

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

November 8, 2019 • Volume XV, Number 16



Was this the clucky winner of the costume contest? See more Lions Halloween pictures in Family Album on page 2.



Don't be deceived by the smiles. These people are pickleball ringers, ready for any competitors. More info in Local News on page 4.



David Palank, Billy Willard, and Tim Foley provided a unique ag experience to a group of boys from D.C. Read the Moos in AgNews on page 6.



Gracie won in the Cutest Dog Costume category, thanks to the creativity of Katie Hanna. See more Oktoberfest pictures on page 13.

Major Step Forward for PHS—but a Long Road Ahead

By Link Hoewing

On October 25, residents of the Upcounty and Poolesville High School students and parents got the welcome news that the high school was included in the superintendent's capital budget recommendations as a "major capital project." This is a major step forward in the decades-long effort to convince county leaders to build a new high school to replace the existing school which has a core that is nearly seventy years old and suffers from myriad physical problems.

While the news is welcome, it represents only the first event in a months-long effort that will be needed to ensure that full funding is committed to build a new school and that funds are allocated to co-locate needed county facilities on the school site, including a community/senior center, wellness center/clinic, and police satellite station.

The Fair Access Committee (FAC) applauded the superintendent's announcement, but the committee made

it clear that the community will not be able to rest on its laurels. PHS has never been in the actual recommended capital budget with a complete proposed spending plan. In the past, it was from time to time included in "next year's recommended CIP." As the committee said, "We have been here before and, in the past, we have seen our school continuously taken off the 'modernization list' due to what is termed 'limited funds.'" It went on to say that it and its many community supporters would remain engaged in the fight until full funding is committed by the county.

The superintendent's recommendations must be reviewed first by the Board of Education (BOE) which has no independent funding or taxing authority. That authority belongs to the county council. Now that the superintendent has spoken, the nine elected members of the BOE will hold hearings and deliberate on whether or not to approve the recommendations they have received. The board is

already beginning its deliberations and will complete its review by next January. In February, it will submit its final budget proposals for capital spending and the operating budget for the school system to the county executive and the county council.

The county executive takes this input as well as budget plans from the county's other departments, such as Health and Human Services, Recreation, and the county police, and by mid-January submits to the council his recommendations for capital spending. By mid-March, the county executive submits his budget proposals for the operating budget to fund ongoing programs. He may or may not accept all of the recommendations from the Board of Education.

After receiving the county executive's recommended budget proposals, the county council begins hearings and examines the budget framework submitted by the executive. The council must finish its work and finalize a

Continued on page 22.

A Woman of Grace and Steel: Virginia Hersperger

By Rande Davis

With the celebration of Dots Elgin's hundredth birthday in the last issue, the realization emerged that there are other such grand women from our local history who were remarkable contributors to the community. How sad if their contributions were to be lost to Time. The *Monocle* begins a new series of articles to remind those who knew of their important role and to introduce these wonderful ladies to those who unfortunately did not get to know them.

To that end, it is to the life of Virginia Hersperger that we give tribute in this column.

Born on August 10, 1900, Virginia was the eleventh child of Charles and Jennie Gartrell, residents near Brookeville, Maryland. She first came to the Poolesville area at just seventeen

years old, newly-graduated from the Sherwood School and already gifted with the skill and patience to teach others. She alternated with others as the single-room school "marm," first opening and ultimately closing three of the historic schools in Seneca, Dawsonville, and Comus.

Like so many of her time, she was noted for her strength of character, which was honed through an early tragedy when the love of her life, Webb Hersperger, a Montgomery County motorcycle patrolman, left for work one Sunday morning, leaving her and their young son, Webb, Jr. At about 7:30 a.m. on June 18, 1933, as he headed to Rockville on his motorcycle and crested a hill, he crashed with two cars racing his way. The impact hurled him through the windshield of one, killing him instantly. Webb was an outgoing



The legendary Virginia Hersperger, first female elementary school principal in Montgomery County, with her son, Dr. Webb Sellman Hersperger, Jr.

man who had longed to enter politics and thought being a patrolman would be a great way to become known in the

Continued on page 17.

Family Album



The parents versus kids tug-of-war is always a favorite at the Lions Halloween parties.



Patrons enjoyed the 90th annual St. Mary's Ham and Turkey Dinner.



Lining up for cider and hot chocolate.



Top: All the kids loved the costume parade.

Top right: Musical chairs has always been a popular game at the annual Lions Halloween party.

Right: This young Nats fan swung for the fences and this ball pinata.



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Town Government

Confusion in Process for Finding New Town Manager

By Link Hoewing

At their November 4 meeting, the Town of Poolesville commissioners had a prolonged discussion regarding the process for reviewing and screening the thirty-three applications that have been submitted to fill the town manager's position. At the heart of the dispute is a disagreement centered on what if any role should be played by Commission President Jerry Klobukowski in the screening process.

The debate started after Klobukowski said that he, David Deutsch, the head of the personnel search firm Mercer Associates that has been hired by the town to conduct the search, and former Town Manager Wade Yost would together review eligible nominees and winnow them down to a short list that would be circulated to the other commissioners.

Almost immediately after Klobukowski finished speaking, Commissioner Valaree Dickerson said that this was not how she remembered the process would work. She said she believed the commissioners agreed that the Mercer firm would undertake the screening process, in part to take advantage of their expertise. Commissioner Jim Brown said he agreed and that he "especially wanted to see what local candidates have been left off the list."

Town Attorney Jay Gullo said the commissioners needed to set out a process that would guide the Mercer company in its work. Without specifying a process, "the president of the commission, as CEO, sets the framework." He said that Deutsch had sought guidance, and Klobukowski had given it to him.

Klobukowski was asked whether or not he had reviewed or begun to review any of the candidates to which he replied that he had not. Commissioner Martin Radigan said that Klobukowski should call Deutsch and tell him that it is his responsibility to conduct the review and come up with a list of "the best candidates for the job." Brown said he did not object to Yost participating given his knowledge of the job's requirements, but that the project should be done under Deutsch and Yost and not include any commissioner. The final product will be a "background book" that includes essential information and analysis regarding all of the candidates considered to be the best fit for the job. This may take two weeks or more to complete.

Before the discussion concerning the town manager, the commissioners heard from Sarah Rogers, the head of Heritage Montgomery. Heritage Montgomery is a nonprofit focused on promoting economic growth through tourism. She appeared to promote the Canal Towns Project. The project is a group of towns, most of which are situated very near the canal, that work together to promote tourism along the canal and generate economic activity. Rogers mentioned that the C&O Canal is visited each year by over five million people. It ranks number nine among all national parks in terms of visitors. She urged the town to consider becoming part of the project, acknowledging that Poolesville is farther from the canal than the other towns which are members.

Next up for discussion was a proposal to temporarily name the Whalen Commons bandshell after Wade Yost, the former town manager. The proposal

Continued on page 11.



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Rande(m) Thoughts

A New High School

By Rande Davis

I am in awe at the progress the members of the Fair Access Committee have made in advancing our mission to bring a new high school to Poolesville. Link Hoewing's report in this issue makes clear that there is much to do. Still, this time, it feels much different. We have an impressive team of talented individuals spearheading the effort with a strong contingent of concerned citizens prepped and ready to join the fight by attending meetings, sending emails, or to carry the blazing torches of hope, if need be.

What is at stake is not just a new facility; it is the very notion of a high school in Poolesville. I join the already loud and passionate voices proclaiming for all to hear:

Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid of the town.

Get involved in any way you are able because, if we lose this one, our chance may never come again. It's just that simple.

Commemorating a Dark Day

A large group of people from throughout the county gathered at the Poolesville Presbyterian Church on November 3 to join with the Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project in gathering soil from the site of a lynching in Poolesville in 1888. The soil will be sent to the Equal

Justice Initiative's Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama to be on display as a commemoration of those who were killed by a racist act of terror or as an unjust act of murder which circumvented the victim's right to trial by his peers. In the case in Poolesville of twenty-two-year-old George Peck, the lynching seemed to be more in the latter category. He was caught in the act of assaulting a child dairymaid while she was milking a cow, and the local sheriff tried to secure Peck's transfer to jail in Rockville for an eventual trial. Tragically, an angry, impassioned, and emotional group intervened, grabbed Peck from the sheriff, and killed him by lynching.

The history of Poolesville, as it is in the case with all people, whether individuals or groups, includes dark, malevolent days that bring shame and disgust. The lynching of George Peck can be considered one of the very darkest, if not the darkest day, in the town's history. Some things in our past we celebrate, some we commemorate, and at times, there are things of great shame that are hidden. Such is the case of the Peck lynching. This, our most sinister day, is now out in the open for all to contemplate. It is up to the community as a whole to ensure that this commemoration is not an opening of an old and terrible wound, but rather a somber reflection of a time when a group of otherwise good people went terribly wrong and we, jointly, acknowledge the time-honored call against such evil with one voice of "never again."

Local News

Pickleball Clinic Expands Local Interest in Popular Senior Sport

By Maureen O'Connell

The Poolesville Area Senior Center (PASC) reported a very successful pickleball clinic held for beginners on October 19. Forty folks signed on to learn the basics of the fastest-growing sport in America. Clinic elements included rules, serving, dinking,

practice strokes using a pickleball machine, and participation in a simulated game. This event, a first of its kind for both PASC and the Poolesville area, was held at the Family Life Center in Poolesville. Chris Jacklin, a Poolesville resident, said, "The clinic was really a lot of fun and well organized and made me want to play pickleball." Sixteen volunteers under the direction of co-chairs, Maureen Dolan and Claire Gunster-Kirby, provided the instruction, chased errant balls, and encouraged the participants.

Pickleball is played indoors at the Poolesville Baptist Community Center every Saturday morning from

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Members of the Poolesville Area Senior Center's Pickleball Club.

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Fun Fact...

Daylight saving time was first enacted by the federal government March 19, 1918, during World War I, as a way to conserve coal. During the energy crisis of the 1970s, Congress ordered states to go on year-round daylight saving time between January 1974 and April 1975. Only Hawaii and Arizona don't participate.



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AgNews

First Time Down On the Farm

By Rande Davis

On October 30, middle school students from the San Miguel School in the District of Columbia spent nearly the full day exploring the role and importance of farming in America by visiting the Willard family farm in

Poolesville. Host Billy Willard reported that over the years this annual educational program has become very popular with the boys since for most it is their first exposure to farming.

Founded in 2002 by the Brothers of the Christian Schools (informally known as the Christian Brothers) and St. John's College High School, San Miguel School recognizes the need for a tuition-free private school education for underprivileged, at-risk boys living in the city.

Continued on page 7.



Megan (left back) and Sean MacKenize (right) presented the care, growth, and healthy management of livestock to boys, many of whom never even touched a cow before.

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Continued from page 6.

First Time Down on the Farm

First established in the basement of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, San Miguel began its mission in the heart of the Columbia Heights neighborhood in Washington. Outgrowing that space in less than a decade, San Miguel relocated to its current home in Shepherd Park, with a selected student body of ninety-one Latino boys in grades six to eight.

The program's hands-on approach utilized during their visit to the Willard farm provided three modules of agricultural exposure: grain production, wildlife management, and livestock. Through a holistic and rigorous academic program, San Miguel forms students who are hard-working, responsible, and faith-filled young men.

Principal David Palank and teacher-volunteer Tim Foley chaperoned the students through the day. Mr. Palank noted that the boys are at-risk young men whose academic skills may have originally had them two or three years behind in math or reading. "We build their academic skills to where all of them will get full scholarships to area private college prep high schools, like Georgetown Prep, Sidwell Friends, Gonzaga, etc."

As to the impact of the visit to the farm on the boys, Mr. Palank observed that it "has been especially positive considering that, for most, it is their first time at a real farm. Most have never even touched a cow before. Their experience at the farm through the years has proven to be highly popular with the boys, with them continuing to talk about their visit throughout the year."

The school is named after Saint Miguel Febres Cordero, the first male Ecuadorian saint.



Scott Poffenberger presented various types of grain and the importance of farming.



Phil Bower introduced wildlife study which proved to be very popular with the boys as most of them had never seen or handled animal pelts before nor considered the economics and population management roles of hunting.

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- Gary and Megan Ward



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Tidbits

PACC Telephone Directory Cover Photo Contest

The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce (PACC) is sponsoring a photo contest for the cover of the 2020 Business and Community Directory. Entry forms are due by December 30, 2019. The winner's image will be on the cover of the new directory, and the photographer will be credited inside the directory. Winners will also be announced in the *Monocacy Monocle* and on the PACC webpage and PACC facebook pages as well as the Town of Poolesville Community Information facebook page. Entry forms with rules and requirements for submissions can be found at www.poolesvillechamber.com. We look forward to seeing what our great local photographers capture in our beautiful area!

Vote for Victor!



Victor Velasquez is hoping to win the WTOP Junior Reporter Contest.

Local middle schooler, Victor Velasquez, is looking to put Poolesville and himself on the map. This eighth-grade resident has entered the 2019 WTOP Junior Reporter Contest with a video piece which highlights the goings-ons in town and encourages people to check out the community of Poolesville. Each year, WTOP, the number-one-ranked radio station in Washington, D.C., gives area students the opportunity to try journalism on for size. Victor has been chosen as a semifinalist, is eligible to win for his age group, and would be chosen, in part, based on how many votes his video receives. Anyone can vote once a day through Sunday, November 10 at 5:00 p.m. Three lucky kids from the Washington area (representing three age groups: kindergarten through fifth grades, sixth through eighth grades, and ninth through twelfth grades) will take the prize. If Victor wins for his age group, he will be highlighted on WTOP itself. He would also receive a cash prize for himself, and his school (John Poole Middle) would receive \$1,000. Contestants had the choice of what to showcase in their video. The enthusiasm that Victor has for Poolesville shines through in his piece, which he filmed and edited completely himself. Indeed, he wraps up his report of the town by saying, "It's an amazing community and a great place to be!"

To vote for Victor through November 10: wtop.com/contests/2019-junior-reporter-voting/#entries-list.

Dots Elgin Gets Important Birthday Letters

Dots Elgin was very pleased to receive letters of congratulations for reaching one hundred years of age from Governor Hogan and President Trump. These letters will be sure to get a place of high honor in her large scrapbook collection.

MCA Presents the Royce Hanson Award

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Dots Elgin holding congratulatory letters from Governor Hogan and President Trump on the occasion of her hundredth birthday.

Continued on page 14.

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Yeas and Neighs

The Blessing of the Hounds—205 Years Of the Howard County-Iron Bridge Hunt

By Andie Devynck

On a calm, sunny morning under blue skies and surrounded by an enthralled gathering of admirers, the Howard County-Iron Bridge Hunt Club (HCIBHC) formally opened its season with a Blessing of the Hounds. Harwood Farm in Howard County opened its gates to the public on Saturday, November 2 in celebration of the tradition of foxhunting and especially of the excited brown, tan, and white dogs at the center of it all that day. Attendees milled about the back lawn of the Harwood House, drinking hot cider and coffee, and nibbling ham biscuits and coffee cake while waiting for the official Blessing of that Hounds to begin at 11:00 a.m., and giving those on foot a chance to talk to mounted riders, meet the Huntmasters and Whips, and pet the playful, friendly hounds who stuck close to their masters. Speaking of the latter, what do you know about the history of the foxhound?



Blessing of the hounds.

The American Foxhound, originating in Maryland and Virginia from the crossbreeding of Englishman Robert Brooke's pack he brought to Crown Colony in 1650 with French Foxhounds (Grand Bleu de Gascogne given as a gift to George Washington by the Marquis de Lafayette) was prized in Colonial Times for its ability to work with horses and riders in scenting and chasing foxes. With the importation and migration of red foxes, a faster hound with greater endurance was required, at which point Irish Foxhounds were added to the English and French crossbreed. The signature baying that can be heard for miles (not a plus in city or suburban environments) is a contribution from the French side of the family. American Foxhounds are sweet and docile with humans and other animals despite their independent natures, occasional stubbornness, and an intense drive to follow scents of all kinds and to run for long periods of time. For these reasons, the dogs must be well-trained and kept in regular exercise and "tune-ups" to keep them focused on the task at hand: finding the fox.

The HCIBHC foxhunting season runs from November 2 through the end of March. "Howard County is the birthplace of all American fox hunts," says Dr. Roger Scullin, a large-animal veterinarian in Howard County and the club's senior master of foxhounds. The club now has about eighty hunting members and its own pack of over forty foxhounds, all of which are kept in a state-of-the-art kennel in Mount Airy. On this opening day, longtime hunt member Rich Roemer informed a throng gathered around him and his mount that the club has brought 19.5 couple of hounds to the day's events. In layman's terms, this means thirty-nine hounds, as they are traditionally counted in pairs. Pamela Reid Montegut, a former hunt club member and the day's Best Turned Out judge wants the public to know they are welcome to not only come to see this event, but with the right aptitude for learning and athleticism, can join the hunt themselves, reflecting a more modern stance that the sport is no longer just for landed gentry and elites. Ms. Montegut also stresses that the term "foxhunting" is inaccurate; the hounds are not trained to kill, they are trained to pick up the scent and chase the fox. "You're much more likely to kill a fox with a car on our roads than in a hunt."

To find out more about the HCIBHC and their merry band of hounds, visit the Howard County Iron Bridge Hounds facebook page.



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Things To Do

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Pickleball: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 8:30 a.m.

Zumba Gold: Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.

Mahjong: Thursdays, Room 129, 10:00 a.m.

Chair/Slow Flow Yoga: Mondays, 11:00 am in the café

The Blue Hearth is open every weekend.

Save the Date:

December 6

Holiday Lighting and First Friday Festival

Calleva wagon rides through town to make shopping local easy! Stops at all shopping locations. Santa Claus, holiday entertainment, rides, food, and fun. *Whalen Commons*. 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

December 7

Breakfast with Santa

Delicious all-you-can-eat menu: eggs, bacon, pancakes, sausage, juice, cereal, fruit, and coffee. Santa Claus will be visiting from the North Pole to hear each child's Christmas wishes. *UMCVFD, 19801 Beallsville Rd., Beallsville*. 8:00 a.m. to noon.

Oddfellows Annual Widows Holiday Luncheon

Memorial United Methodist Church. 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

November 8

PASC Center Special Event: Turkey Bingo

Buddy bingo with kids from Bar-T. 17750 West Willard Road, Room 129. 2:00 p.m.

November 11

Veterans Day Observance

Hosted by Post 247, Daniel-Jeffers Poolesville American Legion. *Whalen Commons*. Precisely at 11:00 a.m.

November 12

PASC Special Event: Craft Day

Make a melted snowman ornament; materials supplied. Donation to cover cost of materials. 17750 West Willard Road, Room 129. 2:00 p.m.

November 13

PASC Special Event: Quarterly Fellowship Social

Featuring musical talents of Jamison Doto Duo and honoring those with birthdays in October, November, and December. Light refreshments. 17750 West Willard Road. 1:30 p.m.

Poolesville Planning Commission Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

November 18

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

Barnesville Town Meeting

Barnesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

November 19

PASC Special Event: Pizza and Movie Night

Featuring: *The Upside*, 17750 West Willard Road. 6:00 p.m.

November 21

PHS Talent Show

Poolesville High School Auditorium. 7:30 p.m.

November 22

Barnesville Special Event: An Evening of Meditation

Sitting and walking meditation, bring mat/cushion, comfortable clothes. Sponsored by Barnesville Green and Sugarloaf Sanga Community. *Barnesville Town Hall*. 7:00 p.m.

November 22 and 23

St. Peter's Annual Christmas Attic and Holiday Sale

Thousands of items, new and old, decorations, ornaments, jewelry, linens, greens, trees, cards, etc., plus baking pecans and bake sale. Donations welcome through November 20. Friday: noon to 6:00 pm., Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



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Fun Fact...

Veterans Day originated as Armistice Day on November 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I, "the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month." In 1954, Armistice Day legally became Veterans Day.



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Continued from page 3.

Confusion in Process for Finding New Town Manager

came up as a result of a silent auction that was held as part of the Uncommon Dinner. One of the items auctioned was the right to name the bandshell. Local business leader Dee Willard won the auction and proposed to name the bandshell after Yost.

Doug McKinney, the chair of the Parks Board, spoke up and said that the town needed to be careful in assigning names to public properties. While he did not know for sure, he said it might be that there are limitations in the transfer agreement for Whalen Commons regarding such things as naming. The agreement does, for example, restrict the building of major facilities on the Commons.

The commissioners agreed that moving ahead without a set of guidelines would set a bad precedent. They also acknowledged that a promise had been made in the auction and that they should allow for the temporary naming of the bandshell. It was emphasized that this is to be a one-time event and nothing like this would be allowed again until a process has been developed.

Local resident Carol Rosenberg and her son Jack appeared to seek the support of the commission for a post-prom party for high school students. Post-prom parties were once common and usually held at the high school; however, a majority of high school students no longer live in Poolesville, and a party held at the school would mean that students would have to be transported safely from the prom dance to the school and then back to their homes down county.

Rosenberg acknowledged the difficulty these issues presented, but she said, "It is important for kids to have a safe place to go to after the dance is over." Her son noted that he wanted to see a post-prom party take place because it would cut down on dangerous behavior and such things as substance abuse.

Rosenberg said the high school principal, Mark Carothers, supports the event but wants it to be held at the high school. She said she needed to get more support from the parents and would be back to seek financial support from the town once she had come up with a firm plan.

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In Your Own Backyard Brightwell's Hunting Quarter

By Jon Wolz

The fiftieth anniversary of the C&O Canal National Historical Park will be in 2021, and I have undertaken efforts within my abilities to help "spruce" up the park between now and then. I have been given approval to paint picnic tables and clean park signs. One Sunday afternoon recently, I drove to Sycamore Landing at the canal for the purpose of walking down to the Horsepen Branch Hiker-Biker Campsite to clean and paint any picnic tables that may need attention. In my backpack, I carried any supplies I would need, as well as park-approved brown paint, and walked down the towpath to the campsite which was a little over a mile's walk. There were several people out on the towpath that afternoon either cycling or walking, and they all seemed to be very happy to be enjoying being outdoors.

Not too far down the towpath, I came to culvert #38 that has the Horsepen Branch flowing through it that empties into the Potomac River.

There is a large hole in the canal prism with a fence around it above this culvert. When I got to the campsite, there was only one table, and it needed cleaning and painting. I used water from the pump to wet my rags, and I wiped down the table. After the table dried, I painted the table. After painting the table, I sat on a nearby log and waited for the paint to dry. I waited to warn anyone who may have wanted to sit at the table about the wet paint. As I sat, I wondered about the name Horsepen and its origins. I thought I would do some research later when I got home.

As I was daydreaming, I was brought back to my senses by the sounds of bicycles and voices coming up the towpath toward the campsite. There were three young boys on bikes who hopped off their bikes and headed for the wet table. I jumped up and ran towards the table, yelling, "Wet paint!" and "No, no, no!" I got between the boys and the table. They spoke Spanish, and one of them barely knew some English. I showed them the paint can and the brush. All three of them looked at the table, then looked at me, nodding their heads in comprehension.

After my canal visit, I found out that the Horsepen Branch stream and

campsite derived their names from the horse pens Richard Brightwell created by digging large pits and covering them in the area to trap wild horses near their water sources. Richard Brightwell was born in 1642 in Mildenhall, Suffolk, England and came to the Maryland colony in 1666 as an indentured servant. By 1687, Richard Brightwell was married to Katherine Lashley (born 1653 in Calvert County, Maryland) and lived at Poplar Hills that was located in what was Charles County until April 23, 1696, when it came within the boundaries Prince George's County when that county was formed out of Charles County.

Maryland Rangers were formed by the colonial government to patrol the wilderness and to guard plantations from Indian raids. There were three ranger garrisons built by 1692, and one was built near Little Falls of the Potomac River.

Richard Brightwell was named captain of this garrison and had at times eleven to fifteen men under his command. Brightwell and his men were paid in tobacco for their services by the colony. He was responsible for patrolling lands from the falls of the Potomac River to the branches of the Patuxent River. The rangers were looking for "strange" Indians other



Horsepen Branch emerges from culvert #38 and flows into the Potomac River.

than the local friendly Piscataways and Nanticokes who lived in Maryland. Brightwell traveled all of the

Continued on page 16.

"How did we get from here..."



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Continued from page 8.

Tidbits

Montgomery County’s Agricultural Reserve, the Montgomery County-side Alliance (MCA) annually presents the Dr. Royce Hanson award to persons demonstrating a personal and important contribution to this mission.

This year, MCA is pleased to announce the recipient of the 2019 Royce Hanson Award is Lori Mayhew, President of the Maryland Agricultural Teachers’ Association, long-tenured Agricultural Instructor at Damascus High School, and tireless promoter of agriculture to the next generation.



Damascus teacher, Lori Mayhew, the 2019 recipient of the Royce Hanson Award.

The award is named after its first recipient, Dr. Royce Hanson, former Chair of the Montgomery County Planning Commission and original architect of the Ag Reserve.

Congratulations to Our Community Scarecrow Contest Winners

Business/Organization Category:
Poolesville Elementary School—The Very Hungry Caterpillar.

Family: Vanranhurd/Kavanberger—Reserve Rookies.

Best of the Fest: Nanof Family—ET Phone Home.

Peachtree-VCA Closed

Peachtree-VCA closed on November 2, 2019. They indicated that they were consolidating this clinic with their North Rockville location.

Poolesville Veterinary Clinic is pleased to have hired their receptionist Kathy Krasner, and primary veterinarian Dr. Kay Breed will join the staff on November 18. Dr. Eeg remarked, “I am very excited to have both Kathy and Dr. Breed joining our merry band of animal/owner lovers.”

12U Team Clinches Championship

The Clarksburg Keys 12U Select team clinched the Montgomery County Baseball Association’s Fall League Championship on Monday, November 4. The Clarksburg Keys beat UMAC Attack, 15-3.

Looking to the 2020 season, the Keys have been invited to play at a competitive tournament in August in Cooperstown, New York. The team is actively seeking local business sponsors for the 2020 season. Interested sponsors can contact team manager Jennefer Staub, jennstaubcbi@aol.com.



Clarksburg Keys 12U Select players and coaches: Coach Lance Greer, Coach Kevin Arista, Coach Bob Crismond, and Coach Johnnie Grant. Players standing: Josh Tseronis, Noah Smith, Grant Dudley, Turner Woody, Parker Kopp, Franklin Arista, Jayden Ortiz-Ruiz, Sam Lewis, and Charlie Crismond. Players kneeling: Johnny Passas, DJ Staub, Ian Hyman, Aiden Rolnick, and Lance Greer.



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Foundations

Touring the Ag Reserve's Historic Properties

By Kenneth Sholes

Last February, while researching historic homes at the Jane Sween Library in Rockville, I came across multiple newspaper articles from the 1970s and 1980s highlighting historic home tours that appear to have been frequent here in the Ag Reserve. Those articles, combined with numerous messages I've received expressing interest in exploring these historic properties, sparked inspiration to bring these home tours back to the area.

On Sunday, October 27, we held a historic property tour in the Ag Reserve with the goal of this type of event being a relatively frequent occurrence moving forward. From the outset, it was clear that there is a lot of interest. The forty tickets for the event sold out in about forty-five minutes with all proceeds going to the Historic Medley District. To facilitate the movement of participants throughout the tour, Calleva was most generous in providing a bus for our use.

After a short meeting at the Old Town Hall Bank Museum to go over the plan and lay out some ground rules, the group boarded the bus and headed out to the first stop. The Solomon Simpson Plantation was originally built in the late 1700s, with a larger home built in the late 1800s adjoining the original structure. The owners, Tom and Marie Rojas, have done an superlative job in restoring the property. We had to leave the home after thirty minutes to continue our tour, but it was clear that everyone would have been happy to remain with Tom and Marie at the property for the rest of the day.



The tour group thoroughly enjoyed visiting historic homes of the Ag Reserve.

The next stop was the Monocacy Cemetery, a site that most have driven past but few have actually entered. Glenn Wallace, the cemetery's historian, provided a historical overview of the grounds and highlighted the unbelievable work he's done to catalogue and document the family trees of all individuals buried on the grounds. The group ended the stop here by walking to John Poole's grave.

After leaving the cemetery, we headed down the road to the Aix-la-Chapelle estate, built by Dr. William Brewer in 1812. The amazing property includes the original doctor's office right next to the main home that Dr. Brewer used to treat patients. The home's interior has been incredibly restored and decorated by owners Joy and Jon Siegel. If you have a chance next summer, I highly recommend you head to Aix-la-Chapelle to pick peaches from their orchard and to explore the property.

The group then travelled down Montevideo Road to Rocklands Farm. While most in the area have been to Rocklands to enjoy a glass of wine, very few have been inside the marvelous home. Built by Benoni Allnutt in 1870, the home is possibly the finest example of the Italianate architectural style in the county. Janis Glenn, owner of the farm, walked the group through her home and even provided a complimentary glass of wine from the vineyard to all participants.

After loading onto the bus, the group travelled a short distance further into the Seneca region of the Medley District to visit the Upton Darby house and newly-refurbished Poole Store. The home, built in 1855, currently sits empty, but the county has done incredible work restoring the home with the hopes of gaining tenants in the near future. Scott Whipple, one of the county's supervisors at the site, provided an overview of the work being done on both the home and store, spending time to answer a number of restoration-related questions from the group.

Continued on page 19.

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WUMCO is more than a food pantry! We also provide financial assistance to those in need and rides to the homebound for appointments.

Poolesville Day and OktoberFest Were Great Successes!

- Thank you to all who participated.

Scouting for Food

- Cub Scouts will be delivering bags on Saturday, Nov. 2, and Scouts will be picking up donated food and bringing it to WUMCO. Poolesville residents, please plan on being generous to the Scouts and WUMCO – let’s beat last year’s record of 6,475.5 pounds!

WUMCO Wednesdays

- You can support WUMCO and a local restaurant at the same time! The **Watershed Café** on the **SECOND Wednesday** of each month. The next dates are Nov. 13 and Dec. 11; and the **Mexican Grill** on the **THIRD Wednesday** of each month. The next date is Nov. 20. Both of these fine Poolesville restaurants will donate 10% of their income to WUMCO. Join us!

Thanksgiving and December Holidays

- Once again, WUMCO is collecting food for Thanksgiving and the December holiday baskets and toys for needy kids. Many area churches and organizations are “adopting” families to take care of this holiday season. The Poolesville and Agricultural Reserve area is very generous to those in need.

WUMCO Help Membership Campaign

- Letters will be going out soon for members to renew their memberships in WUMCO Help and a mass mailing to all residents of our service area. Please look for your letter and respond as generously as you are able.

Visit our webpage and follow us on Facebook and Twitter:

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Questions?

Please write Adam DeBaugh at wumco2@gmail.com or call the WUMCO office.

Continued from page 12.

Brightwell’s Hunting Quarter

Indian Trails of what today is upper Montgomery County. He saw an abundance of wildlife, including buffalos, elk, deer, wolves, and wild turkeys. In 1697, Captain Brightwell said that “this country was a howling wilderness with only Indian paths, Indian camps, and wild animals. No white settlers would dare these trails.” Heading west from the garrison, over thirty miles, rangers visited the Sugarlands that were floodplains of the Potomac River between Seneca Creek and the Little Monocacy River where sugar maple trees grew. In 1695, Captain Brightwell received a patent for 1,086 acres of the Sugarlands and called this land, Brightwell’s Hunting Quarter. The land stretched along the Potomac River from Seneca Creek to what is now Edwards Ferry where the C&O Canal is today. Presently, the two-thousand-acre McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area contains Brightwell’s Hunting Quarter. Brightwell’s land was the farthest western lands settled in Maryland at the time. In August 1698, Katherine died, and a few days later, Captain Brightwood died at age 56, leaving his land holdings to his five children.

After researching Capt. Richard Brightwell, I remembered I had an ancestor who came to Maryland as an indentured servant from England, and I decided to see what I could find out about him. My mother Shirley’s maiden name was Milstead. My ancestor, Edward Milstead, was born in 1656 in Bethersden, Kent County, England. In 1671, while in England, he was found guilty of breaking into two houses and stealing three shillings, a pound of gingerbread, and two nutmegs. By 1674, at the age of eighteen, he was deported to Barbados or Jamaica, but ended up at Port Tobacco in Charles County, Maryland. He obtained an indenture to William Chandler as a cobbler. After serving five years of making shoes in Charles County, he was freed in 1680. He married Sussanah Clarke about 1685 and leased a fifty-acre tract of land in Charles County. He grew tobacco and became a successful farmer. Eventually, he was able to buy a few hundred acres of land. Edward was married three times and did not survive his third wife, Mary Ward. Edward died in 1734 at age 74.

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Continued from page 1.

A Woman of Grace and Steel: Virginia Hersperger

county. He was athletic, a baseball player, hunter, and fisherman. Virginia and he had enjoyed dancing, and she even became an instructor. Living to ninety-seven years old, Virginia was never to marry again, raising their child alone, guiding him so well that, as an adolescent, he became a toy-making entrepreneur and eventually became a medical doctor and leader in his profession and community.

Despite having to rear her child by herself, Virginia was able to find a way to advance her teaching career through courses of study at various times at University of Maryland, Towson State Teachers' College, and Goucher, focusing on reading as something she held essential and vital to all education.

Eventually, Virginia would hold the position of director of the Poolesville Elementary School and ultimately was a true trailblazer when she became the very first female elementary school principal in Montgomery County.

In 1943, a new path was set that ultimately led to her connecting with this writer. She bought a small block house in the center of Poolesville for \$3,750 through an interest-free loan provided by the principal of Poolesville High School. As a single woman with all the challenging responsibility of homeownership, she came to name the home she so loved "Wit's End." In 1995, I bought the home from her and renamed the place "Virginia's Grace."

I can personally attest to the love for her of her students as, on many occasions, former students would come to visit only to find she no longer lived there. One of the last ones who knocked on my door, fearful of the different car in the driveway, was concerned it might mean she no longer was alive. When I had to inform him that his fear was real, his hurt was palpable as he explained just how great a second-grade teacher she had been to him. The amazing part is the man standing at the door was himself a very old man, who still was so moved by Virginia as a teacher many decades before, that he just felt compelled to stop by once in a while to say hello and was hoping to see her one more time.

As an educator, Virginia often went above and beyond the call of duty. She was known to personally visit the families of her students in their homes. One such family lived in an abandoned single-room schoolhouse with broken windows stuffed with newspapers while the father was in penitentiary. The family consisted of several young children, including one whose cradle was an orange crate. Virginia found a way to get food and clothing for the family. It was one of the young daughters in the family who would come back to visit her years later to show respect and gratitude for all she had done for the family.

Legends are often made of unique great stories, small and large. Virginia's legendary status was earned beyond being the first female principal. She was also the principal that guided integration of the elementary school. One young lad, who was protesting the integration, remembered a stern look from Mrs. Hersperger as she pointedly glared at him and told him, "I didn't teach you to be this way." It obviously seared a message in his heart. At the time, Poolesville PTA parents were protesting the integration. Virginia personally led the black students into the school and, through the strength of her character and personality, the school was integrated without any further incident. Her story was covered by *Life Magazine*.

An event at a fall festival sealed her legendary image. The gymnasium and many classrooms were used for the agricultural fair. The principal at the time, Mr. Robert A. Scaife (a relative of the famous Scaife-Mellon family), accompanied by Virginia, confronted some unruly student dropouts who were speeding up and down the street outside. Concerned for the safety of other students, the thugs were requested to stop racing. Placing one hand on the sleeve of one of the boys, Mr. Scaife calmly requested him to "cool it." When one of the other boys threw a beer bottle at Scaife in response, Virginia hurled her handbag in the air, intercepting the bottle and bending the metal in the handbag. The boys began to pummel him and then took off. While they eventually went to prison, the principal developed a life-threatening infection during recovery but survived.

Through it all, it was the Virginia I got to know that may have had the greatest impact of all in the lives of others for simply being such a kind and loving soul. Her only reported exhibition of frustration was something to which we can all relate. As a rabid Redskins fans, she would never miss a game, unless they began to lose badly, whereupon she would go to her kitchen and bake cookies to relieve her frustration. As we passed by the burgundy and gold flowers she had planted along her walkway into the home, one could only consider all the cookies she would have baked this year.

Her name was appropriately nominated when the middle school was being built, especially for her leading role in education in the town, unfortunately her long last name caused her nomination to sink. If only they just had called it Virginia's Grace Middle School.

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- #3 **Uptown** for stores and restaurants plus CALLEVA FARM Store Open House and don't forget FREE GINGERBREAD COOKIE DECORATING at the Old Town Hall/ Poolesville Museum (sponsored by the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce)

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Youth Sports

Double Overtime Win over Clarksburg Highlights Girls' Soccer Season

By Jeff Stuart

"We have had a pretty good season," said Sabrina Edwards, a senior captain of the Poolesville High School girls' soccer team. "We finished the regular season 8-4 which is better than we have done in years past. We had a big double overtime win, 2-1, over Clarksburg in September and, a few days later, we beat Rockville, 2-1. Those are two division rivals. Junior Melany Martinez scored the game winner against Clarksburg, and senior captain Rachel Onderko scored with ten minutes left to beat Rockville. We have a couple of sophomores who have been called up, Erin Cherian and Nicole Guzman. They have really stood out, and our two freshmen, Avery Penn and Lizzy Kovacs, are doing really well."



PHS 2019 varsity soccer team.

"I've had a really good time," said Avery the freshman midfielder. "We have all been very close, and I have made so many new friends from all different grade levels. I think personally for me the Clarksburg win in double overtime was a highlight. We all worked super hard and pulled it out and won. I wasn't surprised by anything new at the high school level. I have been playing club soccer since first or second grade and am used to working hard."

"I think that the connection this team has is something we haven't had in years past," said Onderko, "and we also had a completely different mindset. If we get behind in a game we don't let it get us down; we rise up instead. There is no quit. The Clarksburg win was such a big team win. We all wanted it so badly. We always encourage Melany to shoot, so seeing her reaction when she finally did and scored the game winner was so exciting. Everyone has been doing their job, but I want to give a shout out to senior captain Rachel Tievy, our goalkeeper, because she comes through in the tensest moments and is a very consistent player for us."

"We have had a really good season," said senior Lauren Penn. "We started off super strong. We beat all of our division games except for Damascus. Then we ended our season playing against harder teams like Damascus, Quince Orchard, and Churchill, and we stayed strong and held our heads high. We lost to Richard Montgomery, 2-0, in our first game. That was a close game. We started off slow. They scored two goals in the first three minutes. I think that started our progression because we didn't let down, and we played even with them the rest of the game. That game gave us a boost. We came into this season with high expectations, and I think we have met them. I think, defensively, Erin has really stood out because we were kind of lacking some defensive players. She plays on the back line with me, and she pushes the ball up and gets it to the offense." Richard Montgomery finished 10-3 in Division 4A. The Falcons lost, 1-0, to Damascus which finished 8-4 on the year in Division 3A.

"I think we have definitely met the high expectations we had coming into this season," said Tovey. "We won eight straight games. Obviously, in your senior year you want everything. The chemistry has been great. We had fun. Past that, we beat Clarksburg. We haven't done that in years. I'll give a shout out to Sabrina. She is our biggest playmaker at midfield. Honestly, she is all over the field at all

Continued on page 19.

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Continued from page 18.

Double Overtime Win over Clarksburg Highlights Girls' Soccer Season

times; and then on defense, senior Jessica Volke and Mackenzie Keese, a junior, work their butts off constantly."

"I am so very proud of this team," said coach Rod Nubgaard. "They had a fantastic season. Best group I've had as far as team unity. We had a rough finish due to a couple injuries. The last game we were down seven seniors. Even though we lost, the remaining players put up an incredible fight. We earned the second seed in the 2A playoffs for the second straight year.

"Despite the disappointing first round loss, 1-0, to Oakdale in the playoffs, this team will take with it many memories. There was a team bond I hope they never forget. I was impressed at the closeness they had as teammates, always fighting for eighty minutes. They were never negative during tough times. A lot of heroes and leaders found their way this year. This is what sports is all about."

Other seniors are Julianna Hitchcock, Abby Gordon, Heather Robinson, Lauren Penn, and Sami Kellogg. Other juniors are Maddie Montemurro, Riley Salovich, and Sadie Cowger. Other sophomores are Sierra Schenck, Kiera Foley, Abby Antonishek, and Alana Bowman.

Continued from page 15.

Touring the Ag Reserve's Historic Properties

The final stop on the tour was the East Oaks Estate, a property on the National Register of Historic Landmarks, built in 1824 by Henry Young. The home looks much as it did when it was built, and the property includes quite an array of outbuildings on the property. Cindy Souza, the real estate agent representing the home, provided a tour of the home and led the group throughout the property to various outbuildings, including the former slave quarters and an amazing barn—both of which tour participants were permitted to enter.

Although it was a long day, the participants all seemed to greatly enjoy the tour, and it was unquestionably a huge success. Are you interested in being part of the next tour? Follow the Historic Ag Reserve Properties page on facebook, where more details will be provided soon.



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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crimes

Assault: 19600 block of Wootton Avenue.

Theft: 17600 block of Norris Road, 18600 block of Darnestown Road, 15600 block of Sugarland Road.

Identity Theft: 19700 block of Selby Avenue.

Past Crime: 1966

Residents of Bethesda and Rockville were demanding answers about a burglary wave that had been affecting their communities. Police said that over twenty break-ins had happened in a rather short period of time. They refused to release the value of property taken, but one victim claimed that property worth \$12,000 had been taken from his house. Police would also not speculate if the cases were connected to the K&A gang from Philadelphia whose members liked to feast on county homes.

It was announced by the county council that Montgomery County would soon have a police helicopter. A member of the council said that there were hundreds of square miles that had virtually no police protection because of the rural nature of the Upcounty and that a helicopter would be the answer (Note: It is now 2019 and Montgomery County still has not purchased a helicopter).

Police were ordered to begin an investigation into harassment claims by county councilmember David Scull who had recently introduced an open housing law that was unpopular with some residents. The Sculls had received many obscene and hang-up telephone calls, unsolicited magazine subscriptions, a delivery of railroad ties, and a broken window.

After a high-speed chase that began in Bethesda and ended in Rockville, police shot out the tires of the car that they were chasing. Police had received a tip from Loudoun County to be on the lookout for a particular type of car after a series of burglaries in a shopping center. After the car was finally stopped, police found a safe, numerous television sets, clothing, and jewelry stuffed into the car.

Two teenage boys, age 14 and 15, led police on a chase that reached speeds of over a hundred miles per hour. The chase began when a patrolman spotted a suspicious car in Wheaton at about 2:00 a.m. He followed the car for a short time until it took off and headed towards Rockville. Many cruisers on duty at the time took turns chasing the car. It finally crashed when it went over a traffic barrier and landed on top of a parked car. It turned out that the boys had snuck out of their homes and used a relative's car after they found the keys.

Some of the material in this column was obtained from the archives of the Washington Post.

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Remembrances

Richard T. Twigger

Richard Twigger, 84, of Poolesville, died on November 3.

He was the husband of Judith A. Twigger.

Richard served his country in the United States Army in the 82nd Airborne as a paratrooper and was a firefighter for the District of Columbia, reaching the rank of captain.

Surviving besides his wife is one daughter, Lynda T. D'Amelio and husband Peter of Poolesville; one brother, Harry Twigger; one sister, Mary Lou Berger of Poolesville; and three grandchildren, Jami, Ryan and Sam D'Amelio.

He was preceded in death by one son, Richard S. Twigger; two brothers, Gilbert and John Twigger; and two sisters, Helen Twigger and Virgin Posa.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

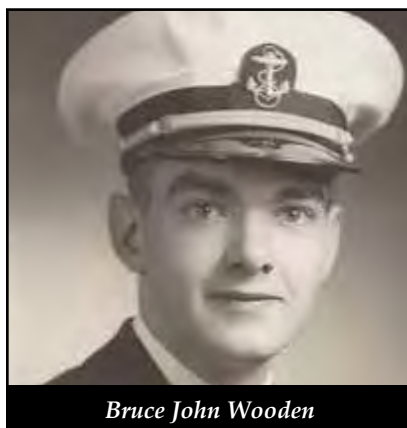


Richard T. Twigger

Bruce John Wooden

Bruce John Wooden, 88, of Dickerson, died on November 4. He was the husband for over sixty years to Barbara Jean Wooden, née Goepper. Bruce served his country in the United States Navy for over sixteen years and was honorably discharged with the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Throughout his career after the U.S. Navy, he continued his work as a Naval Architect/Marine Engineer. Along with his wife, he is survived by his son, Howard Wooden, of Branden, Florida; daughters, Cynthia Wooden of Philippi, West Virginia and Carole Andres of Dickerson; five grandchildren, Devin and Hunter Branden, Elise Wendland, and Bradley and Catherine Andres; one great-grandchild, Aiden; and brother David Wooden of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Bruce was preceded in death by his older brother Neal Wooden of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Monocacy Lions Club.



Bruce John Wooden



Continued from page 4.

Pickleball Clinic Expands Local Interest in Popular Senior Citizen Sport

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (except when the gym is rented out for other events).

A proposal for outdoor courts is currently under consideration.

Because of the generosity of Walmart, Gamma Pickleball, Selkirk Sports, and Pickleball Central.com, the clinic was a successful fundraiser as well as a friend-raiser for both pickleball and PASC.

Pickleball, an intergenerational sport, combines many elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong. The clinic was held indoors, but it is played both indoors or outdoors on a badminton-sized court and a slightly modified tennis net. The equipment is a paddle and a plastic ball with holes. The game can be played as doubles or singles.

Pickleball was invented in 1965 on Bainbridge Island, a short ferry ride from Seattle, Washington. Three dads, Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell, and Barney McCallum—whose kids were bored with their usual summertime activities—are credited with creating the game. The game is growing internationally as well, with many European and Asian countries adding courts.



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Continued from page 1.

Major Step Forward for PHS— but a Long Road Ahead

budget by June 1, so the FY 2021 budget can become operational by July 1 when the new fiscal year begins. The capital budget includes spending for construction projects such as schools and roads and is financed largely through bonds. The operating budget includes expenses for personnel, programs, and capital budget debt service (principal and interest payments on the bonds). The county executive has a line item veto and can reject changes made by the council on specific funding items. The veto can be overridden by a vote of six out of the nine council members.

Numerous hearings and budget reviews are held during this process. A lot can happen from now until the final budget is adopted in late spring. In order to keep our elected officials focused and supportive of our priorities, our community will need to continue to let officials know we are here and watching at various points as the process unfolds. There are a number of ways all of you in the community can help.

First, the FAC has established a website that has updates, background information, and press releases providing information about how the committee views the latest actions in county government. The website also has a link allowing residents to send

messages to county leaders in support of actions the committee believes are critical. In addition, residents can sign up to be on the email and notification list as key issues arise. The link is www.poolesvillemd.gov/486/Fair-Access.

Second, the FAC has an email list of over 350 people who have signed up to send emails to county leaders on critical issues. Anyone who registers on the link above will receive notices periodically to contact county officials. A very simple process has been set up on the web that makes sending emails to officials a breeze. In some cases, community members will be asked to attend meetings the county holds in various places. The more we can

demonstrate visible support, the more likely we are to be successful.

Finally, the committee also uses the community facebook page and the Monocle to reach as many in the community as possible with ongoing updates. It is always looking for information and intelligence that anyone has in the community about the actions of the county council, county executive, and the school board. The committee also meets twice a month, on the first Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. and on the third Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Poolesville Town Hall. Attending these meetings can also provide more insights and allow for direct dialogue about issues and concerns.


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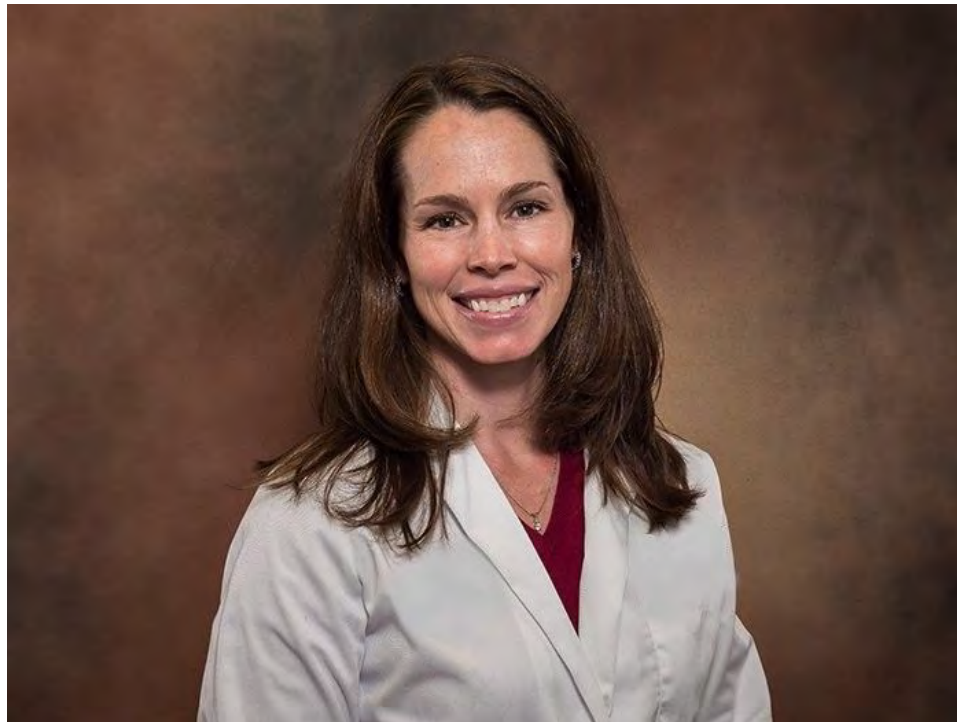
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