

# The Monocacy

# MONOCLE

*Keeping an Eye on Local News*

*A Monthly Newspaper*

August 2023 • Volume XIX, Number 6



*A grand lady returned for a visit. Learn who and why in Local News on page 3.*



*MC Ag Fair: Its history of 4-H, Rides, and Food. The story of the grand tradition can be found on page 8.*



*UMCVFD sponsored another great Independence Day fireworks celebration! See pictures on page 10.*



*This former Seneca Schoolhouse student suffered a tragic death. Learn who she was and what happened on page 22 in In Your Own Backyard.*

## *Town Commissioners Approve Reduction in Impact Fees for Willard Development*

By Link Hoewing

The bulk of the Town of Poolesville Commissioners' July 17 meeting was devoted to discussing a recommendation from the Planning Commission to approve a reduction in the per-house impact fee for homes to be constructed in the so-called "Fishpool Project." Fishpool LLC is the name given by the Willards to the proposed single family housing project to be built on their property just west of Poolesville Town Hall.

The Planning Commission originally approved in May of 2021 a proposal to apply the town's overlay regulations to the Fishpool Project. The Overlay Zone was created to encourage development/redevelopment within the commercial zone of the town while remaining in conformance with the architectural guidelines and visions of

Appendix C of the town's Master Plan. Appendix C includes guidelines for the design of buildings and housing in the town's Central Business District (CBD). While guidelines, they are intended to influence the "look and feel" of structures built in the CBD, so they reflect the integrity and embody the historical nature of the existing buildings in the area.

The regulations also provide the opportunity for the town and developers to enter into a discretionary review process. For the Fishpool Project, the Overlay Zone requires residential units to adhere to strict architectural standards that are designed to create a small-town feel with porches fronting Fisher Avenue, walkable neighborhoods, and dynamic transitions into neighboring properties. While there

can be no guarantees due to market conditions, the Willards have said they planned to construct homes of no more than 2,000 square feet, single story, and priced to be much more affordable than the larger homes that have recently been built in town. The project also includes numerous public improvements, including a parking area for the John Poole House and a new pedestrian walkway that will connect Whalen Commons to the "Historic West End" of town near the Historic Medley District headquarters and Locals.

The Planning Commission met on numerous occasions in recent months to discuss and finally vote on a proposal to reduce the impact fees on the Fishpool Project. Wade Yost, the town

**Continued on page 13.**

## *Bill Harris, Legendary and Beloved Educator, Passes Away*

By Rande Davis

William Norman "Bill" Harris went to be with his Lord on July 7, 2023 after a long illness.

Born and raised in Washington, D.C., he was the son of the late Lucy (Holsey) Harris and Clarence Norman Harris.

Bill attended McKinley Technology High School and graduated from Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois with a degree in music performance and education. Later, he earned advanced degrees in music education. Bill was a lifetime member of the John Wesley AME Zion Church in Washington, D.C.

Bill was a career educator of thirty-nine years (1974-2014) in Montgomery County Public Schools where he taught at both the elementary and middle school levels.

In addition to being a renowned music educator, Bill was the consummate performer. He sang at many local

venues, including: the Arts Club of Washington, Heritage Signature Chorale of Washington, Georgetown Club, NSO Choir, Medical Musical Group, Montgomery College (*Little Shop of Horrors* and *Fiddler on the Roof*), and most recently in Leonard Bernstein's *Mass* as part of the 2021-2022 fiftieth anniversary of the John F. Kennedy Center. Bill also sang and conducted youth choirs in many local churches.

In retirement, Bill became a licensed, professional Master Guild tour guide and director in Washington, D.C. and New York City.

Bill was a gifted, beloved educator with an abiding passion for the success and welfare of his students, many of whom developed lasting friendships with him. His skill in the classroom and mastery at producing memorable choral productions endeared him to countless students, parents, and colleagues.



*Bill Harris: A man with a perpetual smile and a song.*

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Amyloidosis Research Consortium (ARC).

*Family Album*

# Wet and Wild!



## A Monocacy Moment



—Bill Harris—  
*A Spirit of Joy*

A production  
of Pinocchio



## Local News

### Local Opening of Documentary about PHS Desegregation of 1956

By Rande Davis

The public opening of the documentary, 10 Days in September, was held on July 15 at Poolesville's United Methodist Church. The occasion was sponsored by the Historic Medley District as part of its mission to provide more in-depth historical awareness to the community. Poolesville's Fair Access Committee chairman, Link Hoewing, hosted the proceedings.

The documentarian, Joey Geehreg, was just a freshman when he was inspired by his history teacher, Mr. Terry Turner, to produce the film that covers the nine days in September 1956 when Poolesville Junior-Senior High School was desegregated. His film follows the protest occurring that September that was led by an anti-desegregation activist, Everett Savage from Kensington. Those students who were held out of school in protest represented about forty percent of the student body, and within ten days, the intense protest fizzled out and nearly all students began attending classes.



Documentarian, Joey Geehreg.

As Montgomery County began to take steps to integrate, the process which began down county in 1955 finally got to Poolesville in 1956. Interestingly, Poolesville eventually enrolled fifteen black students, the largest number of blacks of any other county school.

Joey Geehreg completed his film journey while enrolled at Virginia Tech. He noted in his presentation of the film that his mission goals were to make sure the entire story was thoroughly researched and told while those young black students who led the way forward were still alive, and he wanted to make sure much misinformation about the events were cleared up. As an example, many in the area believed PHS was the first to integrate, when it was, in fact, the last. Most of the other schools only enrolled a few students, while the planning in Poolesville had to be more extensive due to the larger number of students. The ill-advised attempt to stop or delay the desegregation, although very heated at times, never crossed over into violence, and was short-lived, lasting barely a week.

HMD's Knight Kiplinger observed at the presentation that, at the time, a citizen advisory committee was developed to discuss and provide guidance as to how to advance desegregation. Their plan to delay the process twelve years, starting with the first grade, was not accepted by the county.

Longtime Poolesville High School history teacher, Terry Turner, provided much of the historical information about the events of that September and provided mentorship and guidance to Geehreg.

Joey interviewed George Barnes, who, at nine years old, was one of the nine students who were the first blacks to attend PHS. The pain and hurt experienced is still in his heart today, but he rose above the challenge of the objections and taunts to become a stellar scholar-athlete and went on to major in biology in college, inspired by PHS science teacher, Mr. Albert Cicheskic.

Poolesville's Skip Etheridge, whose family ancestry in the area dates back many generations, provided the viewer of the video with insight into the perspective of the African American experience. Mr. Etheridge proffered the idea that a wall of honor should be established in the soon-to-be renovated high school to honor the historical and courageous role of those black students who were the first to be enrolled.

Continued on page 11.

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## Rande(m) Thoughts On Those Who Once Walked among Us

By Rande Davis

I am relieved that the hazy, lazy, crazy days of summer in July are over. It was a wild ride of excess. July had another terrific UMCVFD fireworks festivity on the Fourth, with what I think might have been the best display yet—although I might not be the best judge even though I helped park cars at the event as a Monocacy Lions for better than ten years. After standing in the dust for four hours, collecting what was then \$5.00, once I heard the sound of the first of the fireworks, I always hopped in my car and got out of there before the dreaded lineup of departing cars. I must say, the departure really was not bad at all. Maybe getting older just makes me more patient.

For the longtime residents, our article in the August issue on the history and the preview of the Montgomery County Agriculture Fair will trigger many fond memories. For our newbies, you are not fully part of the community until you have experienced the traditions, sounds, smells, and joys of our county's premier festival. Once you attend your first one, we can issue you an officially-approved resident card of Montgomery County.

The July issue featured a photo collage of the ag fair before the development of the current fair, which is now celebrating its seventy-fourth year. We in the Upcounty take full credit for being the precursor of the fair, and we are quite amused by down county stalwarts maintaining it was Rockville. We can have the debate, but in our hearts, we know the right answer.

Jon Wolz's In Your Own Back Yard column is a stunning historical record. Most of us are quite familiar with the photo of one of the last groups of students attending the one-room schoolhouse on River Road. You see the photo both in the Seneca Schoolhouse and at the John Poole House. If

you are not familiar with the photo because you haven't been inside either location, then we have to pull your county residence card and will hold it until you do. Old photos seem to always intrigue, but when you get to read a bit of their life stories, history comes alive. The tragic death of one student will break your heart. Our September issue will cover the history of the remaining students.

July was a heartbreaker month for us. The phrase "gone to soon" resonated heartily about three beloved members of our small community. Bill Harris, who was the Music Man of Poolesville Elementary School, was a legendary educator, an icon of positive energy and joy. He touched the hearts of our youth now turned middle-aged in ways that warm their memories of their time with him. Be sure to read our special tribute to him as Pinocchio during the school Halloween parade. His spirit jumps out from our pages.

Kenny Mallow was another in Bill's mold, with his style of positive joy, a man hard to think of without that familiar smile on his face. He was a kind man, always ready to be of help.

Christl Pedro died tragically in a car accident. She lived alone, never married, and had no children. She served us at Selby's Market, Tractor Supply, and Poolesville Dry Cleaners until very recently retiring. You may not have known her name, but you knew her face. Her passing moved people to more than four hundred responses on Facebook. She would have never imagined the outpouring of sympathy and sadness upon her death. Her life is a profound example of how, through modest service to others, you can have an important impact on them.

I have always maintained that the greatest honor and most humbling joy of publishing the *Monocle* is to be able to pass on the story of our dearly departed, not just to those people living today, but to those far into the future, decades from now. The stories of our dear friends, neighbors, and families will be read by a historian, and their lives will once again shimmer with vitality and bring meaning and purpose. Print provides permanence. Everything else is like the wind.

## Letter to The Editor Dear Editors:

We were pleased to see the detailed article in the June *Monocle* about our plans to create a historical marker to acknowledge the lynching of Mr. George Peck in 1880. Seeing White and African-American Poolesville residents at our event discussing the importance of installing this marker was inspiring. We'd like to make one correction: The location of the marker will be in front of the community garden on Elgin Road, in the right-of-way controlled by the Town of Poolesville.

Despite the progress that has been made, we still have a long way to go in educating and engaging more of the community on the history and legacy of slavery, lynching, and racism in Montgomery County. On that note, we take issue with the "Uncle Watty" story that was intentionally paired with the article on our event on the front page. Saying that enslaved people spent their Sundays "free from the cares and burdens of everyday life, they merrily chattered like flocks of happy birds" is hard to swallow as history. According to records in the

Maryland State Archives (slavery.msa.maryland.gov/html/casestudies/mocs), many enslaved people in the county chose the dangerous path of escape rather than remain in bondage. For example, "a large slave flight from the Poolesville area" took place in 1831. The Uncle Watty story also suggests that Maryland ended slavery before the Emancipation Proclamation. Lincoln's proclamation in 1863 only freed those in states that had seceded and thus did not cover Maryland. Maryland's Emancipation took place in 1864, and the act abolishing slavery for all in the U.S. was passed in 1865.

That said, we agree with Mr. Davis's editorial that no single event—whether heroic or painful—can define a community. Uncovering and facing the full breadth of our history is an important step in racial healing. We look forward to creating more opportunities to discuss ways that Poolesville can acknowledge its past and create a community that is inclusive and fair to all. We hope we can create a history that all our children, and our children's children, can be proud of.

Sincerely,

Alexa Fraser, on behalf of the  
Montgomery County Lynching  
Memorial Project

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Keeping an Eye on Local News

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## Fun Fact...

patch.com

The first known agricultural fair in North America took place in Windsor, Nova Scotia in 1765 and continues to this day. The first American fair is thought to have been organized in Pittsfield, MA in 1807 by Franklin Watson. It became known as the Berkshire County Fair and still operates as such today. In 1841, New York organized the first state agricultural fair in Syracuse. Overall, forty-seven of the fifty states have a state fair. (Only Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts don't have their own state fairs.) There are more than 3,200 agricultural fairs given annually in the United States.

## Garden

### Where Have All the Flowers Gone?

By Maureen O'Connell

In 2010, I planted twelve *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Endless Summer' shrubs. They were highly recommended as one of the best hydrangeas on the market throughout the country. They were introduced in 2004 and revolutionized the market. This plant was discovered during a tour through Bailey Nurseries in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1998. During this tour, Dr. Michael Dirr, a well-known professor of horticulture at the University of Georgia, noticed a unique hydrangea that produced flowers on both the old wood (as most varieties do) and on new shoots. He had never seen this trait before, and so 'Endless Summer' came to be. He introduced them to garden centers all over the country, and they became instantly popular.

They carry a plethora of round, Nantucket blue flowers from June to September and October. They were perfect: low maintenance, no pests and no diseases. They grow three to five feet tall. The more acidic the soil, the bluer the flowers; the more alkaline, the pinker the flowers. For years, I carefully watched their growth during the year, especially during the late spring months of April and May. About five or six years ago, I noticed that my hydrangeas were not exhibiting new leafy growth on established canes. The new growth on the plants could only be seen on the base of the plant closest to the grounds despite the presence of prior bud growth on the canes. The buds on the canes produced in the fall months were black and dead. I knew then that there would not be many, if any, bright blue flowers all summer. The many old stems were now ugly, and most were dead.



2022: *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Endless Summer' in full bloom.



2023: The same 'Endless Summer' hydrangea with no blooms.

What happened? The killer frosts of late April and May.

'Endless Summer' is hyped as having excellent winter hardiness and can withstand winter temperatures well below freezing. They claimed that this meant that flowering is quite reliable regardless of winter weather, but what about the vagaries of late spring frosts. Orchards in our area periodically suffer extensive losses to fruit crops. 'Endless Summer' can tolerate low winter temperatures. They do so by protecting their growth inside the woody stems that grow inside the stems that grow out from the plant base. As temperatures rise in the spring, a plant is signaled to begin growth on the new buds, set in the fall, on the stems. When this progress is initiated, the plant can no longer be tolerant of temperatures below freezing, but, in the past five to six years, the faster the warm weather arrived, it departed just as fast, and damaging heavy frosts appeared. This weather phenomenon is responsible for my loss of 'Endless Summer' flowers. Where have all the flowers gone? I will no longer plant this variety of hydrangea in my garden.

My twelve plants spend the summer covered with many green leaves but no flowers.

Let me recommend some alternative hydrangeas that have done very well in my garden for many years. There are five different types of hydrangeas: *H. arborescence*, *H. paniculata*, *H. macrophylla*, *H. serrata*, and *H. quercifolia*. In the variety *H. arborescence*, 'Incredible' is reliable and hardy with lime green to white and back to green flowers. *H. paniculata*, I have in my garden, 'Limelight,' 'Little Limelight,' and 'Limelight Prime'; they are all excellent. The best of the *Hydrangea quercifolia*, the Oakleaf hydrangea, is 'Snow Queen.' I have two that have done extremely well for about ten years, despite all kinds of weather. Fall is

Continued on page 7.



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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).

**July 28**

#### Line Dancing with Ashley Kelch

Kick up your heels at an evening of line dancing in Poolesville. The first hour (7:00 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. 7:00 p.m.

**August 12**

#### Documentary: 10 Days in September—1956

Join Joey Geehreg when Poolesville's own young filmmaker shares his new documentary *Ten Days in September—1956*. This remarkable film details the experience of fifteen African American students who desegregated Poolesville High School in 1956. 7:00 p.m.

**August 17**

#### 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.

**August 18**

#### Friday Movie Night

Watch *The Fabelmans*, a 2022 semi-autobiographical American coming-of-age film directed by Steven Spielberg and loosely based on his adolescence and first years as a filmmaker. Starring

Gabriel LaBelle, Michelle Williams, Paul Dano, Seth Rogen, and Judd Hirsch. Drama. PG-13. Please pre-register for this in-person event. Snacks provided. 7:00 p.m.

**August 21**

#### PS Book Club—The City & The city

Join the book club to discuss *The City & The City*, the gripping-genre bending police procedural novel by Hugo Award-winning author China Miéville. This 2010 Best Novel features Inspector Tyador Borlú, of the Extreme Crime Squad in the city-state of Beszel. He investigates the murder of Mahalia Geary, a foreign student found dead in a Beszel street. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

**August 23**

#### White's Ferry Grill Game Day Social

Join us for a Game Day Social at the White's Ferry Grill at Historic White's Ferry. Come play bocce, corn hole, and other fun games. Eat, drink, and relax by the river. The grill will satisfy your hunger and thirst until 7:00 p.m. Bring a dessert to share, but other outside food or drinks prohibited. Beer sold onsite. Rain date August 30. 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. 28401 White's Ferry Road, Dickerson.

#### Weekly Events

**Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays**

**Outdoor Open Play Pickleball.** Stevens Park. 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.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.

Continued on page 7.

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Continued from page 5.

**Where Have All the Flowers Gone?**

a very good time to plant hydrangeas. They have the winter to lay down good root systems.

Besides the loss of my 'Endless Summer' flowers, this summer has not been one of my best garden years. The spring flowers did well, but come June and July, many plants went downhill: bindweed smothered many of them; the deer, that I normally keep away by spraying smelly deer repellent, were not deterred. My biggest loss to them were my exquisite and highly-fragrant Oriental lilies, 'Casa Blanca' and 'Stargazer.' I have many squirrels in my backyard. They usually eat well from the dropped bird seed from my feeders. This year, they decided to invade the patio and the flowers in many containers. As soon as I planted there, in the night, they would dig up the dirt, throw out the plants, and bury their tasty nuts.

The success or failure of our gardens is completely dependent upon nature, weather, and climate change. Even the best weather forecasters can struggle with predicting the weather.


Enjoy what you have this year. Next year may or may not be better or worse.

Continued from page 6.


**Senior News**

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.

**Fun Fact...**

National Watermelon Day—  
August 3<sup>rd</sup> 

 National Tooth Fairy Day—  
August 22<sup>nd</sup>

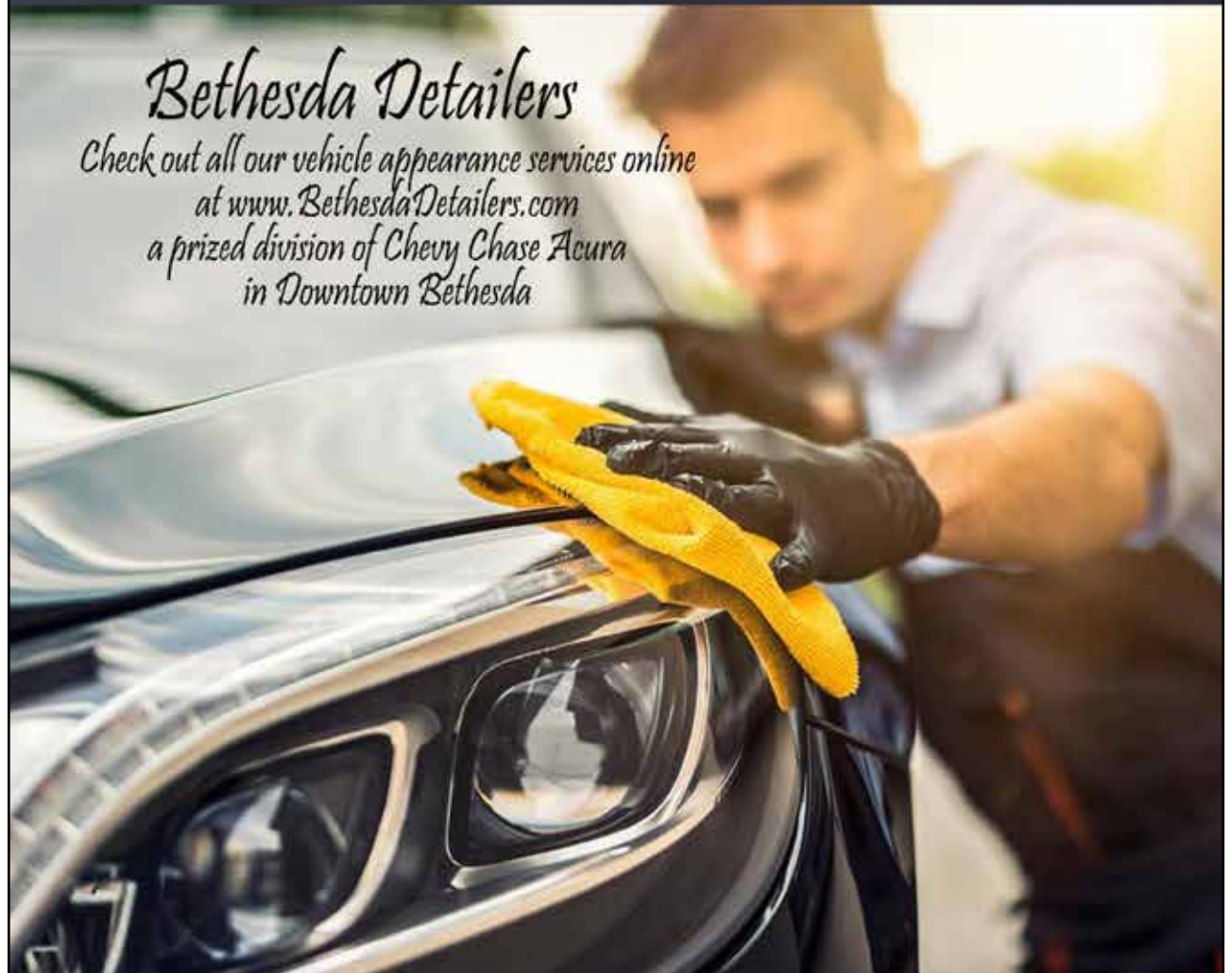
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## Local News

### Summer's Grand Tradition

By Rande Davis

The history of the Upcounty in general and in Poolesville specifically, with our agrarian lifestyle, is intertwined with the history of one of our greatest cultural traditions, the county fair. In the July issue of the Monocle, we presented a collage of pictures of the community fair at Poolesville High School that predates and formed the roots of the current agricultural fair. That community fair focused on livestock, produce, and baked goods with friendly but intense competition among the county farmers who participated.

It was in 1946 that the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair was born out of the desire of 4-H leaders to provide a county show for 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) members in Montgomery County. Their mission was to provide a showcase for the hard work and dedication of the county's farming youth to present exhibits of their prized livestock, garden, and home economics projects to the community. Their initial meeting occurred on a cold March night in Rockville in 1945 with the intent to start a fair. Fast forward nearly seventy-five years, and the county ag fair of today is all that and so much more. The Montgomery County Fair has become one of the largest county fairs in the State of Maryland.

During the first years of this new program, from 1945 to 1948, anyone in the community with an interest in agriculture donated their time and efforts to provide 4-H and FFA youth the opportunity to compete for top awards with their projects. Parents of these youth came together as in the historical farming tradition of community spirit. These parents volunteered to serve refreshments for the participants, sold catalog advertisements, built pens and ties for the livestock, and organized the entries. Prize money was provided by the Maryland State Fair Board with the shows being held on borrowed ground.

The Montgomery County Agricultural Center, Inc. (MCAC) was officially formed as a privately operated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization on January 7, 1949, when a group of local farmers was elected as the first Board of Directors by the volunteer membership of the organization. The MCAC had recently purchased sixty-four acres of land adjacent to the railroad tracks from Herman Rabbitt, a successful farmer and landowner in Gaithersburg. On June 4, 1949, hundreds of volunteers participated in an old-fashioned barn raising, and twelve outbuildings were constructed in one day. The site of the new Montgomery County Agricultural Center was created. Dedicated volunteers donated time, materials, and talent to construct and continue operation of the Montgomery County Agricultural Fairgrounds (MCAF). The fairgrounds would not be what it is today if it were not for those visionary pioneers who were committed to agricultural education and family entertainment.

As is true today for the agricultural center, the volunteers were, and still are, necessary to the successful operation of the fairgrounds, through continued contributions of materials and free labor for the construction of the new facilities, as well as upgrading the old. A network of more than one thousand volunteers continues to provide their time, making the agricultural center a vital part of the business community in Montgomery County. The nine-day fair that is held in mid-August requires support from over eight hundred volunteers who assume the responsibility for organizing and producing the single largest annual event in Montgomery County.

The positive relationships and friendly atmosphere at the fairgrounds make the MCAC a unique organization that continues to provide service to the agricultural and nonagricultural segments of our population while educating the public.

While the core of today's fair is still agriculture, it has grown into one of the year's most valued entertainment festivals and a major economic engine to the benefit of the county.

Aside from its primary objective of being a showcase for 4-H and FFA members exhibiting livestock, garden, and home economic projects, the MCAF promotes agriculture through education regarding agricultural issues and providing a meeting place for those interested in agriculture to encourage growth for future generations. The center is also committed to educating members of urban communities, helping them to acquire an appreciation of the role that agriculture plays in our daily lives.

Continued on page 19.



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## Local News

### Long Time Poolesville Resident Killed in Car Accident

By Rande Davis

Christl Pedro of Poolesville was killed in a car accident on Route 109 on July 19.

She was well known in the area from her many years of working as a cashier at Selby's Market. After Selby's closed, she worked for Tractor Supply and later at Poolesville Cleaners.

She was born in Berlin, Germany and is remembered by her good friend Kim Baily as dear to her heart, a dedicated worker, and was always very straight with everyone. Kim, who now lives near Detroit, Michigan, was also born in Germany and worked at Selby's in their bakery department.

Christl was not married without children but has relatives still living in Germany. The Monocle is awaiting information on her funeral services and will pass any details once we obtain it.



Former Selby's Market cashier, Christl Pedro, was recently killed in a car accident.

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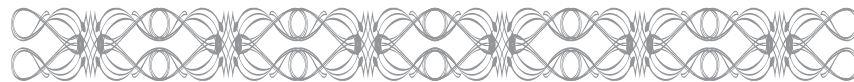
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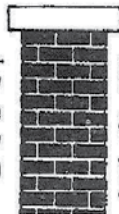
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# INDEPENDENCE DAY FIREWORKS CELEBRATION



## Local News

### True Caribbean Festival Coming to Poolesville

By Rande Davis

Coming on August 5 to Poolesville, at Muldoon's Farm on Barnesville Road, is Trinity Fest, Wine, Jerk, and Reggae Festival, an authentic Caribbean event aimed at creating moments of fun, interaction, and culinary adventure for individuals as well as the whole family. Everyone is encouraged to come and enjoy an unbeatable, exciting experience that brings an event that could make foodies, wine, and music enthusiasts wish for more hours in the day.

Get ready to tantalize your taste buds with local and regional foods; experience some wine tasting; and Reggae up your day with lovely music from some of the region's top DJs. While the event seeks to delight individuals and bring an elevated culinary experience to foodies, the goal is to curate a moment that will linger for a lifetime.

At Trinity Fest, several exciting features will unfold to make every moment memorable and special. Get ready to raise a glass of wine and explore a vending village that will highlight local and regional culinary experts who will serve your favorite cuisines. Local artisans will also grace the venue to offer captivating arts and crafts. Multiple vendors will also bring you elegant clothing, personal care items, and more.

At Trinity Fest, participants can:

- Discover a unique variety of wines
- Sample delights from a list of fresh culinary experts
- Rock to the beat as you enjoy music from top DJs and live performances from local and international performers
- Connect and hang out with new friends in the community who share your passion for food, wine, and music.

Trinity Fest is open for all ages and individuals looking for fun-filled moments with local and regional food, wine, and music within the DMV community.

There will be Live Performances by Octane, Nesbeth, Ras Lidj Reggo'go, Miss Gavri, and more.

Music by: EZ Street, DJ Ablaze, Mighty Action Sound, and DJ Metro.

Check their website [TrinityfestDMV.eventbrite.com](http://TrinityfestDMV.eventbrite.com) for tickets and other details.

Continued from page 3.

#### Local Opening of Documentary about PHS Desegregation of 1956

Former Congresswomen Connie Morella, a former teacher at PHS when desegregation occurred, was also a participant in the documentary. She spoke in the documentary about the anguish and challenges by her black students and the strength and courage offered by their parents.

I first met Joey a couple of years ago when he requested an interview with me as I had written in the *Monocle* several history pieces on local African American history, including the origins of the Rosenwald school, whose edifice still stands today at the county's Beauty Spot. I was also honored to offer historical insight for the documentary about that very dark time in our history.

A most profound realization coming from the film centered on the black students, who continued to go through a period of personal difficulty from some individuals who continued to harass them even after the protest ended. Ultimately, though, the black students emerged with many friendships that have lasted till this day.

The documentary also pointed out that in the mid-fifties, the future of Poolesville High School was under threat, as it was repeatedly threatened to be closed by the county school system. Without the growth from the black student population, the school may very well have been shut down.

While the film can be seen on YouTube, the hope is that Maryland Public Television may offer it to their viewers. The documentary is extremely well-done, and I recommend it for everyone as a reminder of how far we have come as a community within just one generation, and we're grateful to Joey Geenhreng for bringing this story to life.



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## Tidbits

### Local Youth Elected State President

Barnesville resident Andrew Parsley was elected State President of the Maryland State Society of the Children of the American Revolution and represented the organization at the Eastern Regional Meeting from July 6 to 8 in Norwich, Connecticut. The meetings included workshops and presentations of the 2023-2024 National Project, "Cultivating Tomorrow's Leaders," which focused on the restoration of two historical items at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Also included were tours of the Mystic Seaport Museum and the Mashantucket Pequot Museum & Research Center.



Andrew Parsley

The Children of the American Revolution is the oldest, largest, patriotic youth nonprofit organization in the country. C.A.R. trains good citizens, develops leaders, and promotes love of the United States of America and its heritage among young people. Learn more at [www.nscar.org](http://www.nscar.org).

Every year, the State President chooses a nonprofit organization to support. Through Andrew's love of music, he found the Warrior Music Foundation, located in the Bowie, Maryland area, which is dedicated to helping limit the impact of PTSD and reducing the number of suicides across the active duty, reserve, veteran, and law enforcement population by maximizing the healing power of music. WMF offers individual music therapy lessons, group lessons, songwriting retreats, concerts, and recitals. Learn more at

[www.warriormusicfoundation.org](http://www.warriormusicfoundation.org). The Maryland C.A.R. will raise funds to support WMF and their music therapies.

### PHS Sports Ranked #6 in the County

Poolesville High School athletics, under the direction of Gina Grubb and a host of excellent coaches, has been recognized by the Washington Post for an excellent year of athletic achievement.

*Check out the results:*

**Three state titles:** Golf, Boys' Cross Country (CC), Tennis

**State runner up:** Girls' CC, Boys' Swim and Dive, Girls' Swim and Dive

**Coach of the Year:** Golf, Michelle Hunsicker-Blair

**Coach of the Year:** Boys' CC, Prasad Gerard

**Fall All-Mets:** Olivia Cong (1<sup>st</sup> team, Golf); Evan Taylor (HM, Football); Caleb Dastrup (HM, CC), Daisy Dastrup (2<sup>nd</sup> team, CC).

**Winter All-Mets:** Anna Li (HM, Swimming) and Olivia Robbins (2<sup>nd</sup> team, Hockey).

**Spring All-Mets:** Suzy Xu (1<sup>st</sup> team, Tennis) and Andy Wu (HM, Tennis).

### United Memorial Methodist Church Launches Free Service for Recovery Aids

Late last year, members of Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church began to see numerous posts on local social media by community members in need of various medical equipment, like wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, etc. The idea was born to collect and distribute this equipment to community members. They put out a call for contributions, and this community responded in a big way! They now have a variety of durable medical equipment such as walkers, knee scooters, crutches, wheelchairs, shower chairs, bedside commodes, and canes to loan to Poolesville area residents. Equipment is available at no charge, for short-term or long-term loan, and can be picked up (by appointment) at the church, 17821 Elgin Road, Poolesville.

Continued on page 16.



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Continued from page 1.

**Town Commissioners Approve Reduction in Impact Fees for Willard Development**

manager, explained that the planners determined the project meets major goals for the town, including providing an infill, small-scale community in the center of town, developing a segment of the Fisher Avenue Streetscape Plan, creating housing stock diversity (i.e., homes under 2,000 square feet), offering single-level living and first floor master bedrooms in most models, and providing more affordable new housing options for elderly, first-time home buyers, and new families.

On July 12, the Planning Commission met to review and finally approve a recommendation to the commissioners to reduce the Fishpool Impact Fee from the level set for single-family homes to the level set for townhomes. The reduction is meant to apply only for homes that are built with a limit on square footage not to exceed 2,000 square feet, comparable to most townhomes. Impact fees are designed to recoup the future costs of various town infrastructure programs, such as sewer and water, from new development. Given the smaller size of the planned Fishpool Project houses, the Planning Commission reasoned the demand on town infrastructure would be similar to that from townhomes and thus could rationally be reset to the lower level.

Yost said the Willards are seeking the reduction in their quest to get the county to reduce its impact fees which can reach \$50,000 per single-family home and be somewhat lower for townhomes. They argued that the huge fees applied to their smaller homes would make it much harder to price the homes at levels that might attract retirees and young families. They hope action by the town would help persuade the county to act in a similar manner.

Town Attorney Jay Gullo did agree with the Planning Commission's decision for the most part; however, he said the county's fees have little "nexus" with the town's operations. What that refers to is that under legal precedent, there must be a "rational nexus" between the imposition of the fee and the achievement of a legitimate public purpose, usually the need for new infrastructure to serve a development. In this case, the county is not providing the infrastructure used by the new homes (i.e., the sewer and water, roads and other town-supplied

infrastructure). He did not want the town to suggest it is making its decision on its impact fee in exchange for the county doing likewise. The required nexus simply is not present.

While the Planning Commission spent multiple hours deliberating over the Fishpool Project and recommended that the impact fees be reduced, in the end, final approval for the reduction is in the hands of the commissioners.

Commissioner Martin Radigan noted how long the Planning Commission had studied the issue and said, "At the end of the day, it does not involve a lot of money and is a major town project."

Yost said that Radigan was right that it is not a lot of money. He added that the town will lose some revenue it might have received by adopting the lower fees, and it has very little development left to approve. Yost said, "We might well get some of the revenue back," but it is not clear how much.

Commissioner Ed Reed said he would support the proposal because "it can help create affordable housing in part through the 2,000-square-foot-and-under limit" included in the proposal.

The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the Planning Commission recommendation, with Commissioner Jeff Eck absent from the meeting.

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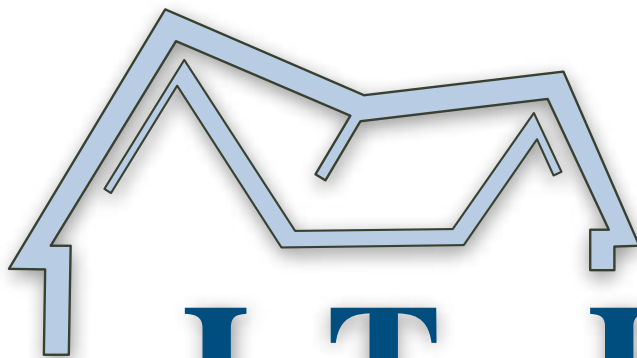
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## Youth Sports

### D.C. National Rowing Club Competes at The Highest Level

By Jeff Stuart

Not so gently down the stream—crew requires strength, speed, endurance, and coordination with teammates. The D.C. National Rowing Club (DCNRC) competed in the 2023 U.S. Rowing Youth National Championships, held June 8 to 11 at Nathan Benderson Park in Sarasota, Florida.

“Coming back from the nationals, our biggest race of the year, the highest standard, we did better than ever before,” said coach Julian Canha. “There were Poolesville kids in a lot of the successful crews. On the boys’ side, the youth eight boat [a shell with eight rowers] came in twelfth in the most competitive category, the highest finish in club history. Cooper Paksima, a Poolesville native and a junior at St. Andrew’s, rowed in the second seat. This crew raced well all season and established itself as the quickest crew in the D.C. area.

“On the women’s side, this was our first year qualifying in the most competitive event. Youth 8+ is the blue-ribbon varsity event. We placed eighteenth. Tilly Gaughan, a Poolesville native and a graduating senior at Poolesville High School, sat stroke seat in this boat, and Audrey Pioli, a junior at Poolesville High School, rowed in the fifth seat. This crew also raced well all season and established itself as the quickest girls’ crew in the D.C. area.

“We had to qualify for Youth Nationals by placing in the top four in the Mid-Atlantic Region Championships. The boys finished second in that race, and the girls finished third. We were the only team in the Mid-Atlantic to qualify both the boys’ eight and girls’ eight in those events. We took a total of sixty kids to Florida.”

#### Other results from the Nationals included:

The boys’ youth second varsity 8+ placed twenty-third. Will Jauch, a Poolesville High School sophomore rowed in the seventh seat in this boat.

The girls’ youth second varsity 8+ placed twenty-fourth.

The girls’ youth U17 8+ placed twentieth. Greta Jauch, a John Poole Middle School eighth grader, rowed in the stroke seat in this boat. Victoria Mo, a sophomore at Poolesville High, rowed in the bow seat.

The girls’ youth U16 8+ placed fifteenth. Annabelle Gaughan, Ceelia Sheehan, and Bella Kid, all eighth graders at John Poole Middle School, rowed in this boat.

The boys’ U16 8+ placed sixteenth.

“The highlight of our season for me was qualifying for the youth nationals in the women’s varsity eights,” said Audrey Pioli, “and getting to be a part of something our club had never done before—and as a club, we qualified seven boats for the nationals. That was the best we have ever done. My shoutouts to the



*Audrey Pioli, Marina Filas, Campbell McClellan, Tilly Gaughan, Alice Tapper, Grayson Conway, Charley Coffman, Stephanie Mo, and Julia Markovic.*



*Alex Myler, Cooper Paksima, Bernie Steinki, Reider McFeely, Nikhita Mandapaka, Jackson Green, Xavier Wendt, Fred Mulford, and Arun Sinha.*

seniors: Tilly Gaughan, who is always optimistic and motivating, Grayson Conway, Marina Filas, and Stephanie Mo. We made huge strides this season as a boat, and as a team. We had our most successful spring season yet. I am proud of that, and I am going to miss my teammates. I first learned about club at Poolesville Day in 2021. I visited the D.C. National Rowing Club Tent. They had a rowing machine competition. If you rowed a hundred meters faster than a given time, you won a free tee shirt. I won one. They said I should try it out and that I might be good at this, so I did, and I loved it, and I fell in love with the team and the people on it.”

“We had five races this season, including the nationals,” said Cooper Paksima. “The highlight of our season was the team banquet at Kenwood Country Club. We were all able to come together to celebrate our accomplishments and honor

**Continued on page 26.**

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**A Time of Remembrance**  
August 20, 2023  
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Living Word Bible Fellowship  
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Continued from page 12.

**Tidbits**

To borrow or to donate, please contact the program coordinator, Eleanor Bateman, at 301-461-7898 to make an appointment.

**Local Resident's Recovery Filmed for Educational Purposes**

Poolesville's Tookie Gentilcore was recently filmed by Kaiser Permanente for an inspirational video they are producing promoting the idea that seniors can be active. Tookie had heart surgery a few years back. She worked her way back to health and is one of Poolesville Area Senior Center's pickleball participants who was a gold medal winner from Poolesville at the Maryland Senior Olympics.

Kaiser heard about her story through her doctor and decided to make a film about her. It is expected to play on WJLA as well.



*Tookie Gentilcore was filmed by Kaiser in a piece promoting good health.*

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**August 13: 4-H Day, Coronation King and Queen, Cake Auction**

**August 14: Family Day**

**August 15: Senior Day**

**August 16: Renegade Monster Trucks Tour**

**August 17: Military Day and Renegade Monster Trucks Tour**

**August 18 and 19: Demolition Derby**

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**For more information: [MCagfair.com](http://MCagfair.com)**

## Things to Do

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

### Saturdays

#### Poolesville Farmers' Market

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

### July 10

#### UMCVFD BBQ Pork and Beef Fundraiser

Featuring sandwiches and platters with sides. Baked goods sale. Covered tables or carryout. *Beallsville Fire Hall*. 11:30 a.m. until sold out.

### August 3

#### PACC Businesses Helping Businesses Grow

Chamber breakfast gathering at Locals, featuring Cheryl Kenly of M&T Bank. 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

### August 5

#### Trinity Fest— Authentic Caribbean Festival

Enjoy great food, music, and wine. All welcome to enjoy a unique variety of wines; sample delights from a list of

fresh culinary experts; rock to the beat as you enjoy music from top DJs and live performances from local and international performers; and connect and hang out with new friends in the community who share your passion for food, wine, and music. Tickets are available online at *TrinityfestDMV.eventbrite.com*. See article this issue. *Muldoon's Farm, Barnesville Road*. Noon to 8:00 p.m.

### Adults Getting Together

A social gathering of adults to share conversation and fun things to do like needlework, puzzles, cards, coloring/drawing medium, books, etc. to reacquaint with longtime friends and make some new ones. *Boyds Presbyterian Church*. 9:00 a.m. to noon.

### August 7

#### Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

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

### WUMCO Free Community Clinic

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

### August 11 to 19

#### 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Montgomery County Agriculture Fair

Traditional county fair featuring 4-H animals and produce (competition and auction), midway with over 35 rides, extensive live music, entertainment, Demolition Derby, and tremendous family fun day and night. See article this issue.

### August 16

#### PACC Happy Hour: Crossvines

Cash bar, free light refreshments. Sign up through the PACC August newsletter.

### August 25

#### Friday on the Commons: Barrels of Fun

Inflatables, DJ, artisan vendors, food trucks (3<sup>rd</sup> Alarm BBQ, Biga Biga Pizza, and Kona Ice), distilleries (McClintock Distilling and Tenth Ward), breweries (Manor Hill and Landmade), winery (Rocklands Farm), and music (Mindy Miller and Rowdy Ace Band). *Whalen Commons*. 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.



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# Adults Getting Together



**EVERY FIRST SATURDAY 9 a.m.–Noon**

**When:** First Saturday each month from 9 a.m. – Noon

**Where:** Vail Christian Education Bldg.

19821 White Ground Road, Boyds, MD 20841

The Boyds Presbyterian Church (BPC) is hosting a monthly 'Adults Getting Together' for those interested in meeting, socializing, and sharing like interests.

Bring your favorite morning non-alcoholic beverage, needlework, puzzles, cards, coloring/drawing medium, books, etc. to reacquaint with long-time friends and make some new ones.

If you have any questions, please contact Marie Allnutt at [mallnutt@hotmail.com](mailto:mallnutt@hotmail.com) or call 301-385-3503.

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

All are welcome. Fellowship immediately follows the service.



Continued from page 8.

### Summer's Grand Tradition

Although the MCAC has always given top priority in the usage of the grounds to county youth involved in 4-H and FFA activities, the fairgrounds are also rented throughout the year to businesses and community organizations for shows, markets, meetings, receptions banquets, and festivals. The revenue brought in by these rentals provides them with the ability to make improvements to the grounds for the comfort of fair patrons and rental clients.

The MCAC has been recognized by local and county governments as being an integral part of the business community by making contributions to the economic and social development of Gaithersburg and Montgomery County.

This year's fair opens on Friday, August 11 with special events planned for each day through Saturday, August 19. Most popular days start with 4-H Day (August 13) featuring a parade and coronation of the fair's king and queen. A most popular tradition is the cake auction. This is followed by Family Day on August 14 which offers discounted ride wristbands from noon until 11:00 p.m. Go to [mcagfair.com](http://mcagfair.com) for other online discounts.

August 15 is Seniors' Day and August 17 is Military Day, honoring two of our most beloved and appreciated members of the community. The highly popular and wild Demolition Derby is a two-day event on August 18 and 19.

Leave your diet behind and come experience all the most treasured flavors of the fair. Vendors of all your favorite ag fair foods are there. You get to choose from a huge array of fun foods like Asian, BBQ, candy, cheese, chocolate, coffee, cookies, corn, crêpes, desserts, fries, funnel cakes, Greek, ice cream cones, juices, kettle corn, Latin Street and Mexican food, nuts, pizza, shaved ice, smoothies, and those huge turkey legs. The 2023 ice cream flavor of the year will be Double Fudge Brownie that will be served by the Lions Club in the Ice Cream Parlor next to the Cattle Pavilion and Old MacDonald's Barn on Maple Avenue.

Families with the little ones will have nearly a dozen fun rides for their kids to enjoy: baby train, balon fiesta, Dizzy Dragons, farm tractors, fun slide, merry go round, ships ahoy, jumbo, and mini trooper.

For the more daring adult attendees, they have the more exhilarating thrill rides like Alien Abduction, Cliff Hanger, F5, Down Draft, Fire Chief, Hi flyer, Khaos, Kraken, Monster Truck, rock star, Sea Ray Ship, Speed Spider Wheel, Sky Hawk, Zero Gravity, Wave Swinger, and Tilt a wheel. This year, at a cost of 2.9 million dollars, they added four new rides: the Tesla AC, Techno Jump, Crazy Cabs, and Wipeout.

Sheehy Ford sponsors a number of free events throughout the week like the Chesapeake Dock Dogs (August 11 and 12 from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.) and Touch A Truck (August 13 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), come touch, learn, and explore various vehicles of all shapes and sizes, heavy equipment, fire engines, and so much more! Fun for the whole family!

The thrill of Truck Drag Racing (August 14 at 7:30 p.m.) showcases competing trucks trying to go as fast as they can in a race against each other in a short distance to see who comes out on top as having the fastest truck. Come witness the sheer power of these trucks!

There are many wonderful fee-based entertainment additions starting with the night of jam-packed Monster Truck action including big air jumps!

There is a Pit Party that starts one hour before the show that will provide the opportunity for Grandstand Event ticketed customers into the Grandstand to meet and obtain autographs from the drivers and take pictures with the Monster Trucks. There will also be an autograph session and photo opportunity for patrons immediately after the show.

Of course, the big event, the Demolition Derby, has fair drivers competing against each other by ramming their vehicles into one another. The last driver whose vehicle is still operational is awarded the victory. Come watch as these cars get demolished in front of your very eyes!

General free entertainment includes Brad Matchett, comedy hypnotist, who provides a family-friendly Vegas style Hypnosis Show with volunteers that want to experience a great time. People who can relax and let go will find out just how much fun they can have. Be sure to check out this hilarious show that is guaranteed to make you laugh!

Do you love illusions? Josh and Lea Knotts, are extreme illusionists and escape artists.

The Knotts have become a crowd favorite at every event where they have performed. The duo have designed a show mixed with amazing stage illusions, skillful escapes, audience participation, and exciting music. Certainly not your everyday "magic" act. Forget all you know and prepare to be amazed by Extreme Illusions & Escapes.

Then there is the Paul Bunyan Lumberjack Show which will provide lots of laughter, thrills, and chills to young and old alike. You will also be entertained while you see logging skills used throughout history, as well as those used today. It's muscle against machine! This is real competition at its best! Fun for the whole family!

A great fair tradition has been the hilarious swine races. Get ready to be entertained by the comedy of this world-racing little piggies team as they race to the finish line for a treat!

To make sure you don't miss out on anything, you can download the fair's catalog of events and a complete and detailed daily calendar of events and discount ride pricing that ends at midnight on August 10 at their website, [MCagfair.com](http://MCagfair.com). Opening day is on August 11, \$25 onsite ride wristbands.



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## Local Arts

All activities will be held at **Riverworks Studio at Alden Farms, 19215 Beallsville Rd., Beallsville** unless otherwise noted.

### Fridays

#### Open Jam Sessions

Bring your instrument and voice and join Brian Jamison as he leads these jam sessions. *Locals Farm Market, 19929 Fisher Ave, Poolesville.* 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### Tuesdays and Fridays

#### Open Studio

Riverworks Studio at Alden Farms is open for your use on Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons. Bring a project and share time and space with others working on their projects in the studio. Free. Tuesdays: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Fridays: 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### August 4

#### Made in Studio, Alcohol Ink with Dani Beaulieu

Learn the basics of alcohol ink. No experience required—just an adventurous spirit! To sign up: [www.riverworksart.org/made-in-studio](http://www.riverworksart.org/made-in-studio). 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### August 13

#### Concert at Riverworks Outdoor Stage

Enjoy music from The Dirty Middle, a blues-rock band from Frederick. For more information, visit [www.riverworksart.org](http://www.riverworksart.org). \$10 Suggested Donation at the Door (all proceeds go to bringing more arts to our community). *Riverworks Outdoor Stage, 17617 W. Willard Rd, Poolesville.*

### Every Sunday for 6 Weeks

#### Six-Week Workshop—Color Theory

Join James Vissari for this six-week intensive where you will be invited to explore color theory and learn about contrast and values. When you are first exploring color, it can be daunting when you don't trust yourself to

choose the right color. This workshop will allow you to gain confidence in your knowledge of color theory and mixing, so you create stronger and more aesthetically-pleasing paintings. 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

To sign up: [www.riverworksart.org/service-page/color-theory-with-james-vissari](http://www.riverworksart.org/service-page/color-theory-with-james-vissari)

### August 17

#### Storyteller Series: Christine Rai

The lands and waterways of what is now Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve have been used for hunting, fishing, farming, and homes for millennia though the experiences of its indigenous peoples have been a challenge to learn. Join local professor, writer, and artist, Christine Rai, who will be sharing her story of how and what she has uncovered about the Ag Reserve's original residents. For more information: [www.riverworksart.org/event-details/storyteller-series-christine-rai](http://www.riverworksart.org/event-details/storyteller-series-christine-rai). Free event. *Old Town Hall Bank Museum, Poolesville, 19923 Fisher Ave, Poolesville.* 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

#### Riverworks Poet Society

Monthly meeting. Includes sharing of poems written by members, a session of collaborative poetry writing from a prompt, and sharing of favorite poems written by others. Optional prompts for August shared poetry are two themes: Ant Hill and My Stressful Day. New poets welcome! Sign up not required. 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### August 16 to September 17

#### Patricia Dubroof, Who Cares?

A series of painted portraits that honors caregivers and their gracious generosity as they support the community. *Artist in the House Gallery at Locals Farm Market (upstairs), 19929 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville.* Artist Reception: August 19: 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### August 23

#### Mindy Miller Concert with Chris Compton

Sold out concert. *Riverworks Stage at Alden Farms, 19215 Beallsville Rd, Beallsville.*

## Of Poetry and Prose

[discoverpoetry.org](http://discoverpoetry.org)

### August

August days are hot and still,  
Not a breath on house or hill,  
Not a breath on height or plain,  
Weary travelers cry for rain;  
But the children quickly find

A shady place quite to their mind;  
And there all quietly they stay,  
Until the sun has gone away,—  
August is too hot for play!

—Annette Wynne



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# COMMUNITY CLINIC





**Location: Poolesville Baptist Church**  
**17550 W Willard Road, Poolesville, MD**  
(enter through side doors on the south end of the building)



**Dates: First and Third Sat. of each month**  
**8am-4pm**

**Who: Patients 18+, Seniors, Insured and Uninsured**

**Services: Primary Care, Prescription refills, Annual Checkups, Sick Consults, Lab work (during morning hours)**

**Appointments and Walk-ins:**  
**CARE FOR YOUR HEALTH, INC. 240-258-8583**  
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## In Your Own Backyard

### Seneca Schoolhouse Class Photo: Part 1

By Jon Wolz

There is a historic photo that hangs at the Seneca Schoolhouse in Seneca and in the John Poole House in Poolesville that depicts students standing in front of the Seneca Schoolhouse with their teacher. One morning last spring, before a bus full of students arrived from Laurel, Maryland, I met "teacher" Julie Shapiro at the schoolhouse. The photo at the schoolhouse identifies the names of the people in the photo. I was writing a canal story at the time about the Benson family when Dan Seamans wrote me telling me there were Bensons in the photo. Julie gave me a tour of the schoolhouse and grounds before the schoolbus arrived. I thought I would look up the names on the photo to see what happened in their lives to see what I would find. There are seventeen students with the schoolteacher in the photo. I was able to locate everyone in the photo through Ancestry.com or the *Montgomery County Sentinel* except for two students, Ama Downs and Julia Waters. Julie thought the photo was taken in 1909, but through my research of the people in the photo, I believe the photo was taken prior to 1900, possibly 1899. I did not interview anyone for this story.



Hattie Violette



Viola Gilliss

Teacher Viola Gillas, as written beneath the photo, is actually Viola Leannah Gilliss who was born in 1875, in Travilah. Her parents were John and Lenna Gilliss who married in 1872. John Gilliss was born at Gilliss Falls in Carroll County, Maryland (as noted in the Gilliss family tree). Viola was the second child of John and Lenna. John and Lenna would have fifteen children together. In 1880, John was a farmer. In 1895, Viola attended a wedding for her brother Joseph at the Travilah Baptist Church, and the reception was held at her parents' home in Travilah. In September 1896, the Montgomery County School Board named Viola L. Gilliss as teacher for the Seneca School. In the 1900 census, Potomac, Viola was living with her parents, most likely in Travilah with her siblings. Viola was listed as being a teacher. Her sister Willie was a schoolteacher. Living with the Gilliss family was Martha, a sister of father John, who was also a schoolteacher. In 1900, John owned his own home and was a farmer.

In June 1901, Viola Gilliss graduated from the State's Normal School. Viola had a seventh-grade education. In August 1901, Viola was appointed teacher at the Grifton School. In February 1903, Viola was appointed principal at the Cropley School in Montgomery County.

Continued on page 24.



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### NOTICE OF SOLICITATION TO BID

Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department (UMCVFD) is currently seeking bids to renovate the outdoor pavilion, restrooms, and kitchen facility located next to the ballfield behind the existing fire station. The renovation project is anticipated to commence November 2023 and be completed by March 2024.

Letters of Intent to Bid are to be mailed to Pavilion Project, UMCVFD, 19801 Beallsville Rd., Beallsville, MD 20839. You may also register your interest to bid online at [umcvfd.org/pavilion-project](http://umcvfd.org/pavilion-project) (or scan QR code).

Your letter must include Business Name, Business Address, Point of Contact (POC) Name, POC Phone, POC email address, and Certification of business authorization to do business in Montgomery County, MD.

All online registrations and Letters of Intent to Bid must be received by the close of business, Tuesday, August 8, 2023.

Once finalized, a complete set of plans will be made available to all registered bidders.

# INDEPENDENCE

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5



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Continued from page 22.

### Seneca Schoolhouse Class Photo: Part 1

In 1905, at a meeting of the Teachers' Association, Viola discussed whether or not Latin should be taught in rural schools. She thought it be advisable in most schools. In 1906, Viola was elected vice president of the Teachers' Association. In July 1907, Viola and her mother visited Viola's sister in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and her brother in Warren, Ohio. Their visit included touring a number of large factories, as well as pleasure resorts. They watched the manufacture of incandescent electric lamps, artificial ice, and lanterns. They had a visit through the Heinz pickle factory where they were served an appetizing lunch consisting of the "57" varieties. In 1907, Viola resigned as principal of the public school at Cropley. In the 1910 census, Rockville District, Viola was living with her parents, and most of her siblings had moved out. She was a public schoolteacher.

In 1911, Viola was named principal at the Woodfield School. In 1913, she resigned as the school's principal. In 1915, she travelled out west, visiting family and friends. She visited many towns and landmarks, eventually arriving in San Francisco before heading back east. In 1916, Viola was named a teacher at the Etchinson School in Montgomery County. In 1930, Viola was a bookkeeper in the Federal Government living in Rockville with her mother and sister. In 1940, Viola was living on Montrose Road in Rockville and was working as a clerk in the government. She owned her own home. In 1950, she was living on Randolph Road in Rockville with a brother and a lodger. She was no longer working. Viola died in 1962 at age 86. She is buried at the Rockville Cemetery with her parents and several siblings. She never married.

Student Hattie Violette is identified as "Hattie Violet" in the school photo. The name Violette is of French origin and was pronounced as "Vee-Oh-Lay." A descendant of the Violette family, whom I met at the Baltimore Antique Bottle Show in March 2023, explained this to me. He said his second great-grandfather tried to Americanize the last name, so it was pronounced as Violet. People pronounced the last name as "Vi-oh-lettie." The family did not want people to think they were Italian. Hattie was born as Harriet Verona Violette in December 1887 in Seneca to Alfred and Sarah "Kate" Violette. Hattie was their second child. Their first child Bessie May Violette was born in 1886. In the 1900 census, there was no occupation given for Hattie. Her father "Alf" was the locktender at

Lock 23. Prior to becoming a locktender, Alf worked at the Seneca Quarry and was a farm laborer. The lock became known as Violette's Lock. In 1907, Hattie married Samuel Sydney Connell. Together they would have nine children. They lived on River Road in Seneca. Hattie was a wife and kept house through the rest of her life. Samuel was a carpenter in the 1910 census and was a canal foreman in the 1920 and 1930 censuses. In 1942, he was working at the Kaywood Gardens in Mt. Rainier, Maryland. Samuel operated a store that served sandwiches among other things on the river side of the canal at Lock 24, "Riley's Lock." That store was taken over by his son Sydney. By 1950, Samuel had retired. Samuel died in 1955 at age 64. Hattie died in 1962 at age 74. Samuel and Hattie are buried at the Darnestown Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

Student Rosalie Cross was born in 1887 in Maryland. Her parents were Charles Cross and Virginia Cross. Mr. and Mrs. Cross had six children together. In 1893, Charles died at age 34 or 35 in Seneca. In 1900, Rosalie was a student along with three other siblings. There was no occupation for her mother Virginia in the 1900 census. In the early 1900s, Rosalie worked as a telephone operator who worked the switchboard which connected the fire and police departments in Washington, D.C.

At 6:31 p.m. on December 30, 1906, on the campus of Catholic University and the nearby Brookland neighborhood, a terrible noise was heard which was described as a combination of an explosion, escaping steam, breaking wood, groaning brakes, and human screams. This was the tragic Terra Cotta Train Wreck in which 53 of the 200 passengers perished. One of those passengers was Rosalie Cross. Rosalie was traveling with her friend Corinne Bohrer where they were returning to Corrine's parents' home in the city after spending the Sunday in the countryside. Rosalie died from her injuries on January 2, 1907 at the George Washington University Hospital. She was either 19 or 20 because there was no record of when she was born in 1887. Friend Corinne also perished in the crash (Dr. Edward Oliver Belt and sons, Sinclair and Edward, died in this crash. I have written about the Belt family in previous *Monocacy Monocle* stories.). Rosalie's funeral was held at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on January 3. Pallbearers were from the Police Headquarters, Fire Alarm Headquarters, and the main telephone exchange office. The burial was at the Oak Hill Cemetery in Georgetown, and there is no gravemarker on Rosalie's grave. Also buried by Rosalie are her parents and one brother, all having unmarked graves. (To be continued.)

## Coming Soon: 2023 Poolesville Day 5K Run/Walk September 23, 8 a.m.

**Register Now!** *Early Bird Registration Discounts through July 31.*



Be a race sponsor! PACC members or other businesses with an interest in our community are invited to support the 2023 Poolesville Day 5K Run/Walk. Find sponsorship information at the PACC website: [www.poolesvillechamber.com](http://www.poolesvillechamber.com).

Presented by the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce and the Monocacy Lions Club.

*All race proceeds are returned to our community.*





## Remembrances

### Eva Golleher

Eva Golleher, 83, of Dickerson, passed away on January 20, 2023.

She was the loving wife of the late Allen Golleher, Sr.

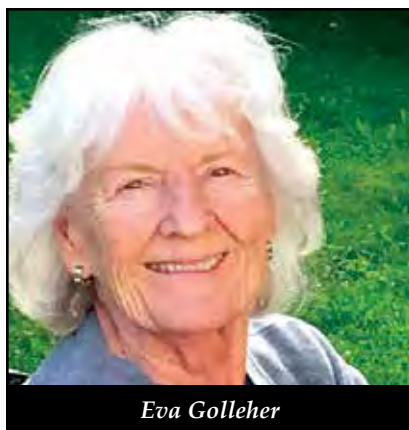
Born on May 21, 1939, in Germany, she was the daughter of the late Richard and Frieda Christ.

Eva was a member of the Gold Star Wives of America, Potomac Chapter. She was passionate about preserving and enhancing benefits to surviving United States Military spouses and children. She enjoyed appearing before various House and Senate Committees on issues concerning not only the benefits pertaining to military survivors but also the welfare of the survivors. As she quoted, "Gold Star Wives is about reaching out and caring about other people. It's not because you went through it, it's because you want to help."

Eva is survived by her daughter Connie Golleher of Maryland, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Eva was preceded in death by three children, Allen Golleher, Jr., Norbert Golleher, and Edwin Golleher; and four siblings.

Eva's final resting place will be at Arlington National Cemetery.



Eva Golleher

### Kenneth Algie Mallow

Kenneth Algie Mallow, 59, of Beallsville, passed away on July 16, 2023. He was born on March 7, 1964, in Petersburg, West Virginia. He is the son of the late Wade A. Mallow and survived by Joann Turner Morgan, of whom he was so proud, and stepdad, Alfred Morgan.

Kenny is survived by his two daughters, Charlotte Zoe and Josephine Mae. He is also survived by his wife Melissa; stepchildren, Katie and Quinn; sister, Mendy (Steve) and their children, Anna, Britney, Stephen, Corey, and Andre; and numerous great-nieces and great-nephews. Kenny was very thankful for his daughters' boyfriends, Michael Howard and Owen Bauer.

Kenny was a father, husband, friend, racecar driver, and role model to many. He is known for his beautiful smile, quick-witted jokes, love for family and community, his big heart, and his sense of humor.

Kenny was a hardworking business owner who enjoyed carpentry, helping others, drag racing with his girls, road trips, swimming in the river, enjoying his time at the beach, growing blackberries, eating ice cream, driving the backroads, watching the Redskins play, watching Poolesville sporting events, watching the girls play sports, talking about and owning Pontiacs, and spending time in West Virginia. He was always up for an adventure.

Flowers can be sent to Poolesville Baptist Church. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Viking Athletics for Petersburg, WV High School or St. Jude's.



Kenneth Algie Mallow

## Monocacy Critters

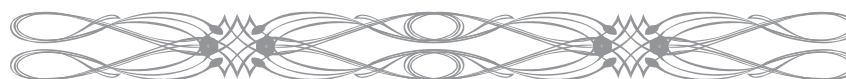
### Serendipitous Pet and Animal Pictures\*



A hummingbird getting a drink at the local pub.

Photo by Terri Pitts

\*Do you have an unusual or funny picture of an pet or animal? Mail or email the picture to [editor@monocacymonocle.com](mailto:editor@monocacymonocle.com) or P.O. Box 372, Barnesville, MD 20838



## Marketplace



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Continued from page 14.

**D.C. National Rowing Club Competes at the Highest Level**

our seniors. We had a lot of impressive results this season. I would like to give a shoutout to Connor Lee. He went to Churchill and is going to row at George Washington University. He has been a part of the team a long time. He is a great guy. He likes to rally everyone together. He is always upbeat, and he tries to make sure we are all doing our best. In some sports, there is so much technique that it takes a while for a new person to catch up. The more you put into crew, the more you get out of it. Crew rewards hard work, so there is technique and coordination required, but if you come in and work hard, you can get better pretty quickly."

The team had a successful spring season. Several boats medaled in the region competition and included kids from John Poole Middle School eighth grade and Poolesville High School. Youth 8+ is the blue-ribbon varsity event. The crews qualified for the nationals at the region.

Last fall was the club's most successful season to date, with both male and female rowers of all experience levels winning medals at some of the biggest races in the region. The team's seniors made decisions about where they would row in college. Harriet Gaughan, a senior, committed to row at the University of Delaware.

**Highlights included:**

Harriet and Tilly Gaughan, in the girls' varsity four, came in second among twenty-three boats at the Occoquan Chase; second of thirty-five in Head of the Occoquan; and second of nineteen at the Bill Braxton. Cooper Paksima, in the boys JV 4+, won at the Head of the Occoquan and at the Frostbite Regatta.

Milla Brizhik, in the girls JV 4+, came in seventh of thirty-six at the Head of the Schuylkill.

Will Jauch, in the boys' novice 8+, won his races at the Occoquan Chase and Bill Braxton Regatta.

Audrey Pioli, in the girls' novice 8+, won her race at the Bill Braxton Regatta.

The team has trained five days per week this winter on rowing machines to prepare for the spring season. In addition, they made two trips to the Naval Academy to use their state-of-the-art indoor rowing tanks.

"It is continuing to grow, with a roster of eighty," said the coach. "I expect that we will carry momentum from this fall and winter into our spring racing. The team aims to qualify more of its rowers for Youth Nationals than ever before and to achieve its highest ever ranking. Registration has recently opened for Learn to Row classes this summer. These classes, open to rising seventh to eleventh graders, introduce the sport and are a great option for anyone looking to give the sport a try. Water training is on the upper Potomac River. The DCNRC operates out of Calleva at Riley's Lock in Germantown during the fall and spring seasons."

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## Celebrating 34 Years of Service

### Important Message about Toxic Algal Mats in Maryland Waterways This Summer Due to Drought Conditions

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

***From: office of the State Veterinarian***

This notice is to provide an Animal Safety Alert issued by the State for the non-tidal Potomac River due to toxic algal mats. Anatoxin was detected at higher levels than seen before. No animal cases have been reported to date; however, animal contact with algal mats that have washed up on the shoreline should be avoided. These harmful algae are native to the Chesapeake Bay and occur in higher abundances, mostly during low flow, hot temperatures, and when specific nutrient levels are present. Toxic algae mats are currently located in the Potomac River around Edwards Ferry to Great Falls, Montgomery County.

These toxins can be quickly absorbed when ingested and are harmful to animals. Potential signs in dogs include tremors, muscle rigidity, paralysis, convulsions, coma, cyanosis, hypersalivation, and/or death. Livestock should be kept away from algal mats and kept out of the river.

Dog owners are advised to keep pets on leash, prevent them from eating algal mats (in water or on the shore), wash them after being in affected areas, give fresh water to drink, and contact your veterinarian if signs are noted.

Please contact your veterinarian if your dog has shown clinical signs of algal mat ingestion and you have been in or close to a body of water in the non-tidal Potomac River/Chesapeake Bay or its environs. Your veterinarian will report the event to the Maryland State Veterinarian.

You can also go to animal Safety alert: [http://www.cdc.gov/habs/pdf/algal\\_bloom\\_tall\\_card.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/habs/pdf/algal_bloom_tall_card.pdf)



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