

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

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Yost Returns Temporarily as Town Seeks New Manager

By Link Hoewing

At their March 15 meeting, the Town of Poolesville commissioners reversed course from a decision made at their March 1 meeting and decided to use an existing consulting contract with former town manager Wade Yost, so he can provide his advice and experience to help the town as it seeks a new, full-time town manager. Yost will support acting town manager Bobbi Evans in her work. The commissioners also decided not to move forward with the idea of seeking an interim town manager.

These decisions came amid another round of discussions among the commissioners concerning what actions they should take in the wake of the abrupt and still-not-fully-explained resignation of town manager Seth Rivard.

The announced agenda for the meeting contained no old business items and two new business matters: developing a plan for the hiring of an

interim town manager and issues concerning human resources and staffing. As previously mentioned, the commissioners decided not to move to hire an interim manager and instead will use Wade Yost to assist acting town manager Bobbi Evans.

In launching the discussion, President Kerri Cook said that the resignation of the town manager should prompt a look at the town's organizational structure. She noted that in recent years, the town has grown, it has offered more services, and it has, among other things, a more extensive parks system than many towns its size. She said she had done some investigating into towns similar in size to Poolesville such as Brunswick and Middletown. While there are unique circumstances with regard to any town's population, economy, and the makeup of its local community, she suggested both towns have organized themselves in ways that are worth reviewing.



Former Poolesville Town Manager Wade Yost is returning to assist the community while the search for a new, permanent manager begins.

Commissioner Martin Radigan said he thought it would be worth considering having someone, presumably an outside expert, take a look at how Poolesville's government is structured.

Continued on page 15.



As students began to return to the classroom, they were greeted by familiar faces. More PES pics in Family Album on page 2.



PHS fall sports in spring? Yep, only during a pandemic, of course. See Youth Sports on page 3.



Our Lions found a need for blood donations in our area. To donate, check out page 8 for more information.



This photo of Lockhouse 26 was taken in 1948. The lockhouse burned down in 1969. More about the residents of the lockhouse in In Your Own Backyard on page 12.

'It's Academic' Goes Zoom—Poolesville High School Team Shines

By Jeff Stuart

Faculty advisor and coach Marcia Snavelly is proud of her "It's Academic" team and their hard-fought second-place showing for Poolesville High School.

"They never wavered. In my fourteen years of coaching and providing guidance for our Poolesville High School 'It's Academic' team, this team is special. They have achieved outstanding results despite the challenges of a pandemic. Our key team members are Nabhoneel Sil Upadhyay (senior), Ben Nachod (junior), and Orion Foo (junior). Two other loyal team members that consistently participated in our weekly Beltway League competitions are Jeffrey Jiang (junior) and Eric Wang (junior)."

Snavelly added, "They just stepped up as we transitioned to virtual Zoom. 'It's Academic' is worth the work, and it's a lot of work, with rigorous weekly



Top: Orion Foo (junior), Ben Nachod (junior), and Nabhoneel Sil Upadhyay (senior). Bottom: NBC4 host Hillary Howard, John Butler, assistant school administrator, and Marcia Snavelly, It's Academic Coach and Social Studies teacher.

prep practices and competitions. Hillary Howard as host and her producers are professional and friendly, and it's always fun to tape." Snavelly

continued, "We also compete monthly in the Montgomery Academic Beltway

Continued on page 17.

Family Album



Back to In-Person
Classes for PES



Youth Sports

PHS Sports Are Reengaged

By Jeff Stuart

Fall sports in the spring? That's the plan. "Great first week of practice," said cross country coach Prasad Gerard. "Athletes are so positive, enthusiastic, and committed to being safe. I keep thinking it's kinda cold for August."

For girls' soccer, too: "As of this writeup, we have been open for three practices," said coach Rod Nubgaard. "First one was cancelled due to the weather. Yesterday, we practiced on the parking lot, and today on the field. The players were excited to get back. There is an adjustment as we implement COVID-19 precautions from check-in to six-foot distancing and adjusting practice sessions to adhere to the rules. Overall, the players are very excited to be together and outside...COVID-19 precautions are just a small adjustment well worth the investment to be able to practice safely and be together. The alternative is not what we want! Overall, we are all in a good place and will enjoy every practice session as we can be together in a safe environment!"

"They are excited to be back on the field, and their hard work has shown it! Our freshmen are Morgen Smith, Gabby Montemurro, Gabby Orns, and Breanna Salovich; sophomores are Marissa Edwards, Avery Penn, and Lizzie Kovacs; juniors are Abby Antonishek, Nicole Guzman, Aleana Bowman, Sierra Schenck-Davis, and Erin Cherian; and our seniors are Mel Martinez, Riley Salovich, and Maddie Montemurro."



Poolesville High School sports programs are phasing in their return, starting with fall sports.

"Boys' soccer is in full swing, and we have a great turnout for both varsity and JV," said coach Mike Wills. "It's great to be back out on the field and to see the boys in person again. They've been enjoying their time on the practice field and look forward to our shortened season ahead. This season will be different, but we plan to make the best of it for the boys. Our seniors this season are Noah Masri, Felipe Beltran, and team captains, Jay Doshi, Eric Jung, Jason Daniels, and Andrew Adams. Players to watch are juniors Jonah Valmonte and Nico Carrillo, sophomores Joshua Martinez Torres and Sampson Yeaher, and all of our seniors."

"Naturally we are excited to start in-person activities," said football coach Anthony Nazarro. "When we hit the practice field for the first time on Monday, it had been 353 days since we had last seen our athletes in person, even longer since we played football. It is great for the seniors to have another opportunity to wear the uniform, represent PHS, and play with their friends and classmates—the underclassmen as well. We have all waited a long time for the return of in-person activities and are fired up to get back to work."

"Since this is my first year coaching field hockey and with the shortened season, it is hard to know who to watch," said Katie Hackey. "I am going to highlight my five seniors: Elizabeth Bean (forward), Meghan Gregorio (back), Gina Miller (goalie), Dora Kreitzer (back), and Jessica Mense (midfield)."

Continued on page 11.

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Rande(m) Thoughts Drive As If Your Parents Are in The Back Seat

By Rande Davis

The town commissioners should be applauded for exercising a contractual arrangement with former town manager, Wade Yost, allowing him to assist and consult in the management of town operations while we begin another search for a new permanent town manager. That this arrangement, as it turns out, was put in place in 2019 and not implemented immediately remains a bit perplexing. By abandoning an original plan to hire an interim manager and bring on Yost instead, confidence exists that he will help right the tilt of the ship from the turbulence of these past few months. We welcome Wade back, even for this relatively short time, and recommend that his previous time as town manager becomes the metric to evaluate what we want in someone to “run the town” through the direction of the commissioners.

Any advice I might give to the commissioners in moving forward could not be more effective than a simple rule I was given while learning to drive as a teenager. I think pretty much all of us heard the same thing, “Drive as if your parents are in the back seat.” To the commissioners, my best advice is to govern as if the voters are with you at every moment. Perhaps I am wrong, but I sense that there are hidden agendas at play far too often and that some decisions are made from a desire to strengthen power and control, not to expand and broaden community involvement and input. It’s amazing what can be gained when even more people are at the table of discussion.

Commissioner meetings need to be in public whether they are in person, on Zoom, or part of a string of

emails and texts about public matters. Whenever three or more commissioners discuss a public matter by email or text among themselves, that is a meeting and, by statute, such meetings should be made public. It appears that an overuse of the process seems to be emerging. I encourage everyone to read Link Hoewing’s post on facebook on the matter of the official role of closed government meetings—very thoughtful and insightful as well.

I learned my lesson on closed meetings early. Many years ago, I volunteered to be chairman of the sign review board. My first action was to convene the other two members at a meeting in my house to discuss our committee’s role and plans. I learned from the town lawyer right away that, while my intent was fine, we could not ever meet like that again in private. When the committee meets, it must always meet in public. If that is true for a sign review board, how much more applicable is that for the board of commissioners?

Maybe my gut feelings are fed too much by the exaggerated restrictions resulting from the pandemic. Maybe it is natural that the lack of personal connection results in a feeling of closed-dooredness (Is that even a word? Editor’s answer [after she inserted “ed” after “door”]: No, but words have to be created somehow.). It still amazes me, though, how we can all shop at Dollar General, but right across the street, town hall remains totally closed.

Transparency and openness of government with voter involvement are more than just making sure citizens get their three minutes to sound off at town meetings. Questions are not asked for their sake alone, but by definition, require an answer. Commissioner Jeff Eck asked a simple question at a recent meeting. After one person finished after a series of basic yet important questions, no response was offered. At this point, Jeff queried that maybe the commissioners should provide some answers to those sincere questions rather than just hear

them and then move on. The silence from the commissioners, as they say, was deafening.

Ed Reed has taken the lead while accompanied by Martin Radigan in heading up non-commission meetings with citizens that foster dialogue. Good for them. Meetings with less than a quorum do not run the risk of violating open government rules. When planning a town meeting, for every three minutes of questions, maybe there should be, at the least, up to a three-minute response to those questions. Addressing the commissioners should not be like a visit to Jerusalem’s Wailing Wall.

There is much heavy lifting on the town’s horizon. Among the big-tickets decisions pending are: final decisions on a new town manager, addressing the management/labor issues through a more formal human resources process, completing a revised master plan, and the development of the Willard property. Coming in rapid-fire succession, they will create a lot of pressure on the commissioners.

My advice to them is basic: Find ways to hear more from the residents before pushing forward on your own ideas and agenda; be prepared to follow their lead as often as you can but be prepared to use your judgment and leadership to move them in a better direction when necessary;

finally, I cannot say it any better than this: “Drive the business of the town as if the voters are always in the back seat.”



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Fun Fact...

Today the term “backseat driver” has negative connotations referencing distracting back-seat passengers causing problems for drivers; however, the phrase was originally descriptive rather than disparaging.

Backseat driver as a descriptive term started during the dawn of the automobile in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries when some cars were, quite literally, driven from the back seat. Backseat-driven cars commonly utilized a tiller steering mechanism which was attached to a rear steering axle via a chain. As cars of the age were rear-wheel drive, it simplified the steering mechanism to position the driver in the back seat.

<https://heritagemuseumsandgardens.org/>

Garden

Declutter Your Garden

By Maureen O'Connell

This past year, many of us have had more free time than usual. Even those who are working from home and/or supervising their children's virtual class time, COVID-19 restrictions and lockdown have kept us at home. You could use that time to clean your house, cook and eat more, binge-watch Netflix, or do nothing and become a couch potato. I indulged in some of these things, but decluttering the house was not on the list. I had good intentions to attack the outgrown and unused clothing and shoes in my bedroom closet, but that chore kept going to "tomorrowland"; however, I did clean one junk drawer in the kitchen. Now, with the arrival of spring, I am anxiously looking forward to leaving the confines of the house and returning to my garden and happily facing its many chores.


Clutter happens. We live our lives, and we see things that we love, buy, use, store, stuff, and shove into all manner of nooks and crannies; some never to see daylight again. In 2011, Marie Kondo, a Japanese organizing consultant, published a little turquoise book entitled *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing*. It quickly became a worldwide best seller. Her method was simple: Define our possessions by the sparks of joy they give us.


Clutter can happen in our gardens. Now, to apply the KonMari (a combination of her first and last names that she trademarked) Method to our garden "stuff" might verge on anthropomorphism; I can't really say that my garden trowel gives me sparks of joy, but it is a joy to work with good tools, so we will leave it

Continued on page 13.




Male pheasant by Andrew Crace.






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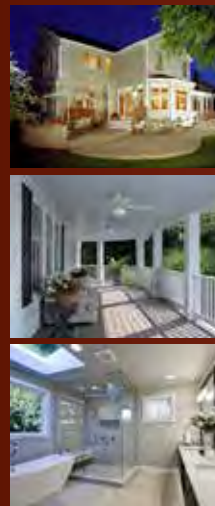
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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Present Virtual Programs

Visit the Poolesville Seniors website, poolesvilleseniors.org, to see the wide variety of virtual programs that are open to the entire community.

Mondays

Tai-Chi with Maureen Ivusic, 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Tuesdays

Trivia Game Night

If you love Trivia, come join a team with Poolesville Seniors. Email info@poolesvilleseniors.org for more information. 7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays

Chair Yoga with Twyla Insalaco. 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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

March 22

Monthly Book Club

The book for March is *Praying for Sheetrock* by Melissa Fay Greene. All

are welcome to join this lively social and intellectual discussion. 7:00 p.m.

March 25

Martinsburg Voices and Artifacts

Rev. Chuck Copeland continues his discussion about the free black community of Martinsburg. He tells about the life changes faced by former slaves, their efforts to build a new society, and the roles of the schools and the Methodist Church in forming their community. 7:00 p.m.

April 1

Back By Popular Demand: Freed Slave Communities

Poolesville Seniors is proud to provide a special history lesson about the tiny settlements of freed slaves that surround the Poolesville area, revealing both the struggles and contributions of these communities. This is a re-screening of one of our most popular events. 7:00 p.m.

April 8

Edible Garden Girl: Totally Tomatoes

Hilary Schwab, Poolesville's own Edible Garden Girl, will decode tomatoes, explaining the different varieties

Continued on page 7.

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Continued from page 6.

Senior News

and their best uses, provide some gardening tips and cook several of her own recipes live. 7:00 p.m.

April 15

History of the Agricultural Reserve

Kenny Sholes returns for his eighth presentation in his series about historical sites, properties, and people of the Ag Reserve. 7:00 p.m.

April 20

Earth Day Craft:

No-Sew Applique Tote Bag

PS crafters will create a 13.5" square, machine-washable, no-sew applique tote bag using iron-on permanent adhesive, and a pattern to trace and cut. 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Pop-Up Walks with Jon Wolz

Back by popular demand, Jon will be leading and narrating more walks in the coming months. These will be planned and based on a three-to-five-day weather forecast. Completing the Poolesville Seniors Liability Release Form on their website and emailing it to them will indicate your interest. Then watch your email, the Poolesville Seniors calendar, and their facebook page for dates, times, locations, and registration information as the walks are scheduled.

For more information or to register for any of the programs listed here and receive the Zoom link for each, visit the Poolesville Seniors website: poolesvilleseniors.org. Many of these presentations are also streamed live on their facebook page and recorded for later viewing on YouTube.

Did you know that you don't need a computer to participate? You can join the Zoom presentation using your smartphone or just listen in using the local telephone number from Zoom and the Poolesville Seniors meeting ID and Password. Call or text them at 301-875-7701 to learn how.

Fun Fact...

March 20 marks the first day of Spring, or the Vernal Equinox, in the Northern Hemisphere. Due to the Earth's axis tilting towards the sun, the sun will rise due east and set due west as it crosses the celestial equator. In Latin, *vernal* means fresh or new, and *equinox* means equal night.

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Tidbits

The Monocacy Lions Spring Blood Drive

The Lions club is sponsoring a spring blood drive on Friday, March 26. The blood drive will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Poolesville Baptist Church. According to the Red Cross, the blood supplies in our area are at a critically low level. All types of blood are needed. One unit of blood can help three patients. It takes only forty-five minutes to donate. Those who donate will receive a Red Cross long-sleeved t-shirt while supplies last. Donors should register online at www.redcrossblood.org

Montgomery County Chamber Of Commerce Statement Regarding a Mass Vaccination Site in Montgomery County

As the state begins to reopen and move into a phase where most adults will be eligible for a vaccine, the residents of Montgomery County, the most populous county in Maryland, need convenient access to a mass vaccination site. This is the linchpin to an efficient and equitable rollout of the next phase of reopening. We strongly urge the state to greenlight the establishment of a site

in Montgomery County immediately so that the necessary equipment and personnel can be positioned.

Further, all providers in Montgomery County should be receiving regular and sustainable allocations of the doses that are coming into the State of Maryland. We were distressed to hear about trusted providers who received fewer doses in the last week despite a record of efficiently administering the vaccine to eligible populations, including workers essential to the operation of the economy.

To learn more about the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce's legislative priorities and policy positions, please visit www.mccc.com/policy-positions.

Fire Hydrant Flushing

The Poolesville Water Department crews will be beginning the annual fire hydrant flushing maintenance program on April 5, 2021. As a result of the flushing process, residents in the immediate vicinity of the work may experience temporary discoloration of their water. This discoloration consists primarily of harmless silt and air and does not affect the safety of the water. If you experience discoloration in your water after crews have been flushing

Continued on page 16.



Easter Season celebrations at Poolesville Presbyterian Church

We hope to be able to meet you in person soon, but until then, we invite all to join us for services on Facebook Live.

April 2

Good Friday Service at 7:00pm

April 4

Easter Sunday Service 10:30am

Details at

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2021

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YEAR-ROUND ADVENTURES

Monocacy Health Update

COVID-19 Update as Of March 16, 2021

By Sam Hardwick

Wear masks or two masks (optional), keep social distance of six feet, wash hands often, and avoid group gatherings as much as possible.

COVID-19 test now available at CVS Darnestown and doctors' offices.

The Poolesville Family Practice (301-972-7600) has not currently been supplied with the vaccine, but they have the rapid fifteen-minute test available. Vaccines for the general public meeting the criteria are available at CVS and soon at Poolesville Family Practice.

Vaccine appointments may be registered at montgomerycountymd.gov.

Montgomery County
(source: [Coronavirus.maryland.gov](https://www.coronavirus.maryland.gov))
Total of all cases reported positive: 64,934
Total deaths: 1,398

Cases of reported positive tests for COVID-19 by zip code:

Zip Code	Cases	Deaths
20837 – Poolesville	233	3
20838 – Barnesville	<15	0
20839 – Beallsville	53	3
20841 – Boyds	374	7
20842 – Dickerson	73	2

County Deaths by Age:

Under 30: 1
30-39: 20
40-49: 44
50-59: 95
60-69: 190
70-79: 294
Over 80: 753

Now pre-registering persons over 65. To determine if you qualify for a vaccine, visit montgomerycountymd.gov.

Status of Vaccination in County

(source: [Coronavirus.maryland.gov](https://www.coronavirus.maryland.gov))

Phase 1A-1C: Frontline healthcare workers, staff and residents of nursing homes, first responders, residents 65 and older, and those with specific medical conditions.

Schedule of Vaccination Schedule of implementation

Current: Phase 1A
Frontline healthcare workers, staff and residents of nursing homes, and first responders.

Phase 1B
Residents over 75, frontline essential workers.

Phase 1C
Residents over 65, those with specific medical conditions.

Coming soon

Phase 2: People with critical infrastructure roles.

Phase 3: General population.

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Inventory remains low, and mortgage interest rates are still at historically low levels. There are plenty of buyers out there looking for homes if you're ready to put your home on the market. If you want to sell your house, or you need to find a house to buy, give me a call at 301-461-8840 for a market analysis.

Focus On: Poolesville, Dickerson, and Northwestern Montgomery County Housing Market February 2021

Zip Code(s): 20837, 20838, 20839, 20841, 20842 and 20871	Units Sold	Active Inventory	Median Sale Price	Days On Market
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Continued from page 3.

PHS Sports Are Reengaged

"I've been playing for four years," said Ellie. "My favorite memory from field hockey is scoring the winning goal against Quince [Orchard] during the 2019-2020 season! After graduation, I plan to study elementary education at the University of Central Florida."

"I have been playing hockey since freshman year," said Meghan. "My favorite moment would be celebrating with my team after a win with post-game chocolate milks. After high school, I will go to Salisbury University and major in early childhood education where I will hopefully play some type of field hockey."

"I have been playing field hockey as a goalie for all four years of high school," said Gina. "My favorite moment from all four years was being able to play my senior year because I didn't think our season was going to happen. After high school, I plan on going to school to be a correctional counselor or a millionaire. We'll see."

"I've been playing hockey for Poolesville since freshman year," said Dora. "I have also been playing club field hockey for four years. My favorite moment would easily be winning the regional championship game in our 2020 season and qualifying for the state tournament! We were all so excited, and I was just so proud of the team's perseverance, but there are also so many smaller moments like our team bonding birthday dinner for Ellie's and my birthday last year, driving to practice with my sister every day, and just getting to be with all of our teammates at practice, which I definitely do not take for granted anymore. I'm not entirely sure of my plans for after graduation yet, but I plan on attending a four-year university to major in sociology and enter the nonprofit field after college."


"I played club for three years before high school and this is my fourth year on varsity," said Jessica. "My favorite moment was during last year's regional championship game when, after double overtime in the rain, I scored the winning goal in the shootout and we finally got to stop playing," she added with a smile. "I haven't decided on a college yet, but I'm going to major in biomedical engineering."

Will the usual spring sports schedule be relatively normal?

"I really have no idea," said baseball coach Steve Orsini. "Things can change at any time. I believe and hope we will be normal. Kids played all summer and fall. I do not see why we cannot play. I have five kids that deserve to get recognition: Stevie Orsini, outfielder and left-handed pitcher, he was pulled up to the varsity as a freshman at a request of the seniors that year and started in the outfield as a freshman, can cover the outfield, dangerous on the bases and hits with power; Tommy Miles, middle infielder and right-handed pitcher...on the mound he places the ball well; Colin Gross, second and pitcher, good glove and on the mound very good control of his pitch; Alex Pope, another starter as a sophomore, pitcher, third base, and catcher, strong arm from behind the plate, strong hitter, and has a number of pitchers to keep the hitter off balance; Liam Murphy, utility player infield, outfield, and pitcher. Liam is a hustler; do not underestimate him at the plate or in the field."

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In Your Own Backyard

Woods Lock: Part 2 of 2

By Jon Wolz

Note: Part 1 can be found in the March 5 issue of the Monocle at www.monocacymonocle.com.

In 1870, Thomas N. B. Benson appears again as the lockkeeper in the U.S. Census for Lock 26. Thomas's birthyear was listed as "about 1822." His age listed was 48. He had given his birthyear as 1826 in the 1860 Census. Mary's birthyear was "about 1812" and her age was given as 58. Also living with them was a ten-year-old daughter Henrietta and George F. Koon, 41, who was not working and could not read or write. In the canal payroll records for 1873, Thomas was making \$50 a month as lockkeeper or \$600 a year. Thomas signed for his last pay in June 1873. In July 1873, his wife was listed as the lockkeeper and received \$50. Thomas Benson's father was Jonathan Beall Benson who died September 10, 1873 and is buried in the Monocacy Cemetery. Jonathan was a veteran of the War of 1812, having served as a private; he saw action at the Battle of Bladensburg, Maryland. Lockkeeper Thomas N. B. Benson died in 1873, and there is no record of his burial. A brother of Thomas N. B. Benson was also a lockkeeper at Lock 24 which is known as Riley's Lock today.

In August 1873, Thomas Reed was the new lockkeeper for Lock 26. The Canal Company would not let a woman be a lockkeeper if she did not have a son age sixteen or older helping with the lock. Also, the Canal Company preferred lockkeepers with families because wives and older children could help out at the lock.

Thomas Reed was born September 26, 1846 in Berryville, Virginia and died February 23, 1924 in Martinsburg, Maryland. In 1873, he was married to Julietta Phillips Reed. In 1874, Julietta gave birth to Lena Reed. Both Julietta and Lena died in 1876. By 1880, Thomas had left the canal and was a worker on a farm and was married to Harriet "Hattie" Reed and they had an infant son. Thomas and



All that remains of Lockhouse 26 today is its red sandstone foundation.

Hattie had several children together and are buried at the Monocacy Cemetery. Buried with the Reeds are Julietta Reed and Lena Reed.

In 1880, William Willson, 30, was the lockkeeper for Lock 26. Living with him was John Gibbs, age 31, who was working on a farm. Also living in the lockhouse was the Nelson family who, in 1870, had been living in Lockhouse 27. Dennis Nelson, 37, was working on the railroad. In 1870 he was "working on the lock." His wife Henrietta, 43, was keeping house. Their children included Alice, 14, William, 11, Charlie, 7, and Anna, 4. Mr. Willson was white, and all of the other

Continued on page 14.

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Continued from page 5.

Declutter Your Garden

at that. Our yards should be our sanctuary. They lose that ability if they become a hodgepodge of stuff and space, so let's start with categories and take a tour of your differing garden things and spaces.

Make a Clear Garden Plan

Map out your yard area: front yard, backyard, and patio area. Consider the factors that will affect how your garden will grow—sunlight, shade, wind, drainage, access to water, foot traffic patterns—and the balance between lawn, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables. Honestly evaluate how much time and money you want to spend to create your oasis. Unlike books, plants grow. They are not going to remain the same size from the day you planted them. If a plant becomes overgrown, cut it back or divide it. If you no longer love it or need it, remove it. A friend might love it. Rethink your use of pesticides and herbicides. Let the rhythm of nature reestablish itself.

The Garden Shed

It is a very useful space to store your garden paraphernalia. You shouldn't have to guess where your trowel is; everything is in one spot. Many years ago, my husband Jim build a shed for me—my garden shed with a flowering hanging basket outside the door—but before I could move my stuff in, he quickly took up most of the space with his "stuff." Now I keep my "stuff" on several shelves in the garage and in a horse stall in the barn, but my favorite storage spot is in the back of my John Deere Gator (one of the best birthday gifts I ever received). There is plenty of room for everything I need to take care of my gardens. Your garden shed can be any size. One gardener I know keeps a very small box in the corner of her yard and there sits all she needs.

Reassess Your Tool Collection

Pitchforks, rakes, trowels, cultivators, pruning shears, garden gloves, spades, saws, knives, garden hoses, swoes, jute garden twine on a reel, and tote bags are all tools that every gardener needs, but over time, they get broken or dull, and they should be replaced. Do I really need ten pairs of garden gloves? No, I just need two: a long pair of leather pruning gloves and a lightweight pair for delicate pruning. The only small pruner I need is my Felco #2 hand pruner (the best on the market). I have several water spigots located in various parts of the garden, but I don't need the several damaged hoses lying at their feet. Some have sprung leaks that spray water all over you, probably caused by Winnie, my Lab puppy, who "accidentally" bit it as I dragged the hose across the lawn. I also have some "angry snake" hoses. You know, the type that kink and twist and cut off the water. They are usually of cheap quality and old. Got to get rid of them. Make an inventory of all your "stuff" and don't hesitate to donate or throw things out.

Garden Pots and Containers

Do you really need fifteen old terra cotta pots and all those ugly plastic hanging pots that are sitting unused in the garage for years? You think you might need them some day; you won't. Donate or throw them out.

Old Garden Furniture, Statues, and Ornaments

Over time, outdoor garden furniture, which is exposed to the elements, starts to fade in color and it gets broken and tired looking. Either give it a fresh coat of paint, repair it, or get rid of it. There are many kinds of garden statues and ornaments of varying artistic quality and value, from the exquisite sculptures of renowned local artist Walter Matia to garden gnomes. Each to his or her own taste. Here again, use your discretion as to how "populated" you want your garden areas. Clutter can enter this picture if you are not careful. I have very few garden ornaments. My two favorites are hand-painted metal plaques of a pheasant and a standing rabbit done by English artist Andrew Crace. In the summer, they hide amongst the perennial flowers to keep out unwanted intruders. Evaluate your possessions and see who gets to remain as garden visitors.

The aim of decluttering your garden is not to create a sterile, over-manicured space; we are creating a sense of order. Tidy gardens don't have to look like the Gardens of Versailles.

Do you have a garden-related topic you would like to read about?
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Continued from page 12.

Woods Lock: Part 2 of 2

occupants of the lockhouse were black. None of the black household members could read or write. The 1890 Census was destroyed in a fire, so I was not able to find out more about Mr. Willson or the others living at the lockhouse in 1880.

In 1900, John Cornwell was the lockkeeper. He was 58 and born in 1842. He was born in Virginia. Living with him was his wife Mary who was 42 and born in 1858. They were married in 1883. Their children were Eppa, 12, who was a farm laborer, Willis, 11, who was a farm laborer, Lotta, 9, and Maggie, 2. Mary and all of the children were born in Maryland. By 1910, everyone was ten years older and John was still a lockkeeper. Everyone could read and write. Maggie was 12 but was not attending school. The older children had no occupation listed. John died February 7, 1934 at a Soldiers' Home in Richmond, Virginia and is buried in the Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond. John had served as a private in the Confederate Army from July 1861 to 1865 in the 8th Virginia H Company. Mary died November 6, 1935 at a Soldiers' Home in Richmond, Virginia and is buried in the Monocacy Cemetery. Son Willis served in World War I and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. His military records show he served from 1917 to 1919 and his place of birth was Edwards Ferry. Lottie Cornwell Jones is buried in the Monocacy Cemetery. Her date of death is unknown.

By 1918, Alfred Worth Wood was the lockkeeper at Lock 26. On his draft registration for World War I, dated September 12, 1918, Alfred was medium height and build. He had gray eyes and red hair. The card said he was a lockkeeper, and his employer was the C&O Canal. In 1920, Alfred Wood, age 44, appears in the census along with his family. Both his parents, Charles W. Wood, Jr. and Columbia were once lockkeepers at Lock 25 in the late 1800s. Alfred was born March 16, 1874 and possibly was born at Lock 25, Edwards Ferry. Living with Alfred at Lock 26 were his wife Jessie Wood, age 34, who was born September 6, 1884 and their children, Jessie W., 15, Hattie, 13, Iva, 11, Stanford, 9, Helen, 6, Hazel, 4½, and Rodney, five months old. Jessie W., Hattie, Iva, and Stanford first attended the Marble Quarry School in nearby Martinsburg; however, this school closed in 1923, and the children were sent to Poolesville for schooling, traveling by a horse-drawn school bus driven by C. S. Fields. The flood of 1924 permanently closed the C&O Canal. By 1930, the Woods were still living in the lockhouse, and Alfred was now a farm laborer. His wife was keeping house. The only children living with them in 1830 included Hazel, 14, Rodney, 11, Elsie, 9, Evelyn, 7, and Warner, 4. All of the children attended school except for Warner. During her life, Mrs. Wood gave birth to ten children, nine of which survived childhood. By 1940, Alfred and his wife had moved to Barnesville. Alfred died on July 6, 1941, and Jessie died February 19, 1967 in Kensington, Maryland. Both Alfred and Jessie are buried in the Monocacy Cemetery along with several of their children and their spouses. Daughter Elsie married William Darby Pyles. She was born in 1921 and died in 2005. She was a memorable person who lived in Barnesville, a 1939 graduate of Poolesville High School, and was a fifty-two-year volunteer at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair. Jane Thompson of Barnesville knew Elsie and said she mentioned living in the lockhouse as a child. Today, Lock 26 is known as Woods Lock after Alfred Worth Wood.

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Continued from page 1.

Yost Returns Temporarily as Town Seeks New Manager

He wondered whether the size of the town’s staff is appropriate and whether the management structure for the town might not be better organized to include two deputy town managers focusing on things like finance and administrative items.

Commissioner Jeff Eck suggested that it might be helpful to survey town staff and see what they think about the town’s processes and organization. He also said he would have concerns about hiring more staff since a larger government might become permanent.



Commissioner Ed Reed suggested that instead of the commissioners trying to initiate work in these areas, it would be better to focus attention on the criteria for selecting a new town manager and ensuring that whoever is selected understands that staffing and organizational issues need prompt attention. The new town manager should immediately be tasked with evaluating the town’s organizational structure, reviewing the staffing situation, and developing a new plan that can be reviewed by the commissioners, Reed said.

This seemed to shift the discussion, and attention then focused on how the hiring process would be conducted. Eck asked whether the town could conduct the search on its own or whether it would need to hire an outside professional firm to do the work. In further discussion, it was proposed that Commissioner Jim Brown would reach out to a number of small towns that are similar in size and other features to Poolesville to find out if they had done a recent search for a town manager and what ideas they would have regarding the search and defining the town manager’s job.

At the same time, town attorney Jay Gullo will do a review of available executive search firms and write up a report for the commissioners to consider at their next meeting.

The commissioners also heard from Poolesville Day chair Faith Etheridge. She said the Poolesville Day Committee had recently met and, while it is too early to say definitively what will happen with Poolesville Day this year, the consensus was that “hope is on the horizon.” She made it clear that the committee is planning with the aim of holding the event and will meet again in June, when the expectation is that the situation will be clearer, before making more refined plans.

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Good Friday, April 2
Morning Prayer at 9 am
Confession at Noon
Service of the Lord’s Passion at 3:00 pm

Holy Saturday, April 3
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Continued from page 8.

Tidbits

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Below is the neighborhood flushing schedule:

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April 7: Fisher Avenue, Meadow Valley, Wootton Heights, Churchill

April 8: Wesmond, Wootton Woods

April 9: Seneca Chase, Sumner ridge, Stoney Springs



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Richard Bauer

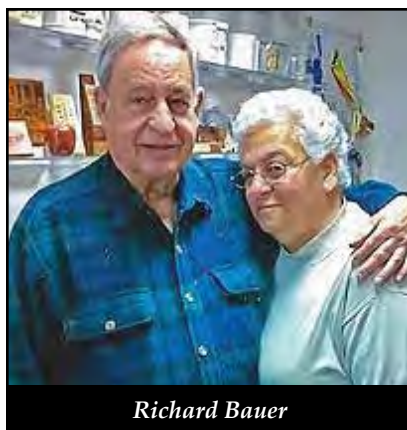
Richard "Dick" Hunter Bauer passed away peacefully on Monday, March 8, 2021.

Dick was born in Washington, D.C. in 1938, the son of Richard Ernest Bauer and Helen Loven Bauer (née Hunter).

He grew up in Rogers Heights, Maryland. After attending the University of Cincinnati, he joined the U.S. Army. While stationed at Fort Hamilton (Brooklyn, New York), he met Anna in 1962, and they were married in February 1964. They moved to Poolesville in 1971 where they were active members of the Potomac Valley/Poolesville Swim Club, and the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department. Dick loved to camp, kayak, and volunteer his time at the firehouse, helping with bingo, Breakfast with Santa, fireworks, and the canteen.

He is survived by his wife of fifty-seven years, Anna; his children Rick (Heather) and Debbie (Spencer Lawton); and three granddaughters, Sydney Smith, Rebecca Bauer, and Emily Bauer. He is also survived by his brother Barry Bauer (Roberta), sisters-in-law Jean Pedersen (Bjorn), Josephine Strenta (Thomas), Rose Wight (deceased) (Charles); and several nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in his name to the UMCVFD Auxiliary, PO Box 553, Poolesville, MD 20837.



Richard Bauer

Robert Deadrick

Robert "Bobby" Wade Deadrick, 62, of Boyds, passed away on March 8, 2021.

Born on December 30, 1958 in Maryland, he was the son of Robert and Til (Wade) Deadrick.

Bobby is survived by his daughter Kristen Faulconer and seven grandchildren.



Robert Deadrick



Continued from page 1.

'It's Academic' Goes Zoom—Poolesville High School Team Shines

League (MABL). Out of twenty-two teams this year, we made it to the MABL quarterfinals."

Poolesville Assistant Principal John Butler and Ms. Snavelly appeared on the first taping of the show in support of the school and its team members.

In the Poolesville team's first appearance on January 2, 2021, they finished with 430 points, BASIS McLean Independent secured the win with a perfect score (515), and Northwest finished with 360. The results of the February 27, 2021 airing of "It's Academic" had Poolesville in second place (470), losing to Centerville's perfect score of 515 points and edging out North Point (410).

All teams participated from their own homes for the taping of both shows. As teams can traditionally confer before answering while in-studio for regular shows, the students found the virtual format perhaps a bit more challenging.

Nabhoneel Sil Upadhyay stated, "I felt that the 'It's Academic' competition was very fun, but I would rather have competed against those teams in person."

Ben Nachod added, "I had a fun time competing on 'It's Academic.' This was my first year making it on the show. The producers were very kind and helpful directing us during the recording of the broadcast. My teammates and I practiced over Zoom every week with the other members of our trivia club. Practices were really enjoyable."

Orion Foo noted, "I was an alternate for our 'It's Academic' team in ninth grade, and I was part of our 'It's Academic' team last year and went to two tapings, so although I was a little nervous about the new format of 'It's Academic' being online, I was still able to keep my nerves down the entire match. I think our first appearance on the show mostly went well. We answered all but two questions correctly. We did even better on the second taping with only one missed question. Unfortunately for us, Centerville also posted a perfect score. Although we defeated North Point, we missed the second round. Science is usually our team's strongest topic, but we all seemed to have gotten mixed up for that one biology question that we missed."

Orion Foo is in the Science, Math and Computer Science program, captain of the Quiz Bowl team (same club sent to "It's Academic"), Captain of Poolesville's Math and Physics Teams, and a member of the Computer and Science Bowl Teams. He also swims and plays baseball competitively on PHS and club teams.

Ben Nachod is captain of the Robotics Team, a member of the Science Bowl and Science Olympiad Team, and an executive board member of both the Montgomery County Regional Student Council and the Maryland Association of Student Councils. He is a varsity swimmer for Poolesville Swim and Dive Team and a Swim Life Club coach that supports neurodiverse athletes in the pool.

In addition to "It's Academic," Nabhoneel Sil Upadhyay is captain of the History Bowl Team, a member of the Debate Team and Poolesville's Trivia Team in the Montgomery Academic Bowl League.

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Assault: 17100 block of Campbell Farm Road.

Theft: 17200 and 17500 block of Kohlhoos Road.

Vandalism: 19600 block of Fisher Avenue.

Past Crime: 1920 to 1925

States Attorney Dawson admitted that the investigation into the death of Eppa Reed was at a standstill. Reed was found dead in the Potomac River near Great Falls. Wounds on his body ruled out drowning, but because of the condition of the body, it was impossible to determine how Reed had died.

The newly-formed Montgomery County Police force was in danger of losing its first chief. Disputes about the proper method of policing the county had erupted between Sheriff Clay Plummer and Chief Cooley. Before 1924, the sheriff was in charge of law enforcement in the county, but

when the police department was formed, the primary duties were turned over to the police department which sparked jealousy and arguments. Later, the grand jury investigated the situation and recommended that both forces be combined (which did not happen).

Denver Waters, a Washington man, was sentenced to a year in prison for operating a mobile liquor store in violation of the county's option laws (prohibiting the sale of liquor). Waters would load his auto with bottles of liquor, drive into Montgomery County, park in busy locations, and then sell his wares to passersby. Eventually he was arrested.

A gun battle developed on the road to Viers Mill about three miles south of Rockville. Four Montgomery County officers were sneaking up on a large still when they were shot at by someone near the still. The four officers returned fire, and Guy Grayson, the owner of the still, was hit in the abdomen. He was taken by train to the hospital in Washington. Officers Snyder, Jones, Burdine, and Bodmer were not hit.

Several burglary cases in the lower end of the county may have been solved with the arrest of a fellow called "Cave Man" and two youths. Police Officer Claggett found the three in a cave near Indian Rock along Rock Creek. Inside their cave, Claggett found piles of jewelry and other expensive goods that had been stolen from homes in Kensington and Chevy Chase. All three were jailed pending trial.

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

Fun Fact...

Irish Toast

May you have food
and raiment

A soft pillow for your head,

May you be forty years
in heaven,

Before the Devil knows
your dead.

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Dogs (and Cats) Eating Cicadas: Tasty Treat or Trouble?

Adapted by Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

Cicadas don't bite or sting, so no problem, right? Wrong. If you have a dog or cat who likes to munch on whatever can be found on the ground, you need to prepare to stop them from devouring this plentiful treat.

In most cases, your dog or cat will be fine after eating a few cicadas; however, dogs and cats that gorge on the large, crunchy insects will find the exoskeleton difficult to digest and can suffer serious consequences.

Some of the aftereffects can include severe stomach upset and abdominal pain, vomiting, and diarrhea (sometimes bloody). Some dogs and cats may require intravenous fluids, pain medications, gastro-protectants, or anti-nausea drugs.

Key Points

- After a 17-year hibernation, trillions of cicadas are due to emerge in parts of the U.S.
- Cicada exoskeletons are difficult to digest and can cause dogs to suffer serious consequences if eaten.
- Some time this spring, when the soil temperature reaches 64 degrees F., your dog may suddenly start digging up the yard. He can hear something you can't yet hear—juvenile cicadas tunneling through the ground getting ready to emerge.
- Most of the more than 3,000 types of cicadas appear every two to five years, and their cycles can vary, but the periodical cicadas spend exactly 13 or 17 years underground, and when they appear, trillions surface, blanketing the ground, cars, trees, and houses. According to entomologists, densities can be as great as 1.5 million cicadas per acre.
- This time, the big brood is coming. After a 17-year hibernation, trillions of cicadas are due to emerge in Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

Some side effects to look for if your dog or cat just can't get enough of this crunchy treat.

- Experience mild to serious GI upset.
- Choke on the stiff wings or hard exoskeleton.
- In rare cases suffer allergic reactions.
- Consume unhealthy amounts of pesticides.

The cicada cycle will last about six weeks, so those emerging in mid-May should be gone by late June, depending on the weather. Then the babies or nymphs will dig into the ground to suck tree roots for another 17 years. The exoskeleton can be found on the ground and in trees for longer, so be careful.

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