

# The Monocacy

# MONOCLE

*Keeping an Eye on Local News*

*A Biweekly Newspaper*

May 7, 2021 • Volume XVII, Number 5



*Claire Gunster-Kirby prepares to serve during a Poolesville Seniors pickleball match. More senior pictures on page 2.*



*This home, long gone, had one of our area's most famous structures. The mystery is solved in Foundations on page 5.*



*Beatrice Sneed shared an important milestone with someone. Find out who on page 8.*



*PHS softball seniors Catie Galant, Ainsley Hagen, and Colleen Huetting. Read about the team on page 10.*

## Commissioners Finalize Plans for Hiring New Town Manager

By Link Hoewing

At their regular meeting on May 3, the Town of Poolesville commissioners agreed on a plan for selecting and hiring a new town manager. In the case of the previous town manager, they had hired a so-called "head-hunting" firm to advertise the position, do a search, identify qualified candidates, and recommend a list of candidates for the commissioners to interview. This time, they agreed to develop their own position description and, using the contacts developed by the head-hunting firm they had used previously and advertising in publications and online based upon recommendations from the Maryland Municipal League, they expect to attract candidates on their own.

This decision came near the end of the meeting. Before making this decision, the commissioners held a public hearing on comments related to the proposed FY22 budget. One comment was emailed by Robert Roit who asked why the town was proposing to spend \$25,000 in support of the County Revenue Department's proposal to build a grape-crushing facility on the grounds

of what is now the public golf course given the impact of the pandemic on the town.

Commissioners Jim Brown and Martin Radigan explained the money was first allocated several years ago and was never spent. The grape-crushing facility is expected to attract tourists to the area which would help economically. As with matching grants in which the state or county is willing to provide a part of the money for a project if the town is willing to put in some money of its own in a show of good faith, the \$25,000 represents "skin in the game" that the county wants to see.

Maureen O'Connell, president of the local historical preservation group, Historic Medley District (HMD), testified next. She expressed gratitude for the contributions the town had made previously to help make much-needed repairs on the John Poole House. She said HMD had pressing needs for operating support now, not monies for repairs, due to the impact of the pandemic on things like visits to the Seneca Schoolhouse which generates revenue

for HMD. HMD had not been able to do the events they had sponsored in the past such as the Ghost Tours, and she asked for \$10,000 to be used to support operating activities. In response to a question, she said the board had just met and they hoped to begin soon to offer programs once again.

Finally, Kettler-Forlines president Tom Kettler testified. He noted that his company, which is building Brightwell Crossing, had made a proffer to the town of monies as part of its proposal to build the development. He said the company would soon wrap up construction and that about \$33,000 would remain to be paid as the project is completed.

Kettler also said, wearing his hat as a board member of HMD, that he supports the addition of \$30,000 in the budget this year for a grant writer. He said HMD had successfully received grants that were very helpful, and a professional grant writer is much more likely to achieve success in applying for grants.

Continued on page 5.

## Men's Groups Meet to Work and Strengthen Ties

By Link Hoewing

The men's groups of the Hosanna Community Church (now holding services at the Poolesville Baptist Church) and the Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church got together on Sunday, April 25 to help clear a 150-year-old cemetery that once surrounded what was called the CME, Colored Methodist Episcopal Church. It is the predecessor of today's Warren Methodist Church that still stands on the corner of White's Ferry and Martinsburg Roads. The two groups—one largely made up of Black men and the other of White men—have been developing a relationship in part to help deepen trust and friendship and gain a better understanding of the issues facing their communities.

Continued on page 7.



*Members of the Hosanna and Memorial men's groups at the cemetery site.*

# Family Album

## PICKLEBALL

*in Poolesville*



George Coakley, Brian Peper, Terry Clark, and Norman Spencer.



Joe McIntire and Ann Beliveau were up to the challenge of pickleball.

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As matches are played, others wait, watch, and cheer.



Mark Gentilcore and Maria Briançon.

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# Monocacy Health Update

## COVID-19 Update As of May 4, 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.

The Poolesville Family Practice (301-972-7600) has 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](http://montgomerycountymd.gov).**

**Montgomery County**  
(source: [Coronavirus.maryland.gov](http://Coronavirus.maryland.gov))

**Total of all cases reported positive:**  
69,805

**Total deaths:** 1,476

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

|                     | Cases | Deaths |
|---------------------|-------|--------|
| 20837 – Poolesville | 269   | 4      |
| 20838 – Barnesville | <15   | 0      |
| 20839 – Beallsville | 53    | 3      |
| 20841 – Boyds       | 402   | 7      |
| 20842 – Dickerson   | 83    | 2      |

**County Deaths by Age**

- Under 20 – 0
- 20-29 – 1
- 30-39 – 17
- 40-49 – 31
- 50-59 – 84
- 60-69 – 146
- 70-79 – 173
- Over 80 – 381

**Doses Administered in Montgomery County**

First Vaccine Dose – 564,356 (53.7%)  
Fully Vaccinated – 397,148 (37.8%)

**Vaccine Eligibility Timeline for All Marylanders 16 and Older**

Following an order by Governor Hogan, Maryland is currently in Phase 3 of its distribution plan. According to the Maryland Department of Health, all Marylanders 16 and older are eligible to receive the vaccine. Please note that any Marylander ages 16 and older can receive a vaccine at any mass vaccination site; however, for all local health department sponsored sites, please be sure to only schedule and appointment

in the county in which you live or work. If you schedule an appointment in another county, your appointment will likely be cancelled or you may be turned away.

Pre-registration ensures you will be notified when you or your loved ones are able to make an appointment if you are eligible to receive a vaccine. To determine if you qualify for a vaccine, visit [montgomerycountymd.gov](http://montgomerycountymd.gov).

There are several different websites that provide information on recent vaccine appointment availability across the state. You may find the following websites helpful in your search for a vaccine appointment:

[www.findashot.org/appointments/us/MD](http://www.findashot.org/appointments/us/MD)

[www.vaccinespotter.org/MD/](http://www.vaccinespotter.org/MD/)

[www.mdvax.info/](http://www.mdvax.info/)

*NOTE: Vaccine supply is dependent on the federal government's allocation to Maryland and is subject to change.*

**Phase 1A:** All licensed, registered, and certified healthcare providers; nursing home residents and staff; law enforcement, and firefighters, EMS, and other first responders; correctional healthcare staff and officers; and front line judiciary staff.

**Phase 1B:** Marylanders age 75 and older; in assisted living, independent living, and other congregate facilities; individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; high-risk incarcerated individuals; continuity of government vaccinations; and education, including K-12 teachers, support staff, and child care providers.

**Phase 1C:** Marylanders age 65 and older; public health and safety workers not covered in Phase 1A; and essential workers in lab services, food/agriculture production, and manufacturing, the U.S. Postal Service, public transit, and grocery stores.

**Phase 2A:** All Marylanders age 60 and older.

**Phase 2B:** Marylanders age 16 and older with underlying medical conditions that increase the risk for severe COVID-19 illness.

**Phase 2C:** All Marylanders age 55 and older, as well as essential workers in critical industries, including construction workers, food services, utilities, transportation, financial services, IT and other infrastructure.

**Phase 3:** General population, including healthy adults age 16 and older.



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## Rande(m) Thoughts If You Propose It, You Own It

By Rande Davis

"Government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from this Earth."

— Lincoln, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, November 19, 1863.

I have been reflecting on a number of things this past week regarding matters of the past, present in today's news, and of those still percolating, not quite ready for the public arena. While they may seem unrelated, I think in a Rande(M) thinking sort of way, I view them connected by that central theme first expressed by President Lincoln.

The bizarrely-bound topics I refer to are: pickleball, human resources, and fishing ponds.

In this edition of the *Monocle*, we have a layout of pictures in Family Album showing some area seniors playing pickleball. The event is sponsored by a group that came about primarily as a citizen-sparked initiative that grew by actions of private persons obtaining some governmental assistance designed to minimize the role of government. The group: Poolesville Seniors!

I think the group and the sporting event are perfect examples of Lincoln's vision of citizen-government synergy. Beallsville's Rabbi David Shneyer first conceived of a public group in a private venue using Am Kolel Sanctuary Retreat as a senior center. While he first envisioned it, others joined in, and eventually it made its way before the Poolesville commissioners.

In the early days, it was called the Gathering Place. I was a member of its founding board of directors, Val Dickerson was its executive director, and, I believe, the only founding member still on the board is Maria Briançon who is the president of today's Poolesville Seniors! It changed its name and location to Poolesville Area Senior Center and started meeting in the Old Town Hall Bank Museum. Originators were concerned that using Poolesville in the name would restrict its broader vision. The current name reflects a maturing of sorts, as the term "Poolesville" in our area for many groups and even in our newspaper, rarely refers to the town alone. It is commonly understood to stand for all of us who associate Poolesville as our hometown, residents or not.

Like the originating group, the pickleball group came about first from citizen involvement. When participants conceived of using a town tennis court for their activities, the initiative did not

come from a top-down approach; just the opposite happened. It was not born from a complaint of lack of government vision but from a well-supported belief that had strong citizen support from the start. In fact, while the town eventually provided grants to help in its development, the commissioners made it clear that it was to become a self-sustaining entity and not to be a permanent department within the town's organizational structure and budget.

When participants determined they wanted an outdoor facility, rather than the Baptist Church only, they organized, drew up plans, and petitioned for support from the town. Today, they can play in a fresh-air environment using one of the tennis courts in Stevens Park.

Sometimes we get confused in our relationship with government, thinking it only responds to demands, complaints, and protests. Brice Hallbrook, a former excellent commissioner, was at one time chair of the Poolesville Day Committee. When people came up with new things to bring to the committee, his motto was: "You propose it, you own it." It was never enough to suggest something for others to do.

Jack Toomey has recently been fostering a notion that the town should be stocking its fishponds for public sporting pleasure. I support the concept, but not the approach.

It is not unusual for such a movement to require citizen involvement first. The planning commission, town commissioners, and park director Preston King have all denied the expansion of the fishing ponds. The problem is that Stevens Park, while used for the annual fishing tournament, was not designed for that purpose. It's a retention pond, too shallow for the fish and lacking an environment that is conducive to fish breeding. The pond at John Poole Middle School is seventeen feet deep and better suited to being a recreational fishing pond. If more fishing ponds are to be obtained, the model of the development of the dog park and skateboard park should be followed.

A reluctance to spend money to stock our ponds is a good instinct for government to have, not a bad one, and should not be viewed in a negative way. I like the Missourian motto: Show me. Many of my own concerns with government are that too many public expenditures are made on things that should not have been made nor are they needed or even wanted.

Rather than using a negative complaint process against government, those in the area wanting an expansion in public fishing facilities need to take on a leadership role. It's not enough to demand, it is better to lead.

If stocking or more fishing facilities are needed, it is incumbent on those wanting more to demonstrate public support for them. If fish stocking can be provided for free by outside organizations, the leaders should petition those groups for support to prove to the commissioners it can be done for free. Innovation would have our Global Ecology Studies Program at the high school spearheading an initiative to make the John Poole pond suitable for breeding. Seems logical to me. Senior project anyone?

On the matter of "professionalizing" the town's approach to human resources, I restate my preference for the town to use local, citizen expertise

from volunteers to address any shortcomings the town has in its human resources administration in the town government. I endorse the commissioners' putting together an ad hoc committee of local volunteers (publicly advertised) with proven HR experience first. Any final move in addressing human resources should await full participation after the selection of a new town manager. Moving ahead to hire outside "professionals" first is an indolent approach—and unnecessary. Hiring from outside first seems to be "the way" for those unconvinced of the strength and value of a government "of the people, for the people, and by the people."



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*Keeping an Eye on Local News*

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## Foundations

### The Beallsville Smokehouse — Site Of a Homicide?

I'm increasingly receiving emails and messages on facebook from Ag Reserve residents looking for more information on specific old properties. It's been exciting and interesting to learn of local residents' interests. While I've received a wide range of requests for information on various structures, one of the most frequently-requested is the small log structure at the four-way intersection in Beallsville.

I've got to be honest and say that the continued expressed interest in this small structure confused me. It's so small and relatively insignificant looking, why does anyone care about it? I thought. Upon highlighting this point to my wife—who is infinitely more insightful and thoughtful than I—she reminded me that the structure's prominent location at the four-way

stop combined with the very old-looking nature of the logs and small size of the structure have likely generated curiosity in ways that larger homes hidden at the end of long driveways cannot, so, reluctantly at first, I began digging in to understand the history of this log structure. Much to my surprise, its story is quite interesting.

Upon reviewing the Maryland Historic Trust's writeup on the Beallsville Historic District, we learn that in the late 1800s, John Belt and Francis Griffith ran a small country store out of a home that was built in 1872 and torn down in 1983. This home would have stood directly in front of the log structure. While John ran the store, Francis served as the postmaster for the area. The writeup also notes that the log structure was a smokehouse and was likely built around the same time as the home in the late 1800s—enabling John to sell smoked meat from his storefront.

When I began looking into news stories from Beallsville in the late 1800s, the story of this log smokehouse became much more interesting.

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Continued from page 1.

#### Commissioners Finalize Plans for Hiring New Town Manager

Kettler also said he very much supports the monies included in the budget for the Planning Commission to help in writing the new Master Plan. He added that outside expertise is often needed in doing the work of writing a good plan.

When the comments concluded, the commissioners closed the public comments period for the budget and agreed unanimously to vote on adopting the proposed budget at the next meeting, May 17.

The commissioners finally moved to a discussion about how to hire a new town manager and what to do about the personnel issues that have been festering since the previous town manager resigned.

The discussion ranged widely. President Kerri Cook had previously offered some information about the organizational structures of other small towns and suggested a discussion on that topic. Commissioner Martin Radigan, who at the previous meeting had moved to have the town hire a Human Resources (HR) firm to review the town's personnel policies, salary structure, and organization, said he still believes that the new town manager needs support, including the possibility of hiring at least one and possibly two deputies.

The central argument was whether to hire an HR firm to do an assessment of personnel policies, organizational issues, salaries, and compliance procedures and do a "traditional search process" and manage it for the town, or whether to do the former but only have the HR firm assist while the town staff advertise the position using a position description Commissioner Jeff Eck has written. As discussion continued, consensus solidified around the idea of having the HR firm do the assessment of personnel policies but to only provide assistance in the search for a new town manager.

With regard to hiring a new town manager, Brown suggested that there are a lot of citizens in town who have expertise in personnel policies and human resources. He said the town should form a committee of citizens who would vet candidates for the town manager's position and recommend a slate of candidates to the commissioners. The HR firm could provide support in the form of helping put together a briefing package about the candidates selected for further review. This idea eventually gained the support of the commissioners.

The other issue that was debated was whether to move ahead and implement the organizational and personnel recommendations made by the HR firm right away once it had completed its work, or instead wait and let the new town manager use the HR input to implement reforms. In the end, the latter approach was approved. The argument was that the new town manager would not "own" the new reforms if he or she was not allowed to come in and make his or her own determinations about how to manage the town. All agreed that with the experience the town had with the previous town manager, being able to hold the new town manager accountable is critical.

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- The parking lot cupboard at Drs. Pike and Valega's office in the east end of Poolesville at 19601 Fisher Avenue (non-perishable food only);
- Hilton Funeral Home at 22111 Beallsville Road, Barnesville (non-perishable food only);
- The K2 Café 107/Poolesville Athletic Club, 17610 West Willard Road, Poolesville, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm all week (closing at 4 pm Saturdays and Sundays) (non-perishable food only).

**WUMCO Memberships**

- We have thus far 393 members who have given and pledged \$187,027.50 for the 2020-2021 membership year. Our financial requests have increased as well as moratoria on evictions and utility turn-offs beginning to end. Many clients have had needed car repairs done as well, in order to continue to work.
- Please consider how you can help serve those in need in Poolesville, Boyds, Barnesville, Beallsville, and Dickerson. Please become a member of YOUR food pantry and financial assistance program. Send a check to our post office Box 247, Poolesville, MD 20837 or donate online at [www.wumcohelp.org/Membership.html](http://www.wumcohelp.org/Membership.html).
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Questions? Please write Adam DeBaugh at [wumco2@gmail.com](mailto:wumco2@gmail.com) or call the WUMCO office.

## Senior News

### Poolesville Seniors Present Virtual Programs

Would you like to join activities that refresh your interest in exercising, socializing, and learning new information? Visit the Poolesville Seniors website, [poolesvilleseniors.org](http://poolesvilleseniors.org), to see their schedule of virtual programs, via Zoom, which 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](mailto: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. (No class 5/19, 5/26, and 6/2)

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

#### Fridays

Breath-Mind-Body with Kathy Jankowski. 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.

#### May 13

##### The Joys of Raised Bed Gardening

Join Sarah Defnet as she introduces the many ways raised beds can transform your gardening experience. 7:00 p.m.

#### May 20

This month, Kenny Sholes will introduce the historical homes the of the

eastern Ag Reserve to help us better understand the people whose land we have inherited. 7:00 p.m.

#### May 24

##### Book Club

This month's Book Club selection is *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. *Hamnet* is a historical fiction interpretation of the marriage of Will and Agnes, the death of their only son, Hamnet, from the bubonic plague, and the loss's shattering effects on the family. 7:00 p.m.

#### May 27

##### A Conversation with the Honorable Connie Morella

Join the conversation with the Honorable Connie Morella when she discusses her educational and political careers in the Washington, D.C. area. 7:00 p.m.

#### June 9

##### Quarterly Social

Mary Ann Jung will entertain, educate, and inspire all with her History Alive interpretation of the courageous aviatrix, Amelia Earhart. 2:00 p.m.

For more information or to register for any of the programs listed here and to receive the Zoom link for each, visit the Poolesville Seniors website: [poolesvilleseniors.org](http://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.

#### Continued from page 5.

##### The Beallsville Smokehouse

On May 2, 1877, Lemuel Beall, a farmer living in Beallsville, reported that meat from his farm had been stolen from a smokehouse, and Beall publicly named Henson Ames as the thief. As noted in the article, Ames was a "known desperado" in the area. Angered by this public callout, Ames approached John Belt at his store looking to confront Beall. The article alludes to the fact that Beall was either living in the home where the store was being run or immediately next door. Ames was carrying a branch from a sapling and indicated his plans to murder Beall with the club.

Initially refusing to leave his home out of understandable fear, Beall did decide to eventually leave the home and confront Ames—while carrying a pistol. Upon emerging from his home, Beall was immediately attacked by Ames, and a significant fight ensued.

While Beall was able to fire his weapon, he was unable to hit his target while engaged in the scuffle. Just before being overtaken by Ames's heavy blows, Beall was able to land a strong uppercut, knocking Ames backwards where he fell and broke his neck (Author's note: This seems suspicious, but who am I to judge a 144-year-old news story?). Immediately following the exchange, Beall jumped on his horse and rode into Poolesville to turn himself in to the authorities.

Is it possible that the smokehouse in the news article is different than the one still standing at the four-way intersection? Yes, but given the references to John Belt's store and other sources confirming that Beall had lived with or near John, it seems highly likely this is the place. My hope is that, over the coming weeks and months, I can work with the owner of the property to identify how best to ensure the structure remains preserved.



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Continued from page 1.

**Men's Groups Meet to Work and Strengthen Ties**

Led by Pastors Chuck Copeland of Hosanna and Tim Dowell of Memorial, the men gathered at what once was a school for Black children on the grounds of today's Warren Methodist Church. Also on the grounds is the restored Charitable Benefits Hall which once served as both a social center and a place where local Black families could get financial support. At the time that the hall was active, in the late 1800s up through the mid-twentieth century, Blacks could not obtain insurance, and the hall solicited donations and financial support that was given to needy families.

The men had a light lunch and then headed out to the old cemetery. It is on a wooded hillside next to the Calleva property. The area is thick with undergrowth and old headstones and corner markers can be seen all over the woods. Many depressions are in the ground signaling where a grave is located. Very few of the headstones have legible engraving, so in most cases, it is impossible to determine who might be buried in a particular site; however, a few stones can be read, and Pastor Copeland hopes that by clearing the area, more can be learned about the families who once lived nearby. Names that are legible include: Graham, Thompson, Dorsey, Scott, Bell, Thomas, Warren, Hood, Peters, and Butler. Some families who are around the area today have those last names, but a great number have moved away.

It is not known exactly where the old CME Church was located, but it is known that it was built in 1878; it burned down, and another church was built in its place. That church was eventually raised onto log rollers and pulled more than a mile to the location of the current Warren Methodist Church building. That church too burned down, and the current church was built in 1903 to replace it.

The two men's groups have begun to develop a close relationship and plan to continue to meet, work, and talk together in an effort to improve understanding and respect.

Do you have any interesting local history or fun facts to share with our readers?

The Monocle welcomes your contribution.

Send to editor@monocacymonocle.com

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## Tidbits

### The Boyds Historical Society Scheduling Tours

The Boyds Historical Society will be giving tours of the Boyds Negro School on the third Sunday of each month from May to October. The next tour is scheduled for Sunday, May 16 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Learn about education in a rural school for Black children at the turn of the twentieth century. The school actively educated Black students in grades one through eight from 1896 to 1936 in this historic building. Come learn the local history of education in a Black rural community that no longer exists.



The Boyds Negro School will be open starting in May.

### Vaccines Still Available

Dr. Duggirala of Poolesville Family Practice has announced that their administration of the COVID-19 vaccine (Moderna) has been very successful. They have already done close to eight hundred vaccines and continue to do more every day. The medical practice was one of only seventeen initial practices in the entire State of Maryland to be in the vaccine pilot project, which has since grown to dozens of practices statewide. Additionally, they have been recognized as a model for COVID vaccination in the primary care practices.

They continue to have extra doses of vaccines every weekday, so if you are still seeking a vaccine, you can sign up for an appointment time. You can also sign up for their emergency call list on their website if you cannot find an appointment time or would like to receive your vaccine sooner. Their goal

is to get every adult vaccinated "so we can reach herd immunity and get our lives back to normal."

### Sharing an Important Milestone

With justifiable pride, Rev. Chuck Copeland wished his Momma, Beatrice Sneed, a Happy 99th Birthday on April 29, and with equal enthusiasm he has shared the 99th birthday of his great aunt, Beulah Sneed, also on the same date. Beatrice is originally from Poolesville, while his great aunt was born and raised in Big Woods (Beallsville). She is the youngest daughter of Washington and Nettie Tibbs Hamilton. He states with his usual positive flair, "She is the Queen of our family. We give glory to God for her life and love. We love you, Auntie."



Beulah Sneed recently celebrated her 99th birthday.

### Kindergarten Registration Fall Classes 2021

It's that time again: Poolesville Elementary School has announced they are accepting registrations for the fall kindergarten class. Orientation will be scheduled later this coming August.

### Virtual Run for Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary

Anytime Fitness and K2 Cafe/PAC are teaming up for a good cause! They have created a team for the Poplar Spring Animal Sanctuary Virtual Run for the Animals 2021: POOLESVILLE FOR POPLAR.

Their race is virtual; however, if you would like to (safely) meet up in person, they will map out a course starting at Anytime Fitness and ending at K2 Cafe (so you can grab post-run coffee/fruit/breakfast).

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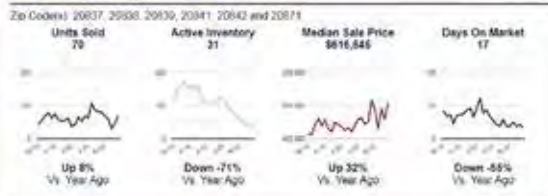
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## Youth Sports

### Brief PHS Fall Season Ends And Spring Season Begins

By Jeff Stuart

The boys' lacrosse and girls' softball teams, along with baseball, girls' lacrosse, boys' volleyball, coed volleyball, and boys' and girls' tennis, are ready to get back on the field in what they hope will be seasons that have a slightly more normal feel to them.

"It is great to be back out on the field," said boys' lacrosse coach Stuart Orns. "It does take some of the sting out of losing last season. Our team will now start out with a big sophomore class. There is a bright future for all of these boys. Watch for juniors Logan Marsh and Adam Barkdoll, Jack Roe a sophomore, and Aiden Godsey a senior. They are players who could really excel in this shortened season. As always, there will be those who will step up and gain valuable experience towards taking the next step to becoming more complete players. I'd also like to recognize seniors Andrew Adams and Vladimir Velasquez who will be important leaders for our young team."

"We are a young team," said softball coach Laure Wohnhas. "For several players, this will be their first time on varsity. We have good leadership from all the seniors. They are Ainsley Hagen, Catie Galant, Colleen Hueting, and Taylor Rohde. We have a difficult schedule (Sherwood, Damascus, Clarksburg, Northwest, and Quince Orchard), but that should help the young players get experience playing playoff teams for next year. My sophomores are Alexa (Lexi) Burdette, Gabrielle (Gabby) Jacobs, Emerson (Emma) Orders, Michelle Ramos, and Erin Dower. My freshmen are Lindsay Chu, Lauren Doring, and Gabrielle (Gabby) Montemurro."

To recap some fall action, the Falcon cross country teams did very well.

"Both teams finished the season 3-0 and, more importantly, stayed healthy," said coach Prasad Gerard. "They supported each other and the other teams. I am so lucky to have the opportunity to work with such wonderful young people. We had a great season. We all enjoyed having the opportunity to work out and be



Seniors Lillian Hsu, Connor Ransom, Owen Trainor, Pranav Tippa, Chris Stallard, Finnley Ryan, and Emily Li.

together as a team. Athletes improved a lot in a short amount of time and had great success."

The Falcon boys and girls defeated Quince Orchard at home on March 25, at Gaithersburg at Bohrer Park on April 7. In the last meet of the season at Lake Needwood on April 13, the boys defeated Magurder, 17-46.

Christopher Stallard, Caleb Dastrup, and Aaron Longbrake finished first, second, and third respectively. Dylan Derewonko and Daniel Ponciano finished sixth to round out the scoring.

On the girls' side, the Falcons won 21 to 40. Daisy Dalstrup, Lillian Hsu, Anna Bodmer, and Caroline Simons finished second, third, fourth, and fifth. Angelina Kolomiiets finished seventh.

"I am looking forward to a successful outdoor track and field season," said Coach Gerard. "We had a lot of athletes come out, and we are getting ready for the three home meets and one away meet."

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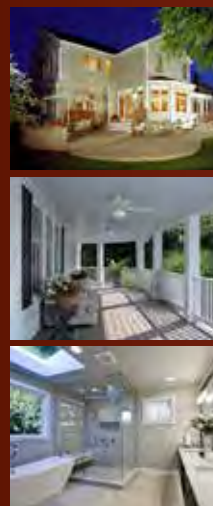
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## Garden

### Unusual Shade Perennials

By Maureen O'Connell

Many gardeners' backyards have a mixture of sun/shade conditions: full sun, mostly sunny, half sun/half shade, mostly shady, and deep shade. Finding perennials for sunny spots is pretty easy; there are many varieties available at local garden centers. It takes a little more work to locate unusual plants for your shady areas. You also have to do some experimenting to arrive at the correct amount of shade, regardless of what the plant label says. One person's "mostly shady" area can be significantly different from their neighbor's down the street.

For many years, hostas have been the classic favorite for shade gardens. Though *Hosta plantaginea* originated in China, most of the species that provide the modern plants were introduced from Japan to Europe by Philipp von Siebold in the mid-nineteenth century. *Hosta sieboldiana* 'Elegans' has been celebrated for years as the standard in blue-leaved *Hostas*. Over the years, horticulturists have hybridized many new varieties from large-leaved to miniature, green to silvery blue, and solid colored to boldly patterned. My favorite is 'Blue Mouse Ears.' Hostas are indeed excellent choices for the shade garden, but today, let's look at some perennials that are a little further off the beaten path. I recommend them for your Monocacy gardens, as I have them all growing in mine.

**Cranesbill.** You might know it as hardy geraniums. They have an excellent mounding habit and late spring to summer bloom time. They are easy to grow, consistent performers year after year, and available in a range of colors. A few species are even reliably drought tolerant in normal summer conditions. I have the following varieties: 'Johnson's Blue,' 'Elke,' 'Rozanne,' and 'Delft Blue.' They are planted in total shade and partly-sunny plots and they perform equally well in both areas.

**Astrantia** is a group of flowers, also known as masterwort, that is both beautiful and unusual. The flower looks very much like a star or firework. The leaves resemble Italian parsley or carrots, which is not surprising as *Astrantia* are in the same family as carrots. It prefers to be planted in part shade to full shade. I have two varieties: 'Roma' and 'Sparkling Stars Pink.' They are also a great pollinator attractor.

**Pulmonaria** (lungwort). Can a plant with such an ugly name truly be a lovely plant? It gets its name from the

fact that herbalists from long ago thought that the leaves of the plant looked like a lung, and therefore would treat lung disorders. Its medicinal effects have long been disproved, but the less attractive name has stuck. The beautiful flowers appear in early spring and can be blue, pink, or white, and there are often two or more colors on a single plant. I have the variety 'Raspberry Splash.'

**Brunnera** is one of the prettiest plants to include in your shade garden. Their leaves are glossy green or in variegated hues of gray, silver, or white with small clusters of bright blue blooms. Award winner 'Jack Frost' has been described as one of the most exciting shade perennials of all time. It prefers part to full shade. This easy-care plant is an asset to any shady area.

**Polygonatum odoratum 'Variegatum.'** It is also known as King Solomon's Seal. Handsome and fragrant, this is a rhizomatous, shade-loving perennial with slightly arching stems covered with sweetly scented, vase-shaped, creamy-white flowers tipped with green in late spring to early summer. This Perennial Plant Association's 2013 Perennial Plant of the Year prefers cool, sun-dappled shady areas and is quite drought, dry soil, wet soil tolerant. It is virtually pest free, disease free, and low maintenance. I have transplanted many of them over the years to new locations and they adapted very well to the move.

**Bergenia 'Dragonfly Sakura.'** Sakura means cherry blossom in Japanese, and the rose-pink clusters of semi-double blooms in spring are as welcome as the blossoming cherry trees. *Bergenia* is also known as pig squeak for the sound it makes when two leaves are rubbed together. It loves a shady or dappled spot in your garden. It has a moderate growth habit, reaching a mature height of ten inches. They are vigorous without being invasive. Let your children invite a little pig into your garden this spring.

**Tricyrtis 'Empress' or Toad Lily** is one of my favorite plants in my shady landscape. Its star-shaped white flowers are heavily spotted with deep wine purple. Buds form on graceful arching branched stems opening for profuse late season bloom. Toad lily care is minimal if the plant is sited properly. Mine has grown in deep shade with Japanese painted fern for many years. This is truly an exotic and unusual perennial.

Need a splash of color in the garden as you grow weary of winter? *Helleborus* will not disappoint as he marks the coming of spring with lovely nodding cup-shaped flowers and an undemanding temperament. Also known as the Lenten Rose, it comes in shades of purple, red, pink, and white with leathery evergreen foliage. I have the variety 'Paris in Pink.'



Helleborus 'Paris in Pink'.

He has lived amongst the hostas and ferns under the old white dogwood trees for many years. No maintenance required; pest and disease free.

These are just a few suggestions. There are many more that could do well in your gardens, but as I have said, I only recommend plants with which I have had luck in my own gardens. Not all garden centers carry these perennials. In fact, I had not seen many in our area. I usually find them in garden catalogues. In the past years, I have ordered from White Flower Farm and Wayside Gardens. This year, I added Bluestone Perennials to my resource list. I ordered several new perennials from them this year, and I have been very impressed with their extensive collection and their careful packaging, which ensured the plant's safe arrival.

Surprise your shady gardens this spring and summer with some beautiful and unusual new garden visitors.



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## Remembrances

### James (Jake) Allen Jacobsen

James Allen Jacobsen, 91, of Buckeystown, passed away on April 22, 2021.

He was the loving husband of fifty-three years to Letitia (Letty) S. Jacobsen.

Born on June 29, 1929 in Langhorne, Pennsylvania, he was the son of the late Jacob and Bertha Jacobsen.

Along with his wife, he is survived by his daughter, Amy Lee Jacobsen of Buckeystown.

Jake was a life member of the Upper Montgomery County Fire Department of Beallsville and the Carroll Manor Fire Company of Adamstown. He was also a life member of the Carroll Manor Lions Club.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in his memory to a Fire Department of your choice.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

### Nina Honemond Clarke, Educator and Historian

Nina Honemond Clarke passed away at 103 years of age on March 4, 2021.

The story of Nina Honemond Clarke began with her grandfather, Joseph. Originally from Africa, he came from England to Virginia as valet to his master, Ino Hunnicutt. He was called "Honey's Man," a name that evolved to Honemond. Joseph met Sallie, a runaway slave and had fourteen children, including Nina's father Percival "James" Honemond (born 1879).

Sarah Elizabeth Copeland (born 1876) became the first in her family to wed when she married James in 1897. They moved to her birthplace in the freed slave enclave of Jerusalem where her father, David Copeland, taught James about farming. In 1910, the couple purchased and settled on a four-acre parcel, Resurvey on Hanover, a tract near Peach Tree Road. James built the original three-room log cabin (one down, and two up) adding three more rooms later.

Nina Elizabeth Honemond was born in Dickerson on November 13, 1917, the ninth of eleven children born to James Honemond and Sarah Elizabeth Copeland. Like most of her siblings, Nina attended the Old Union School built on her parents' property with the aid of a Black benevolent society, the Grand United Order of the Odd Fellows.

During the 1920s and '30s, Nina attended several one- or two-room schools available to Black children in Montgomery County. At times, she reported that her only book was a tattered dictionary and that the school bus had to be manually pushed uphill by students. Despite these challenges, Nina graduated as the valedictorian of her class at the Rockville Colored High School in 1934 and went on to earn her teaching degree from Maryland's Bowie State College in 1937.

Nina began teaching at Quince Orchard Elementary School and taught at several other segregated schools, including a 1942 stint during wartime gas rationing at the Sellman School near her family home on Peach Tree Road. She married Samuel Ellis Clarke, a World War II serviceman and the son of Noah Edward Clarke. They had a daughter, Camille Alexis, in 1944.

Nina earned her bachelor's degree in education at Hampton Institute in Virginia and completed her Master of Education degree at Boston University in 1952. She continued teaching during the racial integration of Montgomery County schools and was a member of the Professional Advisory Commission on Integration like her father-in-law, Noah Clarke. All the students she taught in integrated schools were white. In 1962, she was chosen as the first Black Reading/Language Arts teaching specialist in Montgomery County Public Schools. Nina served as the Assistant Principal at Brookhaven Elementary and retired as the Principal of Aspen Hill Elementary after a thirty-six-year teaching career.

In her retirement, Nina was active in dozens of organizations, including the Montgomery County Historical Society. She wrote *History of the Nineteenth Century Black Churches in Maryland and Washington, D.C.*; co-authored *History of the Black Public Schools of Montgomery County, Maryland 1872-1961* with Lillian Brown; and co-authored her family's history, *Chips Off the Old Block: Genealogy of the Family of David Oscar Copeland*, with her brother Maxwell. She also wrote about her father-in-law, Noah Clarke, and his crusade for Black education.

Nina won many civic and community awards for her contributions to education and preservation of Black history in Montgomery County. In later years, she regularly made public appearances sharing her experiences. She emphasized the positive outcomes of integration and reminded students of their significant role in our country's future.



Nina Honemond Clarke

Photo by Milbert O. Brown Jr.

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## Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

### Present Crime

**Assault:** 19900 block of Spurrier Avenue.

**Trespassing:** 15000 block of Barnesville Road.

### Past Crime: 1925 to 1930

A family of three from Baltimore came to Montgomery County for a picnic. They settled on Great Falls and, after a while, the father, Walter Weaver, decided to go fishing. After several hours, the wife became concerned and started looking for him. It so happened that Officer Dosh was at the park, and she reported her husband missing. A large-scale search ensued with boaters, Officers Jones and Shoemaker, and a fireman looking for Weaver. Officer Shoemaker located the spot where Weaver had been fishing and produced his rod and reel. Several hours later, the body of Weaver was found. He had gone over the falls and drowned.

While the areas of Bethesda and Wheaton led the county (at that time) in

good roads, wealthy residents, and ornate homes, it was announced that those areas also led the county in unlicensed dogs. Of course, the county commissioners decreed that the police round up all of the dogs that they could find that were not wearing dog tags. The Clerk of the Court announced that there were six thousand licensed dogs but estimated that there were one thousand dogs whose owners had refused to comply. For the next few weeks, every officer in the county was ordered to enforce the dog license law. There is no surviving record of how they felt about this.

Former Police Chief Charles Cooley was held at fault in a multi-car collision on the Rockville Pike. It seemed that Cooley had failed to yield the right of way while turning onto a side street, and his car was struck in the side. Another car struck the second car. As a result of the collision, several parties sued Cooley. A lady sued Cooley for three hundred dollars for pain to her back and neck, a gentleman from Capitol View demanded one thousand dollars for injuries to his body and for damage to his car. All of the plaintiffs were represented by famous Rockville attorney Stedman Prescott.

During the 1920s, it was a common practice for insurance companies to pay police officers who recovered stolen cars. The amount paid was negotiable and was based on the value of the car. Officers from the Montgomery County force complained that they had never been paid by any insurance company even though they had recovered dozens of stolen cars every month.

Citizens complained to the chief that they were increasingly upset about the noise and racket of men and boys who exploded firecrackers all day long. The

chief had had enough and ordered his men to arrest anyone seen setting off fireworks after 10:00 p.m. On the first night of the edict, almost a dozen boys were arrested and brought to the Rockville station and held overnight until the magistrate came in the morning. In the following weeks, police made several more arrests and the situation seemed to calm down.

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

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## Celebrating 32 Years of Service

### Know Which Household Products Could Be Dangerous to Your Pets

**ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center Phone Number 888-426-4435**

We are all concerned in this modern day and age about the potential for the variety of household products we have being potentially a danger to your pets if they accidentally come into contact with them.

The following guide for knowing which cleaning products, human medications, and cosmetic items to keep out of your pet's reach is presented below.

#### **Household Products:**

1. Bleach, extremely dangerous
2. Carpet Fresheners, mildly dangerous
3. Carpet Shampoo, mildly dangerous
4. Essential Oils, moderately dangerous to GI and Neuro systems
5. Fabric Softener Sheets can be dangerous causing vomiting, drooling and oral ulcers.
6. Febreze, safe for use around pets, but not directly on them
7. Swiffer Wet Jet, safe for use in homes
8. Toilet Cleaning Tablets, dangerous if chewed directly, only mildly irritating diluted.

#### **Human Medications and Cosmetics:**

1. Adderall, very harmful or fatal to pets. Seek care immediately.
2. Petroleum Jelly, in large doses can cause diarrhea.
3. Aspirin, Will produce ulcerations in the GI tract within 72 hours of daily use in pets.
4. Skin So Soft, safe for topical use, may cause mild upset stomach if licked, value against parasites is questionable.
5. Liquid soaps, gastrointestinal irritation. If mixed with essential oils can cause neurologic signs
6. Breath Fresheners, they are not safe for your pets, xylitol in them can cause depression and seizures. Can also cause liver failure. Seek veterinary help immediately.
7. Nicotine Patches, severe vomiting, depression, elevated heart rate, low blood pressure, seizures, and death.
8. E-cigarettes, vape oils, products are flavored which enhances pets desire to eat. There are up to 27 carcinogens in the compound, also above effects of nicotine possible.
9. Oil and oil extracts can cause mild to severe gastrointestinal disease if not used under a veterinarian's care.
10. Ibuprofen/Naproxen, Human therapeutic dose is fatal to pets, severe kidney and liver damage.
11. Mosquito Repellent, DEET may cause neurologic problems (tremors to seizures)
12. Pseudoephedrine, very harmful or deadly.
13. Sorbitol, diarrhea in large amounts.

Everything else the internet has told you, ask your veterinarian. They often actually know the answer.

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