

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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This mystery masked man is just one of our pastors wearing masks these days. Guess the others in Family Album on page 2.



St. Mary's Haiti Mission continues even during the pandemic. Read more in Tidbits on page 5.



The Kitt Family, here, and other families in quarantine ventured to their porches for portraits. See more on page 8.



PHS senior Maya Rosenbaum: Athletic prowess up close and personal on page 12.

Funding to Build New High School Appears on Track

By Link Hoewing

Despite the fiscal pressures on the county brought on by the pandemic, funding for the construction of a new Poolesville High School (PHS) appears to be on track. Recent events demonstrate that not only funding but the initial phases of designing the new school are advancing.

In a memo sent to the Board of Education by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jack Smith in late April and approved by the Board, a \$3.2 million contract was signed by the school system with VMDO Architects located in Charlottesville, Virginia to prepare a design for the school. VMDO has a reputation for innovation and environmentally-sensitive design work.

Jane Lehrman, the cluster coordinator for the Poolesville cluster, was on the Architectural Selection Committee that recommended VMDO. While no decisions have been made regarding the design and capacity of the new

school, Lehrman said that it is her understanding the school system is seriously considering building the school to house a larger student population than the 1,200 who currently attend. The Fair Access Committee has also recommended the school system consider building a somewhat larger school in order to both help ensure continued support for the programming at PHS and to relieve overcrowding elsewhere.

Given the fiscal impact of the pandemic on county revenues as people work from home, avoid shopping, and, in some unfortunate cases, lose their jobs for some period of time, the Fair Access Committee has been carefully monitoring the deliberations of the County Executive and Council as they consider the FY21 budget. Poolesville High School has already been included as a "major capital project" in the FY21-26 Capital

Improvements Plan (CIP), a six-year proposal, submitted by the Superintendent to the County Executive and Council, but the CIP only lays out proposed plans and schedules and does not authorize actual funding. That must be done in the budgets passed annually by the county council based on proposals submitted by the county executive.

On April 30, the council's staff submitted a memorandum on capital spending for FY21 that made proposals for all county and school system projects. Funding for some items was either delayed or reduced; however, the more than \$6 million for FY21 needed to begin construction of PHS remained untouched in the proposal from the staff. The total of nearly \$70 million needed to build a new high school would be spent over six years,

Continued on page 18.

Ray Hoewing Retires from WUMCO Board

By Catherine Beliveau

"Thank you" seems so inadequate. How do you properly thank a person who has dedicated so much of his time and energy to improving the lives of others? It is a nearly impossible thing to do. Still, I will attempt it here, to honor one of this community's best servant-citizens, Ray Hoewing.

Ray officially retired from the WUMCO Board of Directors on Tuesday, May 5 at the quarterly board meeting. He served for twenty years on the board, two of them as president. During his service on the WUMCO board, he was not just a seat warmer! He did a great deal of work to help facilitate the move from Jane's house to Poolesville. He also volunteered as a driver, ran errands, solicited donations, and did whatever



Ray Hoewing with wife Riva.

was needed to help the organization during his tenure. He was the epitome of an actively-involved board member. While Jane was the Heart of WUMCO,

for the last twenty years, Ray was a big part of our Soul.

Continued on page 17.

Family Album



Name THAT MASKED PASTOR

Answers on Page 18



Town Government

Commissioners Focus on Town's Response to the Pandemic

By Link Hoewing

At their tele-video meeting on May 7, the Town of Poolesville commissioners and the town manager spent the bulk of their time discussing the pandemic's impact on the town and plans for various town initiatives and programs in the next few months.

During the announcements segment of the meeting, Commission President Kerri Cook brought up concerns raised by residents about the lack of services at the Beauty Spot and confusion about what types of waste the facility will accept. Town Manager Seth Rivard contacted county officials, and they agreed to set up a special portion of the county's website devoted to the Upcounty facility that would outline in more detail what waste is accepted and when the facility is open.

Commissioner Valaree Dickerson said that the school system (MCPS) is still trying to decide what to do about graduation. MCPS is reaching out to graduating students for their ideas which she said is a good sign and helpful. The county continues to deliver meals for FARM eligible students to Poolesville each week but is now using Poolesville Elementary as the drop-off point.

Rivard and some of the commissioners sat in on a video call with the governor's staff about the pandemic and the state's response. The state has asked all municipalities to keep track of their "pandemic related" expenses and the hope is that local governments will be compensated for their direct costs in working through the pandemic.

Commissioner Martin Radigan noted that the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC), which provides sewer and water services to most localities in Montgomery County, is planning to increase its water rates by six percent. He said the town's plans to help close the gap between the costs of providing water and sewer services and the revenues from existing fees by raising rates by only two percent is "well justified."

In public comments, George Coakley, a former chairman of the town's Planning Commission, decried the "incurSION of the town commissioners in the planning process." He remarked that state law empowers the local planning commissions with a great deal of independent and autonomous authority over planning in their jurisdictions. He said that "premature" involvement by town commissioners in ongoing work of the Planning Commission in cases like that of the Willard property and the property owned by Jennifer Beaulieu causes "confusion among citizens and could result in legal action" against the town. He urged commissioners to respect the planning process and the authority of the Planning Commission.

In his town manager's report, Rivard said that, in effect, the governor's guidelines for the state regarding the pandemic would still keep many restrictions in place for at least another twenty-eight days. The governor said he would move forward in a "safe and gradual way" which would likely mean continued forms of social distancing and active testing and tracking of possible infections.

Rivard said, given these realities, two upcoming town-supported events, the summer camp and the fireworks managed by the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department (UMDVFD), need to be reviewed. UMCVFD will have a meeting in mid-May at which it must decide about going forward with a contract for purchasing and setting up the fireworks. The town supports the fireworks display with a contribution of \$13,000. In the case of the summer camp, the town funds the activity which normally has about 180 participants and a number of staff, usually local students.

Major concerns of the commissioners are both liability and ensuring that town residents are not confused about the status of the events, particularly the summer camp which many families plan on each year. Rivard said, "We would like to go forward, but we must be responsible partners." In the case of the fireworks display, the commissioners decided to inform UMCVFD that it looks extremely unlikely that major gatherings will be possible by July 4 and that funding by the town can't be guaranteed given this reality. In the case of the summer camp, Commissioner Dickerson said, "I just don't see it happening." She also added that while she very much supports the summer camp, "It is not a necessity."

Although a formal vote was not taken with regard to either event, it is a near certainty that the town will not fund them due to the continued likelihood that state restrictions will remain in place in some form even weeks from now.

In a final note, Rivard said the closure of town hall will continue until at least May 29.

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Rande(m) Thoughts

We've Been Down This Road Before

By Rande Davis

The closure of schools in Maryland was ordered on March 12, and we are now just a week away from a possible opening date. It is obvious that the May 15 reopening will not be realized, but we can still be hopeful. As I think about these two months of quarantine, it is apparent that some level of extension of closure of schools will remain until June or beyond. Will this be the year when all students go to summer school? Will today's graduates be known as the beginning of the end of brick and mortar students?

It is clear that our youth are truly hunkered down. They are out of sight, but hopefully not out of mind. I am used to seeing a lot of teenagers walking around town, and I have not seen any evidence that they are getting out for at least some fresh air. As I live in the center of town, it is easy to monitor this kind of thing with a steady stream of walkers, with or without pets, and joggers going by in front of my home, each doing so in a perfect social distancing way. Unfortunately, I still see no kids, especially teenagers. Whenever I did see the kids walking in the past, they used to be in small groups of four to six. Now? Nothing.

I feel for our seniors: no prom, no graduation. Perhaps there will still be time for something by the end of summer before they head to college or new adult lives. For now, this generation may become known as the quarantine kids. If they do, they won't be the first. The Black Death of the fourteenth century, which killed one-third of Europe, caused Venice to pass a law requiring merchant ships to remain anchored off the coast for forty days before being allowed to off-load cargo. The Italian

word is *quarantino*. Originally, they tried a *trentino* (thirty days) but later increased it, obviously people always learn as we go through these things. Is it any surprise we have learned much since the beginning of this tribulation and that we did not know everything from day one? The most pertinent point is that we do learn and grow as we progress through these things and survive.

Matters of life and death always surround us. The worst might be said to be war. Yet, for all the killing in battle, nothing is more deadly to soldiers than disease—typhoid, malaria, you name it. Armies learned eons ago not to shake hands. Better to salute to acknowledge and give respect. Will saluting each other become the preferred form of greeting from now on? Unlikely, even in the midst of this tragedy. We don't seem to be a country of citizens ready to respect each other. For a nation with the goal of being proudly and grandly united, we seem to be becoming far too tribal for the common good. If COVID-19 cannot bring us together, is there anything that can?

Learning to deal with the unknown may be what mankind does best. Starting with polio and smallpox, my generation has already been through much. Imagine that a cure for AIDS is said to be but eight years away. There remains much hope.

This is true especially for us living in the Poolesville area where the examples of unity and caring remain robust. Whether we are walking with masks at the ready or families having their portraits taken from porches or pastors wearing facemasks, our smiles seem to still shine even while obscured. Although emerging signs of political partitioning seem to lurk all around us, so far, our small-town ambience has apparently protected us from sharp division.

In the final analysis, though, is there really any reason to be anything other than hopeful?

Garden

By the Light Of the Moon

By Maureen O'Connell

In my last column, I spoke about gardens being "essential" in these stay-at-home times. We now have more "newfound time" to enjoy the beauty and calm of our gardens, no matter how big or how small. May I suggest that you plant a different garden this spring: a Moon Garden.

What is a Moon Garden? It is simply a garden that is meant to be enjoyed by the light of the moon or at nighttime. Its design includes white or light-colored blooms that open at night, release fragrances at night, and/or plant foliage that adds a unique texture, color, or shape at night. One of the earliest recorded moon gardens in the U.S. was planned in 1833 by Benjamin Poore at Indian Hill in Massachusetts. It featured two seven-hundred-foot-long borders that were fourteen feet wide and filled with white candytuft, daffodils, lilacs, flowering almonds, foxgloves, lilies, and many other white-flowered perennials and shrubs. He accessorized the moon garden with a herd of white cattle,



Oriental Lily 'Casa Blanca'

white pigeons, and a white dog. You could say that he was a bit eccentric; I don't suggest that you copy his design! The most famous white garden is likely that of Vita Sackville-West at Sissinghurst Castle in Kent, England. Beginning in 1950, she filled it with white-flowered roses, white peonies, white irises, white hydrangeas, white Japanese anemones, and many other white plants. Many years ago, I visited the castle and its many gardens. I saved the White Garden for the end of

Continued on page 7.

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Published and Edited by
John Clayton and Rande Davis

John Clayton
Production
Financial
301.349.0071
jclayton@monocacymonocle.com

Rande Davis
Advertising
Circulation
301.509.9232
rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

Dominique Agnew
Copyediting
dqagnew@gmail.com

editor@monocacymonocle.com
advertising@monocacymonocle.com
www.monocacymonocle.com

Monocacy Press, LLC
John Clayton, President
Rande Davis, Vice President
P.O. Box 372
Barnesville, MD 20838-0372
301.349.0071

Contributing Writers

Dominique Agnew
dqagnew@gmail.com
Link Hoewing
linkhoe@aol.com
Maureen O'Connell
mafoconnell@msn.com

Tor Ofsthun
torofsthun@yahoo.com
Susan Petro
bsusan424@gmail.com

Kenny Sholes
kcs7110@gmail.com
Jeffrey S. Stuart
sark10@juno.com
Jack Toomey
jackt21262@aol.com
Jon Wolz
wolzjon@hotmail.com

Andrew Sojka
Student Reporter, PHS News
andrewsojka2021@gmail.com
Contributing Photographer
Terri Pitts
terri.pitts@gmail.com

Layout and Graphics
AnyArt Solutions LLC
sales@AnyArtSolutions.com

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Tidbits

Falcons Ranked #1 in Maryland

Poolesville High School was ranked the best high school in the state, according to Niche, a data website that creates national rankings of schools, colleges, and neighborhoods.



Poolesville, with 1,205 students, received an "A+" grade from the site, along with three other county schools listed among the top five in the state: Potomac's Winston Churchill (second), Bethesda's Walt Whitman (third), and Rockville's Thomas S. Wootton (fourth).

St. Mary's Annual Haiti Fest Canceled

With the pandemic in full swing, the St. Mary's Haiti Committee decided to cancel its annual fundraiser on behalf of the Haiti Mission. Suffice it to say, the coronavirus was not in their program budget! Progress has been made in building the new church and other assistance programs, and St. Mary's encourages all persons wanting to help to do so by sending a donation (with "Haiti" written on the memo line) to St. Mary's, P.O. Box 67, Barnesville, Maryland 20838.

SCA Elects New Board

The votes are in! Here's the 2020-2021 Board of Director of Sugarloaf Citizens' Association:

Lauren Greenberger, president; Steven Findlay, vice president; Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz, secretary; Eric Cronquist, treasurer; and Jim Brown, Tina Thieme Brown, Jim Choukas-Bradley, Jay Cinque, Andrew Donaldson, Ellen Gordon, Dick Hill, Jane Hunter, Tim Nanof, Steve Nothwehr, Gil Rocha, Celine Roll, Dan Savino, Marie Sheppard, and Tim Whitehouse.



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Local News

WUMCO Continues to Serve Those in Need Despite Stresses from the Pandemic

By Link Hoewing

WUMCO Help, the local charitable services organization that has a food pantry, provides rides for clients who can't get to doctors' and social services appointments, helps with the costs of pharmaceuticals and monthly bills, and continues to meet the challenges of those in need in the Upcounty during this pandemic.

Residents in our area have responded in dramatic fashion. For example, the WUMCO food drop off box is often filled to capacity with donated food in just two days.



WUMCO collection shed in the parking lot of Drs. Pike and Valega's office.

Katie Longbrake, who took over as executive director of WUMCO just a few months before the pandemic hit, has had to keep most volunteers and staff from coming to the organization's office to be safe. Longbrake is amazed and gratified by the response from the community. She noted that food demand is higher but expects that, as the shutdown continues, there will be a spike in requests for help with monthly bills and pharmaceuticals. In March and April of this year, WUMCO had double the number of food orders it had in the same months in 2018 and 2019.

Many WUMCO clients are elderly, live alone, and are on fixed incomes. Longbrake commented, "We expect a great increase in financial need in our community as the pandemic continues. Every contribution made to WUMCO helps to ensure that we will have the funds to support those in need in the months to come."

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Continued from page 4.

By the Light of the Moon

my visit, so I could see it in the approaching dusk. It was a symphony of subtle shades of white and green, never to be forgotten. Pink, red, orange, purple, and yellow flowers are beautiful in the daylight, but at night, they fade into the darkness. White flowers become shining stars as the moonlight reflects off their petals.

I often mention in my columns White Flower Farm (WFF) in Litchfield, Connecticut. I read their spring and fall catalogues as much for their extensive list of new and old plants, trees, and shrubs, as for their wordsmith-worthy plant descriptions. White Flower Farm was founded in 1950 by William Harris and his wife Jane Grant. They were both writers, he for *Fortune Magazine* and she for *The New York Times*, working and living in New York City. They dreamed of a “little place in the country” where they could write and vacation. They found it in Litchfield, a small town nestled in the Berkshires. Their writing became secondary to their new love of gardening. It grew into a business based on the principle that good plants and good service will always—if presented clearly and accurately—have an audience among knowledgeable gardeners. They considered growing and offering only white-flowering plants, and while that idea lasted about one minute as a business plan, this border of white plants remains and is updated each year. The name of their farm was thus born. Today, their catalogue provides a design for a Moon Garden that is more doable for a backyard gardener than the ones of Benjamin Poore and Vita Sackville-West.

Their preplanned garden recommends the following plants: (perennials) peony ‘Festive Maxima,’ *Aquilegia* ‘Dove,’ *Echinacea* ‘White Swan,’ iris ‘Immortality,’ shasta daisy ‘Becky,’ *Lilium* ‘Casa Blanca,’ *Liatris spicata* ‘Floristan White,’ and French strawberry ‘Red Wonder’; (annuals) *Angelonia augustifolia* ‘Archangel White,’ *Cosmos* ‘Sonata White,’ and dahlia ‘Eternal Snow.’

I put in my Moon Garden several years ago. It is not big; it is twenty-three feet long and eight feet wide. Location is important. Site it so that it enjoys maximum exposure with lunar light (next time the moon is shining, check this out), Deeply shaded locations will not usually work as the light cannot penetrate. When the moon is not full, subtle accent lights may be used. I use solar lanterns and LED candles to show off the plants’ textures, colors, and sometimes their silhouettes from dusk into the moonlight, or no moonlight, hours.

Besides many of the above-mentioned plants, my moon garden is the home of the *Phlox* ‘David,’ *Allium* ‘Mount Everest,’ *Digitalis* (Foxglove) ‘Alba,’ Lamb’s Ear, *Dicentra* ‘Alba,’ Dusty Miller, *Cosmos* ‘Sonata White,’ *Delphinium* ‘Moonbeam,’ David Austin rose ‘Olivia’ (to be honest, Olivia is not exactly white; she is a very soft pink; I include her because that is the only place that she, my only rose, will live and flourish), *Dianthus* ‘Frosty,’ white petunias, and snapdragons. The Shining Star and Grande Dame of this very special garden is the pristine white Oriental Lily, ‘Casa Blanca,’ the most spectacular Oriental Lily of all time.

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David Mowett and Cathy Bupp

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White's Ferry, early 1900s.
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Fun Fact...

The month of May (in Latin, Maius) was named for the Greek Goddess Maia, who was identified with the Roman-era goddess of fertility, Bona Dea, whose festival was held in May. The name has changed over the years. It was first called May in the 1400s near the end of the Middle Ages.

The birthstone of May, the emerald, symbolizes success and love. May was once considered a bad luck month to get married. There is a line in a poem that says "Marry in the month of May, and you'll surely rue the day." The author is unknown.

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Youth Sports

Maya Rosenbaum: Looking Back and Forward

By Jeff Stuart

What have been your major highlights/achievements in lacrosse? Include club activity.

Being named second team All Division Lacrosse in 2019 and making my club team, the Renegades, but definitely my biggest achievement was that I committed to play lacrosse for Shepherd University in January of my junior year. I received an athletic and academic scholarship.

What subject do you enjoy most?

My favorite class this year has been my global issues class. It's super fun and really interesting because we focus on current events and issues, also my teacher is really passionate and very engaging. My favorite subject is definitely social studies, I like history a lot and I always have a lot of fun in those classes.



PHS senior Maya Rosenbaum.

How do you handle stress and pressure?

When I am stressed about school, I like to write to-do lists because then I feel more organized. Lacrosse and working out are also good ways to destress for me. I always feel relaxed when I play or practice.

What are your hobbies or interests outside of athletics or PHS?

I really enjoy art and editing. I like editing pictures and things like that. I like to sketch, too, and I set time aside to create every now and then.

Are you involved in any other extracurricular activities at Poolesville?

I was a part of the field hockey program at PHS for four years, and it was so much fun. I am also a Falcon ambassador. We organize things like bake sales, orientation, back-to-school night, and powderpuff.

How do you balance athletics and academics? Is it difficult?

Sometimes it can be overwhelming, but it's not that difficult for me because I have always had to do it. It actually helps me with time management and staying on top of things. I think I get pretty bored in the off season.

How competitive are you on a scale from one to ten?

I would say that I am about an eight. I am pretty competitive. I think my family and friends would agree. I do not like losing. I am competitive with myself in terms of reaching goals, too.

Continued on page 15.

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Continued from page 12.

Maya Rosenbaum: Looking Back and Forward

When did you get your start in lacrosse?

I started playing lacrosse in the sixth grade. I played PAA throughout middle school. I started to play club in eighth grade and continued to do that until this year.

What are your main motivations for doing athletics?

I have fun with it. I wouldn't put so much time and energy into something I didn't find fun. I want to get better and become a more dynamic player.

Do you have any pregame rituals, superstitions, or special pregame meals, etc.?

I have a team cheer that I say before every field hockey and lacrosse game. It pumps me and my teammates up. Before lacrosse games, I like to listen to music to shift myself into a focused mindset.

If you could get a redo or reset for any one moment, what would it be?

If I could reset any moment, I would reset my last scrimmage of this season. I didn't know it would be the last time I got to play for Poolesville, and I wish I had relished the moment and left everything on the field.

Do you like or participate in other sports?

I played field hockey for PHS, and it was a lot of fun. I was a captain last season, and it was fun to play with such a great group of girls for the past four years. I am going to miss the field hockey team a lot.

Talk about your coaches and teammates and the Poolesville experience.

My coaches and teammates are always so supportive, and the environment and attitude at PHS are always great. I will always remember that my teammates had my back and helped create a fun supportive environment. My coaches have always been there for me and helped me improve my game.

A player who meant a lot to me in lacrosse and field hockey was Jessica Mense. She is by far my biggest supporter, she has been the best teammate, and she always pushes me to do my best. I have played every varsity season with her, and I am going to miss playing with her a lot. Another player who meant a lot in lacrosse is Jolie Orns. We play really well together, and I was excited to continue that this season. Unfortunately, it was cut short, but I am looking forward to watching her grow as a player in the future.

Why did you choose Shepherd University?

I am going to Shepherd University to study secondary education. They have a great education program there, and I wanted a smaller school. I really love the area up there, and I like that it is pretty close to home. Their lacrosse program is a great fit for me. I'm very excited to be a part of the team up there.

How are you and your teammates being affected by this pandemic?

The other seniors and I are especially bummed about our last season being cut short. We had a great group of girls this year, so I was upset that we would not be able to play together, and I know my teammates feel the same way. We still talk in our group chat now and then, and we keep in touch.

"Maya has been a super player and leader for as long as I've known her," said Coach Michael Wills. "She has taken her passion for playing the game, worked hard to become one of our best players, as well as team captain. Maya is dedicated to her team and loves sharing her knowledge with them. I've never played the game, obviously, so I can always pull Maya aside to get a player's perspective on what works and the best way to implement it during a practice or game. She's very down to earth and straightforward when discussing the game, which I really respect. I'm very upset for all of our seniors because we were never able to get our season started this year. We were able to play a couple of scrimmages together and practice for a few weeks. I hope we get a chance to honor Maya and our other seniors Kyra Bertolini and Remy Anderson before our school year comes to an end."

"Maya Rosenbaum was a huge asset to the PHS field hockey team," said field hockey coach Taylor Bowen. "She not only possesses great field hockey skills, but she was also a great leader and companion to all of her teammates. She will certainly be missed as she moves on to her college lacrosse career."

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I hope that this tough time ends soon, and we can get back to a semi-normal state of affairs. We all miss seeing everyone at the bar and dining in the restaurant.

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Burglary: Poolesville High, 17501 West Willard Avenue, 19900 block of Fisher Avenue.

Theft: 19300 block of Hempstone Avenue, 17100 block of Campbell Farm Road.

Past Crime: 1890 to 1900

The nine-year-old daughter of Mr. Buxton was murdered while she slept in her bed on what is now Diamond Avenue. Montgomery County had very few experienced detectives, so a call went out to Washington for their detectives to lend a hand. After a week, the D.C. detectives washed their hands of the whole matter saying that they had no business handling a case in Maryland and that detectives from Baltimore should have been requested. The D.C. detectives also stated that they were treated shabbily and were not given hotel rooms and sometimes not invited to strategy meetings.

During the Montgomery County Fair, it was a common occurrence for confidence men to come into Rockville and try to swindle the more naïve Montgomery County farmers. Rockville was so well known as a lucrative target that pickpockets and thieves from Washington, Baltimore, and Philadelphia descended on the town regularly. A man named One-Armed Casey was particularly adept at the swindling game. He would set up a shell game, and two of his confederates would pretend to win large sums of money and then leave. When the men from the country tried the game, they would always lose. There were others that also set up crooked games and fleeced the county people. Finally, the sheriff had had enough and rounded up all of the crooks and escorted them to the railroad station and ordered them to take the next train out of town.

Sheriff Collier investigated a case of cattle thievery at a farm near Rockville and arrested two men who were sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary. One suspect managed to get away and took refuge in Washington. The mother of one of the men serving time took

it upon herself to search for the man named Samuel Dorsey, and she told reporters that it was not fair for her son to be in prison while Dorsey was walking the streets. One day, the woman saw Dorsey on the street, so she rushed to the D.C. detective office and convinced two officers to follow her. They caught up with Dorsey and took him to their office. He insisted that he was the twin brother of Samuel, but the detectives didn't believe it and telegraphed Sheriff Collier at Rockville who came to Washington and took custody of Dorsey.

There was a time in the 1890s when the consumption and sale of liquor were illegal after voters approved new laws. The States Attorney was deluged with letters and telegrams from citizens who claimed that the option laws were not being enforced and that speakeasies were operating without interference. Sheriff Thompson and his men went out in full force and arrested dozens of speakeasy owners and brought them before the magistrate at Rockville. Some were placed in jail and others made bail. At the time, there was also a law that allowed informants to be awarded half of the fine if someone was found guilty of selling or consuming liquor. Two of the informants, Palmer and Sherre, disagreed over the amount of money that each should have received, necessitating a civil trial.

A particularly serious crime happened in a small community just west of the Dickerson train station. A man, a veteran of the Civil War, came home in an intoxicated state. His oldest son was not at home, and he told his two youngest daughters to leave the room, and then he raped his fourteen-year-old daughter. The son came home to find the father still in the act of raping his sister and chased the father into the woods. In the meantime, the Constable of Dickerson escorted the young lady to Rockville where a warrant was sworn out for the father. He was not arrested immediately as he was suspected to have been hiding in the woods. The children were taken to live with relatives.

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

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Remembrance

Idella Craven

Idella Gertrude (King) Craven, born March 16, 1919, departed this life April 23, 2020 at the age of 101. She resided at Big Woods, Dickerson.

She was a loving devoted wife of thirty-six years to Walter L. Craven until his passing in 1981. Idella leaves behind to mourn her two sons, Richard C. King, Sr. (Jo Anne) and Harold A. King, Sr. (Sandra); eight grandchildren; twenty-six great-grandchildren; twenty-two great-great-grandchildren; three sisters, Florence Bell, Alma Ridgley, Dorothy Bowie; and a large host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.



Idella Craven



Continued from page 1.

Ray Hoewing Retires from WUMCO Board

One of Ray's strengths as a leader was his ability to truly listen and to help guide a group or individual towards a realistic and achievable goal. I experienced this firsthand during the years I worked with Ray both as an employee and a fellow board member. Ray inspires me to be better, and I value him as a friend and a mentor.

Many in Poolesville know Ray, plenty know him better than I, so please bear with me as I tell you what I see in him:

First and foremost, Ray is a man of deep faith. His actions are guided by his faith. His hospice work and his commitment to so many charitable organizations are products of his faith. He does everything with humility, giving the glory to God. He is a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Ray is compassionate. He sees people's needs and makes time for them. Again, his hospice work is a clear example of his compassion, as are his visits to those who live alone, widows, and shut-ins. He is thoughtful in every sense of the word. He listens carefully, he doesn't dismiss ideas outright without considering their merit. He asks for opinions other than his own—he doesn't think he knows it all. He does things that need to be done without having to be asked, and nothing within the organization is ever "beneath him."

Ray is a collaborator. He is good at bringing people together to work for a common goal and at keeping things on track. He is a leader. In addition to his role at WUMCO, Ray is currently the acting president of the Helping Hands Poolesville board of directors and has served in various leadership roles at his church. When his children were in school, he was PTA president and active in the Boosters Club. He has volunteered for many years at Hospice Caring, a ministry that I know means a great deal to him. I know that there are many other organizations and roles that he has been in, but there simply is not enough space to list them all.

Ray does the hard work; he leads by example and is always willing to do what he asks of others. He also finds other good leaders to follow him when he has to step away from a leadership role. That is part of why I have written this today. We have a committed board full of active members. Ray worked towards this goal, and now he is comfortable stepping aside. Although we are sorry to see him go, we know that we are in a great place as an organization because Ray had the vision to guide us here. We aim to move forward, maintaining that vision.

From the WUMCO Board, we say, "Thank you! Ray, thank you, for your time, talent, energy, wisdom, and compassion. We are grateful for all you have done for WUMCO and the community. We are all blessed to have you in our lives!"

As a celebration of Ray's many years of service to WUMCO and the community, the board of directors will be honoring him by having a tree on Whalen Commons dedicated in his honor. A dedication ceremony will be held at a later date due to the current social distancing protocols.



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Continued from page 1.

Funding to Build New High School Appears on Track

ending with FY25. Funds would need to be approved each year from FY21 until FY25, but once the FY21 funding is approved, it is very unlikely the project would not go forward. The Fair Access Committee is not taking anything for granted, but at this juncture, it seems the citizens of the Upcounty can be relatively confident that a new high school will be built.

What is not clear yet is what the county may do regarding the idea of co-locating county facilities including a community/senior center, clinic, and wellness center on site with the new high school. Both the county school system (MCPS) and the county executive's office have expressed support for the co-location concept, and the county executive's staff and key departments have been meeting with the Fair Access Committee to discuss proposals. One of the major hurdles which seemed to keep the county staff from moving more actively ahead with co-location proposals is the uncertainty about what the school system would do with Poolesville High School. Now that MCPS seems firmly committed to building a new school, the county has every reason to move ahead with serious planning for new county facilities.

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Blue-Green Algae Cyanotoxins and Your Pets

By Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

Cyanotoxins are produced by cyanobacteria (i.e., blue-green algae) which are harmful algal blooms and are highly potent biotoxins that pose a risk to humans, domestic animals, and wildlife; cases of animal exposure occur worldwide and are increasingly prevalent.

Several species of blue-green algae can produce toxins. Cyanotoxins commonly associated with freshwater algal blooms can occur in ponds and standing water during significant and consistent rain falls during warmer weather. Different organisms can produce damaging effects to a variety of organs in you and your pet: Microcystins/nodularins (liver, hepatotoxic), cylindrospermopsin (liver, hepatotoxic), anatoxin-a/anatoxin-a(s) (kidney, neurotoxic), and saxitoxins (i.e., paralytic shellfish poison; nerve, neurotoxic). Microcystins and anatoxin-a/anatoxin-a(s) are the most common cyanotoxins in North America and occur across the country. Cyanotoxins can affect any species. The following discussion focuses on the effects of microcystins and anatoxin-a/anatoxin-a(s) on dogs.

Although predicting the occurrence of algal blooms can be challenging, common environmental conditions exist, including warm (>70°F [21°C]), stagnant waters with some mechanism of nutrient accumulation. Nitrogen and phosphorus are the main nutrients implicated in eutrophication (i.e., abnormal accumulation of nutrients, commonly due to surface runoff) which leads to harmful algal blooms that often appear as a thick scum, similar to paint, on the surface of a body of water. Nitrogen and phosphorus can enter bodies of water from many sources (e.g., fossil fuel combustion; stormwater discharge; groundwater pollution; agricultural and residential fertilizers; urban, industrial, and agricultural waste). Cyanotoxin poisonings typically occur in late summer or early fall, as water temperatures increase and rainfall tapers off.

Patients with cyanotoxin poisoning have an acute onset of clinical signs following exposure to a suspect water source and are often in critical condition or deceased when presented to the clinic. Patients with microcystin poisoning show clinical signs within hours of exposure, and death can occur within 24 hours. Patients with anatoxin-a/anatoxin-a(s) poisoning show almost immediate clinical signs, and death can occur in less than one hour after exposure. Algal blooms often produce odors attractive to dogs, leading them to play in the water and ingest the algae-created surface scum; this behavior may play a role in the susceptibility of dogs to cyanotoxin poisoning.

If you think your pet has been in water that could contain one or more of these organisms, immediate washing with antibacterial soap is critical. Even then prognosis is very guarded for almost every patient, as morbidity and mortality are high for patients with confirmed exposure. There have been reports of successful intervention for microcystin poisoning in which exposure was relatively small and treatment was initiated quickly. Even for patients with initial recovery from microcystin poisoning, prognosis should remain guarded due to complications relating to hepatic insufficiency. Follow-up examination in recovered patients should include monitoring liver enzymes.

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