rosenbaum was the winning pitcher in relief.

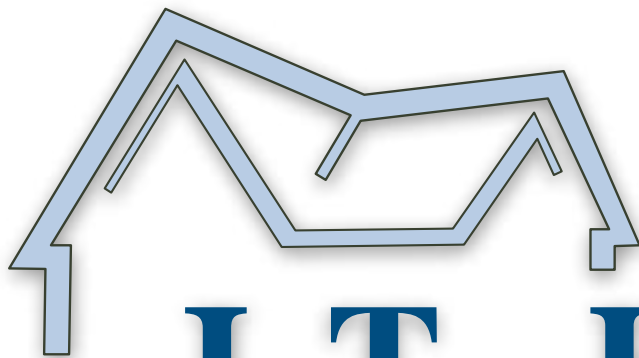
Offensively, Luke stole three bases and had an RBI. Parker had three RBIs. Chuck Roe had a hit and scored a run.

The game lived up to expectations. It was a great way to start the season.

Poolesville has a compact schedule with six games before spring break. After the break, the Falcons play Damascus at home on April 14. They play Rockville at home on April 19. Senior Day is against Whitman on May 3.

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Continued from page 17.

Lock 24 Stone Etchings: Part 2

attended school which was most likely the Seneca School which was once located on what is now Violette's Lock Road. Living next to the Bensons was Sarah Slaymaker and her two sons. Twenty-year-old Walter Slaymaker was a warehouse clerk. Still living next to the Bensons was Rolfe Good, 60, his wife Mary, 35, and Rolfe's son George, 29. Both Rolfe and George were canal workers. George would become the superintendent of the Seneca Stone Cutting Mill.

During the 1880s, the canal began to decline with annual deficits occurring later in the decade because Cumberland coal was being sent to market primarily by railroad. During the 1880s, Allen served as lockkeeper through June 1889. His pay dropped to \$30 a month by the middle of the decade, and by the end of the decade he was earning \$20 a month. During the winter months in the late 1880s, Allen made \$15 a month when the canal was closed. At the end of May 1889, the great Potomac River flood came, and the damage caused the canal to close until the boating season of 1892. When the canal reopened, William Benson became the lockkeeper at Lock 24. Allen Benson died in 1897 (age 66 or 67) and is buried next to his wife Mary along with several family members at the Monocacy Cemetery. They both have gravestones. Britania Benson died in 1899 (age 65 or 66) and is buried with the Walter family at the Monocacy Cemetery. She has a gravestone.

William Benson married Henrietta "Nettie" Grimes in 1885. Nettie was the daughter of John J. and Marth Grimes. John was once the lockkeeper at Lock 22 (known as Pennyfield's today). By 1892, William and Nettie had three children. According to Ray Riley, son of John Riley, in 1892, William was replaced by John Riley who would continue as lockkeeper at Lock 24 through 1924 when the canal permanently closed. After being a lockkeeper, William was a quarry sawyer, a boat captain, a farm laborer, and a laborer on state roads. He and Nettie would have six children, and their children attended the Seneca Mills School. Sons Arthur and Bruce are in the circa 1900 class photo at the Seneca Mills School. Nettie Grimes died in 1940, age 71, in Cabin John. William died in 1948, age 85 in Bethesda. Both William and Nettie along with family members are buried at the Monocacy Cemetery.

A Riley's Lockhouse History Program is run by local Girl Scouts on weekends in the spring and fall during which the Girl Scouts give tours of the lockhouse during the afternoons. The lockhouse décor depicts the 1870s when the Benson family lived there.



Photo by Paul Graunke

Here, the Seneca Aqueduct and Lock 24 are combined into a single structure. The only place along the canal where this was necessary. The aqueduct and lock are made of Seneca red sandstone quarried just west of here. That same sandstone was used to build the Smithsonian Castle in Washington, D.C. Construction of the aqueduct and lock was completed in 1832 at a cost of \$32,000. Lock 24 is also known as Riley's Lock.

Continued from page 26.

Poolesville Softball Looks to Rise

no walks, and one hit player. Defensively, we held off a threat by QO in the top of the fifth when they had bases loaded. The other pitcher for QO, Jackie Lee, had nine strikes. It was a pitcher's duel and a close game, and both teams were evenly matched and played well. Erin Dower scored on a wild pitch, and Anna Linteris scored on a Cara Porch single."

Other seniors are outfielders, Lindsay Chu, Kaitlyn Schramm, and Michelle Ramos, who also plays third base and shortstop. Other juniors are outfielders, Lauren Doring and Anna Linteris, and second baseman Gabby Montemurro. Sophomores are shortstop Cara Porch, first baseman, Kacey Raines, and outfielder, Paige Soskin.

The Falcons play Northwood and Damascus at home, after the break, on April 12 and April 14, respectively.

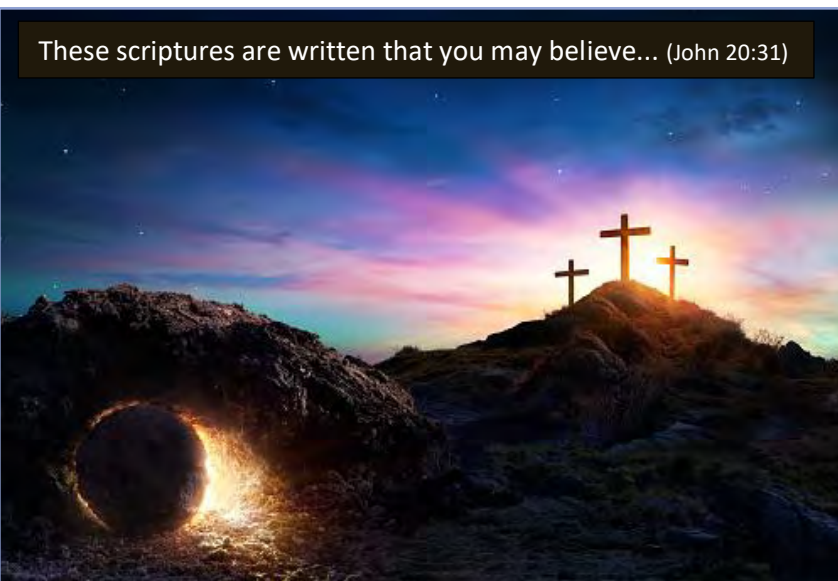
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Mystery History Redux

The French Called Him a Hero For Defying the Nazis

By Rande Davis

Editor's Note: This piece first ran in the Monocacy Monocle's June 10, 2016 issue. It was a timely story for the anniversary of D-Day, June 6, 1944. At the end of this reprinting, you will find "the rest of the story."

Norman Davis Hersberger graduated from Poolesville High School in 1938. If you asked the man who ended up living much more of his life in Covington, Tennessee if he had any regrets about attending PHS, he most likely would have said he should have worked harder in his French class.

Six years after graduation, the young lieutenant found himself parachuting into the midst of enemy territory in France six weeks before D-Day. He was rescued by the French Resistance and was hidden in Brittany while plans to get him to Spain were made. Those plans were spoiled when he was captured by the Gestapo.

Fifty years later, in a letter, French Resistance fighter Jean Claude Moussat let Hersberger know just how much of a hero he was for his refusal to give the Gestapo the names and contacts in the French Resistance who had come to his aid. Moussat wrote, "It was courageous to bear the torture of the Gestapo. Without your courageous silence, the members of our own group and network would have been captured and killed." Hersberger wrote back, "I am grateful for your aid in helping me attempt to escape to England."

Hersberger had flown thirty-nine missions when, on April 29, 1944, he and fellow pilot Albert Johnson, two Mustang fighter pilots who were on a bombing mission, ran out of fuel due to the failure of the radio transmission equipment.

A sixteen-year-old boy spotted them after hearing the noise from the plane's crash. The lad worked with Moussat who was leading the resistance in that area.

Hersberger recalled, "A teenaged boy and a few other men came rushing toward us as soon as we hit the ground. The boy was yelling, 'Vite, vite,' and so we took off running." Hersberger had taken some French at PHS and knew it meant quick. "Since they weren't waving guns at us, we didn't ask any questions."

It was Moussat, who joined the resistance in 1940 to avoid being drafted into the German army, who led the interrogation of the young pilots.

The men were given some civilian clothes and forged IDs, and a life and death journey to Spain began. In intense danger, they were led into hiding using barns and villages, traveling by bicycle trying to reach the American embassy in Spain. Ultimately, the plan changed to getting out of France via a train. He was first taken to Paris and hidden for two weeks in an apartment. Leaving Paris, they then went to Bordeaux, then toward Dax, each town closer to Spain.

Then things went wrong. On June 5, 1944, the day before D-Day and only ten minutes before the train was to arrive in Dax, during a procedural identification check, the Gestapo searched their compartment.

"We both were supposed to be Frenchmen. Johnson played deaf and dumb, and I tried using my French, insisting I did not understand English." The interrogator almost handed Hersberger his ID back "when he asked me where I was going, but by the time I translated what he said in order to answer him in French, he got suspicious." It was then that the Gestapo agent yelled, "Zemite!"—come with me. "I wish I had studied more French in high school, I probably would have gotten away with it," he was quoted saying fifty years later.

Hersberger always believed it was impossible for the Gestapo to have known about his whereabouts without the help of an informer. From Bordeaux, they were taken to Gestapo headquarters in Bayonne. Hersberger only gave up his name, rank, and serial number even under immense pain and torture.



*A young military officer,
Norman Davis Hersberger,
a 1938 PHS graduate.*

Continued on page 31.



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Continued from page 30.

The French Called Him a Hero for Defying the Nazis

"The guy (interrogator) got so irritated that I wouldn't talk, he came from behind his desk and slapped me across the face. The next thing I knew, I was on the floor." They called an enforcer in and, with a cane pole, he began to beat Hersberger until the cane broke. The enforcer used a rubber hose and then a nightstick but failed to get Hersberger to talk.

Hersberger tried to protect himself by covering his head with his arms. "I don't know how long the beating lasted, but he must have gotten me in the head after all because the next thing I knew, I woke up in a dark basement that had muddy puddles and a leak dripping from the ceiling."

Sleeping in crowded cells, on a flea-infested mattress, a straw pallet on the concrete, he began his prison term of eighteen months. With little more than bread, coffee, and occasionally beans, he was moved to five different prisons in a little over one year. When first captured, he weighed 180 pounds, by the time he was handed over to the German air force troops, just two and half months later, he weighed 97 pounds.

In handcuffs, he and other prisoners were marched to Stalag Luft 13 in Poland. The thousands of prisoners marched through ice and snow to avoid Soviet troops. "A march would start at 3:00 a.m. and would go until evening when they would put us in barns," he said. Later they were moved to Nuremberg and finally to Mossberg, where they were liberated by Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army.

Of his experience, he humbly said, "You never knew if you were going to ever get out of there. You had to depend on your will to survive in order to live."

It was this observation that caught the attention of Ed Bodmer and as Paul Harvey used to say, here is the "rest of the story."

Ed and his wife, Nancy, operated Bodmer's Wood Stoves and Pottery Shop for forty years in Buckeystown, and both are fans of the *Monocle*. Since Ed is a former history teacher, he particularly enjoys reading the Mystery History and other similar articles in the newspaper. After reading the Hersberger story, some bells went off in his mind, reminding him of information and a story told to Ed by his father, which has a connection to the Hersberger story.

Ed recalled to us a time when he and his dad were casually reviewing an old publication from the Buckingham School for Boys, which at one time had been a little south of Buckeystown. The school had had a strong benevolent reputation as an institution for orphaned boys or for those from financially-strapped families needing help. The school closed in 1957. The father told his son that, as a lad, he and other Poolesville boys used to bicycle all the way to Buckeystown to play a baseball team from that school. As the two looked at the Buckingham publication, they reviewed a roster of the names of the boys from both teams. Charles looked at the list, pointed to the name Norman Davis Hersberger and said to his son, "I liberated him." Flabbergasted and confused, young Ed asked, "What do you mean?" It was then that his father spoke about his World War II experience for the very first time. Ed, with chills running down his back and hair raised on his arms, heard for the first time from his father about how he was with Patton when they liberated many concentration camps and POW camps, a memory that was witness to such scorching human atrocity, his father had never spoken of it before. The only clue Ed had ever had about his dad's experience came when finding an old box of German Army medals and pictures of dead bodies. He had never asked his dad about his find as he knew it would be too painful.

Over time, his dad's response to queries about World War II only solicited a simple, nondescript comment, "Been there, done that." The father never had interest in any of the WWII movies like *Saving Private Ryan* or *Band of Brothers*. "Not once before had he ever said he liberated a POW camp." Then all of a sudden just like that, he uttered the simple statement, "I liberated him."

As the Third Army liberated American POWs, Charles Bodmer came face to face with Norman Davis Hersberger, an old baseball teammate, both from the Monocacy region in Maryland, standing there a half a world away from their home.

Bodmer, in parting with Hersberger, said to the hero/prisoner of war, "You are going home, but my war is not over yet. Please tell my wife, Fern, I am okay." His division continued to liberate other death camps and pursued German SS troops into Austria. Shortly after the death of his father in 2010, Ed came across a book in the library entitled, *The Liberators*, and inside was a whole chapter about his dad's wartime experience in the Third Army, with new details. Then this article in the *Monocle*, which originally ran on June 10, 2016, jogged his memory—and now you know the rest of the story.

PASSION WEEK AT PBC

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Building sustainability together... GREEN

Continued from page 16.

Things to Do

Coed volleyball versus Clarksburg. 5:30 p.m.

Boys' volleyball versus Clarksburg. 7:00 p.m.

April 21 to 23

Countryside Artisans Spring 2023 Ag Tour

A collective of artists in and around the Ag Reserve, celebrating thirty years. Meet the artists, see where they work, learn about their medium. Follow the map available at countrysideartisans.com. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

April 22

PHS Varsity Homes Game

Girls' lacrosse versus Magruder. 12:00 p.m.

Spring into the Arts

Earth Day Open House at Riverworks Studios. Activities include an art exhibit in the Gallery Barn, studio demos, make-and-take-with-you crafts, and live music by Brian Jamison and Friends. Box lunches from Locals available by pre purchase. *Riverworks Studios at Alden Farms, 19215 Beallsville Road, Beallsville.* 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

UMCVFD Dinner Fundraiser

The Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department is hosting a spaghetti and meatball fundraising dinner. Dinner includes a salad, spaghetti and meatballs, beverage, and dessert. \$15 for adults, \$10 for ages 4-12. *19801 Beallsville Rd, Beallsville.* 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

April 24

PHS Varsity Home Game

Girls' tennis versus Damascus (at JPMS). 3:30 p.m.

April 25

PHS Varsity Home Game

Boys' lacrosse versus Blair. 7:15 p.m.

April 26

PHS Varsity Home Game

Softball versus Clarksburg. 3:45 p.m.

April 27

PHS Varsity Home Games

Baseball versus Clarksburg. 3:45 p.m.

Coed volleyball versus Einstein. 5:30 p.m.

Boys' volleyball versus Einstein. 7:00 p.m.

April 28

PHS Varsity Home Games

Boys' lacrosse versus Gaithersburg. 5:30 p.m.

Girls' lacrosse versus Gaithersburg. 7:00 p.m.

Untamed on the Commons

Movie night sponsored by Upcounty Prevention Network featuring *Top Gun: Maverick*. Montgomery County Fire and Rescue will also demonstrate how the Jaws of Life can be used to rescue victims trapped in crashed cars. There will be a food truck, music, games, prizes, and, once it gets dark, the movie begins. Come out and eat, dance, play, and learn important information to keep safe this spring. *Whalen Commons.* 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

April 29 and 30

25th Annual Agricultural History Farm Park: Gas and Steam Engine Show

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Remembrances

Barbara Jean Wooden

Barbara Jean Wooden, née Goepper, 95, of Dickerson, passed away on February 18, 2023.

Barbara Jean Goepper was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts on September 30, 1927. She graduated from Boston University-Sargent College with a B.S. in Physical Education in 1950. Following college, Barbara worked as a P.E. teacher at both Cambridge and Newton Public Schools in Massachusetts until 1957. While working as a public schoolteacher in Newton, Massachusetts, Barbara met her future husband Bruce John Wooden (who preceded her in death in 2019), a naval lieutenant junior grade who was attending graduate school at MIT. Barbara and Bruce were married in 1958.

Following Bruce's graduation from MIT, the couple was transferred to Portsmouth, New Hampshire where Bruce was tasked with the production of nuclear submarines at the Naval Shipyard. Barbara had two children while in Portsmouth, a daughter Cynthia in 1960 and a son Howard in 1961. The couple was then transferred to the Quincy Shipyard in Quincy, Massachusetts, where their youngest daughter Carole was born in 1963. Bruce was then a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy.

In 1964, Barbara and Bruce were transferred to Chevy Chase, Maryland where Bruce was stationed at the David Taylor Model Basin. While in Chevy Chase, Barbara served as a substitute teacher and the Civic Development Chairman for the local garden club. In 1966, the family moved to Potomac.

In 1972, the Wooden family moved to a 125-acre farm in upper Montgomery County on Peach Tree Road. In 1976, the family purchased a piece of land at Deep Creek Lake and built a chalet. Many vacations were spent at Deep Creek Lake snow skiing in the winter and water skiing in the summer. Barbara enjoyed all of these activities.

Over the years, Barbara was active in numerous community and civic activities, including: President of the Sargent College Alumni Association at Boston University, President of the Monocacy Garden Club, Fundraising Chairwoman of Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) Foundation (ARCS is a national organization that raises funds for college science students), Founder of the Poolesville Chapter of the American Field Service (AFS), Member of the Board of Directors of the Barnesville School, and Secretary of the Sugarloaf Riding Club to name a few.

Barbara Jean Wooden is survived by her three children, Cynthia Rucker of Philippi, West Virginia, Howard Wooden, of Lithia, Florida, and Carole Andres of Dickerson; grandchildren, Elise Wendland, Devin Wooden, Hunter Wooden, Bradley Andres, and Catherine Andres; and great-grandchild, Aiden Wooden; as well as many of the spouses; and cousins, nieces, and nephews. Barbara will be missed and remembered by her many friends for her enthusiasm for life and the willingness to help others.



Barbara Jean Wooden

Ida L. Brown

Ida L. Brown, 96, of Frederick, passed away on March 23, 2023.

Born in Dickerson on November 3, 1926, Ida was the daughter of Samuel Creighton and Constance Beulah Nicholson Jones. She was educated in Montgomery County and graduated from St. Joseph's High School in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Mrs. Brown retired from the United States Postal Service in 1981 where she had been the postmaster of New Market for three years. Prior to that, she was the postmaster in Barnesville for twenty-seven years, during which time she was instrumental in the establishment of the Benjamin Franklin Stamp Club and Junior Mail Carrier programs in Maryland.

As editor of the *Free State Postmaster*, the newspaper of Maryland Chapter of National Association of Postmasters, she received awards of excellence at the national convention of NAPUS. She was also a longtime member of the Frederick Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Mrs. Brown was very active in the Soroptimist International of Upper Montgomery County, where she held many offices, including that of president. When she moved to Frederick, she became a member of the Frederick Soroptimist. She was a volunteer for several years. She was also a member of St. Mary's Sodality, National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Charter Secretary of Sugarloaf Citizens' Association, town commissioner of Barnesville, and charter member of Hospice of Frederick County.

Books she wrote include: *Popcorn for Breakfast*, *Whipped Up Cookbook*, and *Backward Glimpse*, a book about Barnesville. She co-authored with Donna Cutler a book about the history of Barnesville as well as other local villages. She was also on the staff of the *Village News*, for Crestwood Village.

Mrs. Brown is survived by eight of her ten children, Lawrence H. Price, III (Virginia), Deborah Jane Parsley (James), Michael Creighton Price (Kathy), John Francis Price (Michele), Mary Elizabeth Lynch (John), William Nicholson Price (Cherry), Harry Edwin Price (Kathy), and Vincent Andrew Price (DeEtte); honorary daughter, Joyce E. Price; eighteen grandchildren; twenty-two great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

She is predeceased by her husband, Richard P. Brown; daughter, Ida Susan Ricketson; son, Samuel Darby Price; grandson, William Andrew Parsley; and her first husband, Lawrence H. Price, Jr.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of one's choice.



Ida L. Brown

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Continued from page 15.

The Truth about Roses

receives full sun. Her neighborhood is quite crowded with the ever-spreading and pushy *Tradescantia* (Spiderwort) and *Physostegia virginiana*. Olivia I gets better and better every year. Her sister, who lives in a little more shade, is having a harder time, but both are free of pests and diseases. 'The Poet's Wife' is on her last legs. She is home to many insects and diseases. Same home, but different rooms—different disease and pest resistance. This year, I bought another David Austin rose, 'Golden Celebrations.' He lives across the lawn from Olivia, but he seems to be doing very well. Here again, what makes the difference? I do have two other rose types: the Knockout Rose and four Rugosa Rosas. I reluctantly mention the Knockout since I don't like him. When William Radler introduced the Knockout Rose in 2000, it was greeted with huge applause as the "carefree, low-maintenance rose." I don't think that it has lived up to its vaunted reputation at all, but it is everywhere, from backyard gardens, gas stations, street median strips, to most office buildings front gardens. It does repeat bloom, but if you don't deadhead the hundreds of small flowers, the plant looks quite messy. It also attracts pests and diseases. I could live very well without it.

When I moved to Barnesville forty years ago, a friend gave me three *Rosa rugosa* plants, 'Roseraie de L'Hay.' They are the Superstars of my garden. They form large, dense—often very thorny—shrubs, five to six feet tall and are covered most of the summer with large, double flowers of rich crimson-purple with contrasting stamens. Their shining glory is their intense perfume that you can smell halfway across the yard. In the fall, they bear large rosehips on which the birds feast for months. Few roses are as easily grown, disease resistant, and winter hardy. They are my Phoenix of my garden. Like the mythical bird that obtains new life by arising from the ashes of its predecessor every spring from their dead-looking old limbs, they send up new green stems that grow to shower themselves with new blooms.

Going back to my title and my question: Can roses exist without some kind of preventive spraying? I have asked the horticulturists at the David Austin Rose Center in Shropshire, England, Kew Gardens in London, and the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden at the New York Botanical Gardens in the Bronx if they sprayed their roses. They all answered yes. "Their gardens are show gardens, after all." David Austin Gardens recommends Bayer Bio Advanced Disease Control but states to use it according to directions. Do I spray my three David Austin roses? Yes, I do, but I use Bonide Rose Rx 3 Rose Spray which is recommended for organic gardening. I use it early in the morning when the bees and beneficial insects are not active. The Bayer product is systemic, meaning it suffuses itself in

the whole plant and when it germinates, including nectar and pollen. That is why it is so effective at attacking pests, but unfortunately it targets bees, butterflies, birds, and beneficial insects.

I may no longer have 'Mister Lincoln,' 'Queen Elizabeth,' and 'Just Joey,' but I will always have my Rugosas.

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Tips for Taking Care of Your Pet's Dental Hygiene to Improve Your Pet's Overall Wellbeing

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

Oral disease is the number one health problem diagnosed in our furry friends. By two years of age, 80% of dogs and 70% of cats have some form of dental disease. The most common issue is tartar buildup that damages the gums and can expose tooth roots (Periodontal disease) which affects our pets just as it does people.

Fortunately, periodontal disease can often be avoided or at least minimized with regular preventive care. Routine preventive care should include an annual dental exam and possible cleaning with sedation. Awake dental cleaning can remove superficial tartar but cannot provide important care between and on the back of teeth. Other problems for your four-legged friends may include fractured teeth and painful lesions. This is often due to the very hard structures dogs (and some cats) like to chew on.

Interestingly, many pets show no signs of pain or discomfort in their mouth, even with very loose or decayed teeth.

Signs that your pet may have dental issues may include:

- odor from the mouth.
- dropping food.
- a change in eating habits.

It's never too late to start dental routine care for your pets. If you have been missing some dental care for your furry pals, consult with your veterinarian first. They can help you decide on the ideal dental routine.

This could include:

- daily brushing.
- annual dental cleaning, known as dental prophylaxis.
- use of approved animal oral health products such as treats, foods, and appropriate chew toys that are firm but less dense than enamel (a good rule of thumb is that if you can indent the toy with your fingernail, it poses much less risk of causing tooth fracture).

Many veterinary clinics offer routine dental cleaning with dental radiographs (x-rays) to minimize the progression of periodontal disease. This aids in treating dental disease and provides routine treatments, such as fillings and extractions, when appropriate.



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