

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Monthly Newspaper

March 2024 • Volume XX, Number 1



These important county leaders came to Crossvines recently. Find out who and why in Family Album on page 2.



Sally Lermond and Emily Lloyd received "ashes to go" to kick off Lent. Check out Tidbits on page 9.



HGCBT had a big event recently. Find out more in Center Stage on page 11.



Tom Kettler, President of PACC, presented Gail Lee with the group's 2024 Community Service Award. Read about the event on page 22.

Action Taken on Two New Residential Developments

By Link Hoewing

The commissioners of the Town of Poolesville discussed the Public Improvements Agreement (PIA) for the so-called "Fishpool Property," the name of the company established by the Willard family to plan and develop the thirteen-acre property that lies next to Poolesville Town Hall. Developers must submit PIAs for any development, explaining their plans to build and finish public improvements, such as roads, sewer lines, and sidewalks. In this case, due to the unique provisions of the overlay regulations that apply to the property and the agreement negotiated between the town and the Willards, the public improvements included far exceed what is normally included in a standard PIA.

For example, the Willards will fund the streetscape improvements in front of their property that will beautify and

enhance the safety of Fisher Avenue. They are also building two parks in the development, one to be named after William Taylor, a founder of the African American Community of Sugarland, and a new pedestrian walkway from Whalen Commons to the John Poole House. This will greatly enhance access to the Historic West End of town and improve pedestrian safety in this area. Finally, they are building a public parking lot to serve the John Poole House.

The Willards originally planned to build houses with a smaller footprint of 1,800 to 2,000 square feet in size. The town had said it would reduce the fee to connect each house to the town's water and sewer to help support these smaller homes; however, due to market conditions, it appears this goal will not be met, and the houses will be

Continued on page 7.



2004-2024

Thank you for being part of the Monocle!



A Gym Full of Memories

By Jeff Stuart

On Tuesday, February 20, the Poolesville High School boys' basketball team played the last regular season game in the old gymnasium before

renovations commenced. On the court, coach B.J. DeBuchananne's squad lost to a red-hot Blair Blazers team, 73-66. A furious rally cut a twenty-two-point

deficit to just four with two minutes left, giving the Falcons a chance to win

Continued on page 13.



PHS alumni who played in the old gym congregated to celebrate the years and memories of wonderful sporting events.

Family Album

Can You Name the Business?

The key is on page 8.

PACC Dinner Meeting at Crossvines in Poolesville



Local News

Daniels Gains Eagle Scout Rank

By Joy Zucker-Tiemann

Local Scout, Alexander Daniels, a sophomore in the Science, Math, and Computer Science magnet program at Poolesville High School, recently achieved the esteemed rank of Eagle Scout, marking a significant milestone in his Scouting journey. On February 3, 2024, Alex was honored for his dedication, leadership, and service to his community.

Alex's Eagle Court of Honor, held at the Izaak Walton League, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter House in Poolesville, was a celebration of his accomplishments, attended by family, friends, and members of Troop 496. Over the course of ten years, starting from first grade as a Tiger in Cub Scouts, Alex's journey in Scouting has been characterized by dedication, resilience, and commitment.

Throughout his Scouting career, Alex has participated in numerous activities and has earned over thirty merit badges, including badges in Camping, Citizenship, Communication, Cooking, Emergency Preparedness, First Aid, and many more. He has accumulated over one hundred camp nights, attended BSA national leadership trainings, and contributed to various community service projects.

Among his most memorable experiences are the high adventure camps, where he and his troop traveled to Swamp Base, Louisiana, Sea Base, St. Thomas, and Alaska. These adventures tested his adaptability and strengthened his planning skills, leaving him with cherished memories and invaluable lessons.

One of the most challenging aspects of Alex's Scouting journey was his Eagle project which involved building new picnic tables and repairing existing ones for John Poole Middle School. Alex applied his leadership skills to plan, manage, and coordinate all aspects of the project. Mr. John Green, the principal of John Poole Middle School, attended the Eagle Court of Honor and commended Alex on his dedication to enhancing the school's outdoor spaces.

During the Eagle Court of Honor, Alex incorporated a unique Shark Tank-style presentation, with Mr. Green, Mr. Kasner (Scout Master, Eagle Project Mentor), Mr. Highfill (Assistant Scout Master, Eagle Project Mentor), and his father, Mr. Daniels, acting as "Sharks." Alex proposed his future plans to the "Sharks," seeking their cooperation and support as he continues his journey in Scouting. Ultimately, Mr. Kasner sealed the deal by requesting Alex to stick around and help with the troop until he ages out at 18, a commitment Alex gladly accepted.

Finally, in Alex's closing remarks, he passed his Challenge Coin (as he was challenged by his cousin, an Eagle Scout) to his sister, Samantha Daniels, Arrow of Light, who will join Troop 2027 in a few months, to reach and achieve the Eagle rank following his path.

Once an Eagle, always an Eagle!



Eagle Scout Alexander Daniels was hoisted on shoulders by scouts for being above and beyond standard efforts.



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Rande(m) Thoughts

How Did Two Decades Fly by So Fast?

By Rande Davis

When we turn twenty, we have a profound sense of anticipation with our whole life lying before us. When a business turns twenty, the sense of wonder is more a reflection of: "How did that happen so fast?" Your *Monocacy Monocle* turns twenty with this issue.

Not only were the odds against us from the beginning, but the odds continued to get worse as time went on. Print media is in a slow death spiral. Other print publications folded. We survived purely due to the loyalty and dedication of our staff and the commitment of a core group of advertisers dedicated to the notion that a great town deserves its own newspaper. Guess what, folks? Your life really is worth chronicling after all. It is a story that has always been worth telling.

That first issue, just eight pages, told our curious new readers of eight new changes coming to our area. We predicted a new town hall in Poolesville and a restored town hall in Barnesville. We also saw a new equestrian center in Dickerson (Woodstock), a farmers' market in the park, a new expanded St. Peter's Episcopal Church, and the rebirth of the then-recently-closed Comus Inn. We told of development of new luxury homes and stated that Poolesville was destined to become a "center for historical tourism," and we most boldly wrote: "With significant pride and prejudice and a total lack of humility, we believe the most profound change coming is the publishing of *The Monocacy Monocle*: A community and regional newspaper focusing on the news, lives, events, and people living from Buckeystown through Poolesville, from Adamstown through Hyattstown."

In the beginning, we thought we might cover both Poolesville and Clarksburg; alas, Clarksburg had a lot of homes but no government or

advertisers, so that experiment did not last much beyond the first year.

Right from the start, our major mission was to provide a worthy chronicle of our small-town lives with the goal of helping to keep Poolesville small, both in body and, maybe even more importantly, in spirit. All the things we saw for the future in that first issue came about—and so much more.

Back then, we didn't expect Selby's Market to ever close, and when the horrible prospect arose that it might happen, we wrote many articles in the hopes of finding a way to preserve it. Alas, as a community, we just didn't shop there enough to keep it. As I have written before, our money wasn't where our mouths were. We saw CVS leave a strip mall space to become a stand-alone location. Poolesville Hardware continues as one of the rare surviving retailers among dozens of others that came along these past two decades that did not make it.

For personal and professional reasons, the additions of the new town hall and Whalen Commons remain my most favorite changes to date, but they are sure to be eclipsed with the first stages of the opening of the new high school as early as this April and all the incredible things to come. Poolesville has just earned a place among the top destination towns of Maryland, thanks to Riverworks, Locals, Crossvines, the revitalized Bassett's, and all our wonderful eating places.

All is not perfect, though, especially with the recent news of a PHS student being arrested at the school during school hours for an alleged violent crime, a grab-and-go shoplifting event at Dollar General similar to the horrendous shoplifting events in our cities, and the possibility, from my viewpoint at least, of a possible new commercial enterprise selling cannabis and related products. I never saw any of that coming.

We do hope the overall changes to come portend a continued grand future, and we especially hope to be around to chronicle all of it. I truly believe that you, your family, and our shared lives together deserve that.

Local News

Youthful Crime Incidents Raise Public Concern

By Rande Davis

Two recent incidents raised major concern among the public that still await the final results of a full investigation and official report of facts by the Montgomery County Department of Police (MCDP).

The first event involved an apparent youth stealing products from Poolesville's Dollar General by placing them in a shopping cart and racing out of the store to be met by an awaiting accomplice in a car that was quickly driven away. Another shopper witnessed the event, photographed the license plate of the thief, and posted it on Facebook. Dollar General management is also awaiting a report from the police.

The other incident was the arrest of an out-of-town youth who was attending Poolesville High School after being removed from Clarksburg High School for disciplinary reasons. The county has a program that places expelled students into other schools

within its jurisdiction. Such students are placed with strict monitoring and awareness by the administration of the receiving school. Each student so removed and placed elsewhere is done based on the particulars of the student. According to county officials and the PHS administration during a zoom meeting of concerned parents, Poolesville High School was selected to receive this student based on specific aspects of that student's situation and made it clear that in no way is PHS used solely as a "dumping ground" for expelled students.

MCDP had an arrest warrant for the targeted youth. While not confirmed by MCDP or the administration, it was reported online to be for kidnapping, assault, and rape. At the time of the arrest and knowing the student was in class in one of the isolated temporary classrooms, a lockdown was not ordered. Rather, to maintain calm and control, Principal Carothers simply visited the room and asked the student to come outside to discuss something with him. The police then were able to make the arrest of the student and remove him safely from the school. Despite reports online, at no time did the student possess a gun.

The *Monocle* reached out via email to the Montgomery County Media and

Continued on page 24.

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Fun Fact...

hobbylark.com

What happened in 2004?

- The last Oldsmobile came off the assembly line at the Lansing Car Assembly plant in Michigan, thus ending the "106-year-old automotive brand."
- 90377 Sedna, "a mysterious planet-like body in the distant reaches of the solar system," was discovered by NASA-funded researchers. 90377 Sedna was believed to be two-thirds the size of Pluto.
- Scrabble was inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame.
- Mark Zuckerberg launched FaceBook from a Harvard dorm room, and Google introduced the free email service Gmail.

Tidbits

Local Scout Recognized with Prestigious Award



More than sixty volunteers helped in the Eagle Scout Project.

Congratulations to Jason Woodman of Troop 1094 who will be awarded the prestigious 2024 Glenn A. and Melinda W. Adams Eagle Scout Service Project of the Year Award for the National Capital Area Council for his half-acre pollinator habitat in the Town of Poolesville.

With the assistance of over sixty community residents, along with many local businesses and the town commissioners, Jason planted a Monarch butterfly pollinator habitat near Wootton and Collier Circles. A hearty group assisted Jason in initiating the project in March 2023 on a day that was only 38 degrees F. in the pouring rain.

His project will now compete against other Scouts' projects in Territory #12 which is made up of fifteen councils in Delaware, Maryland, Northern Virginia, Washington, D.C., West Virginia, Eastern Ohio, and western Pennsylvania. The winner of the territory will compete at the national competition.

The congratulations letter read, in part, "The project planning, coordination, effort, and leadership you showed, and the impact of the project truly made yours the most outstanding Eagle Project of the Year."

Jason is thankful to the entire Town of Poolesville, the town commissioners, the Sustainable Poolesville Committee, Bernie Mihm of Fine Earth Landscape, Inc., and of course, Preston King for all their support.

PHS Student Moves on to District Oratorical Contest



Ryan Graves (principal intern), PHS counselor Greg Hand, Mia Brennan, Ruari Brennan, Annette Howard, Nick Markoff, and Jim Cappuccilli. The young lad is Carter Hafner.

Ruari Brennan, a senior at Poolesville High School, in preparing to move on to the American Legion District Oratorical contest, was given support and encouragement by the PHS administration as the local Daniel-Jeffers Post 247 officially awarded its certificate as the Post's representative in advancing to the District level, at which competition, she won third place.

Vandalism at the Monocacy Aqueduct

The Town of Poolesville's C&O representative, Jon Wolz, reports that vandals have struck at the Monocacy Aqueduct. Much of the graffiti is too offensive to

Continued on page 9.




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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Presents Virtual and In-Person Programs

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

March 4

Heart 'n' Soul Online Auction Closes

Make sure to get in your final bids by 8:00 p.m. for the fabulous items in this online auction. Be good to yourself or shop for a gift. Virtual.

March 12

Bingo: Shamrock Shenanigans

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Shamrock Shenanigans Bingo with callers IJ Hudson and Roger Brenholtz, Irish music, trivia, Irish dance demo, and prizes. *Speer Hall*. 1:00 p.m.

March 14

2024 55+ Cardboard Boat Regatta

Come out to cheer the Poolesville Seniors team when they launch their cardboard boat at the Montgomery County Parks and Recreation Cardboard Boat Regatta. *Martin Luther King, Jr. Indoor Swim Center Pool, Silver Spring*. 10:00 a.m.

March 14

Trail Hike: Seneca Creek Greenway to Berryville

Hike along Seneca Creek. 10:30 a.m.

March 15

Movie Night: *Waking Ned Devine*

In this delightful Irish comedy, the lucky winner of the national lottery,

Ned Devine, dies from the shock of the win. News of the local win spreads quickly in the small scenic Irish village of Tully More, followed by humorous hijinks. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 p.m.

March 18

March PS Book Club: *The Lost Bookshop*

Join the discussion of *The Lost Bookshop* by Evie Woods. On a quiet street in Dublin, a lost bookstore is waiting to be found. When the vanishing bookshop casts its spell, three unsuspecting strangers, Opaline, Martha, and Henry, find themselves transported to a world of wonder where nothing is as it seems. Virtual. 7:00 p.m.

March 21

Historic Ag Reserve Properties with Kenny Sholes

Explore historic Ag Reserve properties with local historian Kenny Sholes. Virtual. 7:00 p.m.

March 22

Movie Matinee: *The Butler*

The Butler was inspired by the real life of White House butler, Eugene Allen. The movie follows the life of fictional character, Cecil Gaines (Forest Whitaker), from sharecroppers' son to White House maître d' and head butler. Allen was the first White House butler to be invited as a guest to a State Dinner. *Speer Hall*. 1:30 p.m.

March 22

Line Dancing

Join Ashley Kelch for an evening of line dancing. If you've never tried it, this is your gentle introduction. If you've line danced before, come and have some fun! Join the fun and meet new people. Registration is limited. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 p.m.

Weekly Events

Mondays

Ping Pong Afternoon

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

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Fun Fact...

Beware the Ides of March?

Created in ancient Rome, months were divided into groupings around three landmark days that marked specific Moon phases. For example, in March, the *Kalends* represented the first day of a month (new moon); the *Nones* fell on the seventh day (first quarter); and the *Ides* occurred on the fifteenth (full moon). The Ides fell on the fifteenth (full moon) in the months of March, May, July, and October.

In Act I, Scene II of *Julius Caesar*, Shakespeare introduces a sooth-sayer to offer a stark warning to Caesar: "Beware the ides of March."

It is said that Caesar, the Roman general and dictator, received a similar message on March 15, 44 B.C. He did not take the warning to heart and was assassinated by a group of senators. The plot, led by Marcus Junius Brutus and Gaius Cassius Longinus, was carried out in the Senate House in Rome. It is said that those who took part in Caesar's killing believed it would save the Roman Republic. Others have speculated that Caesar's calendar reform and the rejection of long-held Roman traditions led to his demise.

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Continued from page 1.

Action Taken on Two New Residential Developments

larger than this target, possibly around 2,200 square feet, according to Town Manager Wade Yost, so the fee reduction will not be included in the PIA. The commissioners voted unanimously to approve the PIA.

The commissioners next heard an initial overview of the proposed PIA for the so-called Brickin Property, land proposed for development along West Willard Road abutting Westerly Avenue. The PIA is only the initial step for this proposed development because, unlike the Willard development, it has no approved final plat nor any water taps allocated. These approvals require consideration and recommendations from the Poolesville Planning Commission and approval by the commissioners. As a result, no action was taken by the commissioners.

At the February 20 meeting, the commissioners first honored local Boy Scout Jason Woodman whose project to create a large pollinator garden in town had attracted substantial community involvement and enthusiasm.

They then heard a report from the head of the Historic Medley District, Maureen O'Connell, about the organization's work over the last year, funded in part by a grant from the town. O'Connell noted that much work had been done to continue to revamp and improve the historic properties that the group maintains, including the Old Town Hall Bank Museum. HMD is now working on repairing and cleaning the windows on the old building. She also announced that a celebration will be held on May 9 in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of HMD's creation.

In their final discussion during the meeting, the commissioners considered changes and improvements to the policies used by the town to consider grant proposals from organizations of various kinds. Yost explained that, currently, the town has two types of grants: mini grants that are, as the name suggests, for small projects and can be immediately granted from a \$5,000 fund approved each year by the commissioners, and major grants that are generally received from January to the end of June each year as the next fiscal year budget is being put together. He said that there is no cap on major grants right now, and the town "really does not have an accountability process" in place right now for such grants. By that, he seemed to mean that there is no formal reporting or invoicing process because the commissioners have had grant recipients come in to report about the results of their projects in public on a regular basis.

The discussion ranged from whether criteria should be established in policy as to what types of grants would be considered to whether the town should have requirements that "major changes" in a project due to unforeseen circumstances should be brought back to the commissioners for approval to whether a cap on major grants should be established. The staff was tasked with developing a new draft policy proposal for grants for the commissioners to consider.

Continued from page 6.

Senior News

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

Pickleball. Poolesville Baptist Church. 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tuesdays

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

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

Wednesdays

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

Trivia Game Night

If you love Trivia, come join a team with Poolesville Seniors. For more information, email info@poolesville-seniors.org. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

Thursdays

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

For more information or to register for any of the programs listed here visit the Poolesville Seniors website: poolesvilleseniors.org, to receive the link for virtual events or directions for in-person events. 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 can join the Zoom presentations without a computer by using your smart-phone or just listen in using a local telephone number from Zoom with the Poolesville Seniors meeting ID and Password. Call or text 301-875-7701 or email info@poolesvilleseniors.org to learn how.

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Business Briefs

New Business in Town



PACC sponsored a grand opening ribbon-cutting ceremony for the TOP Gym.

Congratulations to owners, Tim and Katie Tao, on the opening of their new gym facility in Poolesville: TOP (Tao's Optimal Performance) Gym. The town's newest business is located at 19616K Fisher Ave (between Cugini's and M&T Bank), and on February 10, the PACC hosted its first ribbon-cutting grand opening for 2024.

Coming Soon: Ice Cream at R.B. Savage & Sons Farm Market

RB Savage and Sons Farm Market in Dickerson has been making arrangements with Moo Cow Creamery of Middletown to carry their dairy products. They currently carry Moo Cow Creamery cheeses, butters, and milk. With the new freezer installed, they will be offering this spring Moo Cow Creamery's delicious ice cream in a variety of flavors. They will begin by offering the single serve size (half pint) and will later add the pint size.

Family Album, Name That Business key:

1. Victoria Underhill (M&T Bank), Maureen Gill (Gail Lee Homes), Jennifer Singh (First Home Mortgage), Gail and Tom Lee (Gail Lee Homes), Dr. Tom McInnes and Dr. Robin Mevissen (Poolesville Vison), and Greg Underhill.
2. Marc Elrich (Montgomery County Executive), Roger Brenholtz (Monocacy Lions), David Meyers (Rescue One), Mrs. Meyers, Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz (Monocacy Lions), Dr. Tim Pike and Dr. Margaret Valega (Pike and Valega Dentist), and Diane Hayden (Hayden Legal).
3. Standing David Yaney and Joyce Breiner (Poolesville Green), Evan Glass (county councilmember), Trish Coker (Presidential Mortgage), and Sue Carr (CVS). Seated, Bill Jamison (Jamison Real Estate).
4. Val and Craig Dickerson, Dale Tibbitts (assistant to county executive), Denise Jacklin (Poolesville Seniors), Marie Briançon (Poolesville Seniors and Glad-I-Yoga) Natali Fani-González (county councilmember), and her chief of staff, Tommy Hayboer.
5. Andrew Friedson (county councilmember), Linda Lewis (Lewis Orchards), Cheryl Kenley (M&T Bank), David Mowatt (Potomac Valley Surveys), Keith Miller (Montgomery County Revenue Authority).
6. Julie Kuhlman (Kuhlman Landscaping), Hilary Schwab (Hilary Schwab Photography), Kelly Grossberg (Capitol Benefits), Alice Cook and Olivia Murphy (Calleva), and Kathy Bassett (Poolesville Day Committee).
7. Dale Tibbitts (assistant to county executive), Link and Fran Hoewing (Fair Access Committee), Tom Kettler (Kettler Forlines Homes), Marilyn Malcomb (county councilmember), Ed Reed (Town of Poolesville Commissioner), Jeff Eck (Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department).




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Tidbits



Monocacy Aqueduct vandalized.

post here. Jon has reported the vandalism to the C&O Association, and the public is encouraged to report any information they may have on the matter.

Lenten Ashes to Go

St. Peter's Episcopal Church once again offered Lenten ashes to those hurried believers at Whalen Commons on Ash Wednesday. Residents passing the park took advantage of the opportunity to receive the repentant symbol in the early evening.

HMD Photo Contest

It has been many years since Historic Medley District's (HMD) last photo contest in May 2013, and HMD was pleased to offer a new contest in 2024. Much has changed in the last decade: There are new vistas, places, animals, and people to see, and new young budding photographers anxious to show off their photographic skills. HMD is enthused to invite the public to attend the opening of their photo contest and exhibition at Poolesville's Old Town Hall Bank Museum. The exhibit features more than sixty gorgeous and diverse photos taken by amateur photographers of the Upcounty, depicting the vistas, historic sites, animals, and flora of the Ag Reserve, from Seneca to Sugarloaf Mountain. The photos were judged by Poolesville's own professional photographers, Martin Radigan and Hilary Schwab. Ribbons were awarded for first through sixth place, plus three honorable mentions. The exhibit will be open to the public on select weekend days through the spring. Come revel in the natural beauty of our region—and the talent of our citizens. The visit will also give you a chance to see the many new repairs and improvements that have taken place at the Old Town Hall Bank Museum. You will especially enjoy the new look of the interior of the bank vault. HMD looks forward to welcoming you on March 10 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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School News

Congratulations to PHS Athletes



The PHS wrestling team at the MCPS County Championship at Gaithersburg on February 19.



Congratulations to Luke Pearre for being selected to the Maryland State Association of Baseball Coaches' preseason All-Star Baseball Team, and to Gabe Hermann as region champion in the MPSSAA 3A/2A/1A diving competition.

Barnesville School and PHS Senior Join to Benefit Interest in the Arts

On January 3, through an intergenerational event, eighteen middle school students from the Barnesville School and eight Poolesville High School seniors worked together to pack art kits with Story Tapestries, a nonprofit organization in Poolesville that works to inspire and motivate everyone to engage in the arts.

Over 355 art kits were bagged, counted, and packed to be distributed to local early learning centers. Students, volunteers, and staff of each organization also had the chance to write "Love Notes" which are notes of empowerment for kids in the foster care system. These notes are shared with an organization called Comfort Cases which provides personal belongings to kids placed in foster care.

Thanking the Vets

Students at John Poole Middle School wrote special thank-you-for-your-service letters to members of the local American Legion Post 247. The notes also shared some personal information about the student and asked many very thoughtful questions regarding the members' experiences while serving in uniform. The members of the post were very appreciative of this extraordinary writing assignment!

Monocacy SGA Annual SGA Super Bowl Food Drive

The students of Monocacy Elementary School collected over one thousand non-perishable food items for WUMCO.

Students put their food items in the box represented by the team they thought would win the Super Bowl. San Francisco had more items, but Kansas City won the Super Bowl. It was a very fun way to collect non-perishable food for WUMCO.

New High School to Have Partial Opening this Spring

The first students to take classes in the new Poolesville High School will begin this spring. While we await to report on this exciting development, we share a rendering of our new building in this issue.



Digital rendering of an aerial view of the new Poolesville High School.

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Center Stage

HGCBT's First Annual Winter Fundraiser a Success

The Poolesville Village Center buzzed with excitement on the evening of Saturday, February 3 as supporters of the arts gathered at Essence Studios for Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre's (HGCBT) First Annual Winter Fundraiser. The event, open to all, welcomed a mix of walk-in attendees and key community figures, including Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce President Tom Kettler and Montgomery County Councilmember for District 2, Marilyn Balcombe. The evening was further enriched by the presence of fellow arts organizations like Riverworks Art Center and supportive local families such as the Gimbreres of Barnesville and the Opiekuns of Clarksburg.

Guests indulged in refreshments while HGCBT board members and Essence staff passionately articulated HGCBT's mission and upcoming goals. HGCBT Secretary Joanna Borman adamantly expressed the importance of volunteerism and donation in the organization's ability to increase its scope and reach more youth. "Free performances for the public like those we have at Whalen Commons each spring depend on this support from the surrounding community," she explained. Once introductions had been made, the highlight of the evening came when HGCBT Artistic Director Claire Jones and choreographer Justin Rustle showcased the advanced dancers, who dazzled with a brief ballet demonstration accompanied by HGCBT alumna Elizabeth Vinokurov. The dedication and artistry displayed underscored the importance of providing quality dance productions for youth in Montgomery County.



Performers at Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre's First Annual Winter Fundraiser.

"Training in the world of dance and other performing arts provides youth with the opportunity to utilize their natural talents as well as build upon artistry, confidence, teamwork, self-discipline, expression, and work ethic," Ms. Jones explained passionately. "Dance also develops a commitment to excellence that will propel them forward in whatever career they choose."

Following the performance, sophomore dancers Kendall Zimmerman and Elizabeth Tchorni unveiled HGCBT's 2024 season, which includes a spring production of "Fairy Tales in the Park, Featuring Cinderella" on Sunday, June 2, at the Whalen Commons bandshell. The production will have two performances at 12:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., both free and open to the public. The first act will showcase a variety of dance styles, including jazz, tap, contemporary, hip hop, and ballet. Additionally, a remounting of the acclaimed "A Winter's Eve" is scheduled for Saturday, December 7, at the JCC Bender Kreeger Auditorium in Rockville. Essence Studios' advanced dancer, Sava Brizhik, also treated the audience to an original Prince Variation from Cinderella, choreographed by Justin Rustle, offering a glimpse of what's to come in June.

The Winter Fundraiser not only highlighted the community's unwavering support for arts education but also underscored the transformative impact of HGCBT's programs on its students. As the evening concluded, Mr. Rustle extended an invitation to local students aged 12 and up who are not affiliated

Continued on page 16.

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Youth Sports

PHS Boys' Swim Take First in Region, Girls Second

By Jeff Stuart

On Monday, February 19 at the 3A//2A/1A Region Swim Championships at the Fairland Aquatic Center in Laurel, the Poolesville High School boys finished in first place with 382 points. Rockville was second with 370.5 and Damascus third with 320.

The Falcons won two relay races.

Juniors, Jaden Hou and Ethan Qian, along with sophomores, Ethan Lee and Eli Ferrara, won the 200-yard medley relay. Senior Daniel Zamaray, sophomore William Sheeran, Hou, and sophomore Justin Jarczynski won the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Lee, Ferrara, Zamaray, and Sheeran placed second the 200-yard freestyle relay.

In individual events, Lee and Hou took first place in the 100 butterfly and 100 freestyle, respectively. Sheeran was second in the 200 freestyle. Lee was second in the 50 freestyle. Ferrara was second in the 100 freestyle, and Jarczynski was second in the 500 yard freestyle. Third place finishes went to Jarczynski, Qian, Ferrara, and freshman Isaac Soles.

The Poolesville girls finished in second place with 358 points to 385 for first-place Damascus. Sophomore Lilian Congdon was first in the 100 butterfly.

Sophomore Sophie Huang was first in the 100 freestyle, and sophomore Sophie Huang was first in the 100 backstroke. The Falcons were second in three relay races.

The 200 medley team was sophomore Anabel Sha, freshman Christine Yang, Congdon, and freshman Veronica Mitin. The 200 freestyle team was Sha, Yang, Mitin, and Congdon. The 400 freestyle team was Huang, Wang, junior Chelsea Zhang, and Sha.

Sha was second in the 100-yard backstroke. Wang was second in the 100 breaststroke. Third place finishes went to Wang in the 200 freestyle, and Mitin in the 50 freestyle and 100 butterfly.



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Do you have any interesting local history or fun facts to share with our readers? The Monocle welcomes your contribution. Send to editor@monocacymonocle.com

Continued from page 1.

A Gym Full of Memories

and the fans something to buzz about, but the story of the night was off the court. PHS alumni were invited to attend. Many did. There was no formal ceremony, but the past graduates did gather on the court at half-time for a photo op, to mingle, and to exchange memories.

"The gym opened in 1978," said Jake Brooks, who played in the first games in the gym as a senior. "We played the last five games of the season in this gym. We won all five. We never lost in this gym. Dave Miller was our coach."

"We were the first team to play here," said Roland Moore, a senior on that team. "It will be a shame to see it go, but I have great memories of being coached by Dave Miller and being around the rest of the guys, Mike Neville, our center, and my brother Ron at forward. We all played together well. It was awesome playing here. We won the division and made it to the championship game at Cole (Cole Field House, University of Maryland at College Park) where we lost to Crisfield, 65-58. The school has come a long way in forty years. I will be glad to come back when the new gym opens."

"It was a very good season," said brother Ronald Moore. "We played in the old gym for a while and then moved over here. Coach gave us a pep talk before our first game here because we had lost three games in a row. He said we were starting a new season today and we were going to Cole Field House, and we started to win and kept on winning. We went all the way to the championship game. It was a good feeling to get there."

The first game ever played at the existing gym was on February 9, 1978. The Falcons routed Kennedy, 84-54. Jake scored seventeen points as did Neville. Roland scored thirteen, and Ronald scored fourteen. J. Brooks scored eight points and Tibbs five. Hackett, King, and G. Thomas each scored two.

There was more to come after that first season. On February 26, 1982, the Poolesville boys defeated Damascus, 68-65, at home in a memorable game that went to six overtimes. The game lasted more than three hours and was the longest basketball game ever played in Montgomery County. "It was packed to the rafters," said coach Pete Menke at the time. "I have never seen a game quite like this one. I have had games that went two overtimes, but this was something completely different. They had beaten us in a Christmas tournament and then again at their place, so it was important for us to win this game at home. I thought it was going to be close but not this close." Free throws by Randy Hackett and Donald Ricketts finally decided the contest. The win clinched fourth place in the Class C Region II playoffs.

That was a favorite moment for Andre Johnson, a senior who was on that 1982 team who contributed two points in that game and was at this last game. "That year, we lost to Walkersville in the regionals by one point. A Walkersville player shot the ball from about half court as time expired. It would have fallen short, but Hackett, our center, tried to block it and knocked it into the basket. We lost by one. Walkersville was coached by our old coach, Dave Miller, so that really hurt."

"I graduated in 1968," said Don LeMarr. "My aunts and uncles and my mom went to school here. I played mostly baseball. We did not have football back then. I played a little bit of basketball. I was here when the boys won the championship. They played in the old gym. They were older than I was. That was back in the 1962/1963 season. I went to all the games. They went to Cole Field House. I knew a lot of guys on that team. My daughter went to school here and my son, Don, Jr., and my grandkids. My granddaughter Makayla was on the 2018 girls' championship team, and Cody and Seth played football. Seth played basketball here also."

"I played basketball here in 1982," said Carla Bodmer, "and my daughters, Jocelyn and Molly, played here in 2013 and 2016 for Coach Swick."

"I took stats for the basketball team in my sophomore and junior years, from 1980 to 1982," said Julie Bliss.

"I was a cheerleader here from 1990 to 1992," said Jennifer Griffith. "I have good memories, especially of the pep rallies. My brother John played basketball here in 1989."

"I was here when they built the gym," said Keith Wilkins, a 1984 graduate. "I played a lot of basketball here. It was the place to be. I remember the pep rallies. We used to play dodgeball here. We used to win at dodgeball."

His son, Kyle Wilkins, the 2015 and 2016 Montgomery County heavyweight wrestling champion, was also there. "We used to play speedball here," said Kyle. "That was a lot of fun."

The gym was home to the undefeated 2018 girls' state basketball champions, featuring Erin Green, Maddie Thompson, Julia Hobbs, Kelliann Lee, and others, coached by Fred Swick. On February 13 of that year, the gym was filled for a much-anticipated matchup with powerful Middletown. It was live-streamed over the internet. The Falcons won, 60-58, in the most significant game of their playoff run.

The gym was also home to the undefeated 2008 girls' volleyball team, featuring Jenny Better, Megan Kenneweg, Paige Sekerak, Kelly Rosenberg, Chelsa Glowacki, Jess Chittenden, Tori Kirkpatrick, and others, coached by Fran Duvall.

It was also home to state champion wrestlers Alex Carbonell, Xavier Kresslein, their coach Kevin Dorsey, and other county, region, and state champions. It was also where, in 2020, before the pandemic caused the shuttering of schools, senior Nick Zehnle made all eighteen of his eighteen freethrow attempts against North-west, and where Lindsay Poss, in 2012, scored forty-three points in a game, and where an exhausted Whitney Carmack tried to lead her team to a playoff victory in a game that went to triple overtime. Then, too, there was a dramatic five-set win over Damascus in girls' volleyball in 2013, in a game featuring Sara

Kenneweg, Rosie Barry, and Allyson Convers. That year, the Falcons made it to the championship game, losing to Patuxent in five sets.

Among the past graduates spotted at the game were Irvin Smith and Jamie Jamison.

Of Poetry and Prose

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March

The stormy March has come again,—
March! March! March!
And rattling down the window pane,—
March! March! March!
Come rushing torrents of the rain,—

March! March! March!
But o'er my head my hat I swing,
And shout hurrah! like anything!
Because it is the first of Spring,—
March! March! March!

— Mary B. C. Slade

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Garden

Winter Blooms

By Maureen O'Connell

Many people do not think about their gardens during the winter months. There are no brightly-colored flowers to delight the eye, but the winter sun deepens the winter palette of olive greens, tomato reds, faded browns, and grays and blacks and beiges, and they provide new interest. I find the winter garden very comforting. While there is not much going on above the ground, winter is a very important season for the garden, as it lays the foundation for the coming growing season. How do plants survive cold winters and freezing temperatures? Bears hibernate in the winter and so do plants, shrubs, and trees. They slow down their metabolism and enter a state of dormancy, gathering and storing strength for the coming spring and summer growing season. Many people do not like snow; I love it. In the garden, a layer of snow acts like a blanket to keep extreme cold from penetrating too far and damaging the all-important roots.

There are two shrubs that are underestimated and too infrequently planted: the Witch Hazel and the Pussy Willow. They bring a hint of the spring to come by working their magic with flowers on bare roots.

Witch hazels (*Hamamelis*) are a genus of flowering plants in the family Hamamelidaceae, with three species in North America: *H. ovalis*, *H. virginiana*, and *H. vernalis*, and one each in Japan and China. The witch hazels are deciduous shrubs that can grow from five to twenty feet. The leaves are alternately arranged, oval, with a smooth and wavy margin. The genus name means "together with fruit," referring to the simultaneous occurrence of flowers with the maturing fruit from the previous year. The name "witch" has its origins in Middle English "wiche" from the Old English, meaning "pliant." It is not related to the word "witch" meaning the practitioner of magic. Their flowers are spidery collections of ribbon-like petals held in dark chalice (the green outer part of a flower that covers and protects it before it opens). The flowers come in shades of pale yellow, brash golds, citrus-orange, spice browns, and warm reds. The leaves appear in mid-spring. There are several varieties: 'Amethyst,' 'Jelena,' 'Diane,' 'Arnold Promise,' and 'Pallida.' I planted two 'Arnold Promise' plants about five years ago. They are doing very well growing in full sun; they are about six feet tall, and they are low maintenance. I recommend this variety.

The leaves and bark of the *Hamamelis virginiana* were used in folk medicine, herbalism, and skincare by Native Americans. Witch hazel astringent is still sold today as an ointment, cream, gel, or salve for topical use.

Another great overlooked shrub is the American Pussy Willow (*Salix discolor*). It was a very popular shrub when I was growing up. I don't see it very much now in local gardens. It is a very valuable plant that belongs in our gardens and is a great example of how a native plant provides habitat and support for native wildlife.

It is Dioecious, meaning that male and female parts are found on different plants. The males have the larger, showier catkins while the female catkins are small and greenish. When we picture a pussy willow, we are usually referring to the male plant. The catkin is a unisexual typically male spike that falls as a unit after flowering or producing fruit. These long, thin, soft flowers are "fuzzy fur



Witch hazel blooms in February.



Pussy willow catkins in February.

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Worship Service 10:30 am

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Holy Week & Easter Sunday



Palm Sunday, Mar. 24

10:30 am—Worship Service—In-Person & YouTube

Holy Thursday, Mar. 28

7 pm—Tenebrae Service w/Communion
In-Person & YouTube

Easter Sunday, Mar. 31

10:30 am—Worship Service w/Communion
In-Person & YouTube

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Continued from page 14.

Winter Blooms

coats” that keep the reproductive parts of the plant warm. You can save these catkins for decoration in your house. Cut them before the pollen appears and do not put them in water. They will dry and stay very attractive in a vase for years. Take just a few and leave the rest for songbirds and butterflies as they are a very valuable food source for wildlife. They provide the first-of-the-season nectar for pollinators. Insects are attracted to the pollen and provide a smorgasbord for songbirds. In the fall, don't be too quick to clean up your garden. If you clean up all the willow leaves when they fall and cut off every catkin in the spring, you will miss this interplay of nature with wildlife.

Look on the bright side of winter and you will be surprised by what you find. This spring, plant these two wonderful shrubs. My pussy willow tree is about twenty years old and fifteen feet tall. Every year, I anxiously wait to see its new 'fur coats.'

Notice of Public Hearing

The Town of Poolesville Planning Commission is pleased to announce the release of the 2024 Comprehensive Plan for public comment. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing at Poolesville Town Hall on March 13, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. To sign up in advance to speak in person or to provide written testimony, please email the town at townhall@poolesvillemd.gov. The deadline to sign up in advance is 4:00 p.m. on March 13, 2024.

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Things to Do

March 2

Shine On Together's St. Patrick's Day Dance Party

This inclusive dance event invites all individuals with disabilities, and their families and friends. To register, please email info@shineontogether.org with total number of guests. Free. *Bohrer Park Activity Center*. 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

March 4

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:00 p.m.

March 7

PACC Business Helping Business Grow

Breakfast prepared by K-2 Café, compliments of PACC. The Friendly Thrift Shop is the featured business. *Friendly Thrift Shop, 17710 Elgin Road*. 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

American Legion Daniel-Jeffers Post 247 Meeting

Held at *Calleva Offices, Poolesville*. 7:00 p.m.

March 8 and 9

St. Peter's Spring Rummage Sale

Easter and patriotic items, household and kitchen, crafts, office, electronics, movies and music, art and frames, antique and vintage items, lamps, health and beauty, tools, pet things, sports and gardening, and more terrific stuff! Donations accepted up until March 5. *St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 20100 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville*. Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

March 10

HMD Photo Contest Display

The exhibit features more than sixty gorgeous and diverse photos taken by amateur photographers of the Upcounty, depicting the vistas, historic sites, animals, and flora of the Ag Reserve, from Seneca to Sugarloaf Mountain. *Old Town Hall Bank Museum*. 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

March 16

Annual St. Patrick's Party

Dinner, Ceili dance, Irish entertainment, live Irish band, and great Irish food and beer. Reservations only at stmaryb@yahoo.com or 301-972-8660; No sales at the door. \$25 per person; \$75 per

family of four. *St. Mary's Pavilion, Barnesville*. 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

March 21

PHS Home Varsity Game

Baseball vs. Rockville. 3:45 p.m.

March 21

PACC Special Event: NCAA March Madness Happy Hour

Come out and watch the opening day of NCAA Men's Basketball March Madness with fellow PACC members. Free pizza for chamber members while supplies last. Cash bar. Sign up at Poolesvillechamber.com. Free. *Cugini's*. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PHS Home Varsity Games

Baseball vs. Rockville. 3:45 p.m.

Girls' lacrosse vs. Clarksburg. 7:00 p.m.

Softball vs. Clarksburg. 7:00 p.m.

Boys' tennis vs. Richard Montgomery. 3:30 p.m.

Girls' volleyball vs. Walter Johnson. 5:30 p.m.

Boys' volleyball vs. Walter Johnson. 7:30 p.m.

March 31

Easter Sunday

Continued from page 11.

HGCBT's First Annual Winter Fundraiser a Success

with Essence Studios or HGCBT to participate in the spring production's Cinderella segment. An Open Community Audition will be held at noon on Saturday, March 9, at Essence Studios, offering aspiring actors and movers the chance to be part of this enchanting tale. Rustle emphasized that no previous dance experience is necessary, encouraging all interested individuals to register via the HGCBT website at www.hopegardencbt.org/auditions.

In the heart of Poolesville, amidst the support of the community, HGCBT continues to nurture young talent and foster a love for the arts. As the curtains rise on their upcoming productions, they invite everyone to be part of the magic, whether through attendance, support, or participation. Together, let us ensure that the arts thrive in Montgomery County and beyond.



Adults Getting Together



EVERY FIRST SATURDAY 9 a.m.–Noon

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

Where: Vail Christian Education Bldg.

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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 Green

Net Energy Meters: What Are They?

By Karen Lefkowitz, retired vice president of PEPCO

If you are considering installing solar energy at your home, you may encounter the term “net energy meter,” or “net capable meter.” It will be useful to understand what a net energy meter is and what it means.

Most people install solar generation at their house to reduce their use of utility-supplied electricity. For these solar installations (sometimes referred to as behind-the-meter systems), to be able to accept energy from the grid when it is needed, the solar system must be connected to a utility-supplied, net energy meter (NEM). This is often called the interconnection.

An NEM measures energy that flows in both directions—from the grid to your house and from your house to the grid. The difference between the two is called the net energy use. It is important to note that the NEM does not measure the total output from your solar energy system. The solar energy system first feeds into your house and appliances, and the NEM only measures the unused excess energy that flows from your house to the grid.

If you are surprised that you would still need to receive energy from the grid, consider that the sun doesn’t always shine! In fact, every day, the sun sets, and no more solar energy is produced. In this part of the country, it is not unusual to have varying amounts of sunshine every day, so unless you have a sizable battery storage system (a subject for a different article) along with your solar energy system, you can expect to use some utility-supplied energy almost every day, and a more substantial amount on days when you are running high-usage appliances like a central air conditioner on our hot, muggy summer days, but it is not unreasonable to have a home solar energy system that will net to zero over the course of a year, meaning that over a year’s time, you will produce close to what you use. Of course, this is highly dependent on your personal usage and the amount of solar energy you choose to install.

The NEM is used to determine what your monthly bill will be. Since your utility will still deliver energy to you when you need it, your energy bill reflects the energy delivered by the utility and the credits you receive when your solar energy system produces more energy than you use.

Every state has its own rules regarding how all of this is reflected in your bill, so you should consult with your local utility to determine exactly how your bill will look after you have installed a solar energy system. Generally, you will be able to see “negative energy consumption.” This represents the amount of energy your solar energy system produced, in excess of what your home used. Some utilities give you the option of either carrying forward this excess energy to offset the energy that you get from the utility and doing a “true-up” once a year, or to settle that difference monthly. Again, you should check with your local utility to find out how that is handled.

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In Your Own Backyard

Scotty, the Remarkable Fishing Dog of The C&O Canal

By Jon Wolz

During the operating days of the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal, which lasted from 1831 until 1923, there was a series of locks numbered 8 through 14 that became known as "Seven Locks." These locks stretched over 1.25 miles paralleling the Potomac River and old Canal Road. Canal Road was replaced by the Clara Barton Parkway. At one time, there were six lockhouses along this stretch; only two survive today. The lock tender for Lock 10 was also responsible for Lock 9. The name "Seven Locks" survives today, including "Seven Locks Road" and other structures named for the Seven Locks of the old C&O Canal.

Just prior to 1920, there was a lock tender John "Jack" Speaker who tendered Lock 14 along with his wife Julia. Both Jack and Julia were born in Washington County, Maryland, Jack in 1851 and Julia in 1860. In his youth,

Jack lived with his parents and siblings in Williamsport, Maryland. Julia lived with her parents and siblings in Beaver Creek, Maryland. Jack and Julia married in 1884 in Washington County. By 1900, they were living in Washington, D.C. where Jack was an ice dealer. By 1910, Jack was a laborer for the Electric Light Company. While living in Washington, D.C., Jack and Julia acquired a brown cocker spaniel puppy and named him "Scotty." Jack and Julia also had a cat named "Skits."

Jack quit his job at the Electric Light Company and got a job as lock tender at Lock 14, taking his wife and two pets with him. Boat traffic along the canal dwindled from the peak years of 1868 to 1880 of 550 boats to 70 boats by 1923. Coal out of Cumberland was primarily sent east via the railroad by 1923.

One summer afternoon, after the Speakers had moved to the wood-framed lockhouse at Lock 14, Scotty was sitting by Mr. and Mrs. Speaker as they were watching the fishing lines that they had cast into the waters by the lock. Scotty was looking down at his reflection when suddenly one of the cork floats began to bob up and down in the water. He jumped to his feet and began to bark at the sight of the bobbing cork. The reaction of

seeing Scotty barking at the bobbing float got the lock tender thinking. "Why shouldn't there be fishing dogs as well as hunting dogs?" Jack asked his wife. He continued, "Unless I'm badly mistaken, a dog that will bark at a moving cork can be made as useful as one that will point at a covey of quail." On this theory, the lock tender went to work. Scotty proved to be an apt pupil. He learned that he must keep his eyes fixed on the float and bark if it moved. The job pleased him for he delighted in seeing his master rush over at the first signal to lift the line from the water. If a fish was lifted with it, Scotty would indulge in a violent tail wagging as an expression of his satisfaction.

So proficient an angler did he become that the lock tender soon found Scotty could be trusted to be left alone with the line and depended on to arouse the household if he should get a legitimate "bite" for no ripple on the water could fool him.

There did come a day when Scotty's call for assistance failed to evoke a response. Scotty took matters into his own "hands"—or let's say his teeth—by dragging the pole with the line attached across the towpath. In a few steps, he was at the door of the lockhouse where he knew Mrs. Speaker

Dog Catches Bass With Tackle To Wonder of Canal Boatmen



Jack Speaker and his dog, Scotty.

was preparing dinner. Surprised that he should have left his post, Mrs. Speaker was about to reprimand him, when looking out the window and noticing his eager expression, she decided to go to the front porch to

Continued on page 25.



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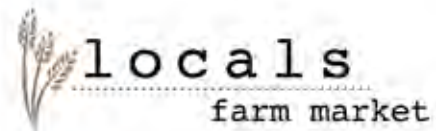
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Local Arts

Riverworks Events

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Learn more at www.riverworksart.org.

Ongoing Events:

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.

Made-in-Studio

Made-in-Studio workshops require no experience and are held on the first Friday and second Saturday every month. Sponsored by the Butz Foundation. \$20. *Riverworks Studio at Alden Farms.*

Events Calendar

March 1

Wet on Wet Watercolor

A beginning watercolor workshop with Betsy Casaleno that will include basic brush techniques with a concentration on wet methods and rendering sky. Rather than painting the usual still life, we will end the class by painting creative landscapes using a fun wet-on-wet approach. \$20. 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

March 3

Artist-in-the-House Opening Reception: Sarah Hood Salomon, "Scratched"

Sarah Hood Salomon's series of black and white photographs depicts the haunting images of wild areas in the Ag Reserve that will soon be

developed. Enjoy complimentary food and beverages, and meet the artist. Free. *Locals Farm Market.* 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

March 9

Tiny Quilts

Caitlin Robinson (flower farmer, floral designer, natural dyer, quiltmaker, and owner of Sungold Flower Co.) will walk you through each step from fabric selection, to patchwork, to quilting the layers together and binding your mini masterpiece. All sewing will be done by hand. 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Indigenous Peoples of the Potomac Piedmont Storytellers Series

Professor and writer Christine Rai shares her experience diving into the history of indigenous groups native to Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve. This free presentation is part of the larger Community Roundtable Project, which is looking for participants to explore the history of Indigenous Peoples in the Ag Reserve and to work with Christine to create artwork based on their experience. *Poolesville Old Town Hall Bank Museum.* 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

March 10

Empty Bowls Fundraiser

Barnesville School students and local artisans created and donated handmade bowls for purchase at this event. Each bowl will be filled with delicious soup generously donated by local chefs from Locals, Coop's Soups, and Hootch and Banter Restaurant. Proceeds from the event support Backpack Bites, a local organization that helps feed food-insecure students in the Ag Reserve. Purchase your tickets now to get locally-sourced soup and a handmade bowl while supplies last. \$20. *Locals Farm Market.* 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

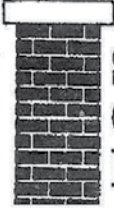
March Artist-in-the-House Gallery Series

Sarah Hood Salomon, "Scratched"

The trees in Sarah Hood Salomon's black-and-white photography impress the viewer with their stark beauty, but there is an unnerving tone of foreboding: When she photographed them, all of these trees were on the verge of being cleared for development. Now most of them are gone.

Exhibits are held in the upstairs gallery at *Locals Farm Market* (accessible only by stairs). Sponsored by Walter Matia, Curlew Castings.

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Join us for Holy Week and Easter
Palm Sunday, March 24
Mass Saturday at 5 pm
Sunday at 8:30 & 10:30 am

Holy Thursday, March 28
Morning Prayer at 9 am
Mass of the Last Supper at 7:30 pm
Adoration 8:30 - 11 pm

Good Friday, March 29
Morning Prayer at 9 am
Confession at Noon
Stations of the Cross at 3 pm
Service of the Lord's Passion at 7:30 pm

Holy Saturday, March 30
Easter Vigil at 8 pm



Easter Sunday, March 31

Sunrise Mass at 6:30 am

8:30 & 10:30 am - Mass

Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 am

All are Welcome!

Focus on Business

PACC Celebrates Growth

The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce (PACC) hosted its first formal annual dinner meeting post-pandemic on February 1. Held at the Crossvines Event Center, the dinner was a celebration of a highly-successful year for PACC, now boasting over 150 members.

Tom Kettler of Kettler Forlines Homes and president of the organization was the master of ceremonies, introducing various members of the Board of Directors, each presenting the accomplishments of 2023 and the goals for 2024.

The highlight of each annual meeting is the selection and recognition of one of its members for their outstanding community service above and beyond their commercial or professional role in the community. This year, Gail Lee of Gail Lee Homes received the prestigious award for her many contributions and volunteer service over three decades of living and working in the area.

Gail Lee Homes began in 1991 and is associated with Long and Foster. Gail has made countless donations and local sponsorships for town events and causes over those three decades. She has participated in many local nonprofit and charitable organizations, including St. Peter's Church and the Poolesville Day Committee. She has served on the PACC Board of Directors and was its president from 2010 to 2020.

The PACC is the publisher of the area's phone directory, tourist guide, and map, and, joined by the Monocacy Lions Club, runs the annual 5K walk/race each Poolesville Day. They boasted a revitalized website this past year which provides the most complete information about, and link to, area business websites of their members.

The local chamber provides many services to its members with monthly network breakfast meetings, as well as multiple "happy hour" social meetings that bring businesses together on a personal level.

Representatives of the chamber regularly monitor and provide input on government matters to ensure the commercial interests of its members are better

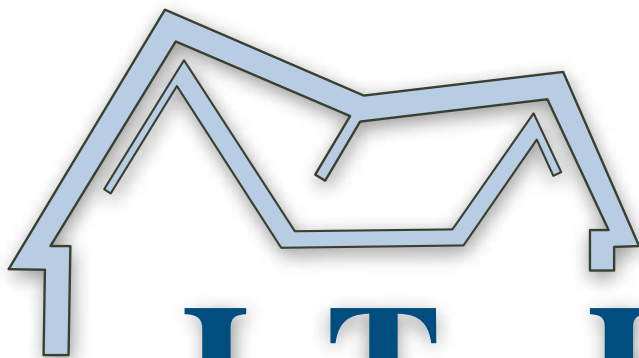


PACC Board of Directors: Back row: Julie Kuhlman (Kuhlman Lawn Services), Olivia Murphy (Calleva), Jeff Eck (UMCVFD and town commissioner), Jeff McClosky (Truist Investment Services), Katie Horan (The Sweet Lemon), Dr. Tim Pike (Pike and Valega); front row: Cheryl Kenly (M&T Bank), Tom Kettler (Kettler Forlines Homes), David Myers (Rescue-One) and Hilary Schwab (Hilary Schwab Photography).

understood by elected officials. Most notably, PACC has been active in assisting in the development of the ten-year Poolesville Comprehensive Plan (due to be finalized this spring) and in support of the Fair Access Committee in its work in bolstering the county government's understanding of the needs of the Poolesville area community.

The leadership of the PACC consists of President Tom Kettler, Tim Pike (vice president), Hilary Schwab (secretary), Jeff McCloskey (treasurer), and its Board of Directors: Jeff Eck (UMCVFD and town commissioner), Katie Horan (The Sweet Lemon), Cheryl Kenley (M&T Bank), Julie Kuhlman (Kuhlman Landscaping), David Meyers (Rescue One), and Olivia Murphy (Calleva).

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Remembrances

Paul "Joe" Edward Knott

Paul "Joe" Edward Knott, 80, of Boyds, passed away on February 3, 2024.

Joe was the loving husband of Nancy Knott.

Born on December 9, 1943 in Maryland, he was the son of the late John G. Knott and Beulah Margaret Knott Austin.

Paul enjoyed being with his family. When he wasn't with them, he was hunting or fishing. He also jumped out of perfectly good airplanes for the 101st Airborne U.S. Army for three years. Then Paul ran into burning buildings with his brothers of Company 53 for thirty-five years.

Joe was survived by his wife, Nancy; his two children, Missy Martin and Paul "Joey" Knott; one sister, Mary Kephart; and three grandchildren, Troy, Travis, and Trever "Autumn" Martin.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, John "Skip" Knott, George "Frank" Knott, and William "Punk" Knott.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in his memory to the Boyds Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 320, Boyds, MD 20841.



Paul "Joe" Edward Knott

Continued from page 4.

Youthful Crime Incidents Raise Public Concern

Public Information officer for an official statement and/or an update on both incidents, but both requests were ignored, and no response from MCDP was provided.

Marketplace

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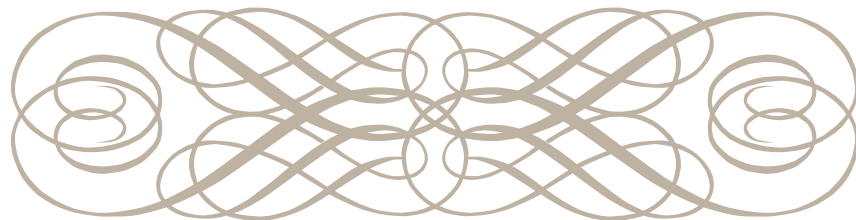
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Our Lady of the Presentation Parish 2024 Lent, Triduum, and Easter Schedule

Palm (Passion) Sunday, March 24

- Masses will follow the regular weekend schedule
- Saturday vigil 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Holy Thursday, March 28

- No morning Mass
- **8:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper**
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Good Friday, March 29

- No morning Mass
- 12:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
- Confessions following Stations of the Cross
- **8:00 p.m. Service of the Lord's Passion and Veneration of the Cross**

Holy Saturday, March 30

- No morning Mass
- 11:00 a.m. Easter Basket Blessing
- 11:30 a.m. Confessions
- **8:00 p.m. the Solemn Easter Vigil**

Easter Sunday, March 31

- 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m.
- 1:00 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 7

- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament following the 10:45 a.m. Mass
- 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Confessions
- 3:00 p.m. Divine Mercy Chaplet
- Solemn Reposition following the Divine Mercy Chaplet

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Mass Schedule

- Saturday Vigil 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday 8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.

Weekday Masses

- Monday 8:30 a.m.
- Tuesday 8:30 a.m.
- Wednesday 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday 8:30 a.m.
- Friday 8:30 a.m.
- Saturday 8:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

- Wednesdays 8:00 p.m.
- Saturdays 4:00 p.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

- Wednesdays 8:00 p.m.



Continued from page 18.

Scotty, the Remarkable Fishing Dog of the C&O Canal

learn the cause of his desertion. She saw a two-pound bass flopping in the dust of the towpath.

With the passing of the seasons, Scotty grew in his devotion to fishing and became quite a dependable contributor to the household. His happiness would be complete but for a single note that persisted in jarring the harmony of his life and work. Skits was fond of eels. When Scotty barked, Skits would saunter over to inspect the catch. If it went into the fish box, Scotty was happy. If it was an eel, it went into the paws of Skits. Scotty assumed an injured expression when he found he caught an eel. He knew where it would likely end up and did not relish the idea of fishing for a cat.

Washington area anglers, canoeists, and nature lovers who followed the towpath as far as Seven Locks knew Scotty and respected him as a dog of unusual intelligence. "Nearly every amateur photographer that passed our lock after that wanted to take his picture, but Scotty didn't relish being a celebrity. He consented to pose once or twice, but finally began taking to the woods every time he saw anyone approaching him with a camera," according to Jack Speaker.

One morning, Scotty was at Mrs. Speaker's heels as she started down the steps leading from the lockhouse. She was on her way to the poultry yard to retrieve some eggs for breakfast. A copperhead lay on the bottom step, and the dog threw himself on the snake just in time before Mrs. Speaker stepped on it. Scotty showed his face to the full force of the snake's venomous strike. The snake's fangs sank deep into his cheeks. The snake rolled to the ground, and Scotty was forced to crawl under the steps to finish the fight in a cramped position. In the fight that followed, the snake was shaken to pieces, but the dog was left to face days of suffering ending finally in his death. Everything was done for the dog's comfort in his last hours. Scotty was buried behind the lockhouse in the nearby woods where he loved to romp.

After the canal closed in 1924, Jack and Julia moved back to Bethesda where Jack was a laborer doing odd jobs. By 1938, he and his wife were caretakers at Lock 7, working for the Federal Government when he got ill and had to be moved to a home that was closer to his doctor. Jack died in 1938, age 88. Julia died in 1944 at age 84. Both are buried at the Boonsboro Cemetery without gravestones.

Lockhouse 14 has been torn down and was removed after 1938 because of its deteriorating condition. Today, the lock is within sight of the American Legion Bridge and the loud noise of traffic on the Capital Beltway. There is a scant earthen outline on the river side of the towpath where the house once stood and the unmarked grave of Scotty is beyond out in the woods.

Source documents published in *The Evening Star*, Washington, D.C. in September and December 1923, and in *The Daily Mail*, Hagerstown, MD, December 1938; also in Ancestry.com and Find A Grave.



What remains of C&O Canal Lock 14.

By National Park Service, Paul Graunke.

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Questions Remain as Canine Respiratory Disease Cases Fall

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

Veterinary diagnostic laboratories are still working to determine the source of a mystery illness. The outbreak of canine infectious respiratory disease complex (CIRDC) appears to be receding.

Dr. Scott Weese, a professor at the University of Guelph Ontario Veterinary College and director of the Centre for Public Health and Zoonoses, said it appears things had calmed down considerably since the beginning of 2024.

The most likely explanation for last year's canine respiratory disease outbreak is a commensal bacterium that possibly plays a role in some disease but has been overlooked, says Dr. Scott Weese, a professor at the University of Guelph Ontario Veterinary College.

"It doesn't seem like anything remarkable is going on at the moment," Dr. Weese said, adding that a periodic spike in CIRDC cases in various regions is to be expected.

Dr. Michael Lappin, an internal medicine specialist and director of the Center for Companion Animal Studies at Colorado State University (CSU), said, "Why that trend is occurring is unknown but may be related to our pets' spending less time in social situations that might include ill dogs during the winter months."

CIRDC

Outbreaks of CIRDC, sometimes referred to as kennel cough, are common. Roughly nine types of viruses and bacteria are known to cause respiratory infections in dogs, as outlined in a paper published in November 2013 in the journal *Veterinary Pathology*. Infection by more than one bacterial or viral agent is common.

It is important to know that when your veterinarian talks about CIRDC, he/she is generally talking about a common disease syndrome in dogs that is rarely serious and is associated with known causes of the disease. That's not what the current outbreak of CIRDC is.

The outbreak has raised a number of questions. Among them is why last year's wave of canine respiratory disease differed from previous versions with many of these cases having other underlying health issues. Dogs experienced prolonged coughs, lasting up to six weeks, and more cases developed what appeared to be secondary pneumonia. In addition, this pneumonia was either minimally responsive or entirely unresponsive to antibiotics.

The most pressing question is why the causative agent has not been identified so far. This may be because many samples are submitted for testing only after a dog becomes gravely ill, meaning enough time has passed that the inciting organism is undetectable. There's also the possibility that therapy that was already started would negatively impact test results.

The lack of definitive answers has given rise to speculation that a novel

pathogen or variant of a known causative agent such as *Bordetella* has emerged. Consensus within the veterinary community is that this is highly unlikely. A spokesperson for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) told AVMA News that there is no evidence to support such a conclusion.

"Common causes of canine infectious respiratory disease complex have been identified in many of these cases," the USDA spokesperson said. "As of now, the testing has not indicated the presence of a novel pathogen or single infectious cause among these cases."

Experts are continuing to look for answers.

The New Hampshire Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (NHVDL) and Hubbard Center for Genome Studies at the University of New Hampshire claim to have found a novel small bacterium in a subset of CIRDC samples.

Once samples started coming in, the NHVDL reported sequencing data had revealed a "non-culturable, bacterial-like organism, similar to *Mycoplasma*, in a subset of respiratory samples."

Then the laboratory announced that additional evidence of a "potential novel bacterial respiratory pathogen" had been identified in a small number of dog samples from four U.S. states.

"We can't yet say for certain that the organism is causing the respiratory disease," Robert Gibson, managing director of the NHVDL told AVMA News. "Maybe there's some other cause, and we just happened to find this in these samples. Data generated by the study continues to support the possibility of a new pathogen, but to prove causation would require additional studies."

Researcher, Dr. Weese said he would be "very surprised" if the organism turned out to be new and pathogenic. "The most likely explanation is it's a known organism that's been around, but we haven't known to look for it," he said. "Possibly it plays a role in some disease, but we've overlooked it. Maybe more likely, if it's clinically relevant, is it might be relevant as a coinfection but not a primary cause of disease."

Pet owners should continue to keep dogs up to date on vaccinations and watch them closely if they develop a cough. Owners should continue to exercise caution regarding nose-to-nose contact with unfamiliar dogs, as their medical history and exposure risks may be unknown.

When you are choosing pet care services, ensure transparency by inquiring about protocols for vaccine requirements, the isolation sick dogs, and rigorous cleaning practices.

Check with your veterinarian if you have any concerns about your pet and this upper respiratory disease.



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