

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Monthly Newspaper

October 2023 • Volume XIX, Number 8



County Executive Marc Elrich addressed attendees at the Fair Access Committee's annual breakfast. More pictures can be found in Family Album on page 2.



Family represented the late Kenny Mallow as grand marshal during Poolesville Day's parade. More pictures of the big day are on page 10.



Is this young lady a future Commanders quarterback? Perhaps. More PES Carnival pics are on page 14.



Who and why did someone turn this farm combine into a child's tunnel slide? The answer lies in AgNews on page 16.

Transportation Needs and Reopening of White's Ferry Scheduled for Upcoming Forum

By Rande Davis

The October 2, 2023 Town of Poolesville commissioners' meeting opened with the standard announcements from each commissioner highlighted by commission president Jim Brown's announcement of the planned retirement of long-time town clerk Bobbi Evans. "Bobbi's service has been amazing, extending for forty years, all the way back to another legendary town clerk, Nancy Fost." Her career was acknowledged by the commissioners as a great asset to the town, and the commissioners will be planning a celebratory party for her in December.

Commissioner Martin Radigan reported on the work by the Planning Commission relating to the upcoming townhome development by Donnegan on the Tractor Supply area property.

Commissioner Jeff Eck restated his concern over the appearance of the townhomes, especially on Fisher Avenue as being "dark, literally a twenty-nine-foot wall of townhomes on Fisher Avenue from CVS to where the roundabout will be." Town manager Wade Yost noted the design follows the architectural guidelines the town has adopted and it "is broken up with various rooflines with front porches across it. In general, it is more of what you would see in an old town, middle town, and that's the feel that we have put in our code and guidelines in our comprehensive plan that we want people to build."

Radigan further observed that it is a much better-looking development than the townhomes across the street. In observing how many people were concerned with the accepted height

variance, he stated it is "not a large variance, only about three feet" (the taller ones will not be on Fisher Avenue). "The first plan was for a gas station and 7/11, most residents found very unappealing. I think it is a good-looking development and well thought out, and the Planning Commission did work to shape it."

Brown contributed that it is "for thirty-nine homes, and I commend the PC for the restrictions put in place."

Sarah Paksima reported on the significant success of the Fair Access Committee's (FAC) Poolesville Day breakfast that hosted a broad contingent of county and state elected officials. It provided a forum for the town to "showcase what we have accomplished so far and to present

Continued on page 17.

Spencer "Spinny" Johnson: Believe in Yourself!

By Jeff Stuart

Spinny Johnson believed in himself. He was a 5'-4" point guard for Poolesville High School in 1968 and 1969. He went on to play for Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania and then the Harlem Globetrotters. He has since become an award-winning motivational speaker.

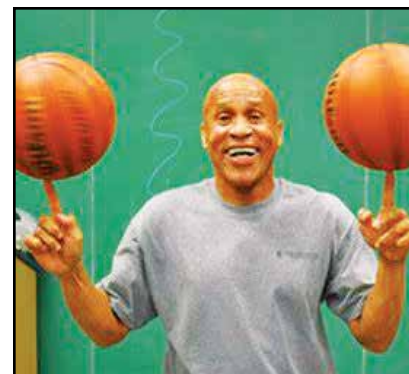
On October 21, he will be inducted into the Geneva College Athletic Hall of Fame. The Golden Tornadoes went 19-7 in his sophomore season, 22-8 his junior year, and 15-19 when he was a senior. He was named to the PA District 18 All-Star Team in each of his last two years. He was also named a Small College All-American both years. He was the MVP of several tournaments as well. Averaging 18.3 points per game and seven assists per game, he led the team in points, assists, and steals in each of his last three years. His 1,656 points ranked him second in

Geneva history at the time. There was no three-point shot. His highest points-per-game record was thirty-two. He had 580 assists, putting him fifth highest of all time. In the four years prior to Johnson's arrival, Geneva's record was just 23-71.

Spinny graduated from Geneva College with a degree in Psychology.

He did not get his nickname from his ability to spin a basketball, however. His mother called him "Spinny" because, as a child, he hated spinach.

"When I was a baby, I disliked spinach," said Johnson, "and I still do not like it, other than Applebee's spinach dip. If you go to Applebee's, try it. It is particularly good, but I did not like it growing up. It just looked foul. I would eat all the other vegetables, but not that, and when I make smoothies, I will put spinach leaves in it, along with broccoli, kale, cauliflower, string beans, turnip greens, and peas."



Former PHS basketball player and Globetrotter Spinny Johnson.

Johnson grew up on Jerusalem Church Road outside of Poolesville. All the neighborhood kids played basketball. "You do not need anybody else to play with," he said. "All you need is a hoop and a ball, and you can create your own game."

Continued on page 28.

Family Album



Poolesville's American Legion Post 247 recently held its annual barn dance at the Calleva Farm.



Poolesville Town Commission President Jim Brown rallied the attendees at the annual breakfast sponsored by the Fair Access Committee the morning of Poolesville Day.



Faith Nah is a two-time winner of the American Legion's oratorical contest.



Poolesville's Annette Howard was recognized in the Poolesville Day parade as Legionnaire of the Year in 2023.



Students attending the Fair Access Committee's annual celebratory breakfast on behalf of the entire student body were grateful for the progress on their new school.



Various dignitaries attended the Fair Access Committee's breakfast: Gabe Alborno (County Councilmember), Katie Longbrake (WUMCO), Marilyn Balcombe (County Councilmember), Andrew Friedson (County Councilmember), and Evan Glass (County Councilmember).



Jerry Klobukowski, Jon Wolz (C&O Canal Committee), principals Joe Green (JPMS), Doug Robbins (PES), and Mark Carothers (PHS), and vice principal Ryan Graves (PHS).



Sam Cooper (Poolesville Pride), County Executive Marc Elrich, Sen. Brian Feldman, and town commissioner Sarah Paksima led the attendees in celebrating the progress made through the cooperation between the Fair Access Committee and county officials.

Local News

30th Year of Countryside Artisans

By Dalis Davidson

It's a bright sunny day with a slight breeze; a view of fields and the mountains rises serenely in the distance. Susan Due Percy of Sugarloaf Studio sets up her portable easel, chooses her palette of pastels, and begins to put the colors she sees on her paper. The light is changing quickly, and she captures the clouds, the greens and golds of the corn in the field, and the dark teals, greens, and even purples of the Catoctin Mountains. This moment of painting in situ is plein air painting. Susan is just one of the artists on the Countryside Artisans' Autumn Studio Tour, and her recent paintings will be for sale at the upcoming tour, October 13 to 15.

Countryside Artisans is celebrating its thirtieth year of offering pottery, paintings, prints, fiber, sculpture, blown glass, quilts, craft wine and beer, jewelry, and even tea. From humble beginnings of just a few artists, the tour has grown to fifteen studios and many more artists. In 1993, Dalis Davidson and Peg Coleman organized a few artists in the area surrounding Sugarloaf Mountain to showcase their art on their farms and studios. The Countryside Artisans studio tour was born. They host studio tours three times a year, in April, October, and December.

Just an hour's drive from Washington and Baltimore, folks can take a free self-guided tour of the studios and view the art or drink the beverages and get a glimpse of the rural landscape that inspires the artists. Many of the stops have farm animals grazing in the fields, the very same animals that produce the fiber that is then made into clothing (wearable art).

You may catch David Therriault of Alden Farms carving away on one of his stone sculptures. He has a beautiful two-acre sculpture garden where you can meander and view his outstanding pieces. Stop in the gallery to see current work for sale and meet guest artists.

Paintings, prints, and pastels can be seen at Cynthia Jennings's studio, Windsong Studio, and next door at Tina Thieme Brown's log cabin which is home to Morningstar Studio, both in Barnesville. The above-mentioned Sugarloaf Studio is just around the corner. Another fine artist, Kristen Morrison of Gallery East, offers her paintings in her converted barn. Becky Carr of Sugarloaf Quilting offers handcrafted quilts showcased at historic Darnell Farm.

If fiber is your interest, stop in at Dancing Leaf Farm where Dalis hand dyes many types of yarn, paints with wool from her sheep (which she calls "Landscape") and felts artsy shawls. Visit the gallery at Tiewyan Farm, where Bev Thoms has curated a collection of artists, creating wool wearables and home goods. Heather Lysantri of Breezy Hill Farm sells handcrafted wearables, many made from her herd of alpacas.

A studio tour would not be complete without ceramic studios. Jennifer Hamilton of Dusty Road Pottery sells functional stoneware in her converted dairy barn. If you'd like to learn to make a mug or plate, she also offers classes. Mud Pi Studio, located at Heron's Mead Farm, is the home of artist Lori Baker. Teapots and mugs are her forte, and these can be paired with a fresh crop of home-grown tea. Linda Phillips is the owner of Something Earthy, a pottery studio (also offering classes), and she showcases the works of a group of local artists in her gallery.

As for what is hot right now, take a look at Art of Fire. Watch Josh, Todd, or Bruce create a vase using a free-blown technique. Their gallery is stocked with colorful glass goblets, vases, ornaments, and more.

After a day of driving through the countryside and visiting with the artists, stop in at Waredaca Brewing Company for a cold locally-crafted beer or at Rocklands Farm and Winery for a glass of award-winning wine and take home some of their pasture-raised meats.

Help us celebrate our thirty years of bringing art and crafts to the public and to see where the artists live and work. Art makes a home!

For information on the tour and a map to the studios, visit www.countrysideartisans.com and please sign up for their newsletter.

Place your ad in the next issue of the *Monocle*.

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Rande(m) Thoughts Sometimes The Mundane Is Preferable

By Rande Davis

I had the chance to cover the Town of Poolesville commission meeting this week, and I must tell you, I truly enjoyed doing it again. I covered the town meetings for more than twelve years until Link Hoewing agreed to do so for us. Returning as the “reporter” was like going back on the job long after retirement, something that rarely occurs except in dreams or nightmares, depending on your employment experience. To be perfectly clear, I attended the meeting online, watching it on YouTube and not in person. It had its drawbacks in that comments made by the attending public were not recorded at all, not even slightly.

This meeting was just the way you want it. Standard housekeeping issues, no-nonsense discussions, no drama, no hysterics. The public seems relatively at ease with the current commission, lacking the public outrage experienced so often in the past. We should enjoy it while it lasts, as my experience of these past twenty years tells me it won't last long.

When they voted to bring the town into full compliance with county pesticide regulations, it was expected, although they need to elaborate on the specifics of the change soon so the public and commercial establishments can know what is expected of them. I expect Wade or Neil will get going on this as there really should not be any daylight between the time the change goes into effect and the ability of the public to know exactly what rules to follow and what pesticides not to use.

The meeting really displayed our newly-improved relationship with the down county folks. At so many levels, from the Poolesville Day breakfast to several public upcoming events targeting our needs to improve living up here, we have come a long way in gaining the ear of our elected officials.

Speaking about hearing. I agreed with Gary Hartz, one of the attendees, who, as a person with a hearing issue and even having advanced hearing aids, found it difficult to follow the full conversation. At this time, the town meetings are not ADA compliant as anyone with a hearing difficulty will struggle to follow the discussions. Glad to hear they are planning to make improvements.

I must say, it was nice having such a mundane experience. It was almost like having a day off from work.

Garden

That 'Parsley Worm' Is Really a Caterpillar

By Maureen McConnell

In the last few weeks, did you happen to notice in your garden a “worm” on parsley, dill, carrot, or phlox plants? Chances are it is a caterpillar that turns into an even more striking eastern black swallowtail butterfly (*Papilio polyxenes*). The pupa worm is in the butterfly's larval stage. This butterfly is found across southern Canada and most of the eastern and mid-western U.S. all the way to the Rocky Mountains. It is the most common butterfly in our area.

There are many types of butterflies. They and moths make up an order of insects called Lepidoptera. This group contains over 180,000 known species. North America is a temperate area, and many butterflies find a home here. Approximately seven hundred species can be found north of the border of Mexico. Two familiar types are the milkweed butterfly (among them the monarch), the queen butterfly, and the *Papilionidae* which includes the black swallowtail butterfly. Scientifically, butterflies are categorized into



This is the most common butterfly in our area.

species and families. They can also be separated into habitats. Each one offers unique sources of camouflage and nutrition, and each type of ecosystem has different butterflies that thrive there.

Grassland habitats are seen in meadows and around flower gardens. You can find monarchs, swallowtails, and viceroys in these areas. The viceroy can convincingly mimic the appearance of the monarch. Woodland

Continued on page 23.

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Business Briefs

Bassett's Is Open!

Erika Myers and staff are thrilled that they will be reopening the weekend of October 7 and 8. It comes just in time for their annual Oktoberfest menu, featuring Erika's favorite, Shepherd's pie. The restaurant looks beautiful with a fresh coat of paint and ready to go. Getting through all the permitting processes was a bit frustrating at times, but she is there and ready to start serving the public again. Erika told the *Monocle*, "I am so grateful for all the amazing expressions of support, prayers, and well wishes that came from the public. We just love our customers so much! I can't wait to see them again."

For anyone looking to work for a family-oriented business, Bassett's has openings at all staff levels.

PACC to Network at Rocklands Farm Winery

Every month, the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce (PACC) hosts a network gathering in the morning at various locations, which always spotlights one company, while providing all in attendance time to give a brief statement about their firm. In addition, in its mission to help members build their business and strengthen their local contacts, they also hold occasional special network events in the evening. This October 19, they will gather at Rocklands Farm Winery for an October Happy Hour from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There will be a cash bar. Register in advance at poolesvillechamber.com.

Fire in the Hole: Pumpkin Cannon for Fun and a Good Cause

Lewis Orchards has always been a strong supporter of local veterans and once again will offer their pumpkin cannon experience. It's a fun event and so easy to do. For a small donation (of which 100% goes to our vets), participants get to shoot a pumpkin from a cannon hundreds of yards to a target in the Lewis Pond. If they hit it, they can win a cash prize of \$100. Stop by the weekend of October 7 and 8, pick up some local apples and pumpkins and other fall season delights, and try out the pumpkin cannon.

Lewis Orchards will also have the Falcon Grill Team on site selling their famous BBQ. The PHS BBQ will be available October 7 and 8.



The Bassett's family and staff are ready to serve you again. Erika in the middle, with brother Gabriel on left, and manager Jim to the right.



These ladies cheer a very near miss of the target in the pond.

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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Presents Virtual and In-Person Programs

Are you looking for activities that stretch your mind, renew your body, and lift your spirits? Then visit the website for Poolesville Seniors, poolesvilleseniors.org, or call 301-875-7701 to register for a wide variety of virtual and in person events. **Registration is required, but all events are open to the community.** Most in-person events are located at Speer Hall at Poolesville Presbyterian Church, 17800 Elgin Road (Route 109).

October 6

Autumn Friday Night Polo

Join us for a night of Polo under the Lights at the Seneca Polo Club. Meet up for a friendly, one-hour pre-match social gathering when the gates open. Relax with your own picnic on the grassy hill prior to the match. Adult beverages allowed. *Seneca Polo Club 20760 White's Ferry Rd., Poolesville. 6:00 p.m.*

October 9

Riley's Lock Tree Identification Walk

Join local tree expert Ralph Buglass at Riley's Lock for a tree identification walk. Ralph will share how to recognize different trees by their characteristics and fill us in on why they grow in specific places. Registration is limited. *13025 Riley's Lock Rd., Poolesville. 10:00 a.m.*

October 10

Baseball Bingo Bash

Come out for baseball bingo, regular bingo, baseball trivia, and prizes! Bring a friend or neighbor for an afternoon

filled with congenial conversation, competition, peanuts, and Cracker Jacks, and of course, prizes. *Speer Hall. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

October 12

Home Comfort Tips with Larissa Johnson

Larissa will walk you through the top five things you can do this winter to help lower your utility costs and keep money in your pocket. *Speer Hall. 7:00 p.m.*

October 14

Glenstone Museum

Meet us for a Saturday visit to the free, world-class Glenstone Museum in nearby Potomac. Glenstone, with 64,000 sq. ft. of gallery space on 300 natively-landscaped acres, is the largest private contemporary art gallery in the U.S. Limited tickets. *Glenstone Museum 12100 Glen Road, Potomac. 10:00 a.m.*

October 16

PS Book Club: *Beneath a Scarlet Sky*

Join the virtual PS Book Club to discuss *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan. This coming-of-age historical novel follows seventeen-year-old Pino Lella as he navigates danger during the height of the Nazi occupation of Italy during World War II. Historical Fiction. *7:00 p.m. Virtual.*

October 17

Seneca Creek State Park Trail Hike

Join Gwen Haney and Karen Dansby for a trail hike in Seneca Creek State Park. The roundtrip hike is five miles long and takes about two hours. The trail is packed dirt with tree roots. Boots are recommended. Water and a snack are advised. Some up and down hills, no rock scrambles. Easy to moderate hike. *Kingfisher Overlook (parking). 10:15 a.m.*

October 19

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.*

October 20

Friday Movie Night: *Jules*

Milton lives a quiet life of routine in a small western Pennsylvania town, until a UFO and its extra-terrestrial passenger crash lands in his backyard. Sci/Fi, Drama/Comedy. PG-13. Please pre-register for this in-person event. Snacks provided. *Speer Hall. 7:00 p.m.*

October 27

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. *Speer Hall. 7:00 p.m.*

Continued on page 7.



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Continued from page 6.

Senior News

November 7

How the Civil War Forged the Modern American Thanksgiving

Join Brad Stone for a fun and educational talk about how the Civil War helped to transform an informal harvest festival celebrated by the Pilgrims in 1621 into one of our nation's most revered holidays. *Poolesville Presbyterian Church Sanctuary. 7:00 p.m.*

Weekly Events

Mondays

Ping Pong Afternoon

Speer Hall. 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Mondays through Fridays

Outdoor Open Play Pickleball.

Stevens Park. 8:00 a.m. to noon.

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. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

Thursdays

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

For more information or to register for any of the programs listed here and receive the Zoom link for each, visit the Poolesville Seniors website: poolesvilleseniors.org. Many of these presentations are also streamed live on their Facebook page and recorded for later viewing on their YouTube channel. Did you know that you don't 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.

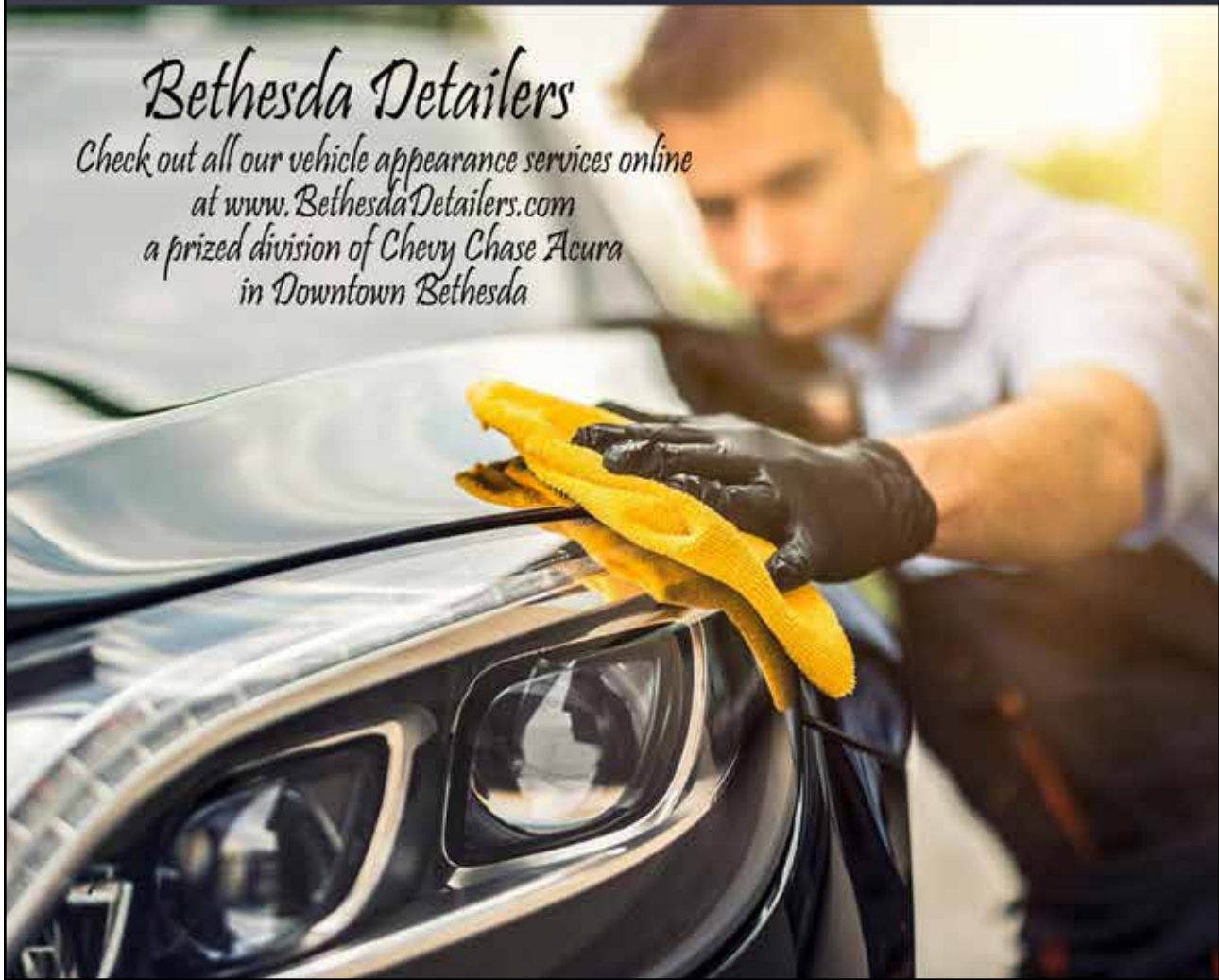
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Tidbits

UPN Mural Contest Winners



Charlotte Boucher, Executive Director of UPN, and Bridget Oberman, UPN student intern, handing the first prize checks to the winners Nicole Kastenmayer and Lela Eyler.

Prizes in the mural contest sponsored by the Upcounty Prevention Network (UPN) and supported by Riverworks and the Maryland State Arts Council were awarded at a reception on September 9 held at Locals Farm Market and Café.

Students in grades six through twelve were invited to design a mural on the theme “Mindful of the Past, Hopeful for the Future” to celebrate both our community and our coming back together after the pandemic.

Many wonderful designs were entered, making choosing the winners challenging but also exciting as so much talent and understanding were demonstrated among our local youth.

First prize of \$500 was shared by co-designers Lela Eyler and Nicole Kastenmayer; second prize of \$250 was awarded to Haneen Hajra; and third prize of \$150 went to Adele Benkstein.

Congratulations to these outstanding young artists!

PACC/Monocacy Lions 5K Super Success!

Another successful Poolesville Day 5K Run/Walk is in the books. Runners and walkers of all ages were undaunted by the downpour, and many arrived in raingear and with umbrellas and good cheer. Of the 419 participants registered, 292 showed up to complete the run/walk. Sponsored by the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce and the Monocacy Lions Club, this year’s event recorded the largest number of registrations in the event’s thirty-one-year history. All net proceeds from the event are returned to support community needs.

Alex Trouteaud of Barnesville won first place in the men’s division with a time of 17:03, and Ella Moore placed first in the women’s division and fourth overall with a time of 19:39. Monocacy Lion Milton Andrews took first place in the over-80 men’s division. Four eight-year-olds were the event’s youngest participants.

Thanks to all the sponsors and volunteers who make this event possible. Special thanks to the Poolesville Baptist Church for use of their facility and to the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department for ensuring race participants and spectators were safe.

For a list of all participants and their times, please visit the Montgomery County Road Runners Club website: mcrcc.org/race-result/poolesville-day-5k-7/

Vet Awarded Free EV at Poolesville Day

Military Warriors Support Foundation’s (MWSF) Transportation4Heroes program, in collaboration with Wells Fargo and Nissan of Bowie, presented retired U.S. Army Specialist Brian Storemski with a payment-free vehicle during the Poolesville Day festival.

Retired U.S. Army Specialist Brian Storemski was born and raised in Michigan. He admired his grandfather’s military career and wanted to follow in his footsteps and joined the U.S. Army in February 2010. Brian was a combat medic and served in Vicenza, Italy, Wardak Province, Afghanistan, and Fort Belvoir,



Through the generosity of Nissan of Bowie and Wells Fargo Bank, veteran Brian Storemski was awarded a free electric car during Poolesville Day.

Virginia. During his deployment to Afghanistan in 2012, he was wounded while supporting combat operations and received a Purple Heart for the injuries he sustained. After thirteen years of faithful military service, U.S. Army Specialist Brian Storemski retired from the U.S. Army in April 2023. He currently resides in Maryland with his wife.

Since 2015, Military Warriors Support Foundation’s Transportation4Heroes program has worked with companies across the country to award over 160 payment-free vehicles—over 80 of those with Wells Fargo. In addition to providing vehicles, MWSF supports these combat-wounded veterans and Gold Star spouses through family and financial mentorship connected programs. These programs provide crucial transitional support that focus on housing, outdoor recreational activities, transportation assistance, and leadership development. Through this work, they have enabled participants to pay off over \$26 million in pre-existing debt.

Continued on page 29.

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Center Stage

A Special Arts Gem

By Rande Davis

BlackRock Center for the Arts, now in its twenty-first year, is one of our area's most precious cultural gems. There are so many unique features of the facility and organization that it is hard to know where to begin. For me, I especially like the welcoming and warm 250-seat performance venue, an intimate space that provides a sense of the personal in every performance.

BlackRock has evolved beyond just a cultural arts center into a central resource for families in and around the Upcounty. Their varied presentations are also very key to its attractiveness as they attract an exceptional cross section of singers, actors, poets, musicians, and more from the local, regional, national, and international stages.



Orietta Estrada (Marketing Director), Katie Hecklinger (CEO), Josh Gamma (Gallery Director), and Tiffany Jordan (Director of Development).

Whether on the main stage or in its BlackBox studio (a darkened four-walled flat-floor stage), the diversity of music ranges from jazz, blues, Celtic, folk, bluegrass, to classical and contemporary music for all ages. BlackRock's mission is to reach a diverse audience with inspiring performances as well as compelling exhibitions. That diversity can be seen in its art gallery, the monthly farmers' market held outdoors, and the Artisans' Market featuring nearly forty vendors of arts, crafts, and food concessions on the second Saturday of each month.

BlackRock goes beyond just presenting the glory of the arts by also supporting area artists, performers, and the art enthusiast community through its varied educational programs offered throughout the year. They have educational classes as well for the beginner in their various music rooms, visual arts classrooms, and dance studios.

Everyone you meet, whether part of the ten full-time employees or the over twenty volunteers, bursts with a personal joy of arts and pride in his or her role in the organization.

The changing seasons and holidays are celebrated in varied styles from single instrumental performers to murder mysteries to choirs.

On October 14, there will be a BSO MusicBox Concert themed "Safari" at 10:30 a.m. and a youth-pleasing "Lil Pumpkin Festival" at noon. Do you fancy a murder mystery? How about "Polter-Heist," an interactive mystery offering from a Taste for Murder Productions on October 27 and 29? In November, there will be a unique Scotch Tasting Special hosted by scotch experts and, of course, bagpipes. On December 8, Crank + Flo, a jazz and go-go mesh, will rock the house with keyboardist Marcus Johnson. This is just a sampling; more can be found at www.blackrockcenter.org.

Some of their fall lineup of programs for the arts include: Cartooning: Use of pencil, pen, markers, and watercolors to tell a story from imagination; Group

Piano: Develop basic piano skills and focus on learning simple rhythm concepts and reading and identifying notes; Creative Movement: Pre-dance for young children: forms of movement while learning to move to music; Painting Classes: learn to paint Art Nouveau; Mindfulness through finger knitting; various dance forms, including ballet, Broadway musical dance concepts, swing, and jazz; and theater and drama classes.

Of course, the arts require supporters to thrive, and Black Rock is no different. There are many ways to help them beyond attending their many programs. "We strive to provide free and accessible programming that brings a community together," said Katie Hecklinger, Chief Executive Officer. She emphasized their need for members and that donations of any kind of any level are always welcome. "Community support made BlackRock what it is today, and it is through continued community commitment that BlackRock will remain the cultural anchor for a growing, thriving, and beautifully diverse Germantown."

BlackRock Center for the Arts is a local arts resource whose spiritual size is so much greater than its physical presence.

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POOLESVILLE DAY FESTIVITIES



Focus on Business

An Exciting New Festival and Special Event for Everyone

By Rande Davis

Our area has been on a roll of positive change in the past few years that is establishing us with a well-deserved prominent place on the county's tourist map. With our vibrant arts community (Riverworks Art Center and the Countryside Artisans Tour), rejuvenated and diverse restaurant scene (Locals, Cugini's, Kristopher's, Asian House of Poolesville, Healthy Hub, K-2 Café, White's Ferry Grill, and a soon-to-be-reopened Bassett's), cutting-edge recreational destination points (Landmade Brewery, Crossvines), history (John Poole House, Seneca Schoolhouse, and the Old Town Hall Bank Museum), the great outdoors (Ag Reserve), and family-friendly weekend events (in Whalen Commons), we are becoming the go-to weekend recreational spot for the county and region.



Joy and Jon Siegel will be hosting their Antique Festival at the end of October.

Now we can add one more exciting venue and event sure to prove popular not only throughout the county but the entire region as well, thanks to Joy and Jon Siegel.

The couple are lifelong residents of the county, having grown up and attended high school here. Since purchasing the Aix-la-Chapelle (pronounced ex-la-shapell) estate in Poolesville, they have been busy renovating the historic manor home and dependencies (now offering the property as a wedding and event venue), raising animals, harvesting peaches and apples from the orchard, and assisting their daughter, Amanda Siegel, in the development of the popular new brewery, Landmade, on the family farm. The newest project by this entrepreneurial and creative couple is the Mid Atlantic Antiques Festival, which they host twice a year, spring and fall. The next show is coming up on October 28 and 29 at the farm on Jerusalem Road. Eventually, their goal is to get the festival approved as a nonprofit with proceeds going toward the rescue of domestic and farm animals. "We have a bit of infrastructure and upfront costs to get this venture going, but once we do, we hope to shift the proceeds back into a nonprofit," said Jon.

When the couple is not working hard at their professions (Joy, as a lawyer through her firm Settlement Ink, and Jon, as owner of Jon Mark Homes custom building) they have created a shared passion for antiques. "While others were sitting at the beach, we antiqued throughout the country." They would take vacations to attend shows and pursue quality and unique antiques for their homes. "We traveled to some of the biggest antique events in Massachusetts and Texas, even when the kids were very small, towing them along in a child's wagon."

They learned early in their married life that one could decorate a house, cheaper, yet with more quality, by buying both antique furniture and decorative accoutrements. Another benefit is that while buying home items is an expenditure to most, buying antiques can become a good investment as well.

Their professional careers work well with their interest in antiques. Large estates can become an excellent source of great antiques, and when Jon builds his custom homes, he will often incorporate architectural elements into the construction, adding pier mirrors, cabinets, fireplace mantles, and fabulous old newel posts. In fact, their dream--now achieved--of owning a barn stemmed from the need to properly house many of their architectural antiques that Jon can now store for future projects. "We have sixteen barns on the farm, and they are now all full of our eclectic finds," reported Jon.

Joy's interest comes from her childhood with antique-shopping parents, living in homes that were always filled with antiques. Perhaps their most important

Continued on page 13.

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Continued from page 12.

An Exciting New Festival and Special Event for Everyone

antiquing tip is to “always buy what you like when you see it—if you don’t buy it, you may lose it.” Going to antique stores, or even better, shows like the one they will soon host at their farm, is great family fun, a chance to see some of the best from the past, rekindle fond memories, and maybe find a collectible or antique perfect for one’s own home.

At the end of this month, the farm will be transformed into a delightful “villages” starting with a makeover of the barns into room-like settings with over fifty antique vendors offering quality folk art, Americana, fine art, eighteenth- and nineteenth-century furniture, silver, quilts, jewelry, and more. One of the more seasonal offerings will be from Jewett-Berdan Antiques from Maine which has a specialty of exhibiting collectible Halloween and Christmas antiques. This is a rare chance to find ways to decorate your home for the two most popular holidays with unusual, unique, and treasured pieces. To make the day’s visit even more exciting, they will have an antique car show, pop-up bakery with sweet treats and coffee, and, of course, it will be the perfect time to experience a smashburger from Landmade Brewery for lunch. One might get the feeling, with its alignment with Landmade and live music, that this event will have much of the thrill of a traditional Oktoberfest.

With four large barns and a huge new pavilion, worries of inclement weather are mitigated. To underscore the intention of making this a special family event and hopefully introduce antiquing to some of the younger generations, all persons under thirty will be invited to attend free. Children and dogs are encouraged to spend the day at the festival which is on, rain or shine. The hope is that people of all ages will find the joys, advantages, and fun of antiquing.

The cost to attend for those over thirty is only \$10, good for both days, Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Golf carts and Gators driven by festival volunteers will shuttle guests (and their purchases) to and from the parking lot at Landmade Brewery to the venue.

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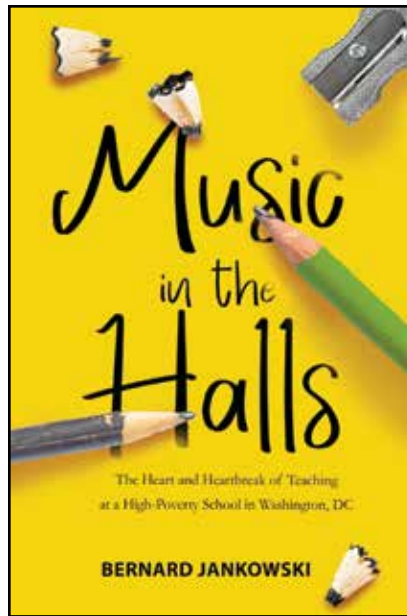
Center Stage

New Book to Be Published By Poolesville's Bernie Jankowski

By Rande Davis

Congratulations to Poolesville's Bernie Jankowski on his new book, *Music in the Halls, the Heart and Heartbreak of Teaching in a High-Poverty School in Washington, DC*. It will be published in January 2024 by Regal House Press. The book has already been featured at the Maryland State School Counselors Conference. *Music in the Halls* has been hailed as a "masterwork" by Grace Cavalieri, Poet Laureate of Maryland. The foreword is by Dr. Ham of Bowie State University and the epilogue is from Dr. Marja Humphrey, also of Bowie State.

Music in the Halls is, as Dr. Humphrey notes in the epilogue, "a memoir, documentary, and wakeup call neatly packaged into one text." This creative nonfiction book tears the cover off the inner-workings of a high-poverty District of Columbia Public School (DCPS) eight blocks from the U.S. Capitol. By using various styles (vignettes, essays, snapshots, portraits, and poems), Jankowski explores the interweaving worlds of children, parents, teachers, administrators, and the DCPS bureaucracy with all their raw, hopeful, desperate, and unforgiving energies. The book also scrutinizes the effects of the teacher evaluation system (IMPACT) that focuses on the results of observations and



Continued on page 24

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Ag News

Deere Valley Farm: All in the Family Farming

By Rande Davis

With the recent opening of the Deere Valley Farm Market in Dickerson, Rob and Samantha Baker are experiencing the culmination of their shared vision and dream that have their roots going back over four generations of Baker family farming.

The Deere Valley Farm, located right at the Montgomery and Frederick County line on Route 28, has its roots in dairy farming. Through the years, the enterprise moved away from the demanding, costly, and labor-intensive work of milk cows to crop and animal production. For Rob, the vision began in high school, when he finally had to come up with an answer to the age-old question, "What are you going to do after high school." With the typical level of uncertainty for someone his age, he only knew one thing. "I wasn't sure, but I knew I wanted to go to college."

As the fourth generation Baker with a farming history, his love of farming led him to the University of Maryland, a land-grant university that has its foundation in agriculture. In recent generations, the Baker family had pursued farming through pure love and interest, separating their professional careers from their personal avocation of farming parttime.

In fact, upon graduation from the University of Maryland, Rob first went to work for others as an Agronomist before finally starting his own agricultural firm, Mid-Atlantic Ag Consulting. While building his business, Rob, his dad, and his brother grew the cow-calf operation, raising beef cattle to an average of four hundred pounds then taking them to auction as feeder calves. During these earlier times, Samantha pursued her teaching career as an elementary school art teacher.

Eventually, Rob decided it to be more advantageous to raise the cattle to completion, raising them to their full growth of around thirteen hundred pounds before taking them to market. It was during this time that their vision of opening their farm market began to emerge, and in recent years, they have been



The Market at Deere Valley is now open for business, featuring their locally-raised meats.

preparing for the eventuality of opening their own retail location, selling meat from the cattle, pigs, lambs, and chickens they raise.

The love of farming has been instilled into the Bakers' children, Josh and Zack, the fifth generation of Bakers who have been engaged in the farm even in their youth, and were involved in Frederick County 4-H, showing steers, sheep, and pigs, among other projects. Josh and Zack have been involved with working on the farm since elementary school, running tractors, baling straw, participating in planting and harvesting, and running the combine alongside their grandfather Paul. The young men will be following their dad's lead by graduating soon from the University of Maryland with degrees in Agriculture Business.

Continued on page 25.

Monocacy Lions Club Charity Golf Tournament



Wednesday, October 18
Bretton Woods Country Club
REGISTRATION: 9:30 a.m.
SHOTGUN START: 11:00 A.M.

Format: Shotgun Start – Four Person Scramble – Captain's Choice

Prizes/Awards:

Longest Drive – Closest to the Pin on all Par 3s

Closest to the Center and Putting Contest

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Continued from page 1.

Transportation Needs and Reopening of White's Ferry Scheduled for Upcoming Forum

what is on our horizon for things we are pushing for next. Their focus is on a community center, health clinic, bubble over the pool, and access to more health-care out here." While County Executive Marc Elrich was unable to stay for the whole presentation, he has scheduled a separate meeting with commissioners to update him on those missed items.

Paksima announced an October 12 forum and October 16 hearing on Upcounty transportation needs in which the public is invited to participate. White's Ferry will be part of this discussion as well as the needs of area residents in need of additional bus service.

The Western County Economic Forum at Crossvines on October 27, from 8:00 a.m. to noon, is sponsored in part by FAC. It will address how the needs of our area cannot be viewed by the county with the same economic metrics as down county. The objective is to further showcase progress made and how the county can further support our economic growth. The mission is to create new areas of economic activity in the Ag Reserve, focusing on agriculture, outdoor recreation, history, and agritourism. They will strategize on ways for county officials to support our community effectively. More details on this conference can be viewed on the town website's FAC site.

Ed Reed congratulated a representative group of PHS students who have done a great job of voicing interest in the community recreation center to county officials.

In regular business, the commissioners voted unanimously to award a contract to PBI Commercial to remove the old restroom at Halmos Park and rebuild a new one. The competitive bids ranged from the winning bid at \$270,759 to \$480,000. Tom Kettler, of Kettler Homes Forlines, the second-ranked bidder at \$324,000, proffered a suggestion to the commissioners to incorporate in their bidding procedure a process to give some additional consideration to locally-based companies. The cost of the project will be offset by a parks development grant of \$82,000 and is expected to be completed by April 2024.

The commissioners also voted unanimously to adopt the provisions of the Montgomery County Pesticide Law, codified in Chapter 33B of the Montgomery

County Code. The new regulations came with the recommendation of Sustainable Poolesville for establishing a healthier soil, reduce carbon storage, use of lawn clippings and leaves for fertilizer, improving the capture of stormwater runoff, and protecting wildlife and habitat. Since area landscapers have previously adopted to these restrictions to work within the county, it was expected that doing so in Poolesville will not have an additional adverse effect on their business. Town Manager Wade Yost will be developing an outline of the specific restrictions on commercial establishments and landowners in the town and make it available on the town website, through press releases, and other media avenues very soon.

In another vote, the commissioners voted unanimously to approve the creation of a Forest Conservation Bank on a 7.3-acre area located off Keeton Way. Reforestation is the intentional restocking of removed trees due to land development or other activity. While such a process is most often done using land on the property under development, a bank is created to have a space available whenever an approved development lacks the additional space.

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Youth Sports

PHS Girls' Volleyball Digs In and Never Quits

By Jeff Stuart

In their first home match of the season against Gaithersburg on September 8, the Poolesville High School girls' volleyball team defeated Gaithersburg in five sets before a supportive crowd that really got caught up in the action on the court.

"It was a good match," said Coach Steve Lostoski. "We won the first two sets, 25-19 and 25-20. We were up in the third set 22-20, but Gaithersburg fought back to win it, 23-25. We lost a little focus in the fourth set, losing it, 14-25. In the fifth set, we were down, 6-10. After a timeout, we won six of the next seven points to take the lead 12-11. During that 6-1 run, sophomore Camryn Smith contributed two kills and freshman Caroline Baltazar had two aces. With the score tied, 14-14, there was a long rally that included nice plays by both teams. We eventually won the point, and then sophomore Jaylin Anderson served an ace at 15-14 to win the game, 16-14.

"We have several young players that are still learning how to win. We continue to talk about believing in their abilities and to believe in their teammates. They really played as a team and never gave up, which can be hard to do when you are down in a tight game.

Offensively, the team was led by sophomore Camryn who had fourteen kills and hit .190 for the match. Defensively, Caroline led all players with thirty-one digs and chipped in four service aces."

Poolesville was involved in another five-set match, losing at Watkins Mill on September 18. The two games the Falcons won were overtime thrillers.

"I noticed how we weren't really working together in the first set. We knew we had to communicate better as a team," said Sydney Short, a middle hitter and a senior in the Global Ecology magnet program. "Once we got a few points in the second set, I think that kind of encouraged us. We lost in five sets, but it was a good match for us. We won the second set, 26-24, and the fourth, 29-27. We fought back and came from behind. Iris Duan, a junior, impressed me. She always impresses me, especially when she goes back to serve. She keyed a



Alasis Bender (manager), Lydia Wong, Leavy Hu, Sydney Short, Sana Narisu, and Niky Zhuang.

substantial rally in our comeback in the second set and served a couple of aces at the end. Caroline is only a freshman. She always surprises me. She makes some great digs. She is the libero. She impresses the whole team with how hard she works and how capable she is as an all-around player—and Camryn's hits are powerful. I love to watch her play. She is good at service-receive. Our chemistry is good. We pick each other up. If we make a mistake, it is not the end of the world. Our teammates support us."

"The Watkins Mill game was a long game and stressful in parts," said Camryn, "but overall, it was a fun game to play. We were behind a lot. We were behind in the Gaithersburg game as well, but we ended up pulling it out. That game was crazy. We won the first two sets, and we felt like we were going to win the third set as well, but we fell short by three points. That kind of brought our energy

Continued on page 26.

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In Your Own Backyard

Seneca Schoolhouse Photo (Part 3)

By Jon Wolz

This is the third part of a story that began in the August *Monocacy Monocle* about a photo from 1899 that hangs on a wall at the Seneca Schoolhouse. That photo shows the students from that year along with their teacher. The students are seen wearing their finest clothes.

This part begins with student Bertha Connelly. She was able to complete the second year of high school. She was born in 1881 to John W. Connelly and Margaret (Maggie) Connelly. Bertha was the second child of John and Margaret. In 1880, John was a farm hand, and his wife was a "farmhand wife." One-year-old daughter Nettie was living with them. Nettie disappeared from the written record after 1880. In the 1870s, father John was a locktender at Lock 20, Great Falls, and at Lock 25, Edwards Ferry. By 1900, John was a quarry laborer at Seneca living with wife Maggie and daughter Bertha. John rented his home. Bertha was no longer in school and was a dressmaker. The 1900 census taker misspelled their name as "Conley." In 1903, Bertha married Thomas C. Young in Washington, D.C. Bertha was twenty-two, and Thomas was twenty-four. Thomas was from Pennsylvania. In 1910, the Youngs lived on Dent Place, NW, Washington, D.C. By then, Thomas and Bertha had three young children, including two sons and a daughter.

The sons in 1910 included John and Thomas, Jr.; the daughter was Gladys. Father Thomas was a fireman for the federal government. John and Maggie Connelly were living with the Young family and were boarders. John's occupation was "laborer, cemetery." In 1911, Bertha gave birth to a son Calvin. In 1915, unfortunately, Thomas Young, Sr. passed away at age thirty-five. He is buried at Rock Creek Cemetery. Also in 1915, John Connelly died and is buried at the Monocacy Cemetery. In 1920, Bertha Young was renting a house on Potomac Street, SE, Washington, D.C. Living with her were children John, Gladys, and Calvin. Son Thomas, who had been alive in 1910, disappeared from the written records. Bertha was a saleslady for a department store. Also living with her was her mother Maggie Connelly and two boarders. In 1930, Bertha was living at 3718 13th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. where she rented a house. She was a saleslady for a dry goods store. Living with her was daughter Gladys, sons John and Calvin, mother Maggie, two daughters-in-law, and a grandson. Maggie Connelly died in November 1930 and is buried with husband John at the Monocacy Cemetery. In 1940, Bertha was living at the Castle Manor Apartments on 13th Street. She was a saleslady at a department store. Living with her was a nephew and two cousins. Bertha died at age 67 on November 13, 1948 and is buried at Rock Creek Cemetery with her husband Thomas. Both share a grave-stone, and there is a fireman's helmet etched on the stone. Bertha never remarried.

Students Ama, Blanche, and Cate Downs were children of Maurice and Mary Downs. Maurice and Mary had thirteen children together. Prior to 1900, Maurice had been a canal laborer. Maurice had a brother Charles who was once a canal laborer too and etched his name in a stone at the Seneca Aqueduct. In 1900, Maurice and Mary owned their own farm in Darnestown. Daughter Ama appears in the class photo and is standing in front of her sister Blanche. There are no written records for Ama, and she does not appear in the 1900 census. There is Bettie Leoma Downs in the 1900 census who was born in 1890. After doing a lot of research, I found that in life, Bettie went by the name of Oma. Oma was taken from her middle name. I concluded that Ama was Oma in the class photo. Oma had an eighth-grade education. In 1900, she was not attending school. In 1906, she married Boyd Dickinson. In 1910, Boyd was a butter and eggs dealer. Boyd and Oma rented their home. In 1910, they had a one-year-old daughter, Elenor. In 1920, Boyd was a fireman for the fire department. He and Oma had their daughter Elenor living with them and two-year-old son Russell. In 1920, Boyd, Oma, Elenor, and Russell were living in the house of Boyd's parents, his sister, and some of her children on 13th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. In 1922, son Russell died and is buried at Fort Lincoln Cemetery in Brentwood, Maryland. In 1922, Oma's sister Blanche and father Maurice died. In 1930, Boyd, Oma, and Eleanor were living at 1610 Otis Street, NE, Washington, D.C., and they owned their own home. Boyd was still a fireman, and Eleanor was a typist in the federal government. Oma did not work. In 1940, Boyd and Oma continued living on Otis Street. Boyd continued work as a fireman making \$2,400 a year. Oma was a money counter at the Bureau of Engraving, making \$1,800 a year. Living with them was their daughter Eleanor, her husband, and their two children. In 1950,

both Boyd and Oma had retired, and living with them on Otis Street was their seventeen-year-old granddaughter. Boyd died at age 78 in 1963, and Oma died at age 77 in 1967. Both are buried at the Brentwood Cemetery in a family plot, and they each have individual gravemarkers.

Blanche Downs was born in 1894, and in 1900, she was not attending school but was living at home with her parents and seven siblings. In 1910, when Blanche was fifteen, she was living in Bethesda with her married sister Lula, her brother-in-law, and their two children. In 1914, Blanche was a launderer in Washington, D.C. On January 3, 1918, Blanche married Sweaney Blackmar of Newark, New Jersey, in Washington, D.C. On May 11, 1918, Sweaney was shipped overseas where he was a 1st lieutenant in Company B, 118th Infantry. Blanche and Sweaney were living at 3016 Warder Street, NW, Washington, D.C. In October 1919, Sweaney boarded a ship in Brest, France and returned to Hoboken, New Jersey. In 1920, Sweaney was living with his parents in Oregon. Blanche was not living with him. Blanche died at age 27 in February 1922 and is buried with her parents and other siblings at the Darnestown Presbyterian Church Cemetery. Sweaney died in 1926, age 32 in San Mateo, California. Blanche and Sweaney did not have any children.

When researching Cate Downs, I first thought Cate was a girl, but the class photo clearly shows a boy. I wondered, What kind of name is Cate? Cate was born in 1892 in Seneca as Arthur Katesby Downs. The highest grade completed for Arthur was the seventh grade. In 1900, Arthur was living at home with his parents and siblings. He was not attending school. In 1910, Arthur was still living at home where at eighteen, he was a farm laborer. In 1918, Arthur completed his WWI draft registration card. He was living in Cleveland, Ohio where he was a "hoisting engineer" for the Whorl Company. He was tall, slender, with gray eyes and brown hair. He went to France in April 1918 and returned to Hoboken, New Jersey on a ship that had departed from Brest, France in April 1919. Arthur was a private with Machine Gun Company, 127th Infantry. In 1930, Arthur was a lodger living with a Nellie Hutchings, her two children, and another lodger in Niles, Ohio where he was an engineer for a construction company. In 1935, Arthur married Mary Ellen "Nellie" Hutchings in Florida. Arthur was 43 and Nellie was 53. In 1940, Arthur and Nellie were living in San Juan, Puerto Rico with Nellie's married daughter, son-in-law, and two grandchildren. Arthur was an engineer at the San Juan dry docks. In 1941, Arthur and Nellie left Puerto Rico and moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1945, they were living in Palm Beach, Florida. In 1950, Arthur and Nellie were still living in Riviera Beach, Florida where Arthur was a steelworker for a building contractor. Living with them was Nellie's daughter and two grandchildren. The son-in-law was not living with them. In 1955, Nellie died at home in Riviera Beach, Florida; she was 74. Arthur died at home in 1974 in Riviera Beach at age 82. He is buried with his wife at Hillcrest Memorial Park in West Palm Beach. They each have separate bronze gravemarkers. *To be continued.*



Standing in the rear is Bertha Connelly with Oma Downs in the middle and Blanche Downs in front.

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

Youth Sports

PHS Boys' Soccer Opens Season with a W

By Jeff Stuart

The Poolesville High School boys' soccer team claimed the first overall victory of the fall season for the Falcons and the first home victory under the stadium lights on Tuesday, September 5. They defeated Wootton, 2-1 in a hard-fought game. It was a good way to start the season.

"For the first game, the team had a great showing," said Coach Komi Godo. "The attitude was good. The effort was great. Junior right-wing Aaron Bhattachan scored about five minutes into the game for us with a goal from about ten yards away to the goalie's right. Wootton tied it early in the second half. With about five minutes left in the game, junior Theodore Chisala scored on a penalty kick, and we held on from there. We had a very strong showing from Aaron and junior Nico Torres on the wing, and sophomore Kolt Tupa came in and did a great job. On defense, juniors Saahas Yaddula, Sam Corbin, Evan Schneider, and Shriyans Basapur in the middle were very strong. When we switched people out, our subs came in and they all did a good job. It is a long season. This was just our first game. I am glad we got the win. We want to build on that. Now we are looking forward to the next game, and we will take it one game at a time."

"We got the ball on the left-hand side of the ball," said Bhattachan of that first goal. "We passed it around a lot. I happened to be there at the right time. They found me in front of the goal, and I kicked it in to give us the lead. We played well as a team. Junior Keefer Bowen made a lot of big saves that kept us in the game. Zorian Teselko is a senior center midfielder. He was on the team the last few years, but this year he is getting a chance to play, and he is doing well. He has impressed me."

"My teammate drew the foul," said left back Chisala who made good on the penalty kick that turned out to be the winning goal. "When I stepped up to the line, I had no doubt. I have confidence in myself. I have taken lots of penalty shots before, and I practice them, so it is sort of routine, but I really wanted to make that shot. Our center back Sam Corbin always plays very well. He controls



Lamin Bojang, Rohun Sarkar, Zorian Teselko, and Andrew Shah.

the game defensively. Nico always provides a spark on offense. He controls the game when we have the ball."

"It was a pretty good game," said senior midfielder and team captain Lamin Bojang. "We could have done better, but that is part of the game. You play and you grow. We did a pretty good job of passing the ball around, and we communicated a lot in the first half. In the second half, we slowed down a bit, but we got

Continued on page 30.



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Monocacy Hobbyist

A Passion for Victrolas: Celebrating the Birth Of Full Music Orchestration in the Home

By Rande Davis

Our Monocacy Hobbyist column is dedicated to those individuals who have taken on unique activities to occupy their free time. This month, we focus our attention on Peter Poggi, a man who gives meaning to the homage of not letting moss grow under one's feet. This man is on the move, even when sitting in front of the TV.

Peter resides in North Potomac with his wife Cindy, but he serves us in the Ag Reserve as a volunteer EMT and a member of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department (UMCVFD) in Beallsville.

His newfound hobby is extremely rare. He is a bona fide aficionado of early twentieth century phonographs, especially those produced by the Victor Talking Machine Company, commonly referred to as Victrolas. For our younger readers unfamiliar with phonographs, they are the crank-up kind, no electricity, powered by a spring formed by a one-inch-wide strip of metal twenty-four feet long and wound so tightly it fits into a five-inch disc. When the power of that spring gets loose, make sure you are not standing in the way.

I first met Peter concerning UMCVFD matters but soon discovered his interest in these mechanically-simple yet profoundly-dynamic devices. Peter not only had developed a love of listening to Victrola music, but he became a self-taught Victrola "repairman," and he happened to mention this on his Facebook page. This caught my attention as I had purchased a 1912 Pathe cabinet phonograph quite a few years ago. It's spring had sprung, and it had become a useless yet beautiful piece of antique woodwork in the living room. I originally bought it to bring to life a fondly-remembered experience I'd had as a child at my grandparents' home. They had a Victrola cabinet player in a small spare room where my siblings and I spent many listless hours cranking the handle, gently placing a bulky and heavy 78 RPM (revolutions per minute) shellac record on the felt-covered turntable, slowly placing the needle on the edge of the rim and listening to this crackling long ago sound of joy. When my grandkids first heard it, they found the concept that it ran without electricity nearly impossible to understand.

As you will soon learn, Peter is a natural multitasker.

A few years ago, when Cindy's father died, leaving a large Victrola in need of repair and nurturing, he jumped at the chance to own it. Through diligent and painstaking work, he brought it back to life through a French polishing technique of using a half amber shellac (made from bug feces) and a denatured alcohol to restore much of the woodwork. Needing extensive mechanical work and not knowing where to turn, he studied how-to-repair-phonograph videos of Brett Hurt, a phonograph expert on YouTube. He eventually taught himself how to repair the mechanics of his Victrola. Imagine that, before the Edison cone phonograph or the Victrola shellac plate style recording, most people never heard a full orchestra unless they were able to attend a concert in a city. Their only music was voice, either choir or individual, and instrumentation was mostly piano, fiddle, or smaller groups of instrumentalists or local bands. Now they could listen to the wonders of John Phillip Sousa or Tchaikovsky in their own homes.

The first Victrolas were tabletop devices with a large cone attached to the needle reproducer. Victrola became famous, as did its logo of a dog intently listening to his master's voice with his ear to the cone horn. Eventually, the exterior horns were built within the machine. Volume control consisted primarily of opening and closing the cabinet door.

Peter has always been a self-taught hobbyist. "I am a producer; I like to make things. In the past, I always used to think about making things in relation to their value, what someone might pay for it. I never thought about doing something just for the pleasure of doing it. I learned late in life to learn to do something just for the fun of it." As a kid, he taught himself to draw quite well. "Not spectacular but quite good."

When he retired in 2017, he started drawing pictures of his motorcycle and birds, and pets. He found he developed the painter's eye, the artist's way of seeing things. "Now when I look at trees, for example, I notice there are three different colors of green, that some blues come through the leaves, and my eyes see in so much more detail." Through YouTube, he expanded his ability to draw, primarily with colored pencils, blending them with odorless mineral spirits. One of his earliest mediums was 1000-grit sandpaper. With a more relaxed, no-risk attitude, he could while the time away, even when watching TV, honing his artist skills.

When his son Michael was in junior high school, they took an interest in a game called The Battle of Britain. From there, they began to make airplane models of



Peter Poggi standing next to his 1924 Victrola which sold at the time for today's equivalent of \$4,000.

Continued on page 27



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Things to Do

October 3 to November 2

WUMCO Community Scarecrow Contest

Enjoy the wide variety of scarecrow submissions on display at Whalen Commons and vote online at wumco-help.org for your favorite until October 30.

October 6

PHS Annual Homecoming Game

Football vs. Boonsboro. 6:00 p.m.

October 6 and 7

St. Peter's Fall Rummage Sale

Halloween and fall décor, household and kitchen, crafts, office, electronics, music, movies, art, and frames. Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

October 8

UMCVFD Firehall Open House and Vendor Fair

Free hay rides, pumpkin patch, and food. *Beallsville Fire Hall*. Noon to 4:00 p.m.

October 10

PHS Varsity Home Game

Girls' volleyball vs. Kennedy. 7:00 p.m.

October 12

Upcounty Transportation Forum

Secretary of Transportation Paul Weidefeld and MCDOT head Chris Conklin. Public invited. *Blackrock Center for the Performing Arts*. 6:30 p.m.

October 13

UMCVFD Auxiliary Bingo

Featuring cash and gift cards with door prizes. Refreshments available for purchase; no outside food and/or beverages. Admission is \$20 which includes a game card and three chances to win in each game. *UMCVFD Fire Hall, 19801 Beallsville Road, Beallsville*. Doors open: 5:30 p.m., Games start: 7:00 p.m.

October 14

UMCVFD BBQ Pork and Beef Fundraiser

Featuring sandwiches and platters with sides. Baked goods sale. Covered tables or carryout. *Beallsville Fire Hall*. 11:00 a.m. until sold out.

October 16

Oversight Hearing on White's Ferry

Jim Brown, Town of Poolesville commission president, testifying. Visible public support welcomed. *Council Hearing Rooms on Maryland Avenue, Rockville*. 9:30 a.m.

October 17

PHS Varsity Home Games

Girls' soccer vs. Quince Orchard. 5:15 p.m.

Boys' soccer vs. Quince Orchard. 7:00 p.m.

Girls' volleyball vs. Northwest. 6:30 p.m.

October 18

PHS Varsity Home Game

Field hockey vs. Seneca Valley. 6:00 p.m.

October 19

PACC Special Event: Network at Rockland Winery

Cash bar. 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

October 21

Special Event at the Commons: RocktoberFest

Fun fall activities, including: pumpkin painting, a costume parade, scarecrow making, smores stations, and bounce houses. For the big kids, we'll have a beer and wine tent featuring Manor Hill, Landmade, and Rockwell Breweries. We will also have assorted wines. Our bandshell lineup includes No Stop Light, 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Front Page Band, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

October 22

Marker Dedication Memorializing Lynching in Poolesville

MoCoLMP will unveil the first historical marker in the county acknowledging a lynching. In case of rain, the program will be held inside at *Memorial United Methodist Church, 17821 Elgin Road, Poolesville*. Reception to follow at Locals Farm Market. For more details, visit www.mocolmp.org. Free and open to the public. 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

October 27

PHS Varsity Home Game

Football vs. Watkins Mill. 6:30 p.m.

October 27

Upcounty Economic Forum

A public discussion forum to discuss economic growth opportunities and strategies to reach those goals. Led by panel, open ideas and comments welcome. *Crossvines, W. Willard Road, Poolesville*. 8:30 a.m. to noon.

October 28 and 29

Mid Atlantic Antique Festival

Vendors, food, music, and fun. Spectacular antiques show, fun for the

Continued on page 28.

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Continued from page 4.

That 'Parsley Worm' Is Really a Caterpillar

butterflies have a large variety of food sources, so you find more varieties in this habitat. There are also mountain butterflies and coastal butterflies.

Monarchs generally make more headlines, but the eastern black swallowtail (EBS) also merits attention. These two are frequently confused in the late caterpillar stage. The EBS has black, green, yellow, and white stripes with black spots, and the monarch has alternating narrow green and black stripes. The swallowtail has an amazing saddle-type chrysalis (a quiescent insect pupa) that sports amusing orange-yellow tentacles that emerge from the head area when provoked or bothered.

The EBS females lay eggs singly on host plants, and upon hatching, the caterpillars are very tiny and hard to spot. As they mature through several life-stages over the course of fifteen to thirty days, the caterpillars change to the bright green "worms" gardeners see munching on their plants. By the time they reach this stage, they are almost done feeding and ready to pupate. They do not harm the plants, so do not disturb them. They are next spring's butterflies.

Where do butterflies go for the winter? Based on the species, butterflies spend the winter in a variety of ways. Some overwinter as adults, tucked into rock crevices or tree bark. Most of them and moths overwinter in the larval stage. The annual migration of the monarch butterfly is a unique and amazing phenomenon. It is the only butterfly to make a two-way migration as birds do. Those in eastern North America have a second home in the Sierra Madre Mountains of Mexico and those in western North America overwinter in California. The swallowtails spend the winter inside a chrysalis, also known as a cocoon, hanging from a tree or camouflaged under fallen leaves and decaying plants. For this reason, gardeners should allow the garden to stand through the winter; don't overdo a fall cleanup. It is essential that we provide overwintering habitat for the swallowtails in the form of standing perennial stems, ornamental grasses, and leaf litter.

Another way to encourage more butterflies in your gardens is to plant more food sources. Fall is the best time to plant these types of perennials. Many that

you plant in the spring will not yield nectar-filled blooms until next season. While milkweed is the lifeblood of the monarchs—and it helps continue its circle of life—nectar flowers give the adults the energy to continue that strenuous cycle. To attract many different types of butterflies, plant lots of their favorite host plants, including caraway, celery, dill, parsley, fennel, zinnia, Queen Anne's lace, joe pye weed, allium, chives, and phlox. Many people plant butterfly bushes (*Buddleia davidii*) to attract butterflies. There are mixed feelings if this is good or bad for butterflies. Because these bushes offer copious amounts of nectar, they become extremely attractive to pollinators, distracting them from other native flowering species and reducing the native's reproductive success which eventually also harms the native's populations. I do have several of these bushes but right next to them are many other nectar-producing plants which are also very popular.

Pollinator gardens are very popular now, and there is a wealth of info out there on how to design and plant one; it is not complicated, and you don't have to spend a lot of money on them. Simply plant what butterflies, in all stages of their lives, love to eat, and they will come.

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Local Arts

Riverworks Events

Local arts events take place at Riverworks Studio at Alden Farms, 19215 Beallsville Rd., Beallsville; Locals Farm Market, 19929 Fisher Ave., Poolesville; or Riverworks Outdoor Stage, 17617 W. Willard Rd., Poolesville.

Ongoing Events:

Fridays

Jam Sessions

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

Tuesdays and Fridays

Open Studio

Bring a project and share time and space with others working on their projects in the studio. Free. *Riverworks Studio at Alden Farms*. Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Fridays, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

First Friday of Every Month

Made in Studio

This month, make cyanotypes with Betsy Casaleno. Cyanotyping is a 170-year-old photographic printing process that uses the sun and iron salt solutions to produce prints in a distinctive dark greenish-blue. \$20. To sign up: riverworksart.org/made-in-studio. *Riverworks Studio at Alden Farms*. 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

October 4 to November 12

Artist in the House Gallery: James Vissari: "My Town"

This series of paintings depicts scenes all over Poolesville and the Agricultural Reserve, appreciating its character and beauty: what has changed and what has managed to stay the same. Free.

Locals Farm Market (upstairs gallery; accessible only by stairs).

October 7

Artist Reception: "My Town" with James Vissari

Enjoy Riverwork's newest Artist-in-the-House Gallery Show, with paintings of scenes around Poolesville and the Agricultural Reserve. Meet James and enjoy complimentary soft drinks and snacks; beer and wine available for purchase. Free. *Locals Farm Market*. 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

October 14

Monthly Concert Series: Brian Jamison Band and Friends

Brian Jamison and friends are back this month, now with Jay Summerour, Ayanna Gallant, Alan Gramley, and Adalia Tara. \$10. *Riverworks Outdoor Stage*. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

October 20

Riverworks Poet Society

Interested in poetry? There will be a meeting to include: 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 October shared poetry are two themes: Harvest and The Fire. New poets welcome (sign up is not required)! Free. *Riverworks Studio at Alden Farms*. 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Fun Fact...

October 6: National Noodle Day



October 24–November 11: World Origami Days

October 28: Frankenstein Friday



almanac.com

Continued from page 15.

New Book to Be Published By Poolesville's Bernie Jankowski

"high stakes" testing. The book displays how this system places a stressful and often unfair lens on the lives of teachers and their students.

What makes this book essential is the deep exploration of the emotional side of pov-erty and how it affects the whole system. Jankowski brings the vitality, despair, and trauma of the children in DCPS into the light. He also delves into the visceral nature of this world and how trauma impacts not only a student's ability to learn, but his or her ability to live a full life. Hardly a tale of only hard knocks, it is an exploration of how a person's understanding and compassion can be transformed and expanded to embrace this world.

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Continued from page 16.


Deere Valley Farm: All in the Family Farming

Their vision is to not just to simply open a retail store to sell fresh local meat but to provide a fun-filled farming experience for families who stop by to purchase fresh, high-quality meats, and a variety of other products, often associated with the seasons. As an example, they are selling fall mums grown on their farm. Samantha's teaching background has been instrumental in her preparing original fun educational displays to better explain farming to the visiting children who come with their parents. They are really focused on making a trip to their farmer's market a nostalgic remembrance of youth for the kids who come by. Rob has built an amazing child-friendly tunnel slide out of an old farming combine. There is a billboard illustration of a farmer on a tractor, with a chicken, pig, and cow that have the faces cut out so kids can stand behind the display with the faces in the openings. The vision is so complete, they will even be offering to visiting children ten-cent candy, an experience of joy Rob has held from his youth.

From the very beginning, the Bakers' plans have been created to provide for innovation and growth, and as an example, a bit later this fall, keeping with the nostalgic dairy history of the farm, they will open a sure-to-be-popular soft serve ice cream store. For those who have lived in our area for a few decades, it will be reminiscent of Staub's Restaurant's soft ice cream, designed to leave families with delightful memories of their day's visits to the farm. The soft ice cream area will have picnic tables available for the families to relax and experience the wonderful serenity of the farm that so beautifully overlooks Sugarloaf Mountain and is positioned to provide a wonderful sunset experience in the early evenings.


Montgomery County has become a mecca of ag tourism that promotes the Agricultural Reserve which in turn strengthens down county support of the Ag Reserve and expands public awareness and value for farming and our open spaces. As the Bakers' dream continues to grow and emerge to the enjoyment and pleasure of the public, it will add to the county's goal of strengthening ag tourism. It takes little imagination to envision a day many decades from now when old people sit around nostalgically recalling their youth with remembrances of days of visiting a beautiful farm with that amazing tunnel slide.

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Continued from page 18.

PHS Girls' Volleyball Digs In and Never Quits

down. In the fourth set, we lost by about ten which messed everything up. We were behind for most of the

third set as well, but we got a few points and got our energy back and pulled it out. Our two setters, Iris and Jayln Anderson, a sophomore, really came through for us. They are both insane setters. Iris had some crazy hits, and Jaylin hit some crazy serves. They

really brought us back. Camryn has done well as the freshman on the team. She is playing libero, but normally she is an outside hitter. We are definitely having fun. We might fall short sometimes, but we cheer for each other and come up with chants whenever

something good happens, and we pick each other up when it does not."

"This year we did not have many juniors and seniors trying out for the team," said senior outside hitter Sana Narisu, "so our coach had to pull up some people who originally tried out for JV. We have a freshman and a couple of sophomores on the team, so the composition of the team is different than it has been in the past, but the new people have really contributed. They have been great. I don't think we could be as successful as we have been without them. The Gaithersburg game was intense...after our first set win, our energy was high. We were excited. We really wanted to win, and it looked like we were going to. We lost the next two, so going into the tiebreaker, both the Poolesville and Gaithersburg student sections were loud. It was high energy. We were working well as a team for the first time—which was great. It was only our second game. The players on the bench started coming up with new cheers to get us hyped for the fifth set. I think that really helped. Everyone participated and I don't think we would have won without that total team effort."

"I have been playing club volleyball since I was twelve," said Jaylin, a sophomore setter. "I played a little varsity last year. Balancing school and playing is always difficult. This year is different in a good way. As a team, it is so supportive and so much nicer. It is not a select team. It is more like coming in and learning more about volleyball and each other, and playing the best we can. The Gaithersburg game was probably the best game I have ever played in, personally. We won the last game, 16-14, but we fought to the end very hard and pushed very hard. We deserved that win. My shoutouts go to Iris, Caroline, and Camryn. I played club with Camryn and here at Poolesville. We have grown together as teammates. Caroline is new, but she is showing that she is one of our best players. Iris does something exciting in almost every game. She did in the games at Watkins Mill. All those aces were beautiful. She is our leader, our captain, and role model. We love her very much."

Other seniors are Niky Zhuang, Lydia Wong, and Leavy Hu. Juniors are Brainy Akpala, Sanjana Shrivatsa, and Caitlyn Yee. Emma Chettupuzha is a sophomore.

October is breast cancer awareness month. The annual Dig Pink match is Tuesday, October 10 against Kennedy. The girls will be raising money for the cause all month. Please support them.



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Continued from page 21.

A Passion for Victrolas: Celebrating the Birth of Full Music Orchestration in the Home

aircraft from that era. Those models still hang from the ceiling of his mancave, giving him fond memories of the time he shared with his son.

Peter's road to becoming a firefighter and EMT began in 1972. He lived two blocks from the firehouse. He joined an engine company in Nassau County and became a firefighter. Today, the walls in his personal office display his old helmet and various badges he has had over the years. He began as a volunteer firefighter; later he became their paid dispatcher.

In 1976, he and Cindy married, and they had two children, Michelle, 46, and Michael, 44.

Like many inspired self-starters, Peter began his post-high school education attending Nassau Community College. He attended the New York Institute of Technology and took classes at American University before obtaining a B.A. in computer science from Shepherd College (now Shepherd University) in West Virginia. He came to Maryland to work for COMSAT Laboratories before making a thirty-three-year career with IBM.

He got back to firefighting on a whim. On a short daytrip on his motorcycle one day in 2018, he decided to visit the Beallsville firehouse, to check out what was going on in the firefighters' world after forty-six years away from it. His ten-minute visit turned into two-and-a-half hours. "We just kept talking, and three days later, I had an application to join."

Our fire department has a need for more volunteers, in particular, more EMTs. Interestingly, the fire department's mission has become more emergency healthcare than fighting fires. Over eighty percent of their calls are for healthcare concerns.

EMT training takes a year of college-level courses. There are two types of EMT for Basic Life Support (EMTB) or Advanced Life Support that establishes paramedic status.

Peter spends more time working on the board of directors in IT, website, security, CPR training, developing advertising, and recruiting in his twenty hours per week of volunteer work than on fire calls. I guess you could even say that being a volunteer at UMCVFD is also a hobby—one with an especially strong emotional attachment.

Thanks to Peter, I can now listen to "Blue Danube" in full orchestration on a 78 RPM disc, experiencing something that is nearly as much a marvel today as it was in the early 1900s for my grandparents.



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Continued from page 1.

Spencer "Spinny" Johnson: Believe in Yourself!

He played basketball in junior high and then junior varsity at Poolesville High School during his sophomore year. "As a junior, I thought I should be a starter. Coach Boswell is someone I always loved and respected, but I do not think he wanted to break up a group of guys that had been together for a while. During that summer, I started going to Frederick, playing with some of my Poolesville friends. The Frederick High School coach noticed me and asked if I would consider transferring. I said yes. The Frederick center was Kenny Boyd, the first player from Frederick County ever drafted by the NBA. With him as my center, it did not take very much for me to make that jump to Frederick successful. We went 22-2 my senior year. We lost in the State Class B Championship to Stephen Decatur by one point.

"I played in the state final at Cole Field House, but when I graduated, no one showed any interest in my basketball ability, so I did not think I could play. I did not go to college in 1971. I stayed home. Jim Conner, the Rockville High School coach, came up to a game at Poolesville, and he saw me in the bleachers. He asked me, 'What are you doing here?' I told him no one contacted me about playing in college. 'The next time I hear from you,' he said, 'I want to hear that you are somewhere playing because you can play. You just have to find the right place.'"

Dave Miller was the coach at Poolesville. He had played at Edinboro University in Erie, Pennsylvania. He talked to the assistant coach at Edinboro who had just taken over at Lockhaven about Johnson. "I played for one semester at Lock Haven. I had a pretty good year, but once again, I did not think I was getting enough playing time, so I called Coach Jim Christopher at Geneva College and told him I wanted to transfer. I sat out the spring semester of 1973 and played in the fall. In the end, I was right again in transferring because, at Geneva, I started as a sophomore, junior, and as a senior. Coach Christopher gave me an opportunity, and I never looked back.

"My Geneva College experience was great. I am happy that Coach Christopher gave me a chance to play and that I played with an unselfish bunch of guys my whole college career. Even in high school, I never played with selfish players. That helped me stand out. As a point guard, I could control selfish players anyway. I distributed the ball. If a guy was going to shoot every time he touched the ball, I was not going to give it to him."

He was inducted into the Beaver County Athletic Hall of Fame in 2016. The basketball flair that made Johnson a local legend in Beaver County caught the attention of Meadowlark Lemon and Marques Haynes of the Harlem Globetrotters who reached out to him.

"I got drafted by the Globetrotters in 1976. I was only involved with the organization for three or four months. I was released and disappointed, so I came home. I did not work full time from 1977 until 1979 because I wanted to get another opportunity. Haynes, the greatest dribbler of all time, had a Trotter spin-off comedy basketball team along with Meadowlark, so I drove to California to meet with them and ended up touring with them for one year. Haynes then started his own franchise, so I went with him. I played with him in 1982 and 1983.

"During Wilt Chamberlain's playing days, I was never a fan of his. I was a Celtics fan because they had a complete team. One man can do a lot, but it is extremely hard to beat a team. When Wilt came out to play with Meadowlark's team called the Bucketees, I was on the opposing team. We played on the deck of the aircraft carrier [USS] Kitty Hawk in North Carolina. I had the satisfaction of scoring over Wilt twice, and he really wanted to block my shots, but he could not. Meadowlark and Mr. Haynes both gave me the opportunity to start my career again. Both were talented players. What I took from Mr. Haynes was how to always be a professional.

"I played with Curly Neal a couple of times, not like I did with Meadowlark and Marques. I did a DC Lottery commercial with Wes Unseld. I have met a lot of great players."

Along the way to success, Spinny also encountered Poolesville basketball icon Fred Swick. "I always had the utmost respect for Fred. I respected him as a coach, but my respect is bigger than that. I respected him more as a man, and a father, and as a person. I played with him and his brothers before and after college in the Gaithersburg men's league, so I knew him well.

"In 1984, I decided I was not going to play with Marques and Meadowlark anymore. I wanted to do something on my own, so I started my own motivational speaking career. I put on shows for kids in the schools. I am still doing it. My size is an advantage. It helps me relate to kids. I tell them to always believe in yourself. There are two roads to success. You need them both. You can be

educated and smart as a whip, but if you do not have a good personality and are not well respected, that intelligence goes out the window. You need to have that respect. If you have both, I cannot see you not being successful. Study hard, respect everyone, refrain from drugs and alcohol, and always: Believe in yourself."

Johnson was also a substitute PE teacher in Montgomery County Schools. "That is how I made my living."

Spinny has lived in Montgomery County his entire life. He was inducted into the Lincoln Park, Rockville Hall of Fame in 2012. He and his wife Kathy have three daughters, Jenelle, Caitlin, and Anisa.

Continued from page 22.

Things to Do

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Remembrances

Susan Scales McMahon

Susan Scales McMahon, 77, of Poolesville, passed away on September 20, 2023.

She was the loving wife of William "Skip" McMahon.

Born on December 27, 1945 in Montana, she was the daughter of the late Vincent and Grace (McKinnon) Scales.

Susan is survived by her husband; two sons, Tyler McMahon (Dabney Gough) and Brendan McMahon (Ashley); two brothers, Gary Scales and Tony Scales (Cyd); one sister, Madeline McKelvey (Kevin); three grandchildren, Mabel, Wright, and Brendan; numerous nieces and nephews; and Skip's brothers and sisters whom she loved dearly.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Building Bridges across the River at bbardc.org.



Susan Scales McMahon

Gregory Christopher Jordan

Gregory "Greg" Christopher Jordan, 61, of Poolesville passed away on September 9, 2023.

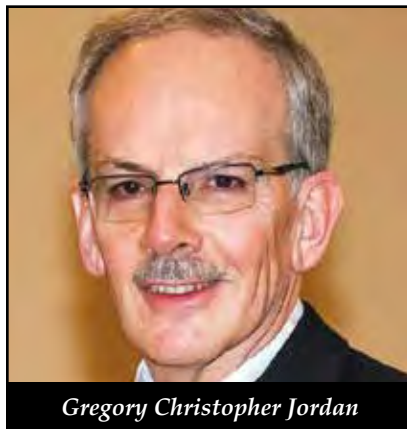
Greg was the loving husband of Denise Dudek Jordan.

Born on March 28, 1962 in Maryland, he was the son of the late Paul Augustine, Sr. and Helen Marie (Poletis) Jordan.

Greg lived his life as a public servant for forty-five years, serving the Montgomery County community for forty years. His passion for protecting and helping his fellow man started when he became a cadet for the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department at sixteen years old. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminology from the University of Maryland, College Park. He was hired by the Montgomery County Fire Department in 1985 and later went on to join the Maryland State Police in 1987 as a State Trooper. In 1992, he began his career with the Montgomery County Department of Police where he served as a patrol officer, a 4th District Detective, a Major Crimes Investigator, and finished his career as a 3rd District Patrol Sergeant. Greg got to know many members of the community through his work in the service of others. He lived a life of service outside of work as well, and anyone who knew him could attest to his readiness to lend a hand whenever he could. Greg was a man who loved his family dearly and enjoyed coaching his daughters in sports, eating ice cream, rooting for the Washington Commanders, and most of all, spoiling his baby granddaughter, Lucia.

Greg is survived by his wife Denise; his daughters, Nicole Jordan, Ashley Palermo (Francesco), and Julia Jordan; one grandchild, Lucia Palermo; one sister, Helen Piquette (Richard); and three brothers, Paul Jordan, Jr. (Ingrid Hearn), Patrick Jordan (Madonna), and John Jordan (Karen).

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in his memory to the Little Sisters of the Poor in Washington, D.C. or to www.mcleorf.org/donate to help the family with funeral costs.



Gregory Christopher Jordan

Continued from page 8.

Tidbits

Applicants endure a rigorous vetting process to ensure that the veteran chosen is the best recipient. MWSF works with the veteran to ensure that the gift of a payment-free vehicle assists them in their successful transition out of the military and into their new civilian life.

Historic Medley District 2023 Photo Contest

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The contest opens on Tuesday, October 10 and ends on Tuesday, November 14. All photos will be judged and displayed in January 2024 in HMD's new exhibit hall at the Old Town Hall Bank Museum. Please mat or frame them and deliver them to Maureen O'Connell. For more information, please email Maureen at MAFOConnell@msn.com.

MD Shepherd Cup Winners

A Barnesville family who resides in Dickerson recently won the Maryland Shepherd's Cup and other blue ribbons at the Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival. Amazingly, they have only been raising sheep for eighteen months.

Parents, Lydia and Ian Kline, involve all five children—two sets of twins—as this is a whole family project requiring the care for their five sheep. Ian also coached the Raptors, a SAM Recreation Boys soccer U10 team.

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Continued from page 20.

PHS Boys' Soccer Opens Season with a W

a second wind, and we capitalized on a Wootton mistake. Before that penalty kick, Kolt had the ball. He made a nice dribble. He faked the defender, and the defender fell for it. He ran into Kolt and drew the penalty. It was a pretty good opportunity...It allowed us to win the game. I think we have a lot more discipline this year. Everybody comes to play. We are more serious and really want to make a change. Sam Corbin is one of our best defenders; he is very reliable. Shriyans Basapur is pretty good too. Keefer Bowen, our goalie, without him we would not have won. Nico Martiniez is smart; he can really penetrate the defense. I also want to congratulate Aaron and Theodore, our two goal scorers. Without them, we could not have won the game."

"It was a lot of hard work," said goalkeeper Bowen. "We had to grind it out. They had a lot of opportunities to score, but we were able to stay solid on defense and pull out the win. We know that we must take every chance that we have and to be very aggressive on offense and attack the other team. My shoutouts go to center back Sam Corbin. He is one of the most solid players out there. He is very calm under pressure; and my entire four players on defense. My left back Saahas Yaddula and my right back Shriyans Basapur are very hard working. Center back Evan Schneider, whenever the ball came near the goal, he was able to head it out and able to clear and relieve some pressure on me."

Other seniors are left back Andrew Sha and center midfielder Rohun Sarkar. Juniors are Saharsh Miryala at right wing, Nicholas Nachod at right back, Carter Ortiz at center midfield, and striker Aayush Pandya. Other sophomores are Omar Elkoshairi, Seamus Lynch, Denis Motuzenko, Krish Pruthi, and Isaiah Valmonte.



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Petiquette: Pet Etiquette

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

We all (well most of us) generally want friendly and smooth interactions when meeting other people. We should keep the same philosophy in mind when wanting to interact with other people's pets as well.

Rude or ignorant behavior toward someone else's pet may create a safety issue and/or lead to conflict with that person.

Here are a few tips for making pet interactions safe and enjoyable for everyone.

1. Do Not Touch Someone's Pet without Permission

Ask permission. No means No! Also be polite before considering touching someone else's pet. Be sure you listen to what the owner asks or says before continuing forward. Be sure the pet is on a leash and controlled before venturing near the pet (even ones that seem very playful and happy). The pet's attitude can change rapidly depending on how they perceive your advance toward their owner and themselves. Your safety, the owner's safety, and the animal's safety are key.

2. Request permission from Their Human before Feeding the Pet

Ask before feeding anyone's pet treats or people food. No means No! Giving treats or food to their animal can have behavioral or medical concerns for the owner and the pet. The owner may be training the pet; the pet may have food sensitivities; or the pet may overreact or act aggressively to food.

It is not your place, as a stranger, to attempt to feed someone's pet, regardless of how sweet you think you are being to the pet.

3. Don't Making Critical or Disparaging Remarks about the Pet (or Owner)

It is okay if your world does not include pets; however, you should never criticize someone's pet choice, the particular peculiarities of the pet, or the pet's weight.

4. Never Give Unsolicited Animal Advice

Avoid giving unsolicited advice about a pet's behavior, medical condition, or differences. If an owner asks you, "What do you think?" about a particular issue or physical change with their pet and you are not a veterinarian, just say, "You should see your veterinarian for this issue."

5. Always Supervise Your Children around Animals and Their Humans

If your small child is interested in someone's pet, be sure the owner gives permission. No means No! Then supervise the situation and instruct them on how to interact safely. Teach children to keep a safe distance and ask the owner's permission before interacting with an animal. Instruct children to be gentle.

6. Don't Force Your Own Pet on Someone or Yourself on Someone Else's Pet

When walking your dog, never feel it is okay to lead your pet over to another pet that is being walked. Your pet may be friendly, but the other person's pet may not be as calm or friendly and may respond in a very aggressive and potentially harmful manner. Pet owners can feel they have a mission to get everyone to like their furry pal. If a pet owner wants a child or your pet to interact with their pet, just say, "No, thank you." A simple "no thank you" is all that needs to be said.

7. False Assumptions Can Be a Path to Injury

Everyone, including our pets, have their own personalities. Do not presume to know how someone else's pet will react or interact with you. Be careful not to reach down quickly to pet their head. Your advance and touch may be perceived as aggressive, and the pet may nip or scratch you. Not every pet wants to be touched. No means No!

A wagging tail doesn't always indicate happiness. Think and ask before you approach anyone's furry pal.



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