

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

May 21, 2021 • Volume XVII, Number 6



Fran Ichijo of Hope Garden Ballet used the town bandstand for a practice. How nice it would be to have an outdoor performance this spring! More Family Album photos on page 2.



Mysteries of the Barnesville Chapel uncovered on page 9.



Baseball makes its comeback at PHS. Read about all the spring teams on page 10.



This guy is very hard to find. Learn some good birdwatching tips on page 16.

Commissioners Approve Applying Overlay Rules To the Willard Development

By Link Hoewing

After a detailed and extensive discussion, the commissioners approved a recommendation from the Planning Commission to apply the Overlay Regulations to the proposed Willard development adjacent to Whalen Commons. The vote was 4 to 1 with Commission President Kerri Cook the only “no” vote.

Town Attorney Jay Gullo made extensive comments and answered a series of questions to explain the Overlay Rules, how they work, why they were adopted, and what a vote to approve their application to the Willard development (sometimes referred to as “Fishpool,” the name of the LLC set up for the project) would mean.

Gullo said that, in 2015, the Planning Commission discussed a number of zoning issues, including how the Willard property was zoned. The commission was focused in part on the Master Plan’s objective of ensuring appropriate development in “infill areas,” land in the center of the town’s Central Business District that was undeveloped.

The center of town, including the old business district, has buildings and offices that are in closer proximity and more appropriate to the center of a town where businesses and commercial activities are often located. The Willard property is split zoned with one portion (the front) zoned commercial and the rear section zoned half-acre residential. With such zoning, dense development, including a large shopping complex or apartment buildings, could be built, as could a development with large house footprints that are common in outlying suburbs. This kind of development was not considered appropriate in an infill area, so the Overlay Rules were created as an option for such situations.

In effect, the Overlay Rules allow for a new form of zone to be created through negotiations between the Planning Commission and the developer. As Gullo explained, such negotiations are designed to be “win-win” in that the town can push for and work to secure more public benefits in a

proposed development in exchange for enhancements that make the project more attractive to the developer. This can mean more houses than would otherwise be allowed, but if the town uses the process effectively, it can also mean far more benefits for the citizens and the town than most developments provide.

Generally, in a standard development with traditional zoning, the public benefits are limited to paved roads and sidewalks, a sewer and water system for the development, often a small park, and some preserved forest areas (or payments in lieu). The Overlay Rules allow the town to push for far more than this in its negotiations with the developer. If successful, the town could reap substantial benefits that it would not have to pay for but instead would be the responsibility of the developer.

Gullo pointed out that, in the current situation, the Willards had

Continued on page 12.

At Peace Despite Three Wars

By Rande Davis

Poolesville’s Richard “Sarge” Remp likes to sit in a chair at the edge of his garage door, smoking his cigars and waving at friends and neighbors who pass by. On May 10, Sarge turned ninety-five, and as he sat, neighbors stopped to wish him a happy birthday. Some visited, some waved from their car.

He bought his home on Dowden Circle forty-six years ago; pristine today, it appears brand new. Like his home, Sarge’s heart belies his age, his friendly spirit lifts him and his family and friends up.

Sarge worked for Giant for years and, as he approached retirement, he spent some time at Selby’s. It was as a

seventeen-year-old in 1944, when the U.S. entered World War II, that he convinced his parents to provide the needed permission for him to enlist. His six-day train ride on a hard bench to San Diego seemed to prepare his body for what was to come which was not just a twenty-three-year career as a marine. Gunnery Sergeant Remp went on to fight in three wars, including Korea and Vietnam.

He has lived alone since his beloved wife died ten years ago. If you find yourself on Dowden Circle and you catch Sarge relaxing with a cigar in his garage, be sure to give him a smile and a wave. Better yet, give the man what he really deserves the most, a strong, appreciative salute from the heart.



Richard “Sarge” Remp: Fought in three wars and celebrated turning ninety-five years old.

Family Album



Officer Mike Sofelkanik, Paul Loftus, and Jim Brown attended the very first car show.



Pam Mattes and Mr. and Mrs. Bliss at the Poolesville Presbyterian Church's Community Garden Spring Festival.



Above: Walt Ziffer from Potomac Cars and Coffee and his wife were the organizing managers for the car show.



Attending the festival was a great mother-daughter thing to do.



Left: J.D. Taylor, executive director of Poolesville Tesla Owners, and Joyce Breiner of Poolesville Green.



Dan Stowers and daughter Caroline with Dan Levine and his son Sean.



Amy Defnet Miller, Mike Defnet, and Chuck Miller welcomed guests to the festival.

In Your Own Backyard

Lock 25—Edwards Ferry: Part 1

By Jon Wolz

This is a story primarily about the lockkeepers, their families, and others who once lived in the lockhouse at Lock 25, Edwards Ferry, during the operating days of the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal. In researching this story, I found information in the Federal Census records, Ancestry.com, and the C&O Canal Association’s website. Canal records for lockkeepers were not well kept.

Before European settlers came to live along the area in Maryland that is known as “Edwards Ferry” and in the area across from the Maryland side of Edwards Ferry in the area of Goose Creek in Loudoun County, Virginia, Native Americans lived along both sides of the Potomac River. In the late 1750s, Benjamin Edwards owned the land on the west bank of Goose Creek along the Potomac River. He operated a private ferry service from as early as the late 1750s until his death in 1803. This ferry operated from the Virginia side and took travelers to and from the Maryland side of the Potomac River. Elizabeth Edwards, Benjamin’s wife, took over the ferry business after his death, and Philip, their son, took over management of the ferry until Daniel G. Smith, a successful local landowner, acquired the ferry around 1850. Daniel Smith kept the name “Edwards Ferry.” By 1860, the ferry was no longer in operation; however, after the Civil War, it would reopen.



Lockhouse 25 in winter.

On July 4, 1828, ground was broken to construct the C&O Canal at Little Falls. Lock 25 at Edwards Ferry was completed in 1830 and is built of red Seneca sandstone. The lockhouse is on the towpath side of the canal and is made of brick and is 1½ stories over a full basement. It is 18 feet 8 inches by 31 feet 6 inches. A 150-foot square boat basin was dug into the berm side bank just above the lock. This was the location of the canal company scow that provided access across the canal to Edwards Ferry. The scow was replaced by a bridge prior to 1839, and a pivot bridge was constructed at the lock. Unfortunately, this bridge was unsatisfactory for wagons, so they had to cross the canal via a culvert near White’s Ferry about four miles up the canal. By the time of the Civil War, the Union Army built two pivot bridges that supported wagons and troops. The canal opened from Harper’s Ferry to Georgetown in 1834 after the completion of the Monocacy

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Memorial Service for the Town of Poolesville
Sun., May 30th, 1:00 pm
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By the gazebo & the Poolesville Community Garden
Music with Gina Beck and Rick Normoyle

ALL are welcome! Join Pastor David Williams and members of the community as we honor our fallen military and recognize the sadness, grief, and loss experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Together we can begin healing and usher in hope for better times ahead.

We have endured many losses as a community, including graduations, weddings, funerals, and many other missed events. We have experienced lockdown and isolation, school and business closures, and job loss.

“In this life, which we hold in common, the gift of recognizing that gracious unity is one of the greatest blessings of the Spirit... It is the essential bond of any healthy community. Things that we share together are perhaps more important to us than the things we hold separately.” Pastor David Williams

Tell your friends & neighbors
Bring your lawn chair.

Rande(m) Thoughts With My Apologies, Welcome Spring!

By Rande Davis

Whenever magazines celebrate a new season on their cover (i.e., Welcome Spring!), they are pretty much telling their readers they don't have much of anything to say that issue. In the world of publishing, such a cover story is akin to our personal comments about the weather, not intended to be taken seriously, pretty much conversational filler.

Even so, I am compelled to shout out a headline: "Welcome Spring!" — not because I don't have much to say, but quite frankly, the opposite. The natural springtime all around is flourishing with the blooming of my flowers: peonies, marigolds, dahlias, and my mother's favorite, the yellow rose. It's not the seasonal springtime that has me excited though, it's the springtime of life visible more and more every day with signs of life breaking ground and returning all around us. A slow rescinding of all-things pandemic. Changes so small they can remain mostly imperceptible.

Have you noticed it, too? With the seriously at-risk among us now vaccinated more and more, the CDC has announced that we don't need to wear the mask outdoors in smaller groups.

I know these things can remain controversial, especially at a time when I continue to see drivers alone in their cars or sole strollers in the park wearing a mask. It can be confusing when announcements of being able to discard the mask when outdoors are made while outside wearing a mask. Nevertheless, the blessing and incredible speed of the development of vaccines, even while many experts were proclaiming such a vaccine would take

two to four years, gives us what we may need more than anything: Hope.

Like the buds breaking ground, the Presbyterian Church held a festival celebrating their seven years of hosting the community garden. It was a welcome community event so sorely missed.

Something new just came to town. On the heels of the Poolesville Motorcycle group meetings on Sunday mornings in the BB&T parking lot, Potomac Car Show and Coffee set up recently. Nearly one hundred cars and a lot of automobile enthusiasts from throughout the surrounding area attending is a sign there may be life after the pandemic, even as we work our way through these remaining days. The plan to make Poolesville a destination town, providing nurture to our economy while not increasing our population is happening even in the final stages of the pandemic.

I am not sure when the pandemic will be officially over. I doubt there will be huge celebrations like those in Times Square when acclamation of Victory in Europe went out. There will be no enthusiastic sailors kissing a nearby celebrator causing her to bend backwards as if in the final stages of a grand ballroom dance.

It will probably be more like the natural emergence of late spring, when the fresh air, flowers everywhere, and the warming temperatures make us realize suddenly, yes, winter is really over.

Then again, the true measure of the pandemic ending may come from something very benign, something like the day the commissioners realize residents can really safely come into town hall. For me, that will be the time the pandemic is finally over. That will be the time to face the music and let people physically into the building. It will be the time when Zoom, Face-time, and What's Up, are more a memory as we all take a deep breath and collectively say, "Okay, it's time to go to work."

Local News

Poolesville Community Garden: Celebrating Seven Years Young

By Pam Mattes

"If you eat, you're in." That is the motto for the Poolesville Community Garden. This unique venture just celebrated the seventh anniversary of the opening of this community-wide, collaborative, volunteer-run green space.

Hosted by the Poolesville Presbyterian Church on Elgin Road, the garden was initiated as a collaboration between Poolesville Presbyterian Church and Poolesville Green and designed and installed because of the generous donations of both funding and talent by numerous local businesses and community and church members.

Today, the garden provides both a center for agricultural/food sustainability education and a shared gardening space comprising twenty-five raised beds for gardeners to grow vegetables and flowers. The garden serves the community-at-large by promoting food sovereignty, addressing food insecurity by donating fresh vegetables to local

food recovery organizations, and awarding grants to cover rental fees to service groups and those in need.

In addition, the twenty-five raised beds are surrounded by perennial beds containing a variety of native trees, shrubs, and plants that help preserve local biodiversity (sequestering carbon and feeding the pollinators so important to agriculture). As a result, the garden has become a partner in the Town of Poolesville's Sustainable Maryland Program and is certified as a National Wildlife Federation Wildlife Habitat.

If your yard does not have the sun or space to grow your own or you want to experience the camaraderie of fellow gardeners, stroll through the garden to admire the raised beds, and then consider signing up for the next available plot. Check out the garden's facebook page for gardening tips and information. You can contact the garden at poolesvillecommunitygarden@gmail.com.

A nominal annual rental fee per garden bed is collected to help with the annual upkeep of the beds and maintenance of native perennial plants and trees and to pay ongoing operating expenses (i.e., water bill, cover crop seed, gardening supplies). The amount

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Continued from page 3.

Lock 25—Edwards Ferry

Aqueduct. By 1835, there were post offices on both sides of the Potomac River for Edwards Ferry. In 1838, two-tenths of a mile down the towpath, the Goose Creek River Lock was completed that allowed for boats coming across from Virginia to access the canal to take their farm products to Maryland and Washington markets. Lockkeepers at Lock 25 were responsible for not only operating their lock, but for operating the pivot bridge and the inlet lock. These lockkeepers were paid more for this responsibility as compared to lockkeepers who operated a single lock.

Asa Aud is the first lockkeeper to appear in the available payroll records for Lock 25. He first appears in payroll records for the canal in July 1839, and he earned \$250 a year. He earned \$100 more a year as compared to other lockkeepers who made \$150 a year for operating only a lock. Asa was born in 1791 in Buckeystown and died near Poolesville in 1860. Prior to becoming a lockkeeper, Asa was a farmer and in 1814, served as a sergeant in the War of 1812 in Capt. Nicolas Turnbott's company of the Maryland militia. He married Catherine Hickman in 1817. Catherine was born in 1800 and died in 1887. Together, Asa and Catherine had five sons and one daughter. In 1850, the children's ages ranged from twelve to twenty-seven. The twelve- and fourteen-year-old sons attended school. Both Asa and Catherine are buried in the Aud family cemetery on their farm that was once located near West Willard Road near Poolesville. Asa appeared in the canal payroll records through June 1, 1848 when he was replaced by George Bozzell as lockkeeper. For 1848, Asa earned \$111.11, and for the remainder of 1848 George Bozzell earned \$138.89. In the 1850 census, Asa's occupation was "farmer."

In the 1850 census, it showed George as a lockkeeper, age 30. He wife was Emily, age 27. They had three children, ages two, three, and five years old. In 1850, George owned a female slave who was eleven years old. These three Bozzell children were born in Virginia. Another Bozzell child was born in Maryland in 1854. George married Emily Elgin in 1843 in Loudoun County, Virginia. George and Emily were born in Virginia. By 1860, George and his family were living in the Southern District of Loudoun County, Virginia, where they owned a farm. By 1870, they moved to Missouri where both George and Emily eventually died and are buried.


As the C&O Canal began to fully operate in 1850 from Cumberland, Maryland, the community of Edwards Ferry grew. From the beginning of the opening of the canal through Lock 25 in 1834, local farmers loaded canal boats at Lock 25 with flour, hay, corn, wheat, oats, and wood that boated down the canal to Georgetown. The arrival of these boats and their cargos was reported in the Washington Evening Star newspapers.


The *Baltimore Sun* covered stories about Edwards Ferry in the 1850s. One story mentions a country shop where "small wares are sold" but "principally for the sale of whisky and where the immediate vicinity so disposed to meet to drink, gamble, and frolic." The story went on to say that two ferrymen who lived in Virginia came to the Maryland shore with two or three others to procure whiskey. After getting "pretty well drunk" started about sunset for home. In their drunken "frolic," the boat overturned and two of the men drowned and the others narrowly escaped with their lives. Another story describes a melee that occurred between four Irishmen and several blacks during a heavy snow. The Irishmen were employed by the C&O Canal to do repairs on the canal, and the blacks belong to neighboring farmers. No serious injury occurred during the melee; however, on their way home near the mouth of Seneca Creek, two of the Irishmen froze to death during the night. A jury of inquest was held and resulted in a verdict of "Death from intemperance and exposure."

The *Washington Evening Star* began running advertisements in the late 1850s for passenger packet boats that traveled from Georgetown to Edwards Ferry Mondays through Saturdays. It left Georgetown at 7:00 a.m., making stops at Great Falls at 10:00 a.m., Seneca at noon, and arriving at Edwards Ferry by 3:00 p.m. The through fare to Edwards Ferry was \$1.12, and for those wishing to catch a stage at Edwards Ferry taking them across the river to Leesburg, the fare was \$1.75. The packet boats served meals at "moderate" prices. For the return trip back to Georgetown, the packet boat left Edwards Ferry, Maryland every morning at 9:00 a.m., arriving in Georgetown at sunset.


To be continued with the year 1860.

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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Present Virtual Programs

For the months of May and June, Poolesville Seniors is offering a variety of virtual programs that will meet community needs for exercise, information, and socialization. Visit their website, poolesvilleseniors.org, for more information and to register for the Zoom link for each program. All virtual events 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. (No class 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 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, and 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

Zoom in to our conversation with the Honorable Connie Morella as she discusses her career—a political and personal journey between minefields and milestones—in high heels. 7:00 p.m.

June 3

The Lost History of Potomac Marble

Calling all history buffs! Join Master Naturalist Paul Kreingold as he recounts the British attack on Washington, D.C. during the War of 1812, and the critical local role in rebuilding the city. 7:00 p.m.

June 9

Virtual 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.

June 10

MC and Me: The Gift That Just Kept Giving

Lon Anderson will join us to discuss his career as a journalist, photographer, lobbyist, and spokesman for AAA, and his life in Montgomery County as he traces the role Montgomery College has had on his career. 7:00 p.m.

June 17

Historic Properties Lecture

Join Kenny Sholes for another talk in his series about historical sites, properties, and people of the Ag Reserve. 7:00 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:

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**Poolesville Community Garden:
Celebrating Seven Years Young**

collected is supplemented with donations and fundraising income from events such as the recently-held First Annual Garden Fest. The entire community is invited to be a part of this project as it continues to expand. The latest endeavor is a Poolesville Community Seed Library.

Join Pastor David Williams and members of the community as together we honor on Memorial Day at 1:00 p.m. our fallen military and recognize the sadness, grief and loss experienced during the COVID pandemic. Together we can begin healing and usher in hope for better times ahead.

We have endured many losses as a community, including graduations, weddings, funerals, and many other missed events. We have experienced lockdown and isolation, school and business closures and job loss.

Pastor David stated, "In this life, which we hold in common, the gift of recognizing that gracious unity is one of the greatest blessings of the Spirit. It is the essential bond of any healthy community...Things that we share together are perhaps more important to us than the things we hold separately."

Bring a lawn chair and tell your friends and neighbors. Everyone is welcome! See you at the Garden!

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Senior News

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...

*As it fell upon a day
In the merry month of May,
Sitting in a pleasant shade
Which a grove of myrtles made.*

- Richard Barnfield

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Tidbits

Learn about Planting Trees

Park Director Preston King recently had cub scouts from Pack 694 help him plant trees at Stevens Park. The scouts learned much about the planting of trees from King, who gave a great review of the finer techniques required for putting trees in the ground the right way, and the boys also learned a lot about what makes trees so valuable to our lives and the environment.

The participating scouts from Tiger Den of Pack 694 were Jacob Bond, Jonah Vanderseah, Will Breed, and Chad Stradley. Pack adult leaders were Matt Breed and Malcom Slotta.

JPMS's Kevin Maruskin, Counselor of the Year

Congratulations to Kevin Maruskin, John Poole Middle School counselor, who has been selected as the winner of the 2020-2021 Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) School Counselor of the Year Award for Middle School. Mr. Maruskin's continued dedication, commitment, and devotion to the success of every student earned him this great recognition. He will receive his award at the board of education meeting on June 10.



Preston King explained how to plant and the value of trees to area cub scouts.

Lynching Victims Pardoned

Governor Larry Hogan issued posthumous pardons for thirty-four victims of racial lynchings in Maryland, including three victims who were killed around the Montgomery County area.

"My hope is that this action will, at least in some way, help to right these horrific wrongs and perhaps to bring a measure of peace to the memories of these individuals and to their descendants and their loved ones," said Hogan. Of the thirty-four victims wrongly hanged between 1854 and 1933, three were killed in the Montgomery County area, including George Peck (lynched on January 10, 1880). Peck was seized and lynched in Poolesville as a sheriff attempted to transport him to Rockville for trial. He is pardoned from assault allegations.

Also included was Sidney Randolph (lynched around July 3, 1896). Randolph was dragged from jail and hanged around the Rockville area. He is pardoned from assault and murder allegations. The *Monocle's* Jack Toomey was doing research for another article when he came across a *Washington Post* article from 1896 describing the serious assault on a family in Gaithersburg. He found that the Randolph lynching

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Foundations

Protecting Endangered Historic Ag Reserve Infrastructure

By Kenny Sholes

Like many, I was saddened this past week to learn of the dismantling of the historic Christ Episcopal Chapel in Barnesville. Like many, I've been driving by the structure over the last few years thinking that something must be done to stabilize and protect the building. Like many, I went on with my day and did nothing.

I have no interest in pointing fingers or placing blame. Unfortunately, there are times when a structure just outlives its sustainable and reasonable existence, and for all I know, that is the case in this specific instance, but for those of us who love old things—barns, homes, roads, fields, etc.—it was a sad loss. As is the case with other historic structures we've lost here in the Ag Reserve, we probably lost this building a long time ago. Perhaps if work had been done ten to twenty years ago to stabilize the structure and prevent termites, the chapel could have remained, but as most historic property owners will tell you, it's hard to sink money into structures that are infrequently used to do things that still might not work to save the place. In studying the homes we've lost, a frequent paradox is observed: It's typically the owners of these properties, the ones who physically dismantle the structure, that are most sad about it. I suspect that's the case here as well.

While I wasn't surprised to see argument amongst residents break out on social media when the church came down, two things from the online back and forth did surprise me. First, the number of individuals espousing the view that property owners have the right to do as they please on their properties. Unfortunately, there are a lot of things we actually can't do on our properties. For example, just take a look at the Town of Poolesville ordinances online if you live here in town. If you are a historic property owner, the restrictions and limitations on what you can do on your property are even greater.

Second, I was pleasantly surprised to see how many were upset with the loss and willing to suggest ideas for how the structure might have been saved. It's too little, too late for the chapel, but moving forward, I plan to ask you to put your money (and/or time, energy, engagement, etc.) where your mouth is. As a relatively new board member on both the Montgomery Countryside Alliance and the Historic Medley District, I plan to work with both organizations to increase historic preservation efforts in the Ag Reserve. In fact, I've already developed an Endangered Historic Ag Reserve Infrastructure inventory to begin the process of developing solutions that will protect and preserve these sites and structures. Between the resources and connections these organizations bring to the table and the demonstrated interest of concerned locals, I have no doubt many historic properties can be saved.

If you are the owner of a historic property and could use some help. Don't wait. Send me an email (see the Masthead on page 4). Let's figure out a way to do the things that need to be done today that will prevent the loss of more historic infrastructure in the future. If we are to one day lose the Ag Reserve, it will not be done with one swift action, but will instead result from a slow dismantling, brick by brick, field by field, farm by farm. It's an outcome that is completely preventable, but we will need to work together.

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Units Sold	70	Active Inventory	21	Median Sale Price	\$616,846	Days On Market	17
 <p>Up 8% Vs. Year Ago</p>		 <p>Down -71% Vs. Year Ago</p>		 <p>Up 32% Vs. Year Ago</p>		 <p>Down -55% Vs. Year Ago</p>	

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Youth Sports

Spring Brings a Burst of Welcome Athletic Activity at PHS

By Jeff Stuart

Tuesday afternoon, May 11, was a beautiful sunny afternoon with occasional gusty winds. It was great to see all the activity on the Poolesville athletic fields. There were home baseball and softball games against Sherwood, though the bleachers were closed due to the pandemic. There were also a home boys' tennis match and a track meet, both against Northwest. The boys' lacrosse team was practicing.

The spring season started officially on May 7, but rain delayed the opener of the boys' baseball season until Saturday afternoon at Quince Orchard. The boys' and girls' lacrosse teams also opened their seasons at QO earlier that afternoon.

In the baseball opener, the Falcons scored twice in the first, but Quince Orchard, a 4A school, answered with three in the bottom half of the inning. The Cougars had base runners and could have scored more, but senior centerfielder Steve Orsini made a sparkling over-the-shoulder catch on a drive to deep left center for the final out. Nonetheless, Quince Orchard led, 5-3, going into the sixth, but Poolesville scored a two-out run in the top of the sixth on a stolen base attempt and an overthrow. That made it 5-4. Poolesville loaded the bases with two out in the top half of the seventh, but with an 0-2 count, Orsini flied out to left. Steve had a hit, walked twice, and stole four bases. He had one RBI.

Senior shortstop Tommy Miles had a hit and walked. Senior Alex Pope, a third baseman and catcher, walked. Senior Colin Gross walked and had a stolen base. Senior Liam Murphy played second base. Junior Danny Butler had a hit. Junior Orion Foo drew a walk. Ross Butler and Finnely Ryan are also seniors.

"We had chances," said Coach Steve Orsini. "I preach 'We cannot make mistakes.' We made three which cost two runs."

On Tuesday, May 11, the Falcons lost to another 4A school, Sherwood, 8-4, in their home opener. A bases-loaded two-out single by freshman Luke Pearre



PHS baseball seniors Colin Gross, Liam Murphy, Ross Butler, Finnely Ryan, Tommy Miles, Stevie Orsini, and Alex Pope.

drove in two runs to stake Poolesville to a two-nothing lead. They extended their lead to 2-0 in the second, but a six-run top of the third highlighted by a homer to left center by Sherwood's sophomore Ryan Bouma broke the game open. Poolesville had lots of chances but were hurt by some chaotic baserunning and some bad luck. With the bases loaded in the second, a hard line drive ripped the pitcher's glove off, but the Warriors' pitcher recovered to get an out at first. A run scored, but it could have been a much bigger inning.

Continued on page 11.

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Continued from page 10.

Spring Brings a Burst of Welcome Athletic Activity at PHS

The third time was the charm. On Thursday, May 13, the Falcons defeated 3A/2A division rival Damascus in a thriller. The game was tied, 2-2, in the bottom of the seventh. Coach Orsini described the game's unusual and memorable ending.

"In the bottom of the seventh, I had batters two, three, four coming to the plate. Tommy Miles hit a leadoff triple, so the winning run was on third no outs. Damascus intentionally walked Orsini and Pope. Sam D'Amelio popped out to short for the first out. I suicide bunt with Matt Griffith. The umpire calls catcher interference. The batter goes to first; we win—but No!—I refused. I told the umpire, 'This is two good teams playing a GREAT game, I do not want to win on that.' He grants my wish. We play on. We still have one out and the bases loaded. The third baseman for Damascus is up expecting another suicide. Looking for a possible balk, I tell Miles, on third, to fake like he is going to steal home. He does. The Damascus players are all yelling for the pitcher to step off, but the pitcher had already started his motion. From the stretch, he picked his leg up and then stopped. A balk was called to end the game. We won 3-2. I took the balk."

Also, on the eleventh, the Falcon softball team lost, 12-2, to a very strong and experienced Sherwood team. A highlight of that day and the only home win of the afternoon was provided by the boys' tennis team.

"It was a great day of tennis," said Coach Thomas Lang. "Our boys won all the singles matches as well as at #1 and #3 doubles. Sophomore Jae Yi earned a tough victory at #1 singles to get the match off to a good start. Nikhil Narayan scored a straight set win at #2 singles, freshman Jeeva Padmanabhan earned his first career HS victory at #3 singles, and Robert Xu completed the singles sweep by winning at #4 singles. In #1 doubles, Akash Raghu and Varun Das posted a 6-3, 6-0 win, while freshman Marco Torres and sophomore Michael Esser rallied from a set down to win at #3 doubles. The lone setback of the day was at #2 doubles where Ziyah Ahmed and Carson Smith fell in a third set tie-break."

The girls' tennis team lost, 5-2, at Northwest. The coed volleyball team opened their season with a 3-0 sweep at Northwest, and the boys' volleyball team lost, 0-3, also at Northwest.



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Continued from page 1.

Commissioners Approve Applying Overlay Rules to the Willard Development

spent a lot of time consulting and devising a “concept” design for the property that laid out in great deal their vision for the development. Gullo said that the town’s ordinances do not provide for a concept plan per se, but in this instance, the design is detailed enough that everyone can get a sense of the proposed public benefits (i.e., the proposed walking path that would run from Whalen Commons around the Old Town Hall Bank Museum to the center of town), the street design, the types of houses being considered, and the green space that would be preserved. If the Overlay Rules were to be approved by the commissioners for use in this case, the proposed design gives a good sense of what the town might expect once a final plan is developed. The commissioners’ role would be to approve or disapprove the application of the Overlay Rules, Gullo explained. If they voted to approve, the Planning Commission has the sole authority to negotiate a final plan for the property.

Commission President Kerri Cook asked what things the town is getting in the proposal. Gullo said it is important to understand that it is “not the plan or the cornfield.” If the commissioners do not approve the use of the Overlay Rules, he said, the “property owner has the right to develop whatever the regulations (those now applying to the property) allow.” He said that could include a number of things from large houses on half-acre lots to an apartment complex.

It was noted that around eighty comments had been submitted by citizens regarding the proposal, and most of them opposed it. In response, Billy Willard referenced the many citizens he has heard from that approve of the proposal and said he “had done the math and those submitting opposing comments” represent a very small percentage of the population.

It was also brought up that a letter opposing the application of the Overlay Regulations was submitted in just the last few days by an attorney representing the Montgomery Countryside Alliance. Gullo said, in essence, that the letter incorrectly suggested the regulations could be applied to other developments such as the Bricken property (they can’t because they apply only to infill

properties) and was really a letter opposing the Overlay Regulations as a whole. The letter would have been more appropriate if it had been submitted when the regulations were being considered, but they are now law.

Most of the commissioners said the plan the Willards had conceived had merit, but they also added that if they voted to approve the use of the Overlay Regulations, that did not mean the plan could go forward. Until the town is prepared to certify that it has adequate sewer and water capacity, the project cannot move ahead, they all reiterated more than once.

Gullo was also asked about changes to the plan. He said that the Willards had offered a “vision” that guided the Planning Commission’s decision. This vision is not locked in stone, but major changes in its provisions, for example, suddenly agreeing to the construction of an apartment complex on the property, would not be allowed.

The commissioners voted 4 to 1 for the plan, with Cook voting against it. It now moves to the Planning Commission where, as Gullo said, months of discussion and consideration will occur. He also said that there will be plenty of time for citizen input over that time.

The commissioners also discussed the role and structure of the Fair Access Committee that is an official body of the town. There was some concern that a recent letter sent to and published by the Washington Post by the chair of the committee, Link Hoewing, did not appear to have been vetted properly. Cook wondered whether it might be appropriate for the committee to be on its own as a nonprofit rather than an arm of the town, so there would be less possibility of friction between it and the commissioners.

Commissioners Ed Reed and Jim Brown said that Hoewing admitted errors in the vetting process, but in general, the committee has operated diligently and coordinated effectively. They believe that having the imprimatur of the town is helpful to the committee’s effectiveness, and in the end, most of the commissioners seemed satisfied with the current structure and noted the success of the committee to date. No action was taken on the matter.

After considering these matters, the commissioners voted unanimously to approve the FY22 budget.



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J.D. Kuhlman

Continued from page 8.

Tidbits

came, without trial, after he was accused of an assault and murder of a nine-year-old on July 4, 1896. Jack contacted the Historical Society to see if they had more material and, to his surprise, they denied at the time that there was ever a lynching in Montgomery County during that time period.

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Poolesville's Sugartree Farmette has added a new dimension to its fresh egg farm sure to make visiting the farm a family fun time. They now not only offer farm fresh eggs, but they are excited to be adding a Little Free Library to their farmette. Naturally, they will carry children and adult books on animals, farming, and gardening. Pack the kids in the car and let them visit the animals and borrow a fun book to read. They will love meeting sweet duckling females Kalokari Selene, Cataline Irena, and Douglas. Yep, the last name is not a mistake, be sure to ask them the origin of this one.



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Town Manager
**The Town of Poolesville, MD is currently accepting resumes
for the position of Town Manager.**

The Town Manager is the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the Town.

The Manager is responsible to the Commissioners for the proper administration of all affairs of the Town. Under provisions of the Town Charter and Code, the Town Manager sees that all laws, ordinances, and resolutions of the Commissioners are faithfully enforced, attends all meetings of the Commissioners, makes recommendations to the Commissioners for adopting such measures as he/she may deem necessary or expedient, and makes reports to the Commissioners from time to time upon the affairs of the Town and keeps the Commissioners fully advised of the Town's financial condition and its future financial needs.

The Town of Poolesville is located in Montgomery County, MD and has a population of 5,500. The Town of Poolesville is governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners. All members of the Commission are elected at large.

Minimum qualifications for this position include a Bachelor's degree and a minimum of five (5) years of progressively responsible experience in local government, including three (3) years' supervision and/or executive level management. Exceptional communication skills, both orally and in writing, including the ability to actively listen and communicate with a wide range of individuals and all segments of the community as well as a proven record of transparency in management are required.

Preferred qualifications include a Master's degree in public administration or a closely related field and strong human resources/employee relations, fiscal management, economic development, and regional and intergovernmental expertise. ICMA-CM and work in a full-service commissioner/manager government are preferred, but not required.


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Applications will be received through the close of business on June 7, 2021 at 19721 Beall Street, P.O. Box 158, Poolesville, MD 20837 or by email at townhall@poolesvillemd.gov.

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Monocacy Health Update

COVID-19 Update as Of May 18, 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.

COVID-19 Restriction Update

Governor Hogan on Saturday lifted all restrictions for bars and restaurants across Maryland, although counties and local jurisdictions could keep more restrictive measures. Governor Hogan has also lifted capacity restrictions for outdoor entertainment, art and sports venues, as well as indoor entertainment venues and conventions. There are no more indoor mask mandate for Marylanders fully vaccinated against COVID-19. (Note: On May 28, Montgomery County will join Governor Hogan in loosening coronavirus restrictions.)

Vaccine appointments may be registered at montgomerycountymd.gov.

Montgomery County
(source: Coronavirus.maryland.gov)

Total of all cases reported positive: 70,394

Total deaths: 1,487

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

Zip Code	Cases	Deaths
20837 – Poolesville	270	4
20838 – Barnesville	<15	0
20839 – Beallsville	53	3
20841 – Boyds	404	7
20842 – Dickerson	84	2

County Deaths by Age

Under 20 – 0
20-29 – 1
30-39 – 17
40-49 – 32
50-59 – 84
60-69 – 147
70-79 – 175
Over 80 – 3781

Doses Administered in Montgomery County

First Vaccine Dose – 614,678 (58.5%)
Fully Vaccinated – 489,379 (46.6%)

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.

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

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
- www.vaccinespotter.org/MD/mdvax.info/
- <https://mdvax.info/>

Fun Facts...


The month of May is the pleasant time; its face is beautiful; the blackbird sings his full song, the living wood is his holding, the cuckoos are singing and ever singing; there is a welcome before the brightness of the summer.

– Lady Gregory

I thought that spring must last forevermore; for I was young and loved, and it was May.

– Vera Brittain

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Monocacy Critters



Poolesville Cicadas on the march.
Photo submitted by Gary Hartz

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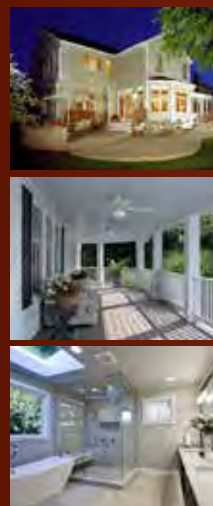
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Monocacy Nature and Wildlife

Five Easy Rules of Birding

By Susan Petro

The first rule of birding is that there are no particular skill sets or equipment needed to enjoy seeing and learning about birds. One doesn't need to be a specific age or possess any particular athletic prowess. One can enjoy birds by looking out the window, sitting on the porch, taking a walk around the neighborhood, or enjoying the different species and varieties seen while visiting local parks or travel destinations.

Although no particular birding skills are necessary, there are a few rules that will increase one's chances of finding and enjoying birds in the wild. Rule number two: Get out there.

A bird feeder filled with quality seed will bring a variety of birds right to one's home, but the best way to see and hear birds in their natural environment is to get out to where the birds live. The Agricultural Reserve has an abundance of habitats for hundreds of species of birds, many that live here year-round and others that travel to parts of the Reserve to build nests and raise families. Additionally, migrating birds simply pass through the Reserve on their way to points north in the spring and south in the fall.

A favorite birding activity is to find and identify as many migrating birds as possible while they are passing through. There are dozens of species of colorful warblers and other birds who come to or pass through the Reserve each year.

Rule number three: Wear bug spray and dress appropriately. Ticks and other biting insects are common wherever birds are found. It is safest to cover up as much as possible, wear a hat, and carefully check one's clothing after coming out of the fields or woods and again when getting home.

Once the birding bug has hit, there are many ways to learn more and see a larger variety of birds, especially the ones that don't often visit neighborhood feeders and tend to stay deeper in the fields, woods, or high in the treetops. A pair of binoculars and a birding guide will go a long way towards helping birders see and identify new birds. Since birds tend to keep their distance from humans, magnification is needed to see what that rustle is in the treetops or ground cover

Of course, seeing a rare bird and getting a sharp photo or nice view through one's binoculars requires following birding rule number four: Don't startle or spook the subject. Getting too close, talking, or any sudden movements will cause most birds to fly off. The key is to remain as invisible as possible. While some birds are quite accustomed to human presence, most will fly off at the slightest provocation

Although a camera isn't necessary to enjoy birding, photography enthusiasts like nothing better than to capture an image of all the different birds encountered. The photographs provide identification help and a visual memory of each find.

Rule number five is to always be prepared. This rule is saved for those who are totally hooked by the birding bug and suffer extreme disappointment when a rare beauty appears and there is no way to capture a view or a photograph because the binoculars or camera were left at home.

May and June are a perfect time of year to get outside and enjoy the sheer variety of birds calling the Ag Reserve their home. Get out there and don't forget to look up.



A tiny blue-gray gnatcatcher used spiderwebs and lichens to knit together a nest.



A rare evening grosbeak visited a Poole'sville neighborhood feeder.



The common yellowthroat is just one of the many colorful warblers that visit the Ag Reserve.



A great egret flying over a neighborhood pond.

Remembrance

Phillip D. Giarth

Phillip D. Giarth, 64, of Poolesville, passed away on May 3, 2021 at home.

He was the loving husband to Cheryl Kenly.

Born on April 27, 1957 in Washington, D.C., he was the son of the late George Albert, Jr. and Shirley Ann (Deffer) Giarth.

Along with his wife, Phillip is survived by his four children: Phillip Arthur Giarth (Ly Vu) of Miami, Florida, Heather Marie Giarth of Miami, Florida, Melissa Ann Armenta (Jorge) of Cottonwood Heights, Utah, and Dann Baird of California. He is also survived by four grandchildren, Veronica, Nicolas, Charles, and Riley.

Phillip was a member of the NRA, Elks Lodge, Izaak Walton League, Nascar, Twin Cedar Hunt Club, Rappahannock River Retriever Club, and the Bass Pro Club.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in his memory to the Cancer Society.

Phillip will be laid to rest at a private ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery.



Phillip D. Giarth

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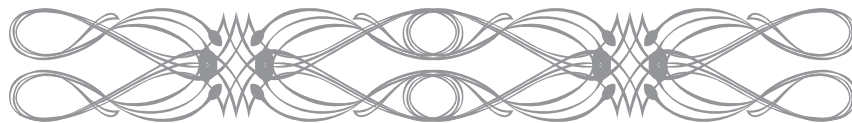
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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

No crimes of any consequence were reported in the past two weeks.

Past Crime: 1925 to 1930

County police were conducting a liquor raid at the home of James Duffin near Rockville. They were unable to find the booze until a helpful neighborhood youth volunteered that the liquor was kept under the floorboards of the house. None of the officers was small enough to squeeze through, so Officer Windsor Poole sent for his eight-year-old son Gordon. The boy was able to fit through the floor and handed up sixty-eight quarts of illegal liquor. Duffin was held on a \$500 bond.

County police were in the process of drafting a new law in response to a large number of fire events over the previous two months. At least 125 alarms

had been called in, resulting in one death and tens of thousands of dollars of damage to property. The laws would pertain to the storage of accelerant and outside burning.

Walter Johnson, a future Hall of Fame pitcher, wrote a letter to the chief thanking the department for its dignified and helpful assistance at the funeral of his wife. Mr. Johnson wrote, "I wish to thank the members of the police department who so kindly assisted at Mrs. Johnson's funeral on August 4. I am grateful for the many expressions of sympathy by the boys and fully appreciate their cooperation." Officers from the entire department assisted at the funeral.

A twenty-one-year-old girl was in critical condition after being shot in the abdomen at a home in Rockville. Officer Roy Bodmer had responded, and the girl had managed to tell him that she had accidentally shot herself with a shotgun. After the girl was taken to the hospital, Bodmer found a letter in a typewriter addressed to a boyfriend expressing remorse for the

breakup between the two and the reluctance to live any longer.

Officer Charles Barnes saw what he suspected was a rum runner car entering the county at Snell's Bridge near Ashton. He tried to stop the car, but a high-speed chase happened instead, and the chase wound its way through the county until the rum car unleashed a cloud of smoke from its smokescreen device. Barnes fired several shots at

the car but did not know if he had hit it. Later, he found the car abandoned on the Kensington-Wheaton Road with a tire shot out. Soon afterwards, he saw two men hitchhiking and he gave chase through the woods until he arrested them.

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



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Understanding Potential Dog Food Associated Heart Disease Continues to Be Investigated to Understand the Causes

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

Poolesville Veterinary Clinic has continued to monitor new information and recommendations. In the more than two years since the Food and Drug Administration first warned dog owners about heart failure in their animals that may be associated with grain-free pet foods, more than 200 dogs have reportedly died from the condition, and scientists are still trying to figure out why. Research has suggested that ingredients used in place of traditional grains in dog food might be involved in the development of DCM, a disease in which the heart gets larger, leaving it weaker. Some breeds of large dogs are genetically susceptible to DCM, including Great Danes, German shepherds, and Doberman pinschers.

The issue may be the quantity of ingredients used in nontraditional dog foods (these are “designer diets” from small markets).

Most of the diets associated with the reports of non-hereditary DCM have legume seed ingredients, also called “pulses, peas, and lentils,” for example, high in their ingredient lists. This is being further investigated, but it does not seem that soybean, which is a legume, is part of the problem.

Legumes, including pulse ingredients, have been used in pet foods for many years, with no evidence to indicate they are inherently dangerous, but analysis of data reported to the FDA indicates that pulse ingredients which are used in many “grain-free” diets in greater proportion than in most grain-containing formulas and may be a factor in changing absorption or important amino acids for heart function.

It is still not clear whether it is simply the amount of these ingredients in the foods. There could be genetic factors and other ingredients in some foods that could bind essential amino acids needed for good heart function.

A recent study showed that dogs with DCM that were consuming nontraditional dog foods were more likely to show improvements in the condition and to live longer if, along with their heart medications, they were switched to a traditional dog food.

To date, the FDA has not recommended a recall of any grain-free products or declared any specific pet food products unsafe. To submit a safety report to the FDA or review their findings so far, go to the Safety Reporting Portal.

The Pet Food Institute responded in a statement, “PFI member nutritionists, veterinarians, and product safety specialists have been closely studying dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) to better understand whether there is a relationship between DCM and diet in dogs not genetically predisposed to the disease. Drawing on our review of both historic and recent scientific analyses and published papers, PFI members are devoting thousands of hours to improving our understanding of DCM and its causes, all with the goal of advancing pet well-being.”

Our recommendation is to stick with major brands that use more traditional food stuffs. If your pet requires specialty diets, your veterinarian will discuss appropriate foods to use for the condition.



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