

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Monthly Newspaper

November 2023 • Volume XIX, Number 9



When you want to know the long and short about honey, Joe's your man! Check out more pictures in Family Album on page 2.



Legionnaires gathered after presenting the American flag during opening ceremonies that gave special tribute to Gunny Remp, a three-war veteran. See more in Family Album on page 2.



Reverend David Williams welcomed guests at a special event. Find out what and why on page 8.



Linda Lewis as Raggedy Ann! Our orchard queen's court got into the spirit! See page 9.

White's Ferry Discussed at County Council Meeting

By Rande Davis

At an October 16 meeting held at county offices in Rockville, the Montgomery County Council hosted a public hearing to explore potential new pathways to reopen White's Ferry to the public. For the first time, both private property owners, Chuck Kuhn, owner of White's Ferry, and Libby Devlin, part-owner of Rockland Farm, met in a public discussion of the issue.

Council President Even Glass introduced the hearing by noting the long history of the ferry transporting people across the Potomac River from 1786 to its closing in December of 2020. Glass remarked that a study of ferry service sponsored by Loudoun and Montgomery Counties estimated that eight hundred cars (well over one thousand people) used the ferry daily, both working commuters and individuals using the crossing for personal

needs. One of the primary goals of the hearing was to respond to the public frustration in not knowing what the county and other elected officials have been doing to rectify the problem. Although the expectation that a solution would come from the hearing was very low, the goal of the event was hope for a new pathway that could be developed to reopen the ferry service.

Montgomery County director of the Department of Transportation, Chris Conklin, provided a timeline of county actions from the time of its closing. Despite a three-year-plus attempt by Montgomery County, Town of Poolesville, Virginia Department of Transportation, and the Maryland Department of Transportation, efforts to come up with a viable agreement between the two landowners have resulted in complete stalemate. From the moment that the ferry closed, state



Councilman Evan Glass welcomed Rockland Farm's Libby Devlin and White's Ferry's Chuck Kuhn. Will the public zoom meeting reach success?

and county elected officials and various transportation departments have proposed multiple scenarios and incentives to facilitate an agreement.

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Montgomery County Ag Reserve: The Future Is Now

By Rande Davis

A convocation of local, region, and state leaders and elected officials met for a four-hour forum billed as a Western Montgomery County Economic Summit. The goal was to initiate a dynamic process for developing strategies to explore economic growth opportunities for the Greater Poolesville area. It set the stage for a vision of what this area can achieve in the coming decades.

The meeting was conceived and organized by the Fair Access Committee (FAC) through the support of town commissioners. The participating leaders included representatives from Agriculture, Commerce, Housing and Community Development, County Planning, Economic Development, Tourism, and other municipal leaders. The private sector was represented in the discussions by local groups such as the Poolesville Chamber of Commerce, WUMCO, Calleva, and other leading business owners.



HMD's Knight Kiplinger spoke of the need to find suitable and appropriate accommodations for visitors to the Ag Reserve.

The event was themed: *Western County Economy: Present, Potential, and Promise*. State Del. Lilyn Qi of the House Economic Matters Committee opened the meeting by raising the question of "how to make the treasured Ag Reserve a leveraging asset

that raises the quality of life to area residents, the county, and the greater regional economy rather than as a liability that has led to disinvestments and stagnation. What should

Continued on page 11.

Family Album



The Bupp sisters sharing time together at Rocktoberfest.

Residents enjoying Roctoberfest.



Now this is a flag! Post 247 unfurled their garrison flag at PHS football's presentation of the National Anthem.



Falcon fans showed great spirit as the Falcons went on to win!



Town Government

Town Commissioners Hear Request To Reconsider Pesticide Ban

By Link Hoewing

At the Town of Poolesville’s regular commissioners’ meeting on October 16, town manager Wade Yost made the formal announcement that town clerk, Bobbie Evans, is retiring on December 31. Evans has served in town government for almost forty years. Maggie Leibrand, who is currently deputy town clerk, will be promoted to the town clerk position.

The commissioners started the meeting with a discussion about recent work by the Parks Board concerning trails in the town. The issue of whether to build certain trails in town has been discussed before the Parks Board over the last several weeks. Commissioner Sarah Paksima wondered whether the issue needed to be brought back to Town Staff so an “audit” of the paths and trails can be done, and priorities can be set regarding which if any of them to construct.

Yost explained that the town already has an inventory and list of the trails and paths in the town, both those that exist and those proposed for possible construction. He said what does not exist is a prioritization of the trails and an assessment of which trails or paths should not be constructed. He said the board does need to set out criteria to use in judging the value of the proposed trails, and this would include the feasibility of constructing trails that, for example, would require extensive engineering and be costly to build in areas that are swampy. He noted that, overall, only a few proposed trails remain to be built in any case.

Commissioner Ed Reed said that evidence of public demand would be an important factor in deciding whether to build various trails.

In the end, the commissioners decided to ask the Parks Board to review all proposed trails using criteria that the board develops and report back to the commission with a prioritized list for it to consider.

Continued on page 7.



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Rande(m) Thoughts Past, Present, And Future: All in One Issue

By Rande Davis

Poolesville may be a small and quaint town, but our current local issues are anything but, and learning to deal with them can be vexing. Worse is that it has even become hard to openly talk about our past, our present, or our future without offending people. Maybe it is just a sign of the times—fear of cancellation!—but our community's discussion of several important issues is stunted by a lack of candor, so maybe I need to stir things up a bit with my observations that—while maybe upsetting to some—may actually result in more open and frank discussion. With each observation, I invite you to read the articles in this issue for more detail than a commentary can provide.

Past: Refer to Local News on page 8.

The historical marker enshrining the history of the horrible lynching of George Peck in 1880 has been placed after a suitable public gathering of remembrance. As an avid historian, I believe that learning from the past is a blessing for the future. What are the lessons to be learned from the incident? Ensuring a fair trial for all accused persons is the most obvious one and strikes me to be at the very core of who we are as a people. Another essential lesson to be learned is that allowing emotions to overrule better judgement in taking horrific action can result in evil.

The fact is that human emotions, left unchallenged, have proven over and over again to be a terrible thing. Throughout history, we have seen how gifted speakers can rile up the emotions of groups of people to do terrible things, and I do not know who, back in the days of George Peck, was the leader of the mob, but his words led to a killing of a man by otherwise caring and very loving people. How can such a thing happen?

Is the evil of hate the only lesson to learn here or is there something more? By all legal considerations, George Peck did not get a fair trial and was never convicted of the crime. A non-verdict is not the absolute determination of justice. Lee Harvey Oswald never had a trial, but as to his guilt, there remains very little doubt. If it was hatred alone that killed George Peck, the lessons to be learned from the incident fall short and this public

marker leaves a chilling vacuum. The pistol-packing pastor may have provided another important lesson for us to learn when he said, after responding to cries for help from the intended victim, "I thought of shooting him but decided to hold him for the authorities." If only the other members of the Beallsville community had not allowed their emotions and hate to overcome them; if only their urge for revenge had been stifled; if only the people of the community had not refused to testify against their neighbors who had done such a vile thing; then justice for George Peck could, at a minimum, have been served. It's ironic how often lessons from history always start from that awful phrase: If only.

Present: Read the front-page story.

The saga of White's Ferry took a turn for the worst after the recent public hearing that has, for the first time, left me with greatly-diminished hope. The Montgomery County Council held a public hearing that brought Libby Devlin of Rockland Farm and Chuck Kuhn of White's Ferry face to face for the very first time.

I came away from that hearing with a very definite sense of what I think needs to happen if the ferry is to open again. First, I want to direct you to our headline story about the event. This is the most complete, thorough, and accurate accounting of the entire history of White's Ferry with detailed and illuminating information at specific junctures along the way that explains how we got to this frustrating impasse that is hurting so many people and companies in our area. I urge you to read it before making any conclusions yourself.

Through all the complexity, I came away from the hearing believing there is only one way the ferry will open again, ever. What will not happen is an agreement by anyone to accept fifty cents per car or any derivation of that amount, and eminent domain will not be declared or re-established by Loudoun County or the State of Virginia. It will and can still be opened on a timely basis only if Rockland Farm can determine and negotiate a one-time amount to establish a perpetual agreement to use the ferry by others. Libby Devlin stated that her final offer is fifty cents per car. If that is true, I do not believe the ferry will open.

Near the end of the hearing, Councilman Andrew Friedson pleaded with her to provide a one-time amount of money the family would accept to settle, and she stated that there is none and that she would not budge from her per-car fee demand. It may be that she does not have an amount in mind, but I don't believe it

is true for the family, and here is why: Her brother, Peter Brown, who is also the largest share owner of the farm, has already spoken of an amount that could lead to a perpetual use of the landing. In initial discussions in 2021, he said, in response to Herb Brown's offer to pay \$400,000 for the land, that it was worth \$2,000,000. That's his estimate, no one else's. If the ferry is to open, then Peter Brown must get involved and earnestly negotiate a settlement fee. Leaving the management of this issue to Mrs. Devlin has had no result in three years. At the hearing, Chuck Kuhn raised the more recent offer to purchase perpetual landing rights to \$1.25 million. Somewhere between that and two million dollars lies the answer. If Rockland could come down a bit from their high-end estimate, I think the other parties, particularly the governments, could come up with enough of an offer to settle the issue and get the ferry open soon.

I once talked to Peter Brown over the phone to ask about possible solutions. His only concern was to wonder how I had obtained his phone number, and he simply replied that I needed to work with his sister. That's it, end of involvement. *Forbes Magazine*, at one time, published that, as CEO of Renaissance Technologies, Inc., Peter

Brown has a net worth of over one hundred million dollars. How does that look compared to fifty cents per car? With a suitable settlement, and with the professional investment advice from Peter Brown, Rockland could realize more than enough over the coming years to offset the dropping of a per-car demand.

I urge Mr. Brown consider advising Mrs. Devlin to accept a suitable payoff amount. The good people of Poolesville deserve better. The good people of Loudoun and Montgomery Counties, who have relied for centuries on the ferry, deserve better. We are counting on him. Please, Mr. Brown, let our community prosper and our families enjoy the ferry one once again.

Future: The story to read is the below-the-fold headline.

The public forum was an incredible discussion about the future of the Ag Reserve and the role it can play in boosting our local economy through agritourism and as a way to secure its future through a continued designated open space. Be sure to read that story on the front page as well.

As a historian and former executive direct of the Historic Medley, Inc., I have always maintained that the best way to preserve a building is to find a use for it. Emotional attachment alone

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Tidbits

Edwards Ferry Bridge Project Update

Currently, there is a temporary bridge over Lock 25 of the C&O Canal that cannot accommodate heavy emergency equipment, and a permanent bridge is planned to replace the temporary bridge. The contractor, Harold Scrimgeour, is working for the Federal Highway Administration who has an interagency agreement with the National Park Service (NPS). Work on building a permanent bridge over the lock at Edwards Ferry has stopped. When excavating on the approach to the temporary bridge, stone abutments for the historic canal era pivot bridge and the hook used that was attached to the pivot bridge were discovered. Five archaeologists from the NPS came to view the findings. The "artifacts" have been covered over with an approach ramp that leads to the current temporary bridge. Four concrete pilings need to be placed with two each on each side of the lock. The contract needs to be amended because the scope of the original work has changed.

Workmen at the site were finishing up rebuilding the bypass flume at the lock with stone. The bypass flume is a stone-lined channel that once allowed water to flow around the lock from the upper to the lower levels of the canal. Since there is no water in the canal at Edwards Ferry, the restored bypass flume is for appearances only.

During the week of October 30, the contractor will have finished securing the area, removing all his equipment, and turning the area back over to the NPS. It is expected that once this occurs, the locked gate at Edwards Ferry Road will reopen, so visitors can access the Edwards Ferry parking lot once again.

A Question with an Easy Answer



A rendering of the proposed exterior of Riverworks Art Center.

David Therriault recently posted an exterior rendering of the new Riverworks Art Center home in the center of town and posed the question: "What if we could build an arts and entertainment district right here in Poolesville? Could everyone benefit?" The answer is: for sure!

The state-of-the-art theater located in the Old Methodist Church (Old Thrift Shop) will feature music, dance, theatre, movies, meeting space, gallery space, and indoor and outdoor stages that will be open and usable by the public. The newly-renovated interior will feature much of the layout of when the building was a church. We can echo David in saying, "Sounds a lot like a community center."



What the interior of the Riverworks Art Center will look like.

Poolesville Seniors Tree Identification Walk

On October 9, twenty Poolesville Seniors joined local tree expert Ralph Buglass at Riley's Lock for a tree identification walk. The group's first stop was in front of Lockhouse 24 where they viewed a yellow mulberry tree. They viewed the "1829" carved on the lockhouse and other etchings at the lock and aqueduct before crossing Seneca Creek heading to the stone cutting mills. Along the way, Ralph discovered a possible new Montgomery County champion persimmon

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Charles H. Jamison
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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Presents Virtual and In-Person Programs

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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.

November 9

KPV Buddhist Temple Walk and Social

Join us at the Kunzang Palyul Chöling (KPC) Buddhist Temple for an outing and social at the Peace Park and Gardens. Tour the grounds, prayer room, and three miles of hiking trails, then socialize at the picnic tables with your bagged lunch or snack. *KPC Buddhist Temple, 18400 River Road, Poolesville*. 1:00 p.m.

November 10

Monocacy National Battlefield Tour

Explore Monocacy Battlefield National Park where Union troops lost a battle but saved the Nation's Capital. We'll travel by car to sites where the action took place, and a park ranger will

provide narration. Bring a picnic, or lunch locally. *Park Visitor Center, 5201 Urbana Pike, Frederick, MD*. 10:00 a.m.

November 11

Annual Veterans Day Appreciation

Sponsored by Poolesville American Legion Post 247. *Whalen Commons*. 11:11 a.m.

November 16

Trail Hike: Little Bennett Regional Park

Come out for a five-mile loop of wooded, natural trails starting on the Pine Grove Trail. Up and down terrain w/elevation gain 360 feet and rocky spots. Moderate pace. *Parking lot on Hyattstown Mill Road*. 10:00 a.m.

Veterans Day Program with Butch Mezick

Former marine and author of *Vietnam: A Marine's Chronicle of Change*, Butch Mezick, will recount the changes he underwent during his service in Vietnam. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 p.m.

November 20

PS Book Club: *The Librarianist*

Join the virtual PS Book Club to discuss *The Librarianist* by Patrick DeWitt. In this novel, a retired librarian changes his life after he finds a confused woman in pink. Fiction. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

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.

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Continued from page 3.

Town Commissioners Hear Request to Reconsider Pesticide Ban

In the public forum segment of the meeting, the owners of a local landscape company, J.D. and Julie Kuhlman, came before the commissioners to urge them to reconsider a recent decision to adopt as town policy Montgomery County's Pesticide Law which bans most synthetic pesticides to treat pests in lawns.

In her comments, Julie Kuhlman urged the commissioners to "reopen the proposal to full discussion, including negatives and positives." She said she is certain that a number of voices that should have been heard did not know about the town's consideration of the issue. She criticized the town's process for notifying citizens about important hearings.

She pointed to an array of problems with the county's policy. It does not prevent citizens from purchasing any of the banned pesticides, so it may be damaging to the town and its ecosystem. Licensed companies who are already regulated by the state and need both training and permission from the state to operate can't use the pesticides that are prohibited, but citizens can. This might lead to more use of banned chemicals by citizens who may very well apply them inappropriately or too heavily. She urged the commissioners to "think outside the box" and "don't follow the herd in the county" by simply adopting its policies.

J.D. Kuhlman said that organics, which the county promotes as an alternative to manufactured or synthetic pesticides, do not work anywhere near as effectively. He also pointed out that there are a number of exceptions regarding the use of synthetic or manufactured pesticides, such as on golf courses. He said it is likely that far more "bad chemicals" are used on the golf course at Crossvines than in all the homes in Poolesville.

Commissioner Martin Radigan wondered about how bad the synthetic chemicals are, how they work, and how they dissipate. He suggested that an expert be asked to come in and give a presentation on the topic for the benefit of the commissioners and citizens.

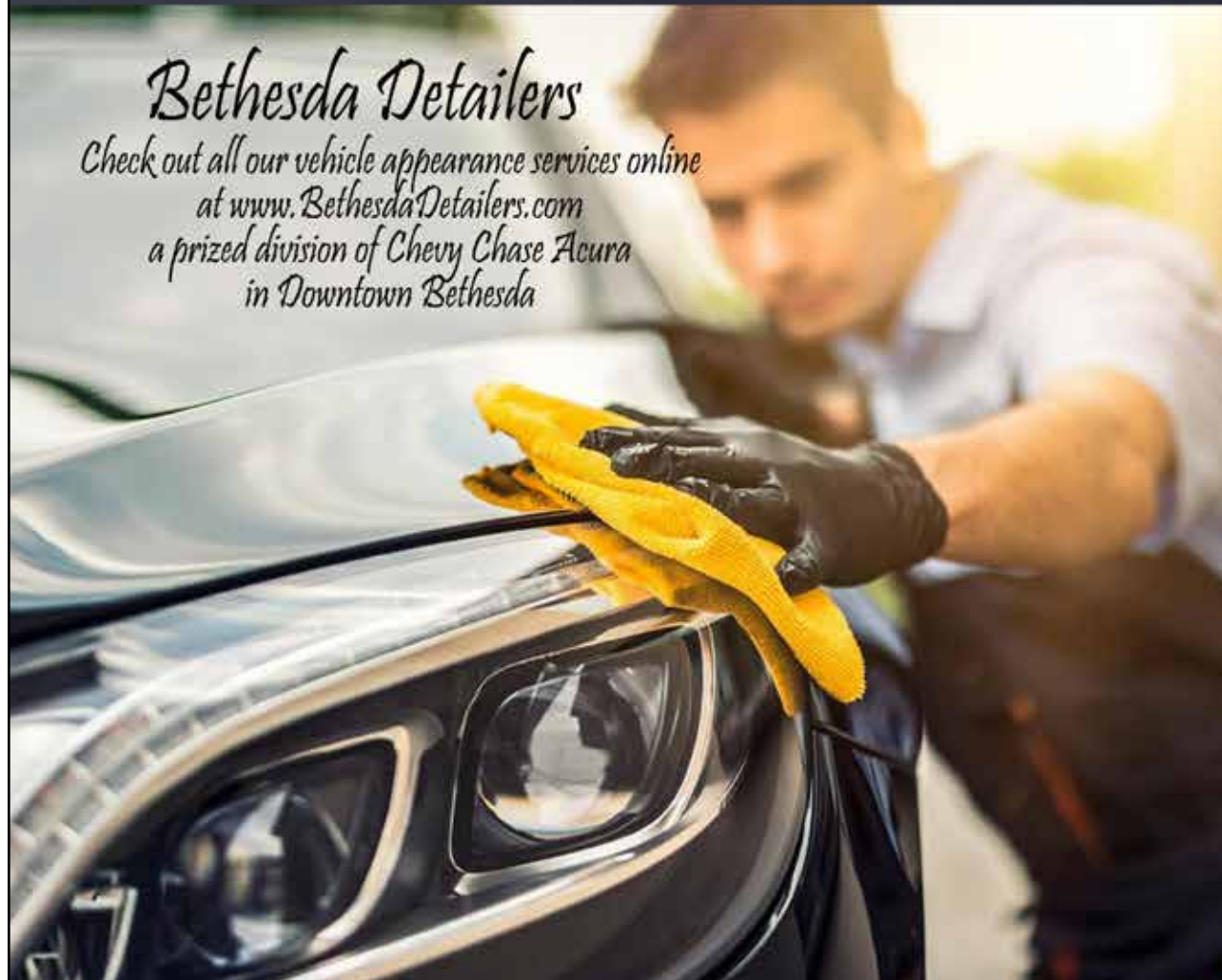
The commissioners made no final decision on the request but did say they would look again at the record and the decision, and consider the suggestions made by the Kuhlman's.



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Local News

Lynching in Poolesville Remembered With Historical Marker

By Rande Davis

On October 22, the Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project (MoCoLMP) dedicated a historical marker memorializing a great injustice to George Peck, a twenty-one-year-old African American resident of Beallsville who was lynched in 1880 in an emotional response to his being accused of trying to rape an eleven-year-old girl. Guests of MoCoLMP and others gathered on the lawn of the Poolesville Presbyterian Church, across the street from where the lynching took place.

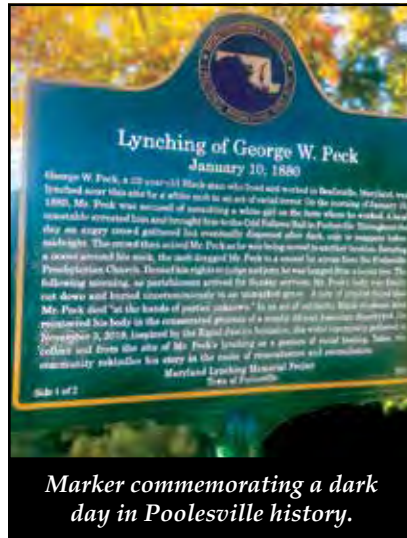
MoCoLMP, a grassroots organization, has a mission to create greater awareness and understanding about racial lynching and to begin a conversation that advances historical knowledge and reconciliation. This county group works closely with the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project and the Montgomery County Remembrance and Reconciliation Commission. This event is part of a national effort, initiated by the Equality Justice Initiative (EJI). Earlier this year, MoCoLMP collected soil from near the site of the lynching in Poolesville that was sent to the EIJ Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama. It is their hope that the racial violence which has been part of communities is recognized in order to advance healing and reconciliation across the country.

The Rev. David Williams of Poolesville Presbyterian Church, in welcoming the guests, said, "We are blessed to welcome you into here, and to say this will not happen again, and we won't ever forget. It is a time for understanding of where we come from as a people and to acknowledge the darkness of our past because, until we root out those broken places, nothing can come of our efforts. We are blessed to just have this opportunity to host all of you, to welcome all of you, into this our sacred space, and mark this place so that we will not forget. It is an honor for our little church to welcome you all here. We are blessed together at this challenging time."

Poolesville Commission vice president Ed Reed spoke on behalf of the town, telling the gathering, "Today is an important day, not just for our community, but for our extended community as well. Lynching African Americans is a horrible part of American history that must never be forgotten or played down. We must own our part of history where George Peck, who was the first lynching in Montgomery County by an angry mob, who decided they would be the judge, jury, and executioner of George Peck, who was supposed to be transported to Rockville for a trial. I thank God that we have come a long way since that time. I have heard some people ask, 'Why put up this historical marker?' I say, 'The historical marker plays an important role to remind us not only of the injustice that occurred, but it also underscores the importance of using the tools of education, communication, and democracy to continuously strengthen all communities as safe places to live.'

"As a community, we have a collective responsibility to work together to uphold and protect our democracy. I am honored and excited to serve among the multitude of community members who make Poolesville and surrounding areas a great place to live and visit. Let us remember the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., 'Whatever affects one, directly affects all, indirectly.' Together, we are continuing the important work of making our community better for future generations. May God bless you and use you to be a blessing to others."

Chuck Copeland, the pastor of Hosanna Community Center and whose family has lived in this area for four generations, spoke on behalf of his ancestors by giving an impassioned address on the matter of the historical race relations in Poolesville.



Marker commemorating a dark day in Poolesville history.

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Locals Has New Hours!

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Lewis Orchards Has the Halloween Spirit

Linda Lewis led her team of employees in the fun spirit of Halloween by dressing up as Raggedy Ann with her hair in curlers, and others showing the cute curiosity of cats. It added to an abundant display of all the decorations and pumpkins of the season.

Congrats to Peter Eeg



Dr. Eeg and Tom Kettler cut the ribbon for the PACC's grand opening event for the new location of the Poolesville Veterinary Clinic.

Poolesville Veterinary Clinic celebrated with the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce with an official ribbon cutting ceremony. It was a very exciting day, but as it is with construction projects these days, the ribbon cutting beat the actual move to the new location. No worries though, they will be in the new location very soon this month.

Fine Earth Landscape Was Happy to Help on a Community Projects

Planting was done at the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department. All labor and all materials were donated by Fine Earth for a steep hillside. Plantings included spreading liriopie for evergreen erosion control and Black-Eyed Susan and purple coneflower for summer color.

Fine Earth also donated all labor and all materials for a nice viola planting under the United States flag at the Soccerplex in Boyds. These fall flowers will come back and flower all spring.



Fine Earth's winning landscape project at the Soccerplex in Boyds.

Continued from page 4.

Past, Present, And Future: All in One Issue

is seldom a precursor to successfully preserving history. By exponentially increasing participation and enjoyment of the Ag Reserve for recreational and personal pleasure, we vastly expand the number of people who understand our love of it and gain their shared vision for the need to preserve it. Alone, we are just around ten thousand people (voters). Those who learn to use the Ag Reserve will come to love it, and that number could mean thousands of future voters every year. Find ways to use the Ag Reserve for tourism, minimizing any physical infringements, and that helps our economy and secures the future maintenance of the Ag Reserve's natural beauty.

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Local News

Navigating VA Healthcare Benefits— Synergy HomeCare Agency Speaks to Veterans of Daniel-Jeffers Post 247

By Pat Hardwick

In Montgomery County alone, there are more than nineteen thousand United States veterans—men and women who have served our country in war—Korea, World War I and II, Vietnam, and the Gulf War, to name a few.

It was on a rainy Thursday evening earlier this month that Synergy HomeCare of Montgomery County, a local healthcare agency servicing U.S. veterans in the area, came to talk about helping veterans apply for healthcare benefits to which they are legally entitled and can receive for free for themselves, their spouses, and any dependents with disabilities.

Pat Hardwick of Poolesville, along with her husband Joe, a former marine and also a member of Post 247, spoke to the post about their personal journey navigating the Veterans Administration (VA). Joe served in Vietnam and was exposed to Agent Orange. As a result of Joe's exposure, their youngest son Sam was born with spina bifida in 1990. Sam was able to receive benefits through the VA Spina Bifida Program, which paid for all of his healthcare, including doctor visits, hospital bills, durable medical equipment, and medical supplies. As their young son grew into a man, Joe and Pat realized they needed help caring for Sam. They began to explore other VA benefits offered not only to Joe and to Pat, but also to Sam. About eight years ago, they met the owner of Synergy HomeCare, Ross Fierman, and the agency worked with the VA to help care for Sam through their homecare program, for which the VA covered expenses.

Joe was also working with the VA, as he was being treated for high blood pressure and diabetes. Approximately fifteen years ago, he started to notice his left hand shaking, which was eventually diagnosed as Parkinson's Disease, a result of his exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam. The left hand shaking



American Legion Post 247 learning how vets can get help.

gradually progressed to tremors in both hand, balance issues, and other related conditions. It took about three to four years for Joe to receive one hundred percent disability through the VA which now fully covers his medications and all health services.

This story might be similar to stories heard by other veterans. As of 2023, it is estimated that only 11.8% of veterans utilize their VA benefits exclusively, with more than 39.7% with private insurance. More than five percent of veterans are uninsured, so this helps get the word out that veterans are entitled to VA insurance, and it just requires signing up so that they, their spouses, and any dependents with disabilities are covered.

Veterans can apply by visiting the VA website:
www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply.

Christmas Tree & Wreath Sale and Festival

First Weekend in December!

Christmas Tree & Wreath sales take place:

Friday December 1: 4pm-7pm

Saturday December 2: 10am-7pm

Sunday December 3: 12pm-5pm

Christmas Festival will take place:

Saturday December 2nd: 10am-2pm (open to all/held outside)

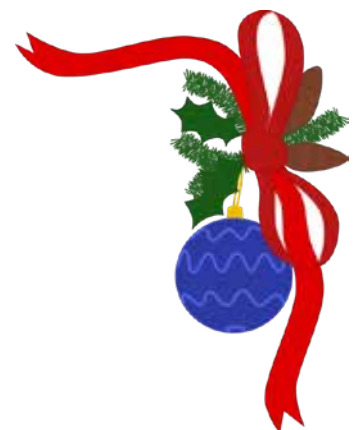
Don't miss the fun!

There will be a St. Nick Shop, bake sale, and free Christmas craft making, face painting, hotdogs, coffee, hot chocolate, and Christmas music!

~ St. Nick shopping for children **only** 10am-11am ~



Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic Church
17230 Tom Fox Avenue



Continued from page 1.

Montgomery County Ag Reserve: The Future Is Now

Poolesville look like in ten, twenty, and thirty years, and what should economic development look like in a rural community?"

Poolesville Commission President Jim Brown, emphasized that Poolesville is committed to a slow town growth concept that, nevertheless, seeks economic opportunity. He described Poolesville as "a town that builds community. We build it every single day. We don't think we are in the middle of nowhere, we think we are in the middle of everything."

Brown described the progress being made, such as developing the historic west end of the town through an art center with inviting restaurants, called for the need for a community center to establish a safe place for many of our students from down county during leisure times after school, to build a covered pool, to bring a co-op grocery store to Poolesville, modeled after one in Lovettsville, "a town half our size and half our income." He said the town has "trust in county government, we trust our county executive, our county councilmembers in seeking the funding for all this."

Link Hoewing, chairman of FAC, opined about the need to keep our vision on the region not just Poolesville and the need to bring equity of services to the area. He observed four areas of equity-need as: hidden needs (medical, community center, food desert, etc.) isolation, distance (travel and transportation problems in seeking services), and micro-population. Micro-population, while a strong asset to us as well, also runs against normative standards used by government in allocating economic assistance, and our political leaders need to view us differently from their standard metrics.

Hoewing offered that by finding ways to improve our economy by attracting more people from outside the Ag Reserve to visit here for the natural geography, farming and produce, history, and as an outdoor wonderland also serves the goal of preservation of rural, cultural, and agricultural history and heritage. Going forward beyond this initial forum, he called for the need for more studies and data to address all these inequities.

Caroline McCarthy of the Montgomery County Planning Department provided insight and important data points relating to the future of the Ag Reserve.

Marilyn Balcombe, county councilmember for District 2, moderated a panel presentation on preserving the Ag Reserve, building on its core foundations and still bringing economic vitality. She advised the gathering that this forum should "make sure it is the start of the conversation and not a one-off chance for people to talk and then just go away. We need to really think about intentionality and what we are going to do after today to make some of these ideas come to fruition. When we talk about preserving the Ag Reserve's future, we must include economic viability."

Leading the discussion on economic vitality was Keith Miller of the Montgomery County Revenue Authority and one of the key visionaries for the creation of Crossvines, the location of the forum. He spoke about the need for accommodations in the Ag Reserve to support the ability of tourists using these opportunities beyond just one day. "The model in the hotel industry is the 'Staycation' concept." He pointed out that all those present want to preserve that rural, farming environment and ambience, but to do that, "We need to find a way for people to come out here for a night or two to create experiences that will build support for the Ag Reserve."

He added that Crossvines has the important role as one of the gateways to Ag Reserve and ag tourism, which will lead to securing the Ag Reserve, which helps make Montgomery County so great.

Key county leaders and panelists on the Ag Reserve discussion included Alex Markoff from Calleva, a premier outdoor recreation service in the area; Hilary Schwab, secretary of the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce; Sarah Rogers, executive director of Heritage Montgomery; and Knight Kiplinger, representing the Historic Medley District (HMD). HMD's three local museums, the John Poole House and Trading Post, the Old Town Hall Bank Museum, and the Seneca Schoolhouse, will play a vital role in developing agritourism. Kiplinger observed that the schoolhouse already brings over three thousand school age students to its living history experience every year. Kiplinger endorsed Keith Miller's call to bring overnight accommodations to the Ag Reserve. While not suggesting large scale rental space like standard hotels, he proposed that historic bed and breakfasts, using examples of a few such suitable facilities that are already owned by the county, could go a long way toward meeting the need without infringing on the natural ambience of the Ag.

The other panel, moderated by State Sen. Brian Feldman, focused on reimagining economic growth in the Upcounty. What will it look like? What is being done? What policies and strategies make sense?

The panel included many people in key positions that can effect change and implement policy: lead speaker Kevin Anderson, secretary of the Maryland Department of Commerce; Carol Gilbert from the Department of Housing and Community Development; and Natali Fani-Gonzalez of the Montgomery County Council and chair of the Economic Development Committee. In addition, the panel also included Kelly Groff, of Visit Montgomery; Brad Stewart, Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation; and Martin Poulx, Maryland State Value-Added Agriculture specialist.

A special speaker was former State Sen. Mike Knapp, now of Skillsmart. Knapp was one of the originators of the initial studies and surveys over twelve years ago that sought to envision the Ag Reserve we have today.

While a date to advance the panel ideas was not set, the prevailing consensus was to do so soon and on a regular basis.

Local News

White's Ferry Development Concept Plan

By Jon Wolz

The National Park Service (NPS) issued a press release on October 17 in which they announced that the final White's Ferry Concept Plan was available for the public to view.

The plan may be viewed at: parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=177&projectID=107713&documentID=129249

The concept plan identifies potential improvements within the seventy-three-acre White's Ferry area owned by NPS and has nothing to do with the ferry operations. The concept plan provides new and enhanced public amenities for visitors to enjoy within the context of the site's ecological and historical setting along the Potomac River. The concept plan describes the project background, current conditions, environmental constraints, potential improvements, and steps needed to move toward implementation.

The concept plan outlines three potential concepts for the north tract (pavilion area) and three potential concepts for the south tract (former White's Ferry Sportsman's Club). Currently, there is funding to remove the nineteen cabins on the south tract. The cabins were vacated on March 31, 2022. There is no other funding available to perform a design plan or to implement an approved plan for either the north or south tracts. The activities and improvements identified in each concept could be implemented independently or as part of a larger implementation strategy that crosses multiple concepts. All concepts expand public access and provide new recreational opportunities, consider the site's location within the hundred-year floodplain and ecological context along the Potomac River, offer compatibility with neighboring private properties, and reflect realistic operation and maintenance requirements of NPS.

Concepts include options for the existing pavilion and surrounding grounds, options for new campsites, river access, and other visitor amenities such as toilets and potable water. A preferred concept, which could include a combination of improvements mixed-and-matched from different concepts, would be identified in the future through additional public and stakeholder engagement, and the environmental and historical preservation compliance processes.

The concept plan outlines three potential concepts for the north tract and three potential concepts for the south tract. The activities and improvements identified in each concept could be implemented independently, or as part of a larger implementation strategy that crosses multiple concepts. In other words, the NPS could mix and match the activities and improvements outlined in these concepts to best meet the project goals. The north and south tract concepts are also interchangeable with one another. The three north tract concepts include improvements that would provide a range of amenities and facilities available for public day use and enjoyment, additional wildlife habitat, more efficient parking, and varying maintenance needs.

The north tract concepts overall provide: Options for the existing pavilion, including repair/upgrade or removal. Options for the existing open field east of the pavilion, including sunny flexible space for informal recreation, a meadow, or an agricultural field. Options for picnic areas and shaded flexible space for informal recreation; new and/or improved forest buffer areas; addition of curb stops to define parking spaces in the existing unpaved parking lot; and possibilities for the addition of a vault toilet. The north tract could accommodate 228 persons if the pavilion remains or no one if that tract is returned to nature.

The three south tract concepts include new amenities that would provide river access and camping experiences at the park for individuals and groups of varying sizes. The south tract concepts overall provide: Campsites, with options for group or individual campsites, and tent or RV/camper camping; universally-accessible campsites for visitors with mobility impairments; options for sunny or shaded flexible space for gathering and informal recreation, potable water access, vault toilets, parking, river access for non-motorized watercraft, and a small fishing pier. Also there would be an improved riparian buffer and trail connection to the C&O Canal towpath. The south tract (the campground) could accommodate 75, 109, or 145 persons, depending on which concept is implemented. As of October 2023, all buildings and structures that existed before NPS reacquired the property are still present. These buildings and structures are scheduled for demolition and removal.

Pages 28 to 32 describe operational, maintenance, environmental, and future challenges that could occur once concepts are implemented. Pages 61 and 62 of



What will replace these cabins at the C&O Canal?

the document show suggestions that were made by the public that were dismissed by the NPS. The Town of Poolesville provided comments to the draft concept plans to the park.

Implementing the recommendations of the concept plan will greatly benefit the Town of Poolesville and other area businesses. Implementing a plan will require obtaining Federal funding (or a combination of Federal funding and donations) by the C&O Canal National Historical Park (COCHNP). The recreational activities will make White's Ferry and the Poolesville area a destination place in upper Montgomery County. Poolesville commissioners, local area representatives, and other stakeholders should actively engage the COCHNP's leadership, working collaboratively to make the White's Ferry Concept Plan a reality sooner versus later. The COCHNP needs to make the implementation of the concept plan a priority with the NPS.



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Continued from page 8.

Lynching in Poolesville Remembered With Historical Marker

“It should not take incidents like this for us to understand this situation of injustice in the United States of America. Those people who lynched George Washington Peck wanted to send a message to the community, so those white men from this Ag Reserve tortured and hung George, and they left him hanging in a tree in the middle of town, and they were not ashamed.

“Here is what I want you to understand: This town lynching happened for a reason, it happened to keep people in their place. Think what people must have told their children, black and white. There is no place you can go in Berlin without seeing a house with a marker showing where a Jewish family was ripped out and taken to a concentration camp. Why? Because they did not want to repeat it, and they did not want to forget it, they want to always acknowledge it.

“Listen, we have a long way to go. I have three children who graduated from that high school over there. I worked in that high school over there. I am a pastor in this town, and guess what? There are more white people in my church than brown people right here in Poolesville because it is about love and coming together. We’re not trying to make people feel bad, but listen, we want you to acknowledge our trauma. Don’t act like it didn’t happen.

“I am not trying to be angry, but I am speaking for my ancestors because they worked and lived here for over two hundred years with no rights. Montgomery County should be commended. Poolesville should be commended. I love my town. I am so grateful to help bring reconciliation. Taking that which is broken and putting it back together again, that’s my job as a pastor. I want to do that with this community because, until we deal with the blood, sweat, and the tears that is in the ground up here, we are not going to get the healing and reconciliation that we are looking for, so my prayer is that we will continue to work together to illuminate this history.”

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Center Stage

New Book by Local Author: A Century of Crime in the County

By Rande Davis

All the many fans of Jack Toomey’s very popular *Monocle* column, *Police Blotter: Past and Present*, are in for some wonderful news. He just published a new book with eighty stories of crime, tragedy, and catastrophe in Montgomery County. In fact, that is pretty much the title of his book: *Crime, Tragedy, and Catastrophe in Montgomery County, Maryland 1860 to 1960*.

Readers will be treated to intriguing vignettes with such titles as: “Money in the Cellar,” “The Phantom of River Road,” “Terror on Saturday Morning,” “Nightmare on Halloween,” “One Man Crime Wave,” “NIH Payroll Robbery,” and many more.

Jack is one of our area’s premier historians, who has researched and written in detail about so many our area’s biggest but perhaps least-reported events. His research about the fires of Poolesville, the desegregation of Poolesville High School, the

lynching of Sidney Randolph, plane and railroad crashes—not to mention his personal success as an area metal detectorist—makes him a very special resource for the county. Many of those stories were also published in his other *Monocle* column, *Local History*.

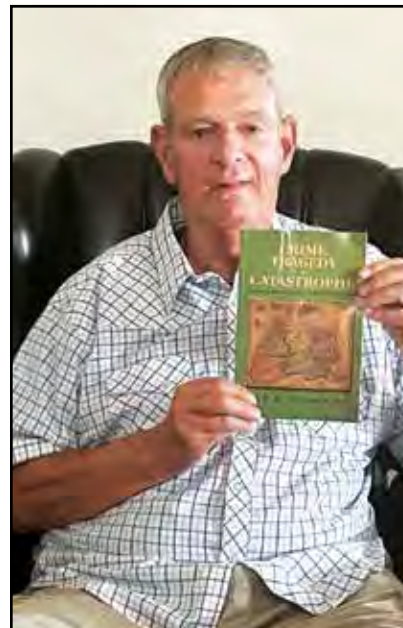
Jack is a lifelong resident of Montgomery County. His only time living outside of the area was when he served four years in the U.S. Navy with a tour in Viet Nam. He graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in law enforcement, then he worked for the Montgomery Police Department for twenty-six years. He was a patrol officer for six years, detective for sixteen (much of that time in homicide investigation), and four years as a supervisor.

Jack also worked for Montgomery County Public Schools for ten years at Quince Orchard High School, and with a stint as sponsor of Poolesville High School’s Mock Trial Team. Many in the area had him as a driving education instructor.

He writes on various of stories of unusual crime and catastrophes. Most of these have faded from memory and remain the subject of conjecture even today. There was very little law enforcement in Montgomery County until the 1920s, and even then, it was

rare to even see a police officer. Much of the criminal investigation was done by professionals in the community.

His book is available through Amazon and Barnes and Noble online. Search: *Crime, Tragedy, and Catastrophe in Montgomery County, Maryland 1860 to 1960*.



You loved Jack Toomey's Police Blotter. Just wait until you read his new book!

**Santa Visit with
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Adults Getting Together



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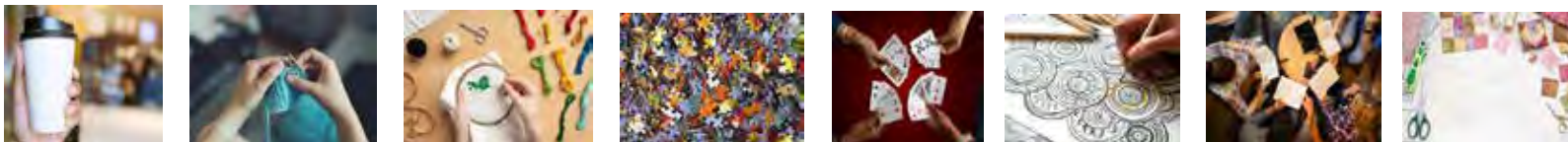
The Boyds Presbyterian Church (BPC) is hosting a monthly 'Adults Getting Together' for those interested in meeting, socializing, and sharing like interests.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Marie Allnutt at mallnutt@hotmail.com or call 301-385-3503.

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

All are welcome. Fellowship immediately follows the service.



Poolesville's 18th Annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony

Friday, December 1, 2023

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Whalen Commons - 19701 Fisher Ave. Poolesville, MD 20837



Santa Arrives at 6:30 pm

Tree Lighting at 6:45 pm

Musical Performances ~ A Special Reading by Mrs. Claus ~ Holiday Express Train
Wood Sculptures ~ Food Trucks ~ Ice Skating Rink ~ Frozen Moon Bounce
Basket Auction to support WUMCO ~ Gingerbread Cookie Decorating

Please bring a new unwrapped toy for WUMCO



Things to Do

November 10

UMCVFD Bingo Night

Cost is \$20, featuring \$1.00 pull tabs and lots of prizes. Refreshments for sale. *Beallsville firehouse*. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; games start at 7:00 p.m.

November 11

Veterans Day Memorial Ceremony

The Poolesville American Legion Post 247 will be conducting a Veterans Day Ceremony at Whalen Commons on November 11 beginning precisely at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend to honor past and present Poolesville area residents, as well as all of our country's men and women who have served in one of the armed forces of the United States of America during peace time and war time.

November 17

St. Peter's Annual Christmas Attic

A sale of gently used and new holiday items: ornaments, decorations, wrap-pings, Santas, snowmen, angels, artificial trees, wreaths, greens, nativities, lights, candles, village houses, accessories, elegant bar and tableware, linens, and vintage linens, jewelry, gift items. Also some Valentine and

St. Patrick's Day items. Fresh Georgia pecans for sale. Donations welcome by November 14. *St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Poolesville*. Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

December 1

Poolesville 17th Annual Holiday Lighting Festival

Musical performances, a special reading by Mrs. Claus, Holiday Express train, wood and ice sculptures, food truck, moon bounce, ice skating, basket auction to benefit WUMCO, gingerbread cookie decorating at Old Town Hall Bank Museum. *Whalen Commons and Old Town Hall Bank Museum area*. Santa arrives at 6:00 p.m., and lights are turned on at 6:45 p.m. 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

December 2

Breakfast with Santa

All you can eat, featuring eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, juice, cereal, fruit, and coffee. Adults: \$13.00; ages 3 to 17: \$10.00; under 3: free. Photos with Santa \$2.00. *Beallsville firehouse*. 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

December 1 to Dec 3

Countryside Artisans Holiday Tour

Celebrating 30 years: featuring area studios and galleries. Meet the artists,

see where they work, learn about their medium. Spend the day visiting locations. Map available at countrysideartisans.com. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Christmas Trees and Wreath Sales and Festival

Located at *Our Lady of the Presentation in Poolesville*. The festival will be held on

Saturday, December 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be a St. Nick Shop, bake sale, and free Christmas craft making, face painting, hot dogs, coffee, hot chocolate, and music. (St. Nick shopping for children only from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.) Tree sales are: Friday, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and Sunday, 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Continued from page 6.

Senior News

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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**Thanksgiving
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Dairy Products & Eggs: Butter; McCutcheon's jams, jellies, preserves, sauces, and salad dressings. Poolesville Pickers BBQ sauces; and Boar's Head Cheeses and Cold Cuts.

Youth Sports

PHS Field Hockey Competitive and Improving

By Jeff Stuart

"We have played some solid games this season," said field hockey coach Katie Hackey. "Our game versus Walter Johnson was the best-played game we have played so far. We have struggled to score in a couple games. Our defense, led by senior captain Meredith Abramson, has been good all season and kept us in a lot of games. Our goalie Kacey Raines, a junior, is having a great year. She has made over eighty saves so far. Our hard-hitting midfield, led by junior captain Rachel Longbrake, keeps the ball moving up the field. Our forwards love to use their speed to beat defenders to the goal. Junior captain Evie Smalley is leading our team in assists. She does a great job distributing the ball. Junior Laney Sofelkanik and Rachel Longbrake are tied as our leading scores. I have seen a lot of improvement, and I see their confidence growing every day."

"We are doing a lot better this year than last year," said Smalley. "I think our best game was against Damascus, even though we lost, and the Walter Johnson game was another game where we played well against a strong team and lost. Our first win was against Wheaton. That was a good game. We have improved so much. We know our positions better. We move the ball around better. We are having fun. I would like to give a shoutout to Paige Soskin, a junior. She has played a lot of positions on offense and defense and is good at all of them. She is a leader."

"Our team is doing well," said Longbrake. "We started off a little rough, but with our coaches' help, we have been building our confidence and getting better, and now we can win every game if we play our best. I think our best game was against Walter Johnson. We came out and played hard. We came out to win. I do not think they expected that. They beat us by a lot last year. Against Damascus, everyone worked well together. Last year, we had trouble doing that. This year, we are communicating better and getting the ball to the right people at the right time. I want to give a shoutout to Kacey Raines, our junior goalie. She is playing at a top level. She is so good. She always seems to be there to stop the ball. Overall, I think our skill level and confidence [are] much better this year."



Players on the PHS field hockey team: Rachel Carreras, Fallon Murray, Annie Chen, Dani Polson, Kelly Chen, Soumya Jailwala, and Meri Abramson.

"I have been on the team for four years," said senior defender Abramson. "This year is definitely my favorite because of the culture change that has happened. We all get along much better. Like the other captains have said, I think the Walter Johnson game was the best because that was the time that we decided we were there to win. The Magruder game was a good win for us. In the first half, we did not get many shots off, but we turned it around in the third quarter and won, 2-1. I would like to give a shoutout to my fellow captains, Evie and Rachel. I always know I can count on them. When I hit the ball up the field, I know they will get to it, and to senior defenseman Kelly Chen because I always know she will be there if it gets past me."

Continued on page 29.

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In Your Own Backyard

Seneca Schoolhouse Photo (Part 4)

By Jon Wolz

This is the fourth part of a story that first appeared in the August 2023 edition of the *Monocacy Monocle* about students pictured in an 1899 photograph of students and their teacher at the Seneca Schoolhouse. The photo hangs in the schoolhouse as well as the John Poole House. The first three parts can be read at www.monocacymonocle.com.

Students and brothers, Arthur (1886-1956) and Bruce Benson (1890-1968) (Bruce's given first name was "William" but he probably went by Bruce because his father's name was William), were sons of William (1862-1948) and Henrietta "Nettie" Benson (1869-1940). In 1900, William was a "sawyer in quarry." He was previously the lock tender at Lock 24 and was replaced by John Riley in 1892 who had been a sawyer at the Seneca Stone Cutting Mill. Both Arthur and Bruce were students in 1900. Both Arthur's and Bruce's schoolings were brief. Arthur completed the fourth grade, and Bruce completed the fifth grade.

By 1910, Arthur had moved out of his parents' home and moved in with the family of Angelo and Mary Grimes who were his uncle and aunt. Arthur was a farm laborer. In 1915, Arthur married Maggie Collins. On his 1917 World War I draft registration card, it shows that Arthur was married with one child, living in Potomac, and was self-employed as a farmer. He sought exemption from the war because he was the sole supporter of his family. He was identified as Caucasian, medium height and build, blue eyes, and dark brown hair.

In 1920, Arthur was a fireman in Washington, D.C. and was still married to Maggie (Collins) Benson. They had a two-year-old daughter, Catherine. They rented a home in Washington, D.C. Arthur continued working as a fireman in 1930, and he and Maggie had four children living with them at 217 St. Elmo Avenue in Bethesda. They owned their own home, valued at \$6,500. In 1940, Arthur continued working as a fireman, his income was \$2,400 a year, and he lived with his family on St. Elmo Avenue. On Arthur's World War II draft registration card, it shows that he had retired from the fire department, and he was living with his wife at 4611 W. Virginia Avenue in Bethesda. He was identified as "Caucasian" was 5'8" weighing 105 pounds, with brown eyes, black hair, and a ruddy complexion. In 1917, his eyes were identified as blue. By 1950, he and Maggie were living on McCrossin Lane in Darnestown. Living with them was a grandson. Arthur was not working. Arthur died in 1956 at Suburban Hospital and wife Maggie in 1961 on Silver Rock Road, Rockville. Both Arthur and Maggie are buried together at the Potomac Methodist Church Cemetery in Potomac, and they share a gravestone.

In 1910, Bruce was still living with his parents and several siblings. The Seneca Quarry was closed, so father William was now a carpenter on a farm. In 1911, Bruce married Laura Mobley, and in 1913, their son, William Reginald, was born. On Bruce's World War I draft registration card in 1917, his name was shown as "Wm Bruce Benson." Bruce was married with one child and sought an exemption to support his family. He was identified as Caucasian, medium height and build, gray eyes, and light brown hair. He was living in Potomac. He was working in farming and self-employed. In 1920, Bruce was still married but was living with his parents on Falls Road in Potomac. His wife and child were not living with him, and he was a laborer. In 1922, Bruce was divorced from his wife. By 1930, Bruce had married Bertha Whipp. In 1930, they had three children living with them. They rented a home on 8th Street, SE, Washington, D.C. Bruce was a streetcar conductor. In 1940, Bruce was a laborer living in Dawsonville, paying \$13 a month in rent for the home he shared with two of his children, a housekeeper, and her three children. Bruce's wife was not living with him. His income was \$324 a year. In 1940, wife Bertha was living with two young daughters in Southeast, Washington, D.C., renting a home, paying \$35 a month in rent. She did not work.

On the 1942 World War II draft registration card, Bruce was working at Poolesville High School. On his card, his full name was written as William Bruce Benson. He was identified as "Negro" with brown eyes, black hair, gray hair, and a dark brown complexion. He was 5'10" weighing 185 pounds. In 1917, he had gray eyes and was identified as Caucasian. On all of the census records, William Bruce Benson and family members were identified as "white."

In 1950, Bruce was a trashman working for the Montgomery County Government. He was living on a farm, off of Thompson and Comus Roads. Living with him were two young children (ages six and three) he had with Hazel



Arthur Benson



Bruce Benson

Ward. Hazel was a housekeeper living with Bruce and her three children from a previous marriage. In 1968, William Bruce Benson died at Suburban Hospital; he is buried at the Monocacy Cemetery and has a gravestone. Hazel died in 1988 and is buried with her ex-husband, Harry Ward, at the Monocacy Cemetery. Bertha Benson who had been married to William Bruce Benson died in 1965 and is buried at the Rockville Cemetery.

To be continued.




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Youth Sports

Throughout Lots of Change, Girls' Soccer Remains Strong

By Jeff Stuart

"After changes, we are more or less the same" – "The Boxer," Simon and Garfunkel.

The Poolesville High School girls' soccer team has embraced change.

"We had a lot of new players this year," said senior back and captain Gabby Orns, "and with a new coach, we were trying to work with the players in the best way. We tried a formation that did not work, so we switched our formation, and that is working better for us. I think the highlight for us was the game against Walter Johnson at home. We ended up losing. We played very strong. Our best games were against tougher teams for sure. The Damascus game was a good game. We love playing them. It is always competitive. We had a lot of scoring opportunities in that game, but we were only able to put away two goals. We won, 2-0, but we should have won by more. I want to give a shoutout to Renari Frazier. She is a freshman goalie. She has started every game and has been doing a good job. Despite our record, the season has been fun."

"I think the Northwest game was an important game for us," said senior midfielder and captain Ava Milisits, "because it allowed us to reset. Our mentality was good in the beginning. We must get better at not being afraid of other players and the ball. It was a checkin for how we need to play going forward. It was cool playing against Damascus, not only because it is a rivalry, but my cousin played for Poolesville eight years ago, and I watched her—just seeing how the team changed from then until now. Now I am in her shoes, and I saw her in the stands. It was great not only to win but to dominate them. I think we could have scored a lot more goals. We played well in the second half even though we scored both our goals in the first half. The crowd was good and had a lot of energy. It is a testament to how well we can play. We know what we must do and how we must play to win; we have to play hard both halves... I want to give a shoutout to freshman Carson Hartke on defense. She came in as a freshman



PHS girls' soccer captains: Ava Milisits, Morgen Smith, Gabby Orns, and Breanna Salovich.

and has started every game. She is growing every game...I can see her being a dominant player for the next four years here."

"Obviously we have had a pretty tough schedule with a lot of early losses," said junior midfielder Alex Sosna. "Our intensity was not where it needed to be, but after losing to Northwest, we stepped it up in practice and made some changes. I think that the Damascus game was a turnaround for us. We came out strong. Our best game was against Tuscarora (the seventh ranked team in the state). They were a very competitive team, and we knew that going in. That forced us to bring our A game. We had good passing combinations in that game."

Continued on page 30.



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Monocacy Green

Saving Energy: The Best Kilowatt-Hour Is the One You Don't Use

By Joyce Breiner, CC-P®, Executive Director, Poolesville Green

Greetings from Poolesville Green, where we look at how all of us can take action to live more sustainably when it comes to energy choices, transportation, and overall energy requirements at home. These three areas represent the largest segments of a household's carbon footprint. Reduce these, and you can cut down significantly on your contribution to the emissions that are changing our climate, while saving on your energy bills.

Let's look at overall energy use in terms of efficiency. Yes, this will require some math, but let's be honest, most of us at least consider cost a little when buying something.

In 2010, when area citizens came together to establish Poolesville Green, newfangled lightbulbs called compact florescent lightbulbs (CFLs) had just come on the market. Lots of folks didn't like them, and some may still not. Not too long after, light emitting diode (LED) bulbs came on the market. Both CFLs and LEDs were more expensive than the century-old-technology incandescent bulbs. Over time, LEDs have rightfully won out in the marketplace for many reasons, including the small fraction of energy they use in comparison with an incandescent bulb. A typical 100-watt-equivalent LED uses just eighteen watts; that's eighty-two percent less energy. Think of it in money terms: Would you pay \$100 for something that you can get for \$18? If not, think of it similarly, why use one hundred watts when eighteen will get the job done handsomely?

Many folks we know don't have a clue about electricity (and don't care), like how much it takes to make a unit of energy (kilowatt hour) and how many units of energy it takes to operate a favorite electrical gadget, and, most importantly, is there a better—as in less expensive and less carbon producing—way to power that gadget? Many folks assume not. The monthly electric bill comes, they see the total bill cost, have a cursory thought like, "Oh, it's higher than this time last year," or "Oh, it's better than three months ago," then pay it and go onto the next

demand of the day. The big news is when the electric spigot suddenly gets turned off because a huge storm comes through, bringing the grid down, maybe for a couple of hours, but maybe for days. Everything in the household gets impacted: no hot water for showers, no internet, no way to charge our twenty-first-century-life devices. These are reasons to have a clue and to care in the present, not to mention for the future of our families.

Make no mistake, we are fully aware and agree that our first world lifestyles require energy—lots of it—and that will continue to grow. In fact, most experts looking ten to twenty years ahead predict that the demand for energy will likely increase threefold over that time.

What's one to do? Give up those essential modern life devices? Live without lights like the Amish? Absolutely not! We can have our cake and eat it, too. By the way, did you know the Amish are adopting solar like crazy? Let's look at the low-hanging energy-hungry fruit first.

Lightbulbs. Switching out incandescent lighting for LED versions can make a demonstrable difference in the electric bill and can pay for the cost of the LED bulbs over just a period of months.

Household insulation. Not a very sexy thing to think about and not so much a keeping-up-with-the-Joneses item. The typical household insulation upgrade installation project is one of the lowest-cost, quickest-payoff, and energy bill-reducing home improvement efforts a homeowner can undertake. The typical reduction in monthly energy bills as a result is twenty to twenty-five percent. This doesn't just go for twenty-plus-year-old homes—even homes just five to ten years old can benefit greatly. Additionally, household HVAC systems don't have to work as hard, and many homeowners report that their homes are more comfortable with drafts eliminated. Furthermore, there's help in paying for these projects through the Inflation Reduction Act, state incentives, and even utility incentives. All together, these funding mechanisms can substantially lower the cost of a project.

Do a little at a time, start with the low-hanging fruit and go from there. One of the best places to begin (because it can give you a roadmap): a comprehensive home energy audit (the one with the blower door test). Potomac Edison and PEPCO have lists of qualified energy auditors at their websites. Check out RewiringAmerica.org/calculator to start learning about what you may qualify for—you might be surprised.



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Riverworks Events

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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.

Wednesdays

The Reserve Wind Ensemble

If you've ever played a wind instrument at least at a high-school level, join us as we form a community band! This program is led by Michelle Palmer of Yunique Music School. Direct any questions to Michelle@riverworksart.org. Free. *Riverworks Studio at Alden Farms.* 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Afro Fusion and Mindfulness Dance Class

Instructor Angela Gonzales invites you to heal your heart and body through learning the history and art of dance, including a variety of Afro-Latin styles. \$20 per session. *Riverworks Studio at Alden Farms.* 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

First Friday of Every Month

Made in Studio

This month, paint what you see in an afternoon with Betsy Casaleno. \$20. To sign up: riverworksart.org/made-in-studio. *Riverworks Studio at Alden Farms.* 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Events Calendar:

November 11 and 12

Afro Fusion and Mindfulness Dance Class

Dance instructor Angela Gonzales invites you to heal your heart and body through learning the history and art of traditional Afro Fusion dance. Angela will be accompanied by two live drummers in this two-hour session. Please wear something comfortable, be ready to move, have fun, be yourself, and heal through dance! Yoga mat is recommended. \$45. *Riverworks Studio at Alden Farms.* 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

November 17

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. New poets welcome (sign up is not required)! Free. *Riverworks Studio at Alden Farms.* 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

November 19

Artist Reception: "Of the Angels" with Sheryl Massaro

Join us in welcoming Riverworks's last Artist-in-the-House Gallery Show of the year, featuring paintings by Sheryl Massaro. The work accompanies Sheryl's own interpretive translation of work by the Austrian poet Rainer Rilke. Purchase a signed copy of the publication and enjoy complimentary refreshments. Free. *Locals Farm Market.* 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

November 15 to December 31

Artist in the House Gallery Exhibit

Sheryl Massaro: "Of the Angels"

With visions of celestial beings, flashes of nature, and everyday scenes both dream-like and real, Sheryl Massaro connects the cosmic with the commonplace in "Of the Angels," visually translating the work of Austrian Poet Rainer Rilke to make his poems more accessible to the modern onlooker. Free. *Upstairs gallery at Locals Farm Market* (accessible only by stairs).



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November

When thistle-blows do lightly float
About the pasture-height,
And shrills the hawk a parting note,
And creeps the frost at night,

Then hilly ho! though singing so,
And whistle as I may,
There comes again the old heart pain
Through all the livelong day.

—Charles L. Cleveland



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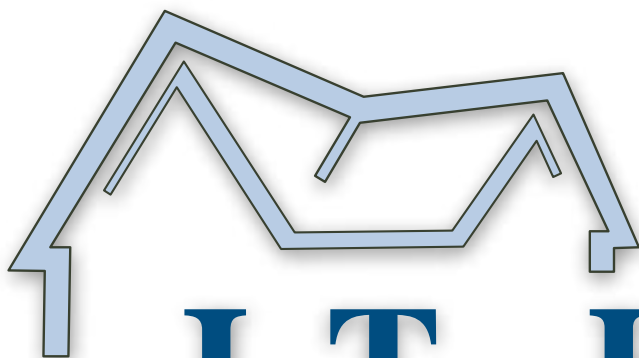
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Continued from page 1.

White's Ferry Discussed at County Council Meeting

In the winter of 2020, the ferry closed when a cable replacement was required, and an agreement for use of the Virginia landing could not be reached. At the time, Rockland proposed a temporary agreement of \$18,000 per month with a thirty-day exit clause with no cause needed. With no assurance that an agreement could be reached, the owners (the Brown family) of White's Ferry decided that the cost of cable replacement was too high to spend to make it operable again. The Browns eventually countered the temporary agreement with a \$400,000 payment for perpetual use of the landing. Encouraged by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors and chair Phylliss Randall to offer a settlement of \$1.00 per car, Libby Devlin eventually lowered that demand to fifty cents, citing a need for a perpetual right over a possible future legal dispute over the per-car rate that would lead to closing it down again.

Kuhn also rejected a per-car payment concept explaining that the fifty cents per car would be sixty percent of profits and would eventually lead to the cost of using the ferry beyond public acceptability and ultimately leading to bankruptcy. At the time of purchase of the ferry, Kuhn had spoken about many enhancements to the ferry he had planned, including a faster service, digital payment system, and other improvements. These improvements could not sustain a fifty cents per car payment under terms that remained too uncertain for the future. The potential of the ferry closing again due to disagreement made those investments too risky.

In 1871, the public landing on the Virginia side was created through eminent domain. The ferry landing was condemned by the Circuit Court of Loudoun County and the Rust family was paid for its land. From the record in that case, it is apparent that the proceeding was a "friendly condemnation." Colonel Elijah Viers White, owner of the ferry service (referred to previously as Conrad's Ferry) and the landing on the Maryland side of the river, wanted to formally establish the landing on the Virginia side of the river at the location which it had already occupied for many decades. The Rust family wanted the public landing designation formalized as it protected an important avenue for them to sell their farm products in Maryland.

The court order of 1871 directed both parties to lay out the ferry landing specifications at White's Ferry. The two parties reported back to the court that they had laid out the landing in the presence of an overseer from the Rust farm (now Rockland Farm) as a witness to their mutual objective. The landing site selected was the same as had been used for over one hundred years. The condemnation order confirming the location of the landing stated that there was no objection by either party, gave both thirty years to file a dispute, and they were to be paid for the land. County records verify that the payment was made, and no dispute was made within the thirty-year specification.

Both Loudoun County and the State of Virginia have refused to acknowledge the intent of the original legal action and have refused to reinstate the 1871 action. The State of Virginia has refused, citing a problem of including the process in its Capital Budget, which apparently is required. While Loudoun County has joined Montgomery County in offering a lump sum payment to Rockland for use of the landing, Loudoun County has assured the Rockland Farm owners from the beginning that it would never declare eminent domain again. It is unclear how this decision benefits any of the residents of Loudoun County other than the owners of Rockland Farm.

In 1932, the section of White's Ferry Road from Route 15 to the landing was made a part of the State Secondary Highway System. At that time, the state accepted the responsibility of its maintenance, recognizing it to be an essential public road to the public landing on the Virginia side of the ferry. Today, that road is nothing more than a long driveway to Rockland Farm that is maintained for the benefit of the owners at a cost to the taxpayers of the State of Virginia.

The current landing dispute emerged from a recent court decision resulting from a lawsuit filed by Rockland Farm claiming White's Ferry trespassed on their land. This came about after a hurricane in 2009, when the Brown family had to rebuild and improve a retaining wall on the Virginia side. The Browns believed they were doing so on the public right-of-way at their cost, not the state's, but Rockland Farm disagreed. When Rockland discovered the land surveys were not properly presented at the time of eminent domain, they used the technical violation to reclaim the land that had been used for a public landing for nearly 150 years. When the court reviewed the issue and found the legal plot documentation from the past inadequate, they ruled that the evidence of where

the original landing was supposed to be was unclear, and ruled in favor of Rockland Farm. The court further ruled that the encroachment was not intentional and refused to charge the Browns with a punitive fee or have them pay court costs as requested by Rockland. Instead, in acknowledging the error, the court offered the Browns two choices: They could remove the wall or keep it intact by paying Rockland Farm \$102,000, the estimated cost White's Ferry saved from not tearing it down.

At the beginning of the public hearing, Montgomery County Councilmember Marilyn Balcombe expressed the need to find a solution because the ferry service is an essential and critical point of economic development for the region, not just a simple tourist attraction.

Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo spoke of not just the economic pain of the ferry being closed, but the personal harm to the hundreds of families who use the ferry to commute. He especially pointed to the hundreds of daily commuters who now leave too early in the morning to be with family for breakfast or arrive home late in the evening, diminishing critical family time. "I am begging both parties to find a way to get past their issues, to find a way to compromise. I don't understand why so many families in Maryland and Virginia are being held hostage by two private parties. I don't understand why this community in Poolesville and in Loudoun County are being held hostage by private parties that can't seem to find a way to compromise. Is it too hard to come to a compromise? Is it really? Can't you come to an agreement so all this damage to all these families, to our environment, to the economy of the region is not harmed because a solution is not found?"

Poolesville Commission President Jim Brown used the forum to make a personal appeal to both parties and the county officials to find a way to get a vital artery of economic need to our community open. "Poolesville is like a three-legged stool that has had one of its legs removed. If a major roadway, like Route 355, were closed by private disagreements, the government would not let that stand."

Andrew Friedson recalled just how much has been done to try to resolve the issue. "The county has been willing, ready, and able to step up to do whatever it can to open the ferry. The town government and Fair Access Committee, as well as our state delegates, have also worked hard on this. The situation we are in right now is completely unacceptable. Thousands of individuals are being harmed, hundreds of businesses are being hurt, the economy of Montgomery County, Virginia, and Loudoun County have been negatively impacted by this. We need to put aside personal dynamics to do what we need to do for the good of the broader community and region. A weeks' long problem has become a years' long problem. We are in the exact same position today as we were in the beginning, and that should shame and embarrass all of us. I am glad we are having this public conversation, and I hope all involved have the same level of commitment as the county and District 15 delegates to resolve the problem."

Chuck Kuhn spoke of his multiple efforts to try to find an opening that could lead to a solution beyond a per-car payment plan. Speaking for his wife and himself, he stated, "We have tried everything from offering to purchase the farm in its entirety for \$13.5 million, to purchasing or leasing land rights through an outright purchase of a small aspect of the farm. We offered to sell the ferry to Loudoun County at a discount to get it open if they would use eminent domain to get the ferry moving again. We offered to sell the ferry and shoreline to Montgomery County. Since we purchased the ferry, we have continued to maintain insurance on the ferry, paid its taxes. We continue to carry staff who could immediately operate the ferry should a breakthrough come. We need more help from Montgomery County. As recently as the first week of October, I even called Rockland Farm and was unable to get Peter Brown on the telephone. I was only able to reach Libby. I offered the opportunities to purchase the ferry, and if they did, I extended the same offer to them they expected from us. The opportunity to use the Maryland shoreline for fifty cents a car if they wanted to buy the ferry. Our main concern is to get the ferry moving again and open for the communities. It doesn't matter if we make money. We would be happy to sell or to operate the ferry just to get the ferry open."

Devlin would not budge from the fifty cents per car. "I have always stated from the beginning we want a per-car charge so we can have a payment for an encroachment on our property. We are the seventh generation. He wanted to sell us the ferry for \$4.5 million. We are not interested in selling any part of our farm. We have tried to work with another party to get this resolved. I have spent a lot

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White's Ferry Discussed at County Council Meeting

of time to find a nationally-based company that would operate the ferry and pay more than fifty cents per car. I think fifty cents is very reasonable. We started at a dollar, and we already came down, and fifty cents is the lowest I would go. While we work as a family—and I do consult with them—I am the decision maker. I don't know any reason for Mr. Kuhn to talk to my brother."

Ultimately, through a joint effort of both county governments and Chuck Kuhn, an offer to purchase was presented in January of 2023 for \$800,000. Although no longer having any stake in the agreement but wanting to see its family's personal history with the ferry honored, the Brown family also proposed an additional \$150,000. The offer has now increased to \$1.25 million dollars for a small parcel of land unsuitable for farming or building. In the nearly three years of multiple proposals offering Rockland a variety of options (some of them beyond generous), Libby Devlin has never wavered from a per-car payment objective.

After deciding that a per-car payment process will not work for a variety of reasons, Kuhn has offered to sell the ferry to Montgomery County with a sizeable discount and with a substantial donation. "The cost of keeping ferry staff and the operation in a ready-to-operate mode for nearly three years has cut into my ability to financially do more." County officials have noted that their budgeting system prevents entering into an agreement having a per-car payment structure for budgeting reasons. Even if the county accepted Kuhn's offer, the per-car payment proposal does not work in their budgeting rules.

Montgomery County Council vice president Andrew Friedson asked Libby Devlin what amount of money it would take for a one-time payment to settle the issue. She replied that, once again, she is only interested in a per-car payment process, and she would not go lower than fifty cents, "my final offer." The largest shareholder of Rockland Farm is Peter Brown, the brother of Libby Devlin. He is the CEO of Renaissance Technologies LLC, headquartered in New York City, and Forbes Magazine has reported that he has a net worth of \$100,000,000. While so many thousands of individuals are hurt by this impasse, he will not personally enter the discussion. He told the Monocle in 2021, in a phone call, that the issue concerning the ferry was for Devlin to handle, not him. Despite his holding the largest share of the family farm and regardless of all the turmoil caused by the failure to finalize an agreement, he apparently stands by that statement to this day.

While Devlin said they would not accept any lump sum payment, it is known that during early discussions with the Brown family, Peter Brown turned down a one-time \$400,000 payment fee, stating that the use of the landing was worth \$2,000,000.

The current offer on the table is \$1,250,000. If the discussion could move away from the per-car solution to negotiating a fee between the current offer and the previously stated value opined by Peter Brown, maybe a solution could be found. It is expected that if a lump sum payment amount to settle the issue once and for all is not found, the prospect of the ferry operating again is extremely bleak.

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Continued from page 5.

Tidbits

tree that he estimates is fifty-six inches in diameter. The present champion persimmon is fifty inches in diameter. The persimmon has bark that appears to have "alligator" skin. At the stone cutting mills, the hikers viewed the two structures that were built in 1837 and 1867. The stone from the Smithsonian Castle was milled in the 1867 structure. Red sandstones used for constructing the C&O Canal were quarried nearby and were milled prior to the 1837 structure's being completed. After visiting the mills, the group walked back to the lock, and Ralph led them down along the Potomac River where he identified more trees for the group. During the walk, Ralph shared his knowledge of how to recognize the various kinds of trees by their unique characteristics and why they grew in the places visited. By the end of the walk, Ralph had identified fifteen different trees.

Scout Creates Pollinator Habitat at Stevens Park

Jason Woodman of Poolesville has been awarded the National Daughters of the American Revolution Conservation Medal. The award was presented by Leslie Gruis, Regent of Hungerford's Tavern Chapter, during a ceremony in which Jason spoke about the project to chapter members. Jason was recognized by the DAR for his outstanding efforts in creating a half-acre pollinator habitat in Poolesville. This past March, Jason organized sixty-three volunteers who planted 391 native straight species pollinator plants at the entrance to Stevens Park off Wootton Avenue near Collier Circle. Town residents have been very excited about his project and frequently post comments and photos on Facebook. The habitat is a beautiful source of flowers and a new home for wildlife including a variety of pollinators—butterflies, birds, and bees—a true success story.

Peggy Bowen of Hungerford's Tavern Chapter learned of Jason's impressive efforts and nominated him for the award. Jason was required to provide letters of recommendation, media coverage, and details of the project to complete the application for approval by the Maryland DAR State Regent and the National DAR Conservation Chair.

Jason said, "It's really an amazing honor to be sixteen and recognized by a national organization for the pollinator habitat I built. I put in over 187 hours planning and implementing this habitat." Jason reminded us that he is still in pursuit of the BSA Distinguished Conservation Service Award (DCSA). "It's a very rare scouting award, and my second project proposal was just approved by the Town of Poolesville and by the National Capital Area Conservation Committee," he said. "I'm ready to start work on it very soon."

Jason is the son of Megan and Greg Woodman, a sophomore at Poolesville High School, and an Eagle Scout in Troop 1094.



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Jason Woodman

Remembrances

Phyllis Ham Pentecost

Phyllis Ham Pentecost, 79, of Poolesville, left this world on October 8, 2023, leaving behind a legacy of love, activism, and boundless devotion.

For fifty-five years, she was the beloved partner of John H. Pentecost and wonderful mother to Jason Mead Pentecost and Victoria Lewis Pentecost. Phyllis, born on April 22, 1944, in Rhinebeck, New York, was the cherished daughter of the late Maynard Mead and Katherine (Anspach) Ham.

In the early 1970s, Phyllis made a mark on history by publishing one of the first male nude calendars, "Playgirl's 1973 Calendar of Sensuous Men," and actively contributing to the women's rights movement in Washington, D.C. Throughout her life, she remained an unwavering advocate for feminist causes, an early anti-smoking champion, and a dedicated community activist for environmental issues. She also served on the Montgomery County Police's Citizens Advisory Board and volunteered as an Emergency Medical Technician with the Bethesda Chevy Chase Rescue Squad.

Phyllis excelled as the top account executive with WMZQ during the heyday of country music in D.C. She loved advertising and her clients.

Upon retiring, Phyllis redirected her boundless energy to her four beautiful and handsome grandchildren, becoming their unwavering supporter in sports, gymnastics, music, and theater. Her legendary pumpkin bread and ginger cookies became a symbol of her warmth and love.

Phyllis is survived by her husband and partner in life, John, and by their late life "child," Teddy Roosevelt. Phyllis is also remembered by her children, Jason Mead Pentecost and Victoria Lewis Pentecost; and grandchildren, Jackson Alexandre Pentecost, Harrison Nicholas Pentecost, Olive Fielding Ley, and Georgie Volkonsky Ley. Her memory lives on through her brother, Maynard John Ham, and sister, Kathy Ham Helsley.

Services will be held privately, honoring the intimacy of Phyllis's life. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations in her memory to Planned Parenthood or Cornell Lab of Ornithology, reflecting Phyllis's commitment to causes close to her heart.



Phyllis Ham Pentecost

Sotir Davis Markoff

It is with deep sadness and heavy hearts that the family announces the passing of Sotir Davis Markoff on October 18, 2023. He was just twenty years old when he died from injuries he sustained in a car accident, leaving countless family members and friends to mourn this tragic loss. Sotir was the beloved oldest son of Matt and Kolette Markoff and the brother of Lulu and Charlie.

Born in Gaithersburg on July 31, 2003, he enjoyed a happy childhood in Darnestown before moving to Buckeystown when he was fifteen years old. Those who loved Sotir will agree that although his life was cut all too short, he packed a lifetime of love and adventures into his twenty years of living.

Sotir was a true outdoor enthusiast. Even as a tiny infant, his mother remembers that he could always be calmed by walking outside and staring up at the trees. As time passed and he grew, he began to climb those trees and spent most of his days immersed in some aspect of nature. He loved having adventures with family like backpacking in Wyoming and skiing in Utah and the icy hills of Whitetail. He was comfortable in the mountains, on the rivers, and even in the underground caves. Sotir had a true zest for life and was always the happiest when he was pushing his limits in the wild outdoors.

Sotir also loved to play sports and was especially gifted at wrestling. He might have been thin and wiry, but he was a force to be reckoned with! To go with Sotir (on the mat) meant you'd be in for the fight of your life. He shined as a camp counselor for many summers at Owlets and Camp Calleva. He was not only highly responsible for his age, but he had the unique ability to make sure that every camper felt included and that they had an exceptional experience.

Sotir will best be remembered for his unparalleled ability to get along with anyone and everyone. He was the first to pick up and hug a baby and the one who noticed and included the kid on the sidelines. He was a true connector of people, and he possessed a heart of gold. He leaves behind loving parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and countless cousins and friends. We all miss him terribly but are focusing on the legacy of love and adventure he has left behind.



Sotir Davis Markoff

Wayne Richard Burdette

Wayne Richard Burdette, 80, of Dickerson, passed peacefully on October 18, 2023. He was the loving husband of the late Virginia (Ginnie) Burdette, and surviving wife Susan Kimberlin Burdette.

Born on January 26, 1943, in Hyattstown, he was the son of the late Melvin R. and Mildred M. Burdette.

Wayne worked at Congressional Country Club for fifty-six years and three months. He was the longest-tenured employee they ever had.

Surviving, besides his wife, is his only daughter and his pride and joy, Lisa Dunn-Wright (Randell) of Virginia Beach, Virginia; grandchildren, Harrison Dunn (Elle), Haileigh Harris (Chris), Randy Wright, and Ryan Wright (Jessika); his great-granddaughters, Linda Wright, Presleigh Harris, Paizley-Mae Harris, and Penelope-Layne Harris; and one brother, Larry Burdette (Lisa).

The family wants to thank David Burdette, Jr. for all that he has done throughout Wayne's illness.

Continued from page 18.

PHS Field Hockey Competitive and Improving

The other seniors are Dani Polson and Fallon Murray at forward; midfielders, Soumya Jailwala and Annie Chen; and Rachel Carreras, on defense.

Other juniors are Jillian Maher at forward; and Kate Dacanay, Vanessa Taylor, Theo Harmon, and Ellie Huber on defense. Midfielder Brooke Bieberich at midfield and Hadley Miller on defense are sophomores.

Krista Kennedy is the assistant coach.

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Continued from page 20.

Throughout Lots of Change, Girls' Soccer Remains Strong

We had a good game chemistry. Damascus was a good game. I had an injury and had to watch from the sidelines, but I saw a lot of new players get to fill in at some positions they don't normally play...The younger players stepped up and got some momentum back into our season. I want to give a shoutout to junior striker Amelia Goettsch. She has been a strong player this year. She has agility and explosiveness. When she is on the wing, and I do not think she is going to get to a ball, she catches up to it. She has been a really strong weapon for us on the attack."

"This team has shown the ability to play with and even control matches against the top programs," said coach George Penn. "We have been in every single match.

They have done such a great job dealing with the many changes that come in a transition year. We had outsized roster turnover, a new coaching staff, and a totally new system of training and play, and the new season schedule swapped out three early matches against traditionally weaker opponents for matches against 4A powerhouse programs from Montgomery County and Frederick. I am impressed with their efforts.

With four freshmen and two sophomores either starting or taking on significant minutes, we have just started to unlock our potential and establish our identity as a program.

"Freshmen anchor our defense with Renari Frazier as goalie, and Carson Hartke, Emma Weyrauch, Addison Kain all getting regular starts on the back

line. Jazmine Vanegas and Lila Snelson as sophomores have both worked their way into starting positions.

Our young players are absolute sponges when it comes to learning. It is a mazing the progress they have made in such a short amount of time.

"In the win against Damascus, we controlled the game with strong possessions. Some shots off crossbars and an errant PK were missed opportunities in the first half, but it was a solid showing by the team in their first divisional match.

"While we would love to have more wins, the losses have forced us to grow.

We need to learn how to maintain intensity and focus for an entire game. Momentary lapse can decide games."

On October 19 at Gaithersburg, the girls came back from a 2-0 deficit to beat the Trojans, 4-2. The team lost to Gaithersburg last year, 3-1.

In their first playoff game, a home game against Centennial High School on October 25, the girls, struggling with focus due to the death of Sotir Markoff, 20, who passed away in a car accident on October 18, allowed two goals in the first ten minutes, but they scored four unanswered goals, including three in the second half. Several players good friends of the Markoff family.

Other seniors include striker Gabby Montemurro, midfielder Sophia Deng, striker Cortney Urbane, and back Allie Webster. Juniors are midfielder Rylen Smith, goalie Alyssa Bailey, and strikers, Payton Short, Jolee Cowger, and Annelise Allport.

The assistant coach is Sarah Mullikin. The team managers are Cami Stanford and Amelia Kiliaki.

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