

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

*Keeping an Eye on Local News*

*A Monthly Newspaper*

June 2023 • Volume XIX, Number 4



*Do you recognize her? She has served the community for forty years! Check out Tribute on page 3.*



*It's official! This lady is a nonagenarian! Find out what that is and who she is in Tidbits on page 9.*



*What? A car accident in the town hall parking lot? Maybe, but that's not the whole story. See details in Local News on page 9.*



*A career spent serving others. See who in Meet Your Veteran on page 11.*

## Lynching Memorial Project Hosts Discussion Group

By Rande Davis

On May 19, the Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project (MoCoLMP) attracted a large attendance of approximately one hundred people, primarily from the Upcounty, to its program of discussion of the planned placement of a historic marker commemorating a lynching in Poolesville that happened in 1880. The event was held in the early evening at Locals in Poolesville. MoCoLMP is a grassroots group committed to the remembrance, reconciliation, and education of the three lynchings that occurred in Montgomery County.

Riverworks Art Center shared in hosting the discussion that led off with comments from panelists Maria Briançon, president, Poolesville Area Senior Center; Chuck Copeland, pastor, Hosanna Community Church; Kenny Sholes, local historian and Historic Medley District board member;



*Remembering a lynching—A Conversation about the George Peck Historical Marker with Noah Agboyibor, Alexis Fumaedi, Feh Gana, Kenny Sholes, Rev. Chuck Copeland, and Maria Briançon.*

and Feh Gana, student, Poolesville High School. MoCoLMP has partnered with Equal Justice Initiative's Remembrance Project. The latter organization has a Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama centering on lynchings and acts of terrorism against African

Americans. Soil from Poolesville was previously collected and sent to the museum to join with the over-four thousand other communities that experienced such a horrendous event.

**Continued on page 15.**

## Uncle Watty's Dilemma: A True Story of Friendship Between the Races during the Civil War in Poolesville

By Rande Davis

While the relations between Whites and Blacks have had tumultuous times in our past, there are also many stories of friendships and good will. The friendship between Poolesville slave Watty Owens and Edwin Higgins is one of those stories.

Mr. Higgins wrote of that friendship and a very special event that told how the President of the United States assisted Owens in his hour of need. Written in the early 1900s, the account uses dialects and common verbiage of the times. It is the *Monocle's* favorite Mystery History published previously, but it is retold in this issue with such a disturbing headline to provide a bit of perspective on human relations in Poolesville of the past. I have added in parentheses and italicized comments a contemporary perspective on this tale.

*The Story of Watty Owens as Told Firsthand by His Friend Edwin Higgins*

Before the war, the village of Poolesville was tucked away from the busy world of trade and travel in one of the most fertile grain-growing and grazing regions of Maryland. At the Mouth of the Monocacy, the inflowing of its waters causes the Potomac River, like the side stroke from the hockey of a skillful player, to make a graceful detour. In the center of this attractive county, five miles from as many ferries across into Virginia, and about thirty miles north from Washington city, the village slowly grew, and the people prospered among themselves, enlivened by their weekly gatherings on Saturday afternoon for the mail, their singing, and dancing in the streets and in schools, their literary society, an occasional "scrub race," with an

appearance of a peddler, a lecturer, or a wandering musician.

This was a large slaveholding community. It was a pleasing and cherished custom among the colored people during holidays and on Sundays, after church meetings, to exchange greetings on the porches of the village stores. In their best clothes, clean and bright, free from the cares and burdens of everyday life, they merrily chattered like flocks of happy birds. Among the characters of the times and place was Watt Owens, a worthy old colored man, with a lame leg, along up into his sixties, of whom everybody was fond, for he was obliging to everyone. Uncle Watty, for so he was familiarly called, was an active member of (*St. Peter's*) church, which has a "God's acre" about it, divided between the whites and colored

**Continued on page 28.**



# Family Album





## Tribute

### A Living Legacy!

By Joy Allison Zucker-Tiemann

For thirty-nine of her forty years as an MCPS teacher, Karen Boettner has guided more than eleven hundred of Poolesville's children through their ABCs. For fifteen of those years, Mrs. Boettner didn't just have a kindergarten class, she had both a morning and an afternoon class. For a handful of years, she taught second grade. One year, she juggled first and second grades at the same time before settling back into kindergarten in 2005 when MCPS approved all-day kindergarten.



Retiring teacher Karen Boettner with Noah Tiemann.

Review those numbers for a moment—forty years as a teacher translates to over seven thousand school days! Over a thousand students, and in pre-computer times, she had to manage parent-teacher conferences for fifty parents each year.

Boettner recalls exactly when she knew she wanted to be an educator. "I remember playing 'school' with one of my neighbors. I had two teachers, Mr. Blackmore and Mrs. Miller, and they were wonderful people. I was always the teacher's helper in school, and all I ever wanted since I was eight was to become a teacher." Boettner made that dream come true while attending Frostburg State University while she was student-teaching second grade and the teacher went out on medical leave. The substitute was less than helpful, and Boettner ended up taking over the class. "The thing I loved about second graders is their independence and story writing abilities."

Boettner spent her first year instructing at Highland View Elementary in Rockville, but at the end of the year, she was a surplus and looking for a new place to land. So how did she find herself at Poolesville Elementary? "In those days, they'd print out which schools had openings, and I asked which school was closest to Frederick since that's where I lived." Boettner came in for an interview with then-Principal Jett only to learn that Mrs. Jett had been her dad's English teacher. The two clicked, and the Poolesville Elementary School Boettner legacy began.

When asked about the demand of teaching two different kindergarten classes in the same day, Boettner stuck to the positives. "I'd try something in the morning class and if it didn't work, I'd be able to talk to my teammates and try something else in the afternoon. One could say the afternoon kids often got something improved!" When asked what her impressions were of the town at the time, Boettner quickly pointed out that Poolesville had no fast-food restaurants and the only place to get something to eat was Selby's grocery store. "Meadowlark was where AHOP is today, but they didn't serve lunch, so if you didn't bring it you were doomed." She also noted, "Back then, they actually cooked real food in the school cafeteria, and some teachers would pay the lunch lady to fill their casserole dishes with what was left at the end of the day."

Endless curriculum changes are among the frustrations most MCPS teachers identify, but when pressed, Boettner again brings the reality of impact back to her kids. "I love my kids, but changing a program so often is really difficult on them. Their learning becomes disjointed. They learn one way, and the very next year, we're telling them to learn it another way." However, the conversation pivots to her kids and what they bring to her class. "They just want you to love them. Even when they don't show you, because some of them don't know how to show it to you, all they want is to be loved." Love over the years took on many forms. "You see a child heading to recess with no coat, and it breaks your heart. I would ask what their favorite color was, and I'd go buy them a coat. One child's coat was so dirty one of our local teachers would take it home, wash it, and bring it back even before the day was over."

In the digital card that former students and families have signed, former student Jenny Better wrote, "I will forever be thankful for my famous kindergarten picture." Jenny forgot her picture money that day, and Boettner paid for it out of her own pocket. The biggest price her kids ever paid of course came during Boettner's fourth decade of teaching. She says the pandemic stole social emotional interactions especially for those kids who lost the ability to attend pre-K and then were thrust into a school year that began over Zoom. "But there were real positives during COVID, too." The smile in Boettner's voice broadened when

Continued on page 7.

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## Rande(m) Thoughts A Tale of Two Poolesvilles

By Rande Davis

Can there be any person or family that does not have somewhere within their past a dark, private event that haunts them? An affliction upon their soul? Perhaps a shameful blot on their life's story? Something for which one can only ask for God's forgiveness since we cannot bring ourselves to forgive ourselves?

If such persons or families exist, I do not know them. Is it no wonder then that a town may also have such insidious secrets held within, buried deep in its psyche to make the present more tolerable, even bearable?

Our headline story of the lynching in 1880 of George Peck is such a remembrance. When the Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project (MoCoLMP) announced the desire to collect soil from our area in Poolesville to be included in a Lynching Memorial Museum in Alabama, it was the first time most people in town had ever heard of the terrible event. Dark things do get buried, the darker the deeper.

The purpose of the recent gathering at Local's Restaurant, an event hosted by Riverworks Performing Arts Center, was to allow people to discuss the ramifications of placing a memorial marker on the property of the Historic Medley District, Inc. that acknowledges the injustice of the lynching of George Peck. The purpose for the marker is stated to be for reconciliation of the past, a hoped-for healing of a still-open wound.

In 1880, the newspapers debated the justification of the criminal actions of the hanging. One, in response to a supporting editorial in the *Sentinel*, came down strong on the side of patient judicial temperament. The *Baltimore Sun* editorialized, "They wanted revenge. In seeking after it in their own fashion, in the eyes of the law, they became criminals." Surely, the *Sun* opined, a thoughtful process would reach a justified verdict, there was no purpose in hastening the process.

The festering social wound of the past has now been opened to the fresh air of knowledge and healing. No more secrets, no more hushed whispers of things not dared to be voiced. It's out there for all to see and contemplate.

The facts are clearly seen in newspaper reports of the day. Nearly a

century and half ago, a few dozen people, mostly from Beallsville, most likely friends and family of the assaulted child, became enraged beyond reason. Even the pistol-packing pastor, who responded to the scream for help, said his first instinct was to shoot the attacker. His better angels allowed him to hold back until the law officer arrived. For him, this was no town for frontier justice. The angry gathering acted in blind mob hysteria, in a brutal act of revenge, over an unspeakable attack on the little girl. Persons, who otherwise were prone to peaceful living, cruelly, deliberately, and criminally tortured and killed a man, robbing him of his right to a fair trial. It was a most despicable act.

When the well-intended constable tried to gain an arrest of the perpetrators of the lynching through a coroner's jury the next day, no one stepped forward to identify a single person, leaving a verdict that the perpetrators were unknown. At least the coroner's jury didn't agree to a verdict of justification of the hanging as requested by some of the persons in attendance.

Is 143 years ago so far away? How often have we endured today hysterical mobs destroying businesses, property, and life with the stated purpose of justice? How often today do we find no one willing to come forward to identify such perpetrators of riotous behavior? That our willingness to judge those horrendous acts by persons of the past, while leaving us blind to the destroyers of justice today, may be a suitable consideration of thoughtfulness for all of us today. Do we really pride ourselves as being so much better than our ancestors?

While our front-page article reports on perhaps the lowest point of racial relations in our area, the "below the fold" story may reflect on the highest, most endearing example of life among whites and blacks in our history. That it, too, is so close to the Civil War makes it even more poignant. I chose to run this story along with the lynching story with intention. The juxtaposition serves to remind all of us that no one event or thing can serve to truly or solely define who we are as a people.

In true measure of all that has been said, there is no greater proclamation ever made than that of Martin Luther King: "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." Christ said it more simply: "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her."

## Local News

### Results on Possible Poolesville Co-op Grocery Study

As the town commissioners explore the possibility of bringing a food co-op to the area, they approved a survey to analyze the potential for success of the endeavor. The following is a synopsis of the Dakota Worldwide Market Study "Poolesville, Maryland Grocery CO-OP Market Analysis Report," submitted in April 2023:

The study is a market analysis designed to show the potential sales volume and competitive position of a possible co-op grocery store in Poolesville. It is not intended to assess the financials for a store, how much it would cost to get it up and running, and typical operational costs for such a store. Its purpose is to show the viability of a co-op food store in Poolesville, its likelihood of success. A second study, focused on the financials of the store, is required to develop information on how to establish, manage, and operate the store if the decision is made to go forward with the project.

The study's findings demonstrate that a co-op food store would have a good probability of success in serving Poolesville and a large area around it in the Upcounty with the right management, business model, and financial support.

Co-op grocery stores differ from typical commercial stores in that they are owned by people in their community usually through paid memberships. Unlike typical commercial food stores, they tend to be much more engaged with local community organizations, local farmers, and health-oriented groups.

The study finds that the success of the store will depend on a range of factors, most crucially, location, how good the store management is, the retail strategy of the store, and customer loyalty and satisfaction. The study is built around a store "format" offering affordable healthy/organic food staples with an emphasis on perishable departments: produce, meat, deli, and bakery. Prepared foods/bistro sections and locally-sourced products are incorporated in the mix as well. Assuming the decision is made to go ahead with the project, developing more detailed data on things like the

Continued on page 30.

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## School News

By Joy Allison Zucker-Tiemann

### BookWars

When is Harry Potter's birthday? What graphic novel series are both Paolo and Miles reading? These were just two of the questions posed to ten teams which faced off in the District 3 Book Wars Championship hosted at Lakelands Middle School on March 30. Three teams from our own John Poole Middle School not only competed, but one team brought home the championship trophy for the second time in nine years!



JPMS students participated in the annual MCPS BookWars.

BookWars is an MCPS middle-school-only competition in which students read and study a selected set of books over the course of a few months and then meet to compete to see who knows the most facts from the books. Each school is allowed up to three teams of five members. Five veterans from last year's winning team, as well as many newcomers, were among the sixteen students who studied

Continued on page 24.



PES student-artists had their art displayed at Montgomery Mall.



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## Senior News

### Poolesville Seniors Presents Virtual and In-Person Programs

Are you looking for activities that stretch your mind, renew your body, and lift your spirits? Then visit the website for Poolesville Seniors, [poolesvilleseniors.org](http://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, 17800 Elgin Road (Route 109).

#### June 2

##### Calleva Story, Farm Tour, and Pizza Night

Join Alex Markoff at Calleva Farm for the story of Calleva and a farm tour by wagon. Opt to stay for Calleva's Pizza Night on the Farm. *Calleva Farm, Martinsburg Road.* 5:30 p.m. Pre-registration required.

#### June 8

##### MoCo Recycling

Join Alan Pultyniewicz, MoCo Recycling Coordinator, to learn how to recycle right—what you really can and can't recycle, and how to help reduce your own and the county's waste. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

#### June 13

##### Animals in the Civil War

Brad Stone, volunteer at the National Museum of Civil War Medicine, relates the contributions made by a wide variety of animals, including dogs, cats, camels, badgers, pigs, silkworms, and almost elephants, to both armies in the Civil War. *Speer Hall.* 7:00 p.m.

#### June 15

##### Historic Ag Reserve Properties with Kenny Sholes

Explore the next historic Ag Reserve Properties with local historian Kenny Sholes, who brings us the stories of an array of impressive historic homes, those who built and lived in them, and the important part they played in American history for centuries. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

##### Friday Movie Night

Watch *Belfast*, a 2021 Kenneth Branagh release starring Caitriona Balfe, Judi Dench, Jamie Dornan, Ciarán Hinds, Colin Morgan, and Jude Hill in a coming-of-age story that follows a young boy's childhood in Belfast, Northern

Ireland, at the beginning of The Troubles in 1969. Biography-Drama. PG-13. Please pre-register for this in-person event. Snacks provided. *Speer Hall.* 7:00 p.m.

#### June 22

##### Bicycling Adventure across the USA

Join Fred Smoak for a presentation on his cycling adventures across the USA, some over 4,000 miles long. Hear about the people, places, experiences, and Bike Adventure, the unique organization that supports these bicycling adventures to raise funds for new housing and repairs for those in need. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

#### June 26

##### PS Book Club—*The Diamond Eye*

Join us to discuss *The Diamond Eye*, a historical fiction work by Kate Quinn, the *New York Times* bestselling author. This is the unforgettable World War II tale of the real-life quiet bookworm history student, Lyudmila Pavlichenko, who became one of the first Soviet female snipers—and history's deadliest female sniper. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

#### June 29

##### Byline: Ernie Pyle

This one-man show, created by Steve LaRocque of the Montgomery History Speakers Bureau, showcases excerpts from the famous wartime newspaper columns of Pulitzer Prize winning WWII correspondent Ernie Pyle. One of the first "embedded" reporters. *Speer Hall.* 7:00 p.m.

#### June 30

##### Line Dancing with Ashley Kelch

Kick up your heels at an evening of line dancing in Poolesville. The first hour (7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.) will be for novice line dancers with simple, but fun steps. The more advanced line dancing will begin at 8:00 p.m., and everyone is welcome to stay. Registration is limited, so please sign up early. *Speer Hall.* 7:00 p.m.

#### Weekly Events

##### Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

**Outdoor Open Play Pickleball.** *Stevens Park.* 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m..

##### Tuesdays

**Tai-Chi** with Maureen Ivusic. *Speer Hall* and virtual. 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

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

##### Wednesdays

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

##### Trivia Game Night

If you love Trivia, come join a team

with Poolesville Seniors. For more information, email [info@poolesville-seniors.org](mailto:info@poolesville-seniors.org). 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

#### Thursdays

##### Outdoor Ladder Play Pickleball

Limited to a maximum of 24 players. *Stevens Park.* 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**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](http://poolesvilleseniors.org). Many of these presentations are also streamed live on their Facebook page and recorded for later viewing on their YouTube channel. Did you know that you don't need a computer to participate? You can join the Zoom presentation using your smartphone or just listen in using the local telephone number from Zoom and the Poolesville Seniors meeting ID and Password. Call or text them at 301-875-7701 to learn how.






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Continued from page 3.

### A Living Legacy!

she quickly added, "I was in their homes every day, and that was a good thing. I was pretty close to that group of kids. I saw most of their parents every day, too." Boettner touts how the entire kindergarten team made house calls to connect with their kids, bringing with them, among other things, crayons and pencils.

Speaking of the innocence of what kids share in class, Boettner didn't shy from a funny anecdote often exchanged during parent-teacher conferences. "If you only believe half of what your child says about me, I'll only believe half of what they say about you!" Parents who sing Boettner's praises loudly applaud her structured teaching style. "She's very clear in her expectations, and her messaging is consistent," said Poolesville mom Joanna Borman whose kids all had Boettner for kindergarten. "I liked that my three kids all had a shared experience in their start at PES, but she treated each of my kids as individuals. She didn't have expectations of the younger ones to be like my oldest. She loved each of my kids for who they were, and she taught them each uniquely, and I love that they reminisce now about her classroom and what they each remember about it."

Raised in Damascus and still living in Frederick with her husband Chuck, who is also a retired JPMS/MCPS employee, Boettner says she's wrestled with raw emotions this year about retiring. "Teaching is such a huge part of who I am. Not introducing myself as a kindergarten teacher—that's going to be hard." Boettner says after some down time she's hoping to incorporate some charity work and working with kids in the foster care system, but she's most looking forward to seeing her grandchildren more, "especially when it's their birthday, regardless of what day of the week it is!"

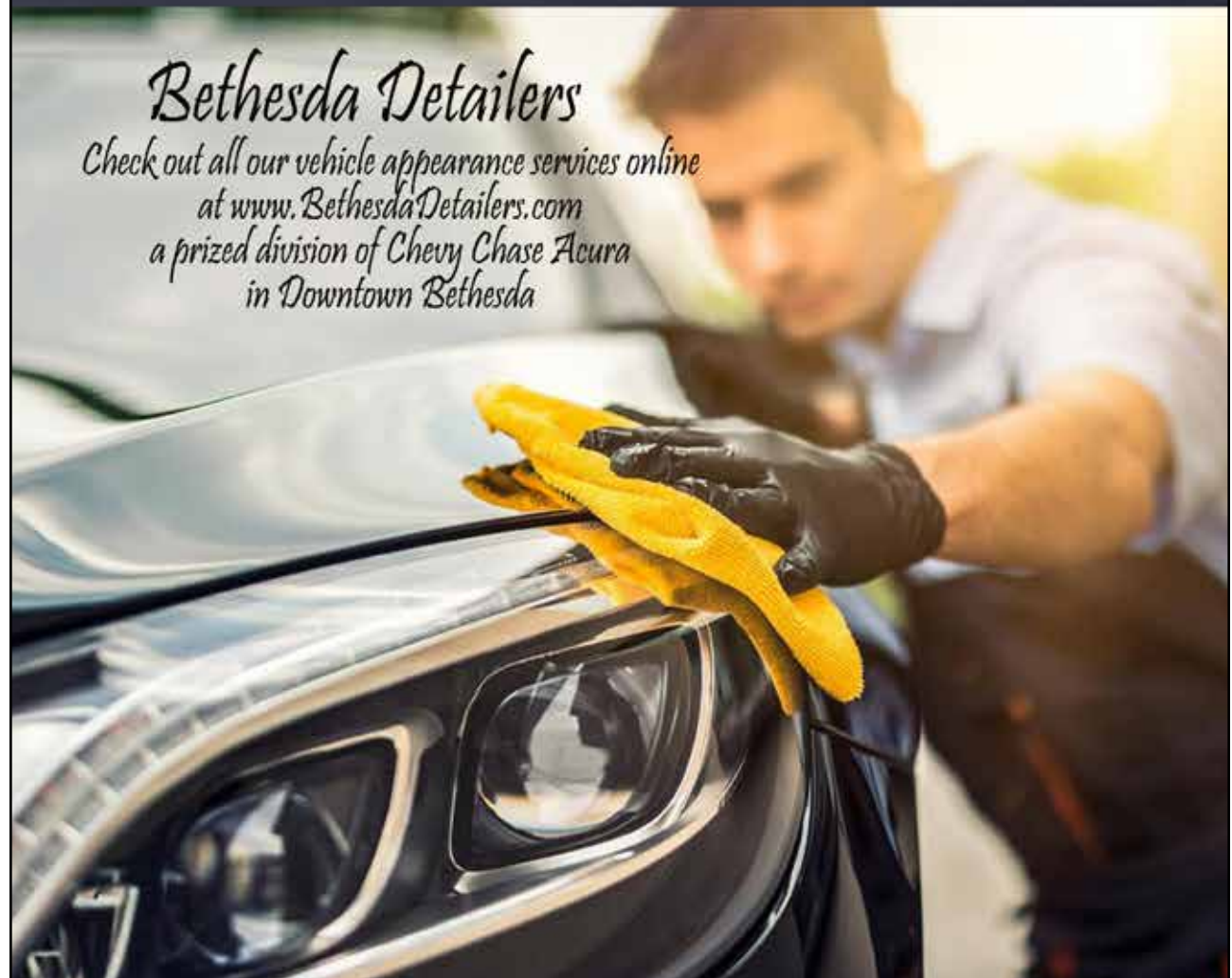
Boettner's advice to future teachers out there, "Teaching is great, but it will be the hardest job you'll ever love."

The community looks forward to celebrating Karen Boettner's career with her at an Open House Ice Cream party on June 3 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the gym at the Poolesville Baptist Church. Links to sign a digital card or contribute to the celebration can be found on the town's Facebook page or by calling Poolesville Town Hall.



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## Local News

### PASC: Where Olympians Are Created

By Rande Davis

With nearly one hundred members, the Poolesville Pickleball Club has grown into one of the largest and most successful sporting and social organizations in the area. One of the original organizers, Maria Briançon, notes that from its beginning, now known as the fastest-growing sporting activity in America, it has mirrored the national success in Poolesville with a most remarkable success story.

The Poolesville teams, playing on tennis courts of varying quality and during the winter months in the Poolesville Baptist Church's gym by marking the court dimensions with tape, weathered the travails of the pandemic to emerge stronger than ever. The Town of Poolesville commissioners have upgraded area tennis courts to accommodate or, as at Stevens Park, replaced some tennis courts. Local tennis enthusiasts have reported to the Monocle that the growth of pickleball on their courts has not significantly impacted their ability to play "at will" at remaining courts.

Interested players are always welcome to join the group. There are pickleball courts at Halmos Park. They currently play on the courts at Stevens Park on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. It's not only an activity that assists social, physical, and mental endurance, but it is just plain fun, too.



Olympians in our midst – the Upcounty Pickleballers!

The Poolesville Seniors Pickleball League had eleven entered in the varying events. The result was nothing less than amazing. The Poolesville team had an outstanding record with nine gold medals, one silver, three bronze, and one fourth place.

Our Poolesville pickleball team and supporters were the largest fan group at the Olympics Games held at the Montgomery TennisPlex in Boyds. Many of the players and supporters wore our blue pickleball team shirts and sweaters. There were numerous comments regarding how well we supported our players. Poolesville pickleball members play to win, but friendships are the most important part of our activity.

Pickleball was introduced into the Maryland Senior Olympics in 2016 and had 501 players this year. Our first entry into the Senior Olympics was last year with six players, winning one gold and three bronze medals. Last year was a qualifying year, and we will have three players going to the National Seniors Games in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania: Patty Walker (with partner Pearl Morris) won gold in 2022 and will be playing in women's doubles (age 60 to 64); Brian Peper and Jerry Greaney won bronze and will be playing in men's doubles (age 65 to 69); and Jerry will also play in men's singles (age 70 to 74). This year is a non-qualifying year, however, as the State Senior Olympics and National Senior Games address scheduling issues due to the pandemic. The MD Senior Olympics for this year's competition was at the state level only.

Our outstanding teams participated in almost every age group. Of the total 501 participants, our Poolesville group of players appeared to be the largest contingency from any single organization. For each age group, the competition was divided into Division I skill level 3.5 and above; and Division II skill level 3.0 and below. In addition, the competition was divided by age group.

Continued on page 26.



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## Tidbits

### Celebrating All Nonagenarians

Do you know someone who is a nonagenarian? Do you even know what a nonagenarian is? Well, that's someone who is ninety to ninety-nine years old. We think these wonderful life-warriors deserve to have a special celebration on their birthdays. Let us know if your friends or relatives are celebrating a ninety-something birthday.

We start this issue with Janet Bliss. Janet turned ninety years young on June 2, 2023. Here's a toast to her on having a birthday as bright as her smile, as fun as her spirit, and as delightful as she always is. May Janet enjoy many more beautiful days ahead of her. With love from your kids, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Happy Ninetieth Birthday to Janet (Painter) Bliss!

### Showroom Showcase a Big Hit



The Watkins Cabinet team in their brand-new showroom in Dickerson.

Congratulations to the good people of Watkins Cabinets who recently unveiled their new showroom in Dickerson. The special event showcased their updated showroom and their premier and semi-custom line of cabinetry. The guests were intrigued by a production tour, led by Frank and Ken Watkins. Everyone had a great time with lots of laughs, memories, gift baskets, and, of course, food. Since 1952, Watkins Cabinet, a family-owned business, has continued to create custom cabinetry for every room of the home. Be sure to stop in should you have any plans for remodeling or upgrading your kitchen. They are located at 18001 Sellman Road, Dickerson.

### Upcounty Prevention Network (UPN) Hosts Family Event in Whalen Commons

On May 20, UPN held a special family-friendly event to highlight the good works of this special group. UPN is a community-based organization that focuses on promoting positive development, health, and well-being among youth in its service area. Through a variety of initiatives, UPN seeks to create a supportive environment that encourages young people to make healthy choices and avoid risky behaviors.

The event was originally planned for April but got rained out. In May, Mother Nature decided to bring on the rain again; it dampened the festivities a bit but not the spirit. A significant event was the "Jaws of Life



These students enjoyed the live music during the Upcounty Prevention Network's spring family event.

Continued on page 19.

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## Local News

### Grand Marshal Nominations for Poolesville Day Open June 1

By Link Hoewing

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

Every year since that time—until the pandemic struck—Poolesville has observed its annual festival, celebrating the Poolesville area, its residents, and the communities in the Upcounty of which it is a part. This year, Poolesville Day will happen again on September 23 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. with activities, vendors, and music spread from one end of Fisher Avenue at Poolesville Elementary School to the “Historic West End” with the Electric Vehicle Show, and all over Whalen Commons.

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

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

It is important to note that the guidelines do not specify that any person or organization nominated has to live in Poolesville or its surrounding areas. The nomination is focused rather on what the person or organization has contributed to the health and well-being of the Poolesville area. It is possible that a county or state official who does not live in our area may

have done a lot to make the lives of citizens in the Poolesville area better, for example, by introducing and passing legislation that is extremely beneficial to all of us.

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

Here is the list of people or organizations who have been selected for Grand Marshal, going all the way back to 2004:

**2022:** Rande Davis and Publisher, *The Monocacy Monocle*; Local Historian; Amar Duggirala, Local Physician; Chair, Sustainable Poolesville

**2021:** Valaree Dickerson, Former Commissioner; Local Activist; Started Local Toy Drive

**2020:** *Pandemic, No Poolesville Day Event*

**2019:** Gwendora Reese, Historian, Founder Sugarland Ethno-History Project

**2018:** Link Hoewing, Past Commissioner; PTSA Leader; Chair, Fair Access Committee

**2017:** Jerry Klobukowski, Commissioner, Education Liaison

**2016:** Tim Pike and Margaret Valega, Local Business Owners

**2015:** Grace Sheppard, Elementary School Teacher

**2014:** George Hillard, Fire Chief

**2013:** Maggie Nightingale, Local Activist for Poolesville’s Library

**2012:** Jim Brown, Commissioner, Local Business Leader

**2011:** Ray Hoewing, Long Time Local Activist

**2010:** Jane Stearns, Founder of Local Charity WUMCO

**2009:** Betty Jean and Roy Selby, Long Time Owners of Local Grocery

**2008:** Odd Fellows Lodge, Local Charitable Services Group Poolesville

**2007:** Jake Perkins, PHS Sports Supporter and Promoter, Chairman of the Poolesville Day Committee

**2006:** Mary Chiswell, Teacher, Oldest Poolesville Resident

**2005:** State Leaders of the, Local Charitable Services Groups

Continued on page 30.




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## Meet Your Monocacy Veteran

### Annette Howard, LTC USAR (Retired): Decades of Service to those Who Serve

By Rande Davis

When Annette Howard graduated from George Mason University in 1985 with a degree in nursing, she already knew what she wanted to do. Her then-future goal had been decided after a clinical rotation in the Obstetrics/Operating Room (O.R.) during nursing school at Dewitt Army Community Hospital, Ft. Belvoir, Virginia. The appeal came from three directions: The critical care given in the O.R., the rewarding experience of serving those who serve our nation, and a personal desire to serve our country in the military as well. When she found out the army could post her immediately into the O.R. after completing Officer's Basic Training and the Operating Room Course at Ft. Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, she was commissioned for a four-year commitment and served at Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC) in Silver Spring. Due to the intensity of type and scope of care, many individuals would avoid WRAMC, but for Annette, it fit right into her wheelhouse.

As her initial four-year commitment was about to expire, Operation Iraqi Freedom began, and the military ordered an immediate stop-loss action, denying medical personnel the chance to leave active duty. Subsequently, she ended up serving eight years on active duty; however, Annette not only chose to stay at Walter Reed as a civilian nurse in the O.R., she immediately transferred into the 2290<sup>th</sup> Army Reserve hospital where her continuation of service remained at WRAMC.

Annette eventually rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel (LTC), managing a large O.R. staff in Peri Operative nursing service, to include anesthesiologists, nurses, and surgical technicians. While a reserve officer, she was a manager for the Surgical Team Army Reserve (STAR) program. The STAR program at WRAMC was a same-day ambulatory surgical program providing weekend surgical care for eligible active duty and their dependents. She retired from the army reserves in 2005 but chose to stay as a civilian nurse at the new location in Bethesda of Walter Reed National Medical Center until 2017.

Now retired, Annette currently continues to serve as the Post Adjutant in the Daniel-Jeffers (Poolesville) American Legion Post 247. This spring, her volunteer work was recognized by the American Legion Maryland District 8 when they named her Legionnaire of the Year for her outstanding service to the local post, her community, and the American Legion during 2022.

Upon joining the post in 2020, Annette immediately stepped up and accepted responsibility as an executive officer in the group in 2021. Annette is highly regarded by her fellow veterans for her organizational and motivational skills and admired for her dedication to the post and veterans.

She single-handedly planned and executed the most lucrative raffle in the post history in December of 2022. The raffle used the annual Army-Navy Game as its theme. Starting in the summer, Annette designed and created the raffle board to sell squares at \$20 per square. Then in September, at the annual Poolesville Day celebration, Annette sold squares for the Army-Navy Game. This effort resulted in \$1,150 funds for the post, which was the largest fundraiser ever made from a single event.

To enhance the public awareness of the post, she took the initiative to ask private landowners to erect four thirty-inch reflective American Legion road-signs in the area. Annette also worked closely with the Poolesville Town Hall to advertise the post activities, using their electronic sign board located in the center of town.

As part of her duties as Post Adjutant, Annette has had a major role in the growth of the Post to its current level, increasing from sixty members to



Lt. Col. Annette Howard  
of the U.S. Army (retired).

over ninety within three years. Annette not only manages the membership, but she also actively recruits veterans in the Poolesville area to join the post. Annette worked with the *Monocacy Monocle* to create a photo array centerfold that captured the post activities throughout the year. The day that issue was published, a veteran saw it in the newspaper and signed up with his wife, who is also a veteran.

Annette is married to retired Montgomery County Police officer John Howard. The couple met at a Wheaton High School basketball ball game in 1976 then spent their earlier years together traveling and enjoying numerous fishing trips and now have been married for thirty-five years. They both devoted themselves to public service careers, coordinating shift work, often passing each other like the proverbial ships in the night. They have three children, Madison, Nick, and Morgan who attended PHS and reside in Frederick. In addition, Annette and John are both lifetime members of the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. Every summer during fair week, Annette donates numerous hours as a volunteer to assist with the fair activities. Annette additionally spends much of her retired time with her four grandkids and is anticipating with great excitement the birth of her fifth in August.



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## In Your Own Backyard

### C&O Canal Heroes Remembered: Part 1 of 2

By Jon Wolz

People who lived or visited the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal in Montgomery County, Maryland, in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries either knew of or came in contact with the Collier family. There were two occasions in which a member of the Collier family saved a child from drowning in the canal. Richard H. Collier, Sr. and his wife Mary lived along the canal, first at Edwards Ferry and then at Great Falls. Along the canal, they raised several children.

Last December, I was at the Monocacy Cemetery in Beallsville to participate in the Wreaths across America event that was being held there in which holiday wreaths are placed on the graves of veterans. As people gathered for the event, I noticed the door of the chapel was open. There were some people inside, and I went in. This was the first time I had been inside. A framed poster hung on a wall that was titled, "Notable Burials at Monocacy Cemetery." The poster contains names and a short biography of twenty-four people. As I glanced at the poster, I wondered to myself if there were any lockkeepers. I came upon Thomas Walter on the poster. Thomas was a lockkeeper at Lock 27 and then a boatman on the C&O Canal. Under Thomas's name it reads, "1801-1877" followed by, "Walter saved the Monocacy Aqueduct from the Confederate Army during the Civil War." The poster did not say that Thomas was the lockkeeper at Lock 27 during the Civil War. I know there are many more lockkeepers buried at the Monocacy Cemetery, yet they all seem to be forgotten.

Subsequently, I began compiling a list of Montgomery County C&O Canal workers. The last year of the boating season for the C&O Canal was 1923. I began looking at the Federal census for Montgomery County beginning with the 1920 census and working back to the 1850 census; the census for 1850 was the first time occupations were shown in the census. Then I began looking at C&O Canal payroll and labor records. Those records are incomplete. I also began looking up burial sites for the workers. So far, I have 240 names on my list, and I am not finished with my research. From January through March, I visited the Archives in Adelphi, Maryland four times to scan/photograph labor records from the 1880s. These records did not include all years for the 1880s. The records end in 1889. After that year, the railroad began managing canal affairs after resuming operations after the great flood of 1889. The C&O Canal National Historical Park headquarters at Williamsport has scanned railroad records that are located in Baltimore and is determining whether or not there are canal labor records subsequent to 1889.

Last year, Glenn Wallace of the Monocacy Cemetery offered a free gravestone he had for the grave of John Whalen who was the last lockkeeper at Lock 27. John did not have a gravestone. He died in 1926. With contributions from William and Rita Bauman and me, we had Sugarloaf Monuments obtain engraving for the stone. Glenn placed the gravestone on John Whalen's grave. John Whalen's wife, Frances "Fannie" Collier Whalen, is buried next to John. Fannie died tragically by drowning in Lock 27 in 1911. Next to Fannie are children, Mary, age one when she died in 1881, and John A. Whalen, age one when he died in 1887. On the other side of John Whalen is Mary Collier, John's mother-in-law. Beside Mary is her husband, Richard Collier. Fannie was a daughter of Richard and Mary. At the opposite end of the row from Richard is son Henry L. Collier. Everyone in the row had gravestones except for Henry.

Richard H. Collier, Sr. and his wife Mary Frances Daily were born in 1824 in Virginia. In 1849, they were married in Washington, D.C. By my count, they had ten children of which eight survived their childhoods. They both appear in the 1850 census as living in Loudoun County, Virginia. Their post office was Belmont. They had a six-month-old daughter named Mary. Daughter Mary does not appear again in census, and there is no record of her death. In the 1860 census, Richard was a keeper of a warehouse living in Loudoun County with his wife and growing family. Children living with them were, John, 10, Thomas, 6, Charles, 5, Frances, 2, and Eugenia, three months. John and Thomas attended school. Eugenia does not appear in future census records, and there is no record of her death. Son Charles does not appear again living with the family in future censuses. He reappears in the 1900 and 1910 census for Washington, D.C. where he was living. Living with the Colliers in Virginia was Mary C. Newman, 17, serving as a cook and washer. Living near the Colliers were boatmen with families of Charles Clark (Black) and Silas Simpson (White). It is likely the warehouse goods were loaded onto the boats and were poled across the Potomac



Lock 25 during is operational days.

River to Maryland, entering the Goose Creek River locks before entering the C&O Canal.

By 1865, Richard and Mary had moved their families across the Potomac River where Richard took over lockkeeper duties from William Rollison at Lock 25, Edwards Ferry. In the 1870 census, living with Richard and Mary were children, John, 20, Thomas, 16, Francis (Fannie), 12, Henry, 8, Valentine, 6, Richard, Jr., 5, and Mary (Mollie), 3. Richard, Jr. and Mollie were born in Maryland. All of the other Colliers were born in Virginia. Also living with them was Franklin Soper, 18. Mrs. Collier was keeping house, and other than the lockkeeper, no other occupations were indicated on the census. Lockkeeper Richard made \$52 per month in the 1860s and 1870s from the C&O Canal Company. Their nearby

Continued on page 13.

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Continued from page 12.

**C&O Canal Heroes Remembered: Part 1 of 2**

neighbors were ferryman Samuel Mansfield with his family, and Charles F. Elgin with his family. Charles was a "boss on the canal." Samuel Mansfield became a lockkeeper at Lock 17 at Great Falls in the 1880s. By 1873, Charles Wood became lockkeeper at Lock 25, replacing Richard Collier. Charles Butler replaced Charles Wood later in the 1870s. From the payroll records, Charles Wood moved to Lock 26 to serve as lockkeeper.

On the evening of May 15, 1880, a three-year-old daughter of Lock 25 lockkeeper Charles Butler and his wife Frances fell in the canal at Edwards Ferry. The news report stated: "But for the presence of mind and bravery of Richard Collier, she would undoubtedly [have] drowned." The little girl was Corrie Butler and was one of nine children. She never married and lived to be seventy-six.

*End of part 1.*



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- Corp. Kirk J. Bosselmann**  
USMC, Dickerson, November 27, 2004, Operation Iraqi Freedom
  - Spec. Class 5 Robert D. Donaldson**  
Army, Dickerson, January 31, 1966, Vietnam War
  - Corp. Claude H. Belcher**  
Army, Dickerson, February 12, 1951, Korean War
  - Priv. First Class Robert E. Fink**  
Army, Boyds, August 6, 1950, Korean War
  - Second Lt. Frederick S. Hays, Jr.**  
Army, Barnesville, September 22, 1952, Korean War
  - Corp. Kermit Q. Prather**  
Army, Poolesville, April 21, 1951, Prisoner of War, Korean War
  - Priv. First Class John J. Brown**  
Army, Dickerson, January 23, 1943, WWII
  - Lt. William A. Daniels, Jr.**  
Army Air Force, August 20, 1943, WWII
  - Priv. First Class Edward L. Doggett**  
Army, Poolesville, October 13, 1944, WWII
  - Priv. First Class William F. Grossard**  
Army, Barnesville, March 30, 1945, WWII
  - Lt. Harold B. Jeffers**  
Army Air Corps, Dickerson, December 21, 1942, WWII
  - Seaman Second Class Mahlon Kelbaugh**  
Navy, Barnesville, May 7, 1944, MIA, WWII
  - Priv. William J. Comphert**  
Army, Poolesville, September 28, 1918, WWI
  - Priv. Adolphus M. Graham**  
Army, Poolesville, October 21, 1918, WWI
  - Priv. Basil R. Graham**  
Army, Poolesville, October 11, 1918, WWI
  - Priv. John W. Nicholson**  
Army, Barnesville, July 19, 1918, WWI
- MIA—Missing in Action



Continued from page 1.

### Lynching Memorial Project Hosts Discussion Group

The Historic Medley District, Inc. has partnered with MoCoLMP and will be the site that hosts a historic marker that will serve as a remembrance of the lynching of George Peck in 1880. Newspaper accounts at the time recorded an alleged sexual attack on eleven-year-old Ada Hays, by the twenty-two-year-old George Peck in Beallsville. The published reports stated the incident was interrupted by Baptist minister Calvin A and that Peck was held until local constable, Hugh Miles arrived. Ultimately, Peck was taken to Poolesville to await transfer to Rockville the following day. At around midnight on the evening of the attack, a group arrived on horseback, removed Peck from the Constable Miles's custody, and lynched him without due process of law. A coroner's jury assembled the next day did not indict participants as witnesses failed to come forward to identify any perpetrators.

Representatives of local black churches in attendance at the discussion included Tina Clark, Suzanne Johnson, and Rev. Chuck Copeland. The panelists were moderated by Alexis Fumaedi, a PHS 2023 graduate who will be attending Cornell University this fall to study neurobiology and behavior.

Commission President Jim Brown introduced Commissioners Ed Reed, Sarah Paksima, and Jeff Eck who were also in attendance. Brown described the lynching as a "somber and terrible event, which was the cause for the gathering, an event that should never be forgotten, an event that Poolesville as a town must own, and we will own it, so others can learn and can grow from it because we have grown from it. Talking about it, learning about it, is the right thing to do. We are a town that embraces our past, and we learn from it. We give honor to MoCoLMP and George Peck and look forward to being your partner as this project grows throughout the county and finally the country."

Brown then led the group in a self-written poem in song, whose lyrics were, "God Bless our Poolesville, town that we love, all are welcome here, with pride here, including Aruna as well as our new Guv. From the farms and from the mountains to White's Ferry, to our breweries white with foam, God Bless our Poolesville, our home sweet home."

Former PHS student Noah Agboyibor read the words that will be engraved into the marker:

"George W. Peck, a twenty-two-year-old black man who lived and worked in Poolesville, Maryland, was lynched near this site by a white mob in an act of racial terrorism.

"On the morning of January 10, 1880, Mr. Peck was accused of assaulting a white girl on the farm where he worked. A local constable arrested him and brought him to the Odd Fellows Hall in Poolesville. Throughout the day, an angry crowd gathered but eventually disbursed after dark only to return at midnight. The crowd then seized Mr. Peck as he was being moved to another location. Securing a noose around his neck, the mob dragged Mr. Peck to a vacant lot across from the Poolesville Presbyterian Church, and, denied his right to a judge and jury, he was hanged from a locust tree. The following morning, as parishioners arrived for Sunday services, Mr. Peck's body was cut down and buried unceremoniously in an unmarked grave. A coroner's jury found that Mr. Peck died at the hands of parties unknown. In an act of solidarity, black residents later reinterred his body in the consecrated grounds of a nearby African American churchyard. On November 3, 2019, inspired by the mission of the Equal Justice Initiative, the wider community gathered to collect soil from the site of Mr. Peck's lynching as a gesture of racial healing. Today, the community rekindles his story in the name of healing and reconciliation."

Panelists were asked to talk about the potential impact and level of acceptance that the marker might have on the community.

Feh Gana, vice president of the PHS Black Student Union, observed the importance of the marker and believes the community will accept the placement of the marker.

"It is very important to acknowledge our history, and overall, I believe the community accepts and acknowledges the marker. To me, it's important that everybody, no matter what age, no matter which race, learns and knows what happened here. Without acknowledging our past, we cannot make the best change for the future.

Kenny Sholes said, "I grew up in Poolesville, moved away, and came back to this town as a wonderful place to live and raise children and at the same time there is a lot of history worth discussing and having conversations about. People are generally surprised as to how much slavery occurred here. This knowledge is something that has increased, but we have a long way to go. I think the memorial to George Peck lights the conversation that will come from this event. I hope

a marker such as this inspires further conversations. When people see it, a discussion will naturally happen about where we came from as well as where we need to go."

Chuck Copeland, whose family history in the area goes back to the 1700s, spoke with passion about the toils and contributions of slaves in our area. "At the soil collection event, everyone seemed to be concerned as to how people will receive the marker. It is important that the Ag Reserve hangs its hat on history. Let's tell the whole story because when we begin to tell the whole story, it is the only way we can heal. There is a lot of blood in the soil here, literally. It's high time Poolesville stops hiding from this part of its history. That's why it is important for us to place that marker. There is a whole lot of history right around us that people don't want to talk about that is extremely uncomfortable to discuss. It is important to remember what happened here because we can then work on reconciliation by taking that which was broken and putting it back together. You cannot heal until we properly expose and treat the wound."

Maria Briançon, "We were one of the first organizations that started talking about these untold stories. At first, I wasn't even aware of the historic Black communities that are in Poolesville. Black contributions were not even discussed in our schools. Now these stories can come out, they can be told, we can learn, and we can discuss them, and we can get these conversations of healing going."

As the panelists continued their statements, the gathering broke into small groups to have further discussions about the incident, the marker, and its impact on the community. MoCoLMP is planning further public events around this issue, including a walking tour from Beallsville to Poolesville to tell the story.



*Soil for George Peck, who was lynched in Poolesville in 1880, was previously collected and sent to the Equal Justice Initiative's Remembrance Project Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama.*



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## Youth Sports

### Coed Volleyball: Keeping it Fun— And Competitive

By Jeff Stuart

Coed volleyball has appeal because it is fun, but Poolesville has twice won the coed volleyball title, and those athletes enjoyed that winning experience. The fact that the sport is also competitive is not lost on the current team. Each year is different. The goal is always to try to win but also to keep the fun. The girls have generally already played in the fall, for some of the senior boys coming from other sports, it is a nice way to suit up for a varsity sport one last time.

“This team is full of seniors,” said acting Coach Maureen Duvall, a member of the PHS Hall of Fame. “I believe we have nine seniors and five underclassmen. Of our five boys, only two have played before. That happens a lot with coed volleyball. We get boys that might play another sport and choose to play coed in the spring. Jordan Smith, a freshman, is a basketball

player. Senior Mark Vander Vort is a football player, and senior Kai Obiezue is a soccer player, so I have to do a lot of teaching which is fun. Coed is a very social sport, especially for this age because the boys and girls interact with each other in a way they would not normally do. It is fun for them.

“Varshana Ramnarine, a senior, is a great libero. She will dive, risk her body, and just play any ball she can get to, and Kai has really done well. He is super competitive. He is aggressive at the net, and he has great feet because he is a soccer player—that is a nice advantage—and Mega Jasti is a great captain. She keeps them all together.

“Our best game was against Watkins Mill. We finally put it all together. They had fun. In that game, they actually competed. I saw them trying to figure out how to beat the other team, and they did it. It was great to watch.”

The Falcons swept Seneca Valley on April 19 for yet another win.

“The coed team has been like a dream,” said senior captain Mega Jasti. “I love these people so much. They feel like a second family to me because I spend so much time with them. I am definitely having fun. I played on the girls’ team in the fall and that experience helped a lot. I think the Watkins Mill game was our best. We all jelled together as a team. We definitely put up a fight...Jordan Cross has been putting a lot of work and effort into the team and giving her all every day and every match. As for newcomers...Jordan Smith is a freshman. I had never seen him play before, and he is doing so well.”

“I have played coed for all four years,” said senior captain Flynn Barger. “I have had a blast doing it. I believe that a good team has to be sociable. We have our team lunches and bonding activities. I think that makes us stronger. I think that Jordin Cross is one of our MVPs of the team, being the setter. She picked up the skills and adapted to us very quickly. As to being competitive, I think we have done the hardest we can. Every game, we give it our all. We learn from our mistakes. I think that is one of our best attributes. It was fun to beat Watkins Mill. Early in the season we played a lot of really competitive teams that are far beyond our skill level, but we learned. It made us tougher. That prepared us to play more competitively against other teams. My favorite moment was getting to play alongside my sister, Ainsley, in my sophomore year. She is playing at Hood College now.”

Other seniors are Olivia Tuwiner, Sara Stanley, and Dave Liyana Saran Don. Sydney Short is a junior. Caitlyn Yee is a sophomore. Justin Li and Camryn Smith are freshmen.

Coach Megan Kenneweg is on maternity leave.



*PHS coed volleyball team. Rear: Jordin Cross, Camryn Smith, Sara Stanley, Mega Jasti, Sydney Short, Olivia Tuwiner, Kai Obiezue, Jordan Smith, Mark Vander Vort, and Flynn Barger; front: Dave Liyana Saran Don, Caitlyn Yee, and Varshana Ramnarine.*



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Continued from page 9.

**Tidbits**

Demonstration” put on by the fire department. This is prom time, and the messaged to stay clear of alcohol use can prove to be an important reminder to our youth.

**Monocacy Lions Roar with Scholarships to PHS Grads**

The Monocacy Lions awarded their 2023 PHS scholarship to seniors Zoe Antonishok, Sienna Quinn, and Evan Taylor. Each of the three PHS students received \$2,500, for a total of \$7,500! That’s a lot of ice cream, golf, auction items, and a very successful 5K race! In the past, the Lions gave out \$2,000 to two students. This year, the lions worked hard, making this one of their best fund-raising years, and their board voted to pass on their earnings to the community, exemplifying their motto: “We serve!”

**The Annual Poolesville Fishing Tournament Winners!**



*Participants in the 2023 Richard S. McKernon fishing tournament.*

Congratulations to these young folks who caught the largest fish at Stevens Park this year.

**Overall Winner:** Jon Saunders—18 ½" bass

**Ages 6 to 8:** 1<sup>st</sup>—Zayn Aolbaid, 2<sup>nd</sup>—Abel Leibrand, and 3<sup>rd</sup>—Sammy Hayes

**Ages 9 to 11:** 1<sup>st</sup>—Ashlee Davidson, 2<sup>nd</sup> (tied)—Braelyn Cespedes-Curtis and Lincoln Slagle

**Ages 12 to 13:** 1<sup>st</sup>—Rhys Pugh, 2<sup>nd</sup>—Bobby Kemp, and 3<sup>rd</sup>—Jai Hurd

**Ages 14 to 16:** 1<sup>st</sup>—Emmett Comaskey-Marcil and 2<sup>nd</sup>—Henry Bingham

**HMD Hosts Historic Home Tour**

On Saturday, May 20, 2023, Historic Medley District (HMD) hosted the popular Historic Ag Reserve Properties Tour to a sellout crowd of 150 people. It was organized and led by Poolesville resident historian and HMD Board of Directors member Kenny Sholes. The tour included visits to several area historic properties: Winderbourne (15001 Barnesville Road, Boyds); Solomon Simpson Plantation (19000 Beallsville Road, Beallsville); Darnall Farm (17615 White’s Ferry Road, Poolesville); Trundle Barn (20449 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson); Lindenwood Farm (20415 Westerly Road, Poolesville); and Mt. Ephraim (23720 Mt. Ephraim Road, Dickerson).

HMD thanks the property owners for generously opening their doors to the public on this special day.



*Kenny Sholes led a large group on his Historic Homes Tour to benefit HMD.*

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[facebook.com/barnesvillebaptistchurch](https://facebook.com/barnesvillebaptistchurch)



## Things to Do

Be sure to check out Senior News and Center Stage this issue for events, activities, and performances.

### Poolesville Farmers' Market

Whalen Commons. Saturdays, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

### Bingo at Bassett's

Mondays, 7:00 p.m.

### June 3

#### First Annual WUMCO Summer Food Collection Day

Hosted by Pike and Valega, DDS, this event is targeting a down-swing in food donations that occurs at the start of every summer. Be sure to stop by with a bag of canned and nonperishable items to help restock WUMCO shelves for the busy summer months. Dr. Pike will greet donors personally in the parking lot of their dentist offices. 19601 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville. 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

### June 5

#### Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall and online. 7:00 p.m.

### June 7

#### MUMC Monthly Community Dinner

Hot dogs and hamburgers, baked beans, salad bar, beverages, and dessert. Memorial United Methodist Church. 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

### June 10

#### UMCVFD BBQ Pork and Beef Fundraiser

Sandwiches and platters with sides. Baked goods sale. Beallsville Fire Hall, covered tables or carryout. 11:30 a.m. until sold out.

### A Taste of Riverworks

Observe local artists as they paint around town, followed by live music at Locals, then enjoy a bevy of entertaining events, featuring live music, dance, poetry, theater, a wet paint auction, adult and children's art activities, silent auction supporting Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre, beer and wine tent, ice cream, and, of course, Locals food at the new Riverworks Performance Center at 17617 West Willard Road in Poolesville. 11:00 a.m., painting around town; 2:00 p.m. to

4:00 p.m., live music at Locals; 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., entertainment at Riverworks Performance Center.

### WUMCO Free Community Clinic

Health services, including primary care, prescription refills, annual checkups, sick consultation, lab work. By appointment or walk-ins. Patients 18 and over, seniors, insured and uninsured. Poolesville Baptist Church. 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### Paper Shredding Event

Sponsored by the Monocacy Lions. All types of paper documents will be accepted, including old tax returns, bank statements, and medical records. Documents shredded on-site by Clean Cut Shredding. St Peter's parking lot. 9:00 a.m. to noon.

### June 16 and 17

#### St. Peter's Rummage Sale

Toys, games, dolls, kids' crafts, stuffed animals, baby items and clothing, garden items, sports equipment, patriotic decorations, and more. Donations accepted through June 13. Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### June 18

#### Happy Father's Day!

### Freedom at the Rock

Celebrate Juneteenth with the City of Rockville and Montgomery County at a special event featuring live music, food, art, films, and awards. This is a free family-friendly event. The day-long festival includes exhibits and vendors from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. BlackRock Center for the Arts, 12901 Town Commons Drive, Germantown. 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

### June 19

#### Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall and online. 7:00 p.m.

### June 23

#### UPN Special Event: Family Movie Night: *Maverick-Top Gun*

Bring chairs. Whalen Commons. 8:30 p.m.

### June 24

#### Annual Oddfellows Picnic

For seniors, widows, and widowers. Please RVSP by June 17 at 301-512-0490. United Memorial Methodist Church. 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.



## 31<sup>st</sup> Poolesville Day 5K Run/Walk



- ❖ Saturday, September 23 at 8AM
- ❖ Run/Walk Registration Now Open
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Send it along to [editor@monocacymonocle.com](mailto:editor@monocacymonocle.com)

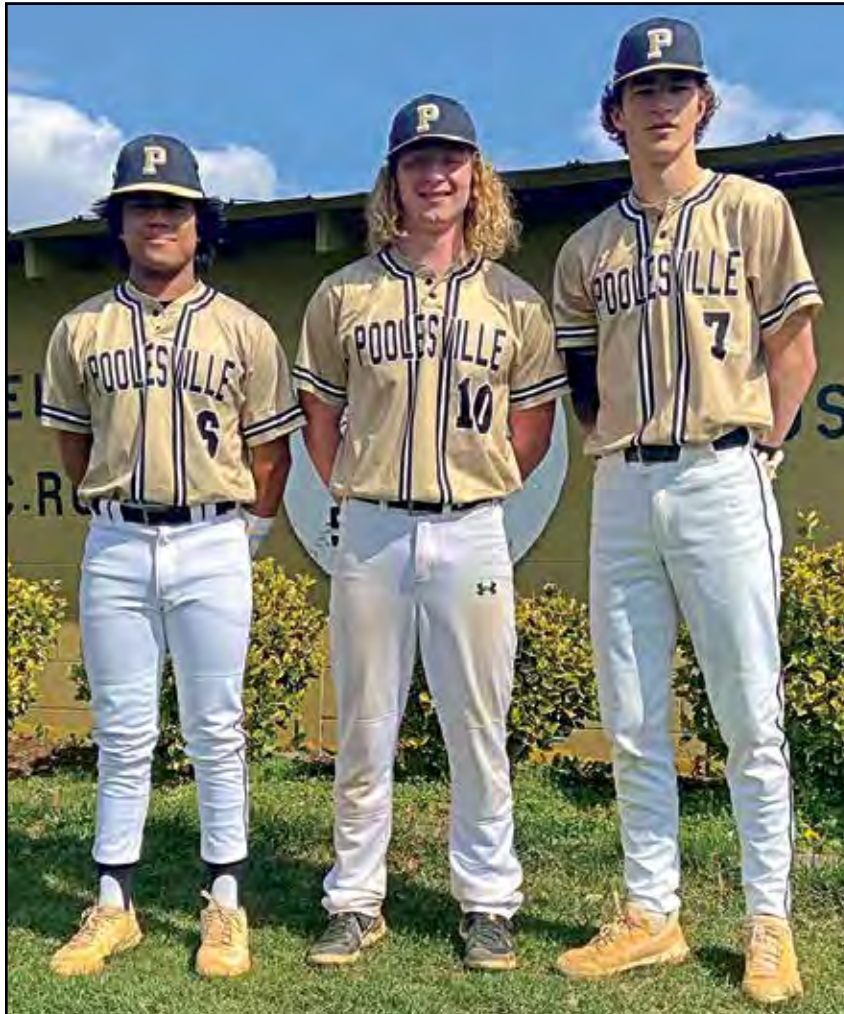


## Youth Sports

### Falcon Baseball Upsets Middletown in Playoffs

By Jeff Stuart

On Monday, May 15 at Middletown High School, the Poolesville baseball team advanced to the 2A West Region Final behind a complete game effort from Luke Pearre. Pearre allowed just three hits. He worked his way out of a bases loaded jam in the last inning, inducing a ground ball to the second baseman Parker Pearre who tossed to the shortstop Van Rosenbaum for the final out. Luke persevered despite taking a liner off his ankle in the second inning; he had six strikeouts.



Aaron Deluma, Aidan Roe, and Van Rosenbaum of the PHS baseball team.

Poolesville scored two runs in the top of the third inning after Middletown scored one in the bottom of the second. Luke, who is only a sophomore, has already committed to playing college ball for the University of Rhode Island. Middletown, who finished the season with a 17-4 mark, was one of the top-ranked teams in Maryland all season.

Coach Scott Davis recapped the seventh inning:

"The seventh inning was tense and very entertaining as Luke pulled his quad muscle and struggled a bit. He walked the first batter. Middletown bunted the runner to second, then Luke walked the third batter. The next batter reached on an error by catcher Leo Szego. Leo made a bad throw fielding another bunt. The bases were loaded with one out.

"With the infield in, first baseman Ryan Griffith made a good pick of a groundball and threw home to get the force out. Then came the last grounder to Parker.

"It was a pitching duel for sure. Our two runs scored in the third inning. Aiden Roe led off with a walk. Tanner Ivusic singled him to third. Luke grounded

Continued on page 23

## We reached our goal!

The Boyds Presbyterian Church extends its heartfelt thanks to our congregation and the community for donations made supporting our Building Improvements' Campaign. In April, a new roof was installed on our Vail Christian Education Building. Additional building improvements are in the works.

## THANK YOU!



Please join us and nurture your personal faith journey on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m., in-person or on Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3h8917D>. All are welcome.



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For more information, call WUMCO at 301-972-8481 or visit [www.wumcohelp.org](http://www.wumcohelp.org).



## Youth Sports

### Wins Over Damascus And Sherwood Highlight Boys' Volleyball Season

By Jeff Stuart

The Poolesville boys' volleyball team had its most successful season in a long while, featuring a home defeat of Damascus and a five-set win over Sherwood.

On April 17, at home, the Falcon boys' volleyball team defeated rival Damascus in straight sets, 25-8, 25-15, and 25-21. There was little drama. The win was convincing and satisfying. "A win over anybody is always a great thing, but especially over Damascus," said Coach Sarah Kenneweg. "I am proud of them for sticking with it and playing their game the entire game.

"We have a defense where anybody can step on the court at any given moment which is awesome. We have several players that can play several positions. Having that depth and lineup flexibility is nice. Meherzan Gai, a senior, is my libero this year. He is getting a lot of touches on the court. He really hustles and gets after it. He is always looking to get better. I have several newcomers this year. I have one freshman, Jayson Lee, who is eager to learn, and I have a junior, Aryan Jain, who asks a lot of questions. He wants to get better. The rest of these guys are also eager to learn and increase their skills. I love coaching the boys' team. It is frustrating at times but very rewarding at times."

"This year I think we have a really strong team," said senior captain Soren Brown. "We have really good players. We hit the ball well. We care a lot about the game. We are passionate. We are looking forward to doing well in the county tournament this year. I would like to give a shoutout to our libero, Meherzan. He puts in a lot of effort to get every ball up, and to Anmo Lee and Zafar Na, both juniors, and Zafar Mamat, a junior. All of us are working hard to make sure we do well as a team. We were motivated for the Damascus game. We ran all different types of plays. We were passing well. We got a lot of good hits. We played well. It was fun. This is my second year playing. Last year we had a couple of really clutch wins. It is really satisfying to win a game in the fifth set tie breaker. We beat Seneca Valley. It was a tough game. We were tied late in the last set. We had a long rally before getting the last point. We were all super excited and happy. It was a great feeling."

"This year our team has been really awesome," said junior captain Anmo Lee. "We have a close bond. It is like a family. We push each other to get better. We try our best at practice and at games. The Damascus game was fun. We crushed them. My shoutout goes to Noah Lee. We have been playing together since ninth grade. In the summer, we play together all the time on the grass courts near his house. I am looking forward to the Clarksburg game because we trash-talk each other. It is kind of a fun tradition...I am looking forward to seeing how we do in the playoffs. It will be a test for us."

"The Damascus match was a fun game," said junior captain Noah Lee. "We played a clean game. I am glad we did not make many mistakes. We played our hardest against Churchill. They have a really solid team. We lost, but it was one of our best efforts. My shoutouts go to Soren, Aryan Jain, and Zafar Mamat... Those guys really help to build up the morale of our team. They should do well next year. We are all having fun."

Other seniors are Araav Rotella, Charles Labarge, Thomas Zhong, and Andrew Yuan. Shalav Pawar is a sophomore.

"Our match over a good Sherwood team on April 25," said the coach, "is the hardest I have seen these boys play! There were many factors at play and this team never gave up. We had to endure multiple delays during the match because the lights kept turning off in the gym. We worked through that, but we lost the first two sets without much fight 17-25 and then 16-25, and then we flipped the switch and defeated Sherwood in the third set, 25-19. We worked together and communicated on the court. Our senior setter, Soren, made good decisions



PHS boys' volleyball team. Coach Sarah Kenneweg, manager Ricky Lopez, Meherzan Gai, Soren Brown, Charlie Labarge, Thomas Zhong, Araav Rotella, and Andrew Yuan.

and gave hittable balls to our hitters for easy kills. We continued to battle, winning the fourth set, 25-20. All the momentum was on our side; however, we knew Sherwood was not going to roll over without a fight. It was senior night for them. Both teams fought hard and were incredibly scrappy and aggressive at the net in the fifth set. We won, 15-13. This match changed our outlook on the season. We believe that we can accomplish anything! I always tell the boys that it does not matter what record you have, any team can beat any team on any given day."

The Falcons finished with a 6-5 record, winning their last three against Sherwood, Einstein, and Quince Orchard. They lost to Seneca Valley, 3-1, in the first round of the playoffs.

### Monocacy Lions Club

## PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>  
9 am to 12 noon



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This a free service, however,  
donations to the Monocacy Lions Club  
will be greatly appreciated.





Continued from page 21.

**Falcon Baseball Upsets Middletown in Playoffs**

out to third. Parker Pearre was walked intentionally. Van singled to drive in a run. Aaron Deluna grounded into fielder's choice. Middletown got the force out at home. With two out, Andrew Brill reached on an error by the second baseman to score the second run which proved to be the game winner."

Tanner had four putouts in rightfield and went two for three at the plate. On May 11 at home, the Falcons opened their playoff run with a 13-2 win over Oakland Mills. It was their first playoff win since 2019. Parker Pearre went three for three with two homeruns. His first homer scored Sam Lewis and Luke Pearre ahead of him. He had four RBIs and scored three times. The Falcons scored seven runs in the second inning and five more in the third.

Chuck Roe went two for three, with a triple and three RBIs. Aaron Deluna singled home a run. Van Rosenbaum doubled home another. On the mound, he allowed only one earned run in three innings pitched.

Glenelg defeated Poolesville, 8-0, to win the 2A Region Championship. Poolesville tied the game at two all in the top of the third, but Glenelg posted four runs in the fourth. PHS, uncharacteristically, made four errors. Glenelg finished the season at 19-2-2.

Van Rosenbaum pitched masterfully in his final high school game, allowing three hits and just one earned run in four innings. Szegi had a double. Roe went one for three, and Ian Harper struck out five in two innings of relief.

Luke Pearre and Parker Pearre were selected to the first team all-division squad. Van Rosenbaum and Andrew Brill were second team all-division selections.



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**Fun Fact...**

[wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baseball)

The earliest known reference to baseball is in a 1744 British children's publication, *A Little Pretty Pocket-Book*, by John Newbery. It contains a rhymed description of "base-ball" and a woodcut that shows a field set-up somewhat similar to the modern game—though in a triangular rather than diamond configuration, and with posts instead of ground-level bases.




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## Local Arts Scene

### The Arts in Poolesville

All activities take part at *Riverworks Studio, Alden Farms, 19215 Beallsville Rd., Beallsville* unless otherwise noted.

#### Every Friday

##### Open Jam Sessions

Bring your instrument and voice and join Brian Jamison as he leads these jam sessions. *Locals Farm Market, 19929 Fisher Ave.* Evening.

##### Open Studio

The Studio at Alden Farms is open for your use on Friday afternoons. Bring a project and share time and space with others working on their projects in the studio. Free. 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

#### June 2

##### Made in Studio, Watercolor Basics

Explore the basics of watercolor with Betsy Casaleno. Come away with your own piece of art! Sign up at [www.riverworksart.org/made-in-studio](http://www.riverworksart.org/made-in-studio). 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#### June 3

##### Community Roundtable Project Discussion, Writers & Painters: A Conversation—The Earth that Sustains Us

Celebrate the work of the writers and painters in this roundtable as they share their work product and experience with the community. More information at [www.riverworksart.org/communityroundtableproject](http://www.riverworksart.org/communityroundtableproject). 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

#### June 7 and 8

##### Two-Day Workshop: Paint Now!

Join James Vissari for this two-day workshop to get you painting! Sign up at [www.riverworksart.org/service-page/paint-now-june](http://www.riverworksart.org/service-page/paint-now-june). 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#### June 10

##### A Taste of Riverworks

Tour plein air sites and visit working artists, music, dance, poetry and theatre performances, adult and children's art activities, art sales and auction supporting Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre, beer and wine tent—and, of course, LOCALS food! For more information, visit [www.riverworksart.org/taste-of-riverworks](http://www.riverworksart.org/taste-of-riverworks). At the soon-to-be *Riverworks Performance Center, 17617 W. Willard Ave, Poolesville, MD 20837*. 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

#### June 24

##### Workshop—A Taste of Encaustic

Join Marcie Wolf-Hubbard for this three-hour workshop painting and collaging with wax! For more information, visit [www.riverworksart.org/service-page/taste-of-encaustic](http://www.riverworksart.org/service-page/taste-of-encaustic). 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

#### June 25

##### Basics of Painting Workshop, first of 6 sessions

Learn to paint with James Vissari in this six-week class. Sign up at [www.riverworksart.org/service-page/basics-of-painting](http://www.riverworksart.org/service-page/basics-of-painting). 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Continued from page 5.

#### School News

from September through March. The teams get really serious in January and then go full-time fact checking throughout March leading up to the competition.

Choosing the competition theme and costume is a sidebar favorite, and this year, JPMS students chose “The Wompy Rats” with sweatshirts designed by Sophia Dirks, sister of one of the team members. The three sub teams held their own throughout the competition, eventually taking home not only the first-place trophy, but second and fourth places as well.

Congrats not only to all the teams, but a special thanks to Mrs. Wiegand who is retiring at the end of the school year.

#### Proud of Our Young Artists

Congratulation to the 106 Poolesville Elementary artists that had their art showcased at the 2023 MCPS Montgomery Mall Art show! Their works were amazing!

#### 2023 Letters of Intent

Seventeen senior Falcon student-athletes signed Letters of Intent for the upcoming 2023-2024 season, including Anna Bodmer (Cross Country and Track and Field), Salisbury University; Ella Franklin (Basketball), SUNY Plattsburgh; Ashton Gaddis (Football), McDaniel College; Ava Lee (Diving), University of Binghamton; Anna Li (Swimming), Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Aaron Longbrake (Cross Country and Track and Field), Connecticut College; Nicholas Lowell (Swimming), Franklin and Marshall College; Charlie Matia (Swimming), Oberlin College; Peri Nelson (Cross Country and Track and Field), Salisbury University; Luke Pappano (Football and Track and Field), Catholic University; Declan O'Brien (Track and Field), Catholic University; Maggie Rose Rook (Swimming), Case Western Reserve University; Stefan Rich, (Football), Alvernia University; Van Rosenbaum (Baseball), Montgomery College; Evan Taylor (Football), McDaniel College; Stephanie Windall (Soccer), Montgomery College; and Suzy Xu (Tennis), Wellesley College.

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Event Sponsors:





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



# Ag News

## East Oaks Farm: An American Dream Come True

By Rande Davis

As Ali Mohadjer of East Oaks Farm near Poolesville tells us, he was just seven years old when his father in Tehran began gardening. His dad, a retired military officer, had his young son assist him with the flowers and fruit trees. As it happened, a passion for growing things began to grow within him, and the young lad developed quite a "little green thumb."

As an adult, his formal education and career were in electrical engineering and satellite communications. Still, the "farmer in the boy" never left the man, and his interest in agriculture found him inspired to complete several courses at the University of Maryland Extension in Sharpsburg, Maryland.

After emigrating in 1976, this American dreamer became a highly-successful farmer and even received awards and public recognition for his exceptional farming practices, including publications regarding his innovative and successful growing techniques. In fact, it was through his first farm, a thirty-three-acre farm in Sharpsburg, near West Virginia, purchased in May of 2007, that he eventually was named the 2013 "Washington County Farm of the Year." His selection was from 844 farms in the county!

He sold the farm in 2017, but just a few years ago, his heartstrings called him to return to farming, and he bought the historic 166-acre East Oaks Farm right here in the Poolesville area.

He sells beef, lamb, goat, chicken, and seasonally, turkey. The large animals are sold as whole animals, but the beef can be shared. An example of a shared sale is when four parties purchase a head of beef that he raises which they will share equally. The beef will be raised, butchered, packaged, and delivered to the owners. The smaller animals are sold whole. He also sells fresh eggs from his free-range, GMO-free chickens right from the farm. He even has one peacock, although we confess, we are not sure exactly how it fits into his plans other than for his personal enjoyment.

He has a huge heated all-season greenhouse that will ensure his sales of produce and flowers all year long. His produce is picked on the same day to ensure the highest quality. The produce can be purchased through direct buy at their Visitor Center at the farm located at 21524 White's Ferry Road on weekends.

The farm continues growth through sustainable farm practices, and it is continually expanding by offering new items sold directly from the farm to your kitchen table.

You may learn more by visiting their website at [www.eastoaksfarm.com](http://www.eastoaksfarm.com) or by becoming a Facebook friend to view their fresh produce and to read testimonies, weekly news updates, weekly recipes, as well as to see updated photos of the farm.

Ali is proud to share his passion with his family, Leyla, Rod, Roya, Mila, Vicki, and Cory.

Do you have an interesting story to share?  
Send it along to [editor@monocacymonocle.com](mailto:editor@monocacymonocle.com)

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Continued from page 8.

**PASC: Where Olympians Are Created**

Our pickleball Senior Olympics effort was made possible by the Poolesville Area Senior Center's sponsorship and the support of our town commissioners. The Poolesville Seniors pickleball players want to thank the town for providing the pickleball courts at Stevens Park. The town commissioners and Parks Board continue to address the growing interest in our pickleball efforts. Our group continues to grow with a Facebook page with over 120 members of mostly retired seniors, and a recent beginner's class of twelve additional players. Two other informal Poolesville groups of women and men (most of which are still working) play regularly at Stevens Park after work or in the afternoon.

An effort is underway to work with the county park system pickleball coordinator to add pickleball lines to the tennis courts at Owens Park. Having Owens Park available for pickleball will provide additional access during the summer when Stevens Park Camp activities use the courts between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and provide for evening play with lighted courts. This will support the increasing growth of pickleball play in Poolesville and will be beneficial to players who are still in the work force.

The courts continue to develop cracks and dead spots. The town commissioners have recognized the need to maintain the courts. They have allocated some funds for maintenance and are trying to secure a grant from AARP for the needed remaining funds of almost \$60,000.

Norman Spencer heralded the success of the Poolesville Pickleball contingent, "Congratulations to our teams who accomplished so much at the Senior Olympics after playing on courts with dead spots and breaks in the surface. Just imagine what they might accomplish if there were new surfaces for play in preparation for future National Senior Olympics games. The National Senior Olympics is a bi-annual event. Our winners in this odd year do not go on to the National Olympics. Let's hope they are back next year for the national competition."

**Senior Olympics results for 2023:**

**Men's Doubles**

- Division II (age 55-59) Top 5— Jeff McIntyre and Jim Berry
- Division II (age 65-69) GOLD — Brian Peper and Jerry Greaney
- Division I (age 75-84) 4<sup>th</sup> – Lee Bristol and Ira Hudson
- Division II (age 75-89) GOLD — Norm Spencer and Mike Davis
- Division II (age 60-65) Top 5 – Tom Chang and Jerry Yu

**Mixed Doubles**

- Division II (age 60-64) Top 5 – Tom Chang and Deb Ahern
- Division II (age 65-69) GOLD – Brian Peper and Gwen Haney
- Division I (age 65-69) BRONZE— Patty Walker and Mario D'Ambrosio
- Division I (age 75-84) GOLD — Ng Way and Arlene Smith
- Division II (age 75-84) GOLD — Tookie Gentilcore and Norman Spencer

**Men's Singles**

- Division II (age 55-59) SILVER— Jeff McIntyre
- Division II (age 60-64) Top 5— Tom Chang
- Division II (age 70-74) BRONZE— Jerry Greaney

**Women's Doubles**

- Division I (age 60-64) BRONZE — Patty Walker and Dori Reiss



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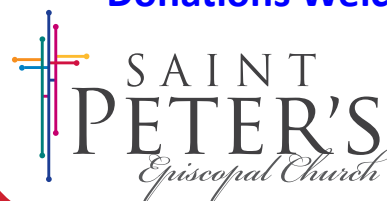
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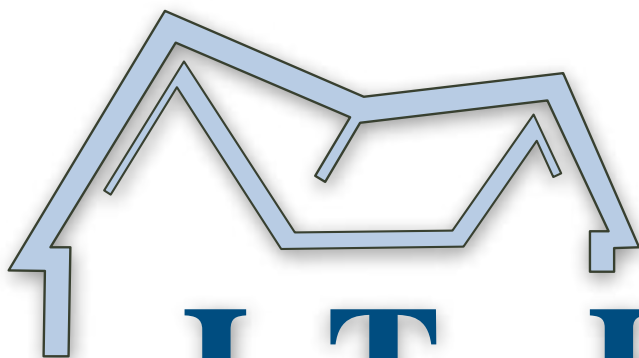
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Continued from page 1.

### Uncle Watty's Dilemma: A True Story of Friendship Between the Races during the Civil War in Poolesville

people (*Blacks worshipped from the upstairs gallery.*) He sat at the end of the front rows in that gallery, nearly opposite the pulpit. (*St. Peter's old Rector's Office still has an outline of a doorway near the ceiling into the upper gallery where Blacks joined in the service.*) It would have been a mixture of slave and free. He sang with fervor, and I well remember that the tears would glisten on his cheeks and beneath his spectacles when the exhortations of the preacher touched the sympathetic heart. The pews for the white folk were arranged on the ground floor, with the women on one side and the men on the other side of the aisle. Along the walls of the latter dark spots marked the places where many weary saints had rested.

Uncle Watty regularly appeared among the gatherings of his friends on the store porches, with a large square basket, with folding lids, filled with tempting cakes, fresh from the hands of his helpful wife.

When the war began, the village, by reason of its relative position to Washington city and the several ferries on the Potomac, naturally, and yet much to the surprise of the good people of the neighborhood, emerged from its seclusion into an important point for the defense of the national capital and became a center of army operations during the first and second years of the war.

What a mighty change the war made in the South. It was an upheaval—an earthquake. It marked an epoch. It rolled up the past into a completed scroll of history. The olden times and the scenes of the days before the war will never return. With the war, into this community, came thousands of brave soldiers, who became distinguished in its annals while the great conflict went on, and the mingled waves of sorrow and glory rolled over a distracted county.

The presence of soldiers singing "John Brown's Body" really gave the colored people of the neighborhood their freedom, sometime even before the Emancipation Proclamation was issued (*Maryland freed slaves before the Emancipation*). In this abrupt change in their social condition, the colored people had to rely upon their resources.

Uncle Watty's amateur calling, by the stress of circumstances, became the means of support for himself and his wife, Aunt Polly. Every day, the honest, struggling old man could be seen busy with his basket of cakes in the camps. As a soldier would look in upon them with wistful eyes, he could almost hear them sing:

"We come from a home fragrant with sugar and spice,  
We are horses, diamonds, and hearts so sweet, so nice—  
Like old Santa used to put in stockings for thee,  
We would plead for hearts and hands that long to be free."

Uncle Watty's business soon outgrew his basket and his lame leg. Fortunately, for him, at this time, several condemned government horses were turned loose to die by a passing squad of troopers. He appropriated one of them. It had been the victim of rough service and was apparently on its last legs, and followed with difficulty its delighted captor, who with rope in hand Uncle Watty introduced it to Aunt Polly. "If we can make a genuine success of it, we can call it Flying Cloud, after Marse Fenton Audd's racer, which beat Mermaid in the old field last year." By his kind and careful attention, old Fly Cloud made a strong and healthy recovery and proved essential in help to Watty with his cakes business. By his kind and careful nursing by the old man and his wife, the animal became a useful animal. He would attach a shakly wagon and harness to carry his cakes through the camps.

It was never quiet along the Potomac whenever Uncle Watty was on the road, for snatches of songs and hymns filled in any interlude and sometimes ever rose above the clatter of his original outfit, the outgrowth of necessity and poverty, ingenuity, and perseverance. Uncle Watty and Aunt Polly toiled on. He became the soldiers' favorite, and he prospered.

About this time, I left the village and did not return until my vacation the following summer. When meeting with him, in reply to my inquiry how he was getting along, he said, "Marse Ed, I am all broke up. Don't you know that when some new soldiers came along on their way to Gettysburg, and saw the U.S. stamped on my horse, they took it?" I told him this was the first I heard of it. "Why you made a good horse out of one turned away to die, and the government got him." The old man's face brightened up as he said, "What can I do?" I said, "Go down to Washington and ask the president for another. Do you not believe he will give you one?" The colored people had implicit faith in Abraham Lincoln,

and it is scarcely exaggeration when I say they believed his shadow, like that of the Apostles', healed all on whom it happened to fall; and they learned he was kind and generous to the needy and the deserving. "I don't know him, and I couldn't see him if I went," he said. As he turned away, I lightly replied, "Well, I could give you a letter of introduction to him. Think about it."

It turned out he took me up on my words, as he called upon me the next day for the letter of introduction to Lincoln. We talked the matter over seriously. "Have faith, Uncle Watty and do your best." Uncle Watty said, "I does believe the Lord will help. I feels it. He takes as good care of us on the rocks as he does on the pines on the Sugar Loaf and wouldn't he care for me?"

I wrote the letter to the president. I gave Uncle Watty's story in full about the horse condemned to die; laid stress on the fact the he restored it, useful and valuable to the army in preparatory to the battle at Gettysburg—his contribution to the war for the Union; that he had been a faithful servant, and was a worthy man; and now, in his old age, without any fault of his own, was dependent on his own exertions and precarious calling for a livelihood. I asked the president to give him another horse. I enclosed the letter in a large envelope.

In a few days, Uncle Watty found his way to Washington and to the White House, with the letter in his hand, and gave it to an usher, who carried it upstairs to the president and later brought it back with a memorandum and directed him to carry it to the quartermaster general's department (to be given a new horse). The old man's return to the village with another horse, was to his friends, young and old, the crowning event of his life.

Uncle Watty was delighted to tell his experience on his memorable trip to Washington and of the kindness he received, and he used to close his tale with the exclamation, "The half of it can never be told. I bless the Lord."

Uncle Watty sleeps near the God's acre at the old church he loved so well. The representatives of another generation crowd the gallery, the dark spots on the wall and the boxes filled with sand on the men's side have disappeared. We indulge the hope that all the sinners have joined the saints in a happier world, and it is all quiet along the Potomac; but the story of Uncle Watty and his horse and the justice and kindness of heart of the great man, who burdened with the cares of the high office he filled and adorned in the perilous times in which he was the commanding figure, paused to give a helping hand to a poor, yet worthy, colored man, are remembered as a happy episode of other and trying days.

The United States are again the United States. If Uncle Watty could speak for his people today, he would say for them the U.S. brand stamped on the iron gray has a wider significance, for they include US.

The village has never returned to its old times' quietude, for within a few miles is a great railroad, its belts of steel spanning the continent and clasping the oceans (B&O Railroad). It has been noted by the faithful chronicler of the neighborhood that at the close of a long day, when the oldest residents have been reviewing the incidents of war, and the distant echoes of an approaching or receding train falls upon them, they are always reminded of the exploits of Uncle Watty and his horse through the village and along the Potomac.

## Marketplace



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## Remembrances

### M. Gene Bennet

M. Gene Bennett passed away on May 10, 2023, at his home in Poolesville. Known for his distinctive handlebar mustache and no-nonsense approach, Gene epitomized a life well lived.

Born on December 27, 1929, in Ansted, West Virginia, Gene was a wonderful Christmas gift to his parents, Samuel and Florina. He was the youngest of six children and round-ed out the numbers as the third son, joining his two brothers, Jim and Ray, and his three sisters, Novella, Rosemary, and Beulah.

Gene met the love of his life in Ansted in 1947 at "Pat and Bert's Lunch" where he would stop by for a hot dog after working evenings at the Ritz Theatre. One night, Patty, the daughter of Pat and Bert, intentionally short-changed Gene in hopes of him returning. They went on their first date two weeks later and married in 1950. Nearly sixty-nine years of marriage yielded three sons and enough wonderful memories together for multiple lifetimes.

Gene was a graduate of the West Virginia Institute of Technology and Catholic University, where he received his master's degree. A lifelong educator, Gene taught in a one-room schoolhouse in Ramsey, West Virginia, high school in Fairfax and Montgomery Counties, and for both the U.S. Army and Office of Personnel Management. A U.S. Army veteran, his service extended far beyond his military enlistment. Gene was active in Scouting, the Town of Poolesville, the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFEA), and Montgomery County Public Schools.

His Christian faith served as the foundation for all aspects of Gene's life. He was an active member of First Baptist Church of Rockville for twenty-five years and later of both Poolesville and Barnesville Baptist Churches. Gene participated in multiple mission trips, including a trip to Haiti. He was a deacon, Sunday school director and teacher, trustee, and outreach director and was dedicated to sharing the good word with others.

After his retirement from the U.S. Government in 1986, Gene filled his days traveling with Patty in an Airstream and made lifelong friends across the country. Gene was a master mason and a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He was the founder of the 2x4 Square Dancing Club in Poolesville, a line dancing instructor, and a talented musician, playing bluegrass and gospel music on the mandolin and guitar.

Gene was preceded in death by his parents and his siblings. He is survived by his three devoted sons, Greg (Elsa), Brian (Heather), and Brad (Chrystal); four grandsons and one granddaughter; and five great-grandchildren. In addition to his family, Gene will be profoundly missed by the many people whose lives he impacted and his loyal canine companion, Angie, the beagle.

Memorial contributions may be made in Gene's name to Montgomery Hospice or to the Montgomery County SPCA. Services will be private.



M. Gene Bennet

### Patricia A. Ferris

Patricia A. Ferris, age 89, of Dickerson, died on May 17, 2023. She was the wife of Charles "Wes" Ferris who died in 1991.

Pat was an active member of the Poolesville Community, including the Women of St. Peter's, Truth and Hope, the Girl Scouts, the Friendly Thrift Shop, and the International Order of Odd Fellows. For many years, Pat could be found in the classrooms, cafeterias, and offices at Poolesville Elementary, Monocacy Elementary, and Poolesville High Schools. Pat was a coach for the fourth and fifth grade girls' softball team and also helped lead Camp Sunshine in Boyds for many summers and found much joy in her time with Girl Scouts. Pat dearly loved her friends and was highly regarded and remembered for serving and helping others.

She is survived by her children, Susan, Sandra (Ted), Stephanie, and Samantha (Rob); fourteen grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren; brother Richard (Becky) and sister Nancy (Earl), sister-in-law Joan; three nieces, and five nephews.

The family would like thank hospice for its tremendous support, and Pat's caregiver Harriet whose love and care of Pat were immeasurable. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Hospice of Montgomery & PG County or to the Monocacy Cemetery in Beallsville.



Patricia A. Ferris

### Spencer Hayes Prather

Spencer Prather departed this life on Friday, May 5, 2023, at his home in Poolesville, Maryland.

He grew up in Laytonsville and Rockville and attended school in Montgomery County.

Better known as "Pete," he was a proud World War II U.S. Army Veteran; as such, he was awarded an American Theater Service Ribbon, European-African-Middle Eastern Ribbon, World War II Victory Ribbon, and Good Conduct Medal. After his tour of duty, he was honorably discharged at Ft. George G. Meade in 1945.

He was a member of Elijah United Methodist Church in Poolesville until the church disbanded.

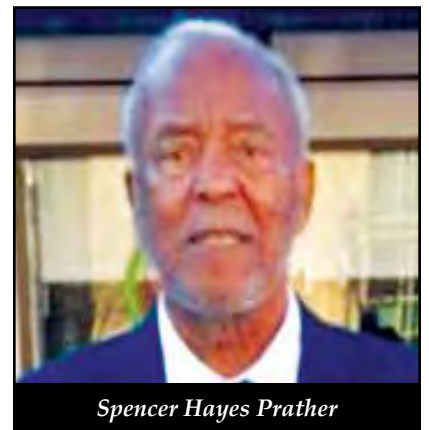
Spencer was remembered as being very organized and meticulous with his tools and vehicles. He was known to always be stylish and fashionable. He took pride in keeping his dress shoes polished and shined.

His special interests included watching baseball, football, and golf, and playing bid whist. He found pleasure in listening to 96.3 WHUR and smoking a cigar on his front porch. On a warm sunshiny day, you could find him on his porch sharing a friendly wave as cars drove by, putting a smile on his face. His home is known in the community as the happening place to be, visit/hangout for fun, always welcoming.

As a teenager, Spencer worked as a golf caddy for Norbeck Country Club in Norbeck, and Manor and Woodmont Country Clubs in Rockville. He often advised golfers on which golf club to use. Living next door to Snowden Funeral Home, Spencer worked there while it was under the ownership of Robert "Mike" Lee Snowden. He was a dump truck owner/operator and a bus driver for Montgomery County Public Schools.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Anna Elizabeth Prather; sisters, Justina Prather and Delores Crutchfield; and brother, Kermit Prather.

He leaves to cherish his memories daughters, Patricia, Francis, Joyce (Chester), and Cynthia, and a son, Spencer (Kathy); grandchildren, Dwayne (Cathy), Shawn, Chester, Spencer, Jenelle, April, Ricky, and Anisa (he was affectionately called "PeePee" by his grandchildren); great-grandchildren; and a host of other devoted family and friends.



Spencer Hayes Prather



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Continued from page 4.

**Results on Possible Poolesville Co-op Grocery Study**

best product mix to serve our residents and to ensure the store operates successfully will need to be developed.

The study establishes a Trade Area which is the area around Poolesville where residents are most likely to be attracted to the new co-op. Almost seven thousand people live in this area, and collectively they spend more than \$500,000 each week on groceries.

The study finds that four stores currently attract about three quarters of the shopping dollars from the residents in the Trade Area: Harris Teeter in Darnestown, Safeway in Quince Orchard, Giant in Kentlands, and Whole Foods in Kentlands. Whole Foods takes nearly one quarter of the dollars spent in the four stores with Harris Teeter close behind. Almost twenty-five percent of the dollars spent by residents go to other stores beyond these four such as Costco and Sam's Club, among others.

With the right conditions, the analysis shows the store could garner up to a forty percent plus market share of the more than \$500,000 that is spent each week on groceries by residents of the Trade Area.

According to the study, the amount of money generated by the store increases due in part to its size, but the amount of growth is not constant, meaning if you increase the size of the store by ten percent, you won't see a ten percent growth in return. Size alone is not the sole or even major determinant of the store's success.

The study examined four locations in town for the store based on key factors such as visibility and accessibility. It did not assess at all any current or future uses or plans for the properties included or discuss feasibility in terms of things like the Town's Master Plan. The properties assessed in the study are:

- Northwest corner of Fisher Avenue and Fyffe Road (vacant land parcel proposed for a sixty-five single family unit housing development near Whalen Commons).
- Northwest corner of Fisher Avenue and Wootton Avenue (vacant land parcel for sale adjacent to the Tractor Supply shopping area).
- South side Fisher Avenue (east of McDonald's/north of Tractor Supply which would require modifications to parts of the existing strip shopping center).
- North side Wootton Avenue and Hoskinson Road (open areas around Dillingham Park).  
Additional properties (not assessed in the study) that might be worth considering, depending in part on how they might affect the success of the store based on the data and research gathered, include:
- Corner of Norris and Wootton Avenues (adjacent to Poolesville High School), current location of the former BB&T Bank on Fisher Avenue.

Continued from page 10.

**Grand Marshal Nominations for Poolesville Day Open June 1**

**2004:** Lions Club, Odd Fellows, American Legion, Earl Moore (UMCVD Fire Police and Fire Leaders Chief) and Sgt. Frank, Brown (MCPD, County Police, Fifth District)

The Poolesville Day Committee welcomes nominations for this important position. Nominations will be accepted starting on June 1 and ending on July 31. Entry forms will be available on the committee website during that time and can be submitted directly on the site. The web address is [www.poolesvilleday.com](http://www.poolesvilleday.com).

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## Celebrating 34 Years of Service

### Rise of Ticks and Their Disease Partners

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

Disease-carrying ticks are on the rise throughout the northeast, mid-Atlantic, and southeast U.S. That is bad news for pet owners and their furry friends.

Just like their humans, pets that spend any time outdoors are vulnerable to a variety of diseases carried by the five different types of ticks found in our area. Lyme, anaplasmosis, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, and ehrlichiosis diseases have been on the rise among pets, with cases of Lyme disease doubling over the last year.

Ticks have become a common enemy for humans and animals alike. In recent years, the disease-carrying arachnids (they have eight legs) have spread throughout the region and are now present year-round. This is due to the current warming trend. People who spend time outside are already reporting high tick activity this spring, and pet owners need to take precautions to protect as fully as possible their four-legged companions and themselves. Extremely effective oral preventatives are now present. If you wish to continue using a topical, check with your veterinarian for the type that they recommend (it may not be what you think).

The diseases that over 60% of ticks in our area carry can be screened for by an antigen/antibody blood test done in the office or from the veterinary laboratory. Any positive results should be discussed with your veterinarian.

So far this year, one out of eight dogs screened for Lyme disease in Maryland has tested positive, according to the Companion Animal Parasite Council. Those numbers have been holding steady for the last ten years.

People are more vigilant about Lyme disease. It's endemic here in Maryland. We need to be more vigilant for our furry pals also.

Dogs can be vaccinated against Lyme disease, but there are no vaccines for anaplasmosis or ehrlichiosis. Anaplasmosis and ehrlichiosis cases in dogs have more than doubled over the last ten years here, according to the parasite council data. Consistent and timely use of tick preventatives can greatly reduce infection.

Lyme disease and anaplasmosis are carried by deer ticks, while ehrlichiosis is carried by the lone star tick. Both are present in Maryland.

Most dogs exposed to Lyme will not show clinical signs. Dogs are considered in one of three clinical states after testing: Negative, subclinically positive, or actively positive. For those that do become sick (about 27% will show one or more signs), symptoms include fever, lethargy, decreased appetite, lameness, gastrointestinal, neurologic, and kidney or heart issues. Clinical signs in actively positive cases may not be seen for months after a tick bite. Most people never see the tick bite on their pet.

Unlike humans, dogs do not show the distinctive bull's eye rash at the site of a deer tick bite. When treated with antibiotics, dogs have an excellent chance for recovery; however, a rare complication associated with Lyme disease can cause kidney damage and is ultimately fatal.

Many dogs that test positive for anaplasmosis also never become ill or require treatment. Dogs that do become ill are treated with the antibiotic doxycycline, and there is a good prognosis for recovery. Symptoms include fever, decreased appetite and lethargy, and when treated, there is an excellent chance of recovery.

Left untreated, ehrlichiosis can be fatal in dogs. When caught in time and treated with antibiotics, there is a good chance of recovery, though repeated antibiotic treatments may be needed. Symptoms of ehrlichiosis include loss of appetite, lethargy, and unusual bruising or bleeding.

Rocky Mountain spotted fever, carried by the American dog tick, is also now in Maine, and dogs are at risk. Typically, a dog that has become infected may have a poor appetite, muscle or joint pain, fever, coughing, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhea, and swelling of the face or legs.



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