

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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Virginia Jamison, with her dolly, thinking about going to the moon bounce. See more family album pictures on page 2.



The Belt family saga continues on page 3 in In Your Own Backyard.



The Matthews family dominated the Dickerson marching band. Learn more about Dickerson on page 5.



Reenacting Iwo Jima? In a way, yes. Check out Tidbits on page 14.

Town Ends Fiscal Year with Huge Surplus

By Link Hoewing

Despite the lingering effects of a pandemic, the Town of Poolesville ended its fiscal year with a substantial cash surplus. Funds from the federal government and impact fees added to the total revenues for the town in a big way. This was the overall message delivered by Town Manager Wade Yost as he presented the end-of-year report to the town commissioners about the actual budget results for the Fiscal Year 2022 at the August 1 commissioners' meeting.

Yost gave the commissioners the highlights of what is called the Close Out Report for the town. The Close Out Report provides a critical snapshot of where the town is fiscally each year. Unlike the budget which establishes spending targets and estimates income for the town, the Close Out Report shows how the original budget actually plays out over the year. Normally, the spending and income categories and estimates in the budget line up closely with the final results.



A rendering of the proposed Riverworks Performing Arts Center at the site of the Old Methodist Church.

Yost noted that the General Fund, which includes spending for general operations, all capital projects, debt service, and any grants to the Water and Wastewater Fund came in at just under \$4.8 million. The Water and Wastewater Fund, which funds operations for those services alone, saw spending of just over \$1.6 million. The

fund is supposed to be self-sustaining since all residents pay for the water and sewer services they use; however, it is chronically short of funds and, again this year, a "grant" of \$157,170 from the General Fund was needed to bring the Water and Wastewater Fund into balance.

Continued on page 12.

Fire Destroys Home on Edwards Ferry Road

By Rande Davis

On July 27, a two-story single-family home caught on fire and caused approximately \$400,000 in damages, displacing the family, according to Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services (MCFRS) chief spokesperson Pete Piringer.

The fire, located on Edwards Ferry Road, started around noon, originated in the kitchen, and spread through the home. The family of five adults and one child made it out with no injuries reported, Piringer said.

According to MCFRS, the fire began around noon, when a twelve-year-old child woke up to smoke and left the house and had to traverse a 2,100-foot drive to find help. "The child flagged



The fire department was met with a raging fire upon its arrival.

Continued on page 7.

Family Album

Friday on the Commons: Wine Down



Walking on the moon: One small leap for mankind, one big step for kids!



Poolesville town staff, Mike Butler, Charles Smith, and Rick Davidson, joyfully watched over Friday on the Commons.



Hi Moon Band performed at Whalen Commons.



Out and about on Whalen Commons.



The Nalvarte family, left, was joined by a friend in enjoying a meal and music in the park.



Pat Brown, right, with daughter Robin (left), and friend Linda Howard.

In Your Own Backyard

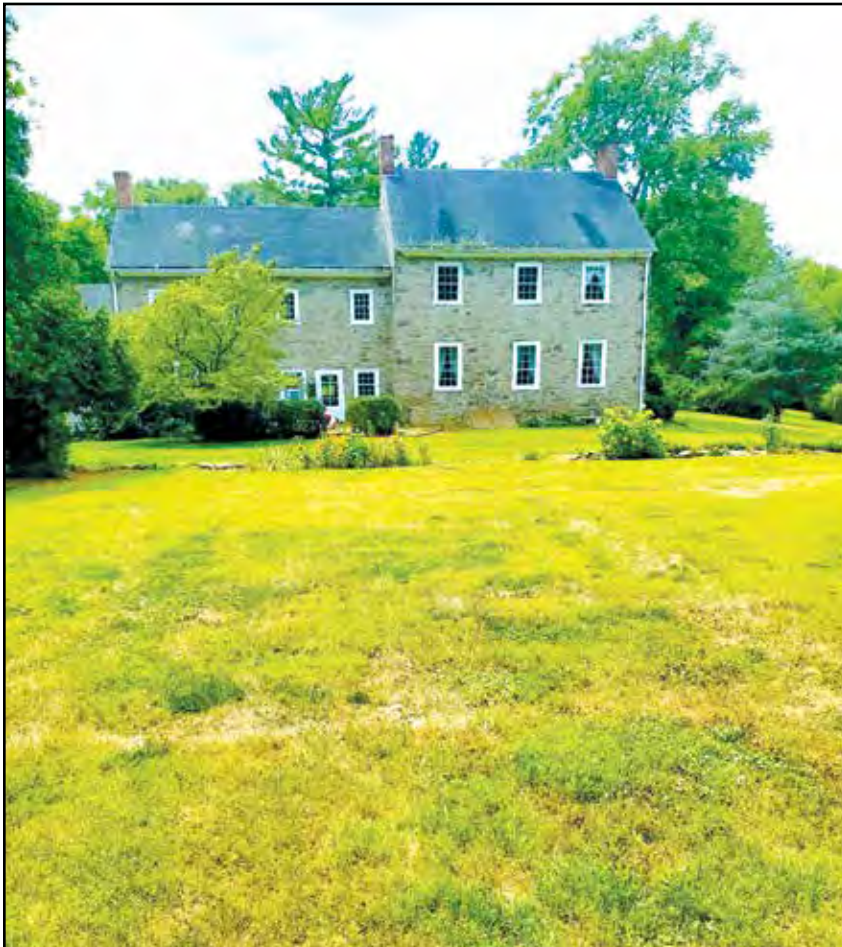
McGill Belt: 'A Man above Reproach'

By Jon Wolz

Part Two of Three

[Editor's note: Part One, from the July 22, 2022 issue of the *Monocle*, can be found at monocacymonocle.com.]

In the early 1900s, McGill Belt was on the board of directors for the Peoples Fire Insurance Company of Frederick, Maryland and remained on the board throughout the rest of his life. In 1906, McGill was the foreman of a Frederick County grand jury.



The light brown earth in the lawn outlines where the chicken coop once stood behind Rock Hall.

After Dr. Norvell Belt's father and two brothers died in the December 30, 1906 train wreck in Washington, D.C., Uncle McGill became a father figure to Norvell and would remain so until McGill's death in 1937. Just before the train accident, on December 15, a two-hundred-acre property, co-owned by McGill and his brother Dr. Edward Oliver Belt near Rock Hall, was shown to a party of Maryland doctors who were looking for a site for a state tuberculosis hospital. The state eventually chose a site at Sabillasville in Frederick County for the Maryland Tuberculosis Sanatorium. Dr. E. Oliver Belt and his two sons, Sinclair, 6, and Edward McGill, 5, both were visiting Rock Hall during the holidays. While there, McGill weighed the two brothers and wrote the information down. He gave the pieces of papers to the boys who put them in their pockets intending to show their mother Emily when they got home. Using this information, McGill was able to help identify his two nephews' remains after the train crash. A Sunday school paper was found by McGill in Edward's pocket that made McGill certain that the boy was Edward McGill. Son Norvell and his mother were at home in Washington, D.C. because Norvell was recovering from a broken leg. When McGill informed Dr. Belt's wife Emily of the deaths, he went to her home where she lay prostrate

Continued on page 18.

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www.wumcohelp.org

Rande(m) Thoughts The River Is Not Our Curse, It's Our Golden Egg

By Rande Davis

With his brilliant architectural vision in 1929, Robert H. H. Hugman changed the future of San Antonio, Texas. He called for a radical turn toward a new and bold future for the city. Hurricanes and floods periodically rained destruction on the downtown area, rendering the prospect of economic prosperity moot. Through his dream, a world-class tourist site in the San Antonio area, The Riverwalk, was developed.

What seems so right today was not so simply accomplished, and the future of the Riverwalk didn't find its true destiny fulfilled until the World's Fair came to the city in 1968.

Today in Poolesville, we stand on the precipice of a crossroads that, while never to be so large as the Riverwalk, is for our future proportionately a similar opportunity. The dilemma is challenging. How can we have economic growth without a rising population? Like the Riverwalk, we have an answer.

I arrived in Poolesville in 1976. For nearly fifty years, I have heard the prominent voices of the townspeople declaring: "We want Poolesville to remain Poolesville, small in population, large in neighborly spirit." While there are plans for up to sixty new homes in the center of town, they will be smaller, more of a draw for young families starting out or seniors looking to downsize. The location is in the center of the commercial community. It will add almost two hundred residents to our over-5,500 population—not so many to be threatening to our ambience.

Yet, without economic growth, Poolesville's future may not be a dynamic future. Stagnation can lead to atrophy, and we could be just one more small town either caving to the pressures of population growth or

stagnating as businesses come and go, dying off, one after the other, a sleepy town with a questionable future.

We have recently witnessed a new sense of our future with so many exciting business trends. We have reported and exalted about this in previous issues. Our front-page story in this issue, reports of the progress of Sandy Wright and David Therriault's vision for their Riverworks Performing Arts Center. The Old Thrift Shop, the iconic 1926 building on West Willard Road is to get a facelift and new purpose. The arts may have a home in Poolesville, and with that, an exciting future for the town emerges.

As a past member of the Historic Medley's Board of Directors for many years and as its executive director for over five, I have long sought the full exploitation of our rural history as a draw for day-trippers from throughout our region. Now, coupled with the arts center and our local restaurant resurgence, we may have an intriguing new magnet that adds to that draw.

The time has come for the town leaders and concerned citizens to focus on how we can take the next step to make sure our local museums are opened for a few hours at least every Saturday, if not Sunday, too.

On August 11, as an online presenter to our Poolesville Seniors group, I will be presenting the history of the John Poole House in a game-show format, using the concept of Trivial Pursuit to tell its story. I am confident you will find the zoom presentation not just informative but entertaining as well. From it, we hope, you can better understand just how strong a draw the facilities of the Historic Medley can be, and how, when opened to the public more often, they can expand our economy without building more and more houses or expanding our population over the brink.

Perhaps after viewing the presentation, you might want to volunteer to help as docents.

Our history and old buildings are not our curse, they are our golden egg.

Pulse

Monocacy Lions: Charting 82 Years of A Journey to Serve

By Rande Davis

The Monocacy Lions celebrated eighty-two years of service on July 25 at Dutch's Daughter Restaurant at their first Charter Night Dinner in two years. Over those decades, thousands of residents have been saved or served. Founded right after World War II, the group once owned the current Barnesville Town Hall as their "Lions Den." When they sold it and raised just over \$3,000, they donated that money to help build the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department firehall. Of course, over the years, many of our firefighters have also been Lions as well.

Members, Tom Conlon, Frank Jamison, Billy Jamison, and Herb Brown, are all descendants of charter members, Charles Elgin, Charles Jamison, and Ed Brown. Just before Ed passed away, he was celebrated as the longest serving Lion in America.

Special honors were given to Tom Rojas (Lion of the Year), Dick

Franklin (Legacy of Service), and Gary Burdette (Knights of the Blind Pyramid, a special high award honoring Hellen Keller, who first challenged Lions International to accept the cause of serving those with vision impairment as its primary mission). Heidi Brenholtz received the Melvin Jones Award, the highest honor in all of Lionism, named for the founder of Lions Clubs and given to those who best embody humanitarian ideas and ideals and exemplify service to the club and community.

Tom Conlon stepped down as the president of the club, and Roger Brenholtz became the new King Lion for 2022-2023. Heidi Brenholtz was sworn in as first vice president, and Tom Rojas the new second vice president. In Lionism, the secretary plays a very large role, and Gary Burdette is the new secretary. Now in his thirty-third year of service, he was a past president and a past District Governor. Milton Andrews continues as the treasurer and Dick Franklin as membership chairman. The Lion Tamer, Thomas Lee, maintains order during meetings, and the Lion Twister (rules manager) is new member Craig Dickerson. New Board of Director members are Val Dickerson, Bill Jamison, and Rande Davis.

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Fun Fact...

wikipedia.com, poemhunter.com

In folklore, *crossroads* may represent a location "between the worlds." The Greeks and Romans believed doors, gates, rivers, frontiers, and crossroads held spiritual meanings regarding transitioning, leaving one area and going somewhere else, a change in directions physically and spirituality; therefore, rituals of protection and rituals regarding change (transition) were done at crossroads.

....Crossroads

We have come to the crossroads
And I must either leave or come
with you
I lingered over the choice.
But in the darkness of my doubts
you lifted the lamp of love
and I saw in your face
the road that I should take.

—Austyne Thomas

Tidbits of the Past

Mystery History Tidbits of the Past: Dickerson

By Rande Davis

Although all of us pass through Dickerson quite often as we travel Route 28, we do so unaware of its fascinating history. To take our minds off the pesky (but necessary) speed camera in town, we offer its long history in tidbits of information.

The village is named for its first postmaster and storekeeper, William Dickerson. Later the postmaster was Roy William Swank who held the position for sixteen years (from 16 years of age to age 32). Ironically, by today's standards, he wanted a demotion to carrier as rural carriers made more money at the time than the postmaster. Postmaster was considered a training position for carrier.

Rural carriers were paid by mileage: \$60 a mile per year up to thirty miles, \$20 per mile per year over thirty miles. This came to \$1,800 per year for the first thirty miles, plus the extra for going over the thirty miles (he also got paid three cents for every money order he wrote).



Front row: Lee Smith, Lawrence Luhn, Henry White (center), Sidney Dixon Lee Roberson. Back row: Harry Stottlemeyer, Unidentified, Unidentified, Bern Jones, Milton "Tuck" Stottlemeyer.

The trickiest part of his job as a Dickerson rural carrier? Delivering to four William T. Joneses. Writers coded the envelope with a W made differently or initials of their father, or it was postmarked from a specific town, he would know if the mail went to Jones I, II, III, or IV.

The post office was attached to what was then known as Stull's Store—at one time, in a box car on the side.

The first residence of Dickerson is Mt. Carmel, located on Rt. 28 to the east of town, which was built in 1800. It was in the 1830s that the C&O Canal brought welcomed prosperity to the town, but, as we all know, floods and trains signaled the demise of canal operations.

In 1873, when a branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad came through Dickerson from Washington on its way to Point of Rocks, dairy farming was huge, and one would find local farmers taking five-gallon cans of cream to get picked up by the 6:00 a.m. train.

The train station was built in 1891. Originally, it was planned to be a two-story structure like the Rockville Station. Until it was built, tickets, etc. were purchased in the W. H. Dickerson General Store and Post Office.

A most important educator was Kathryn S. Crone. She was a teacher of Comus's one-room school for grades one to six that served the children of Dickerson. Once located southeast of Route 28 and Martinsburg Road, the land was donated by the White Family of Inverness Farm.

Crone later became the principal of Dickerson Elementary School in 1932 and simultaneously was the principal at Darnestown Elementary School. Originally located on top of the hill behind the Dickerson Market, it burned down in 1959.

Continued on page 8.



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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Presents Virtual and In-Person Programs

In keeping with their motto, Stay Active, Poolesville Seniors is providing programs that focus on keeping minds sharp, fostering regular exercise, and encouraging social interaction. Visit their website at poolesvilleseniors.org or call 301-875-7701 to register for the programs below which are open to the entire community.

August 11

Mystery History Tidbits: HMD and the John Poole House

Join Rande Davis for a *Monocacy Monocle* Mystery History about the Historic Medley District, featuring intriguing stories about the John Poole House. Play along with the "Trivial Pursuit"-like quiz, and you could come away with some local "Tidbits." 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

August 15

PS Book Club

Join the PS Book Club for a thoughtful discussion of the August Book Club Selection: *The Glass Hotel* by Emily St. John Mandel. The award-winning author of *Station Eleven* brings us an exhilarating novel set at the glittering intersection of two seemingly disparate events—a massive Ponzi scheme collapse and the mysterious disappearance of a woman from a ship at sea. It is a novel with themes of human fallibility, guilt, and complicity, and wealth, greed, and happiness. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

August 18

Historic Ag Reserve Properties with Kenny Sholes

Explore the next historic Ag Reserve

properties with local historian Kenny Sholes. Dotted the landscape is an array of impressive historic homes, standing as a visual reminder of those who came before us and the important part they played in American history for centuries. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

Weekly Events

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

Outdoor Pickle Ball. *Stevens Park* until August 9. 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Mondays

Tai-Chi with Maureen Ivusic. 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Virtual.

Tuesdays

Bridge: No Bridge August 23. Beginner review or intermediate bridge play. Eight spaces only. Registration required. *Speer Hall*. 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Independent or supervised bridge play. Registration required. *Speer Hall*. 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesdays

Chair Yoga with Twyla Insalaco. Resumes in September. No summer classes.

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

Trivia Game Night

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

Thursdays

Mahjong with Joyce Kral. Beginner and seasoned players are welcome. *Poolesville Presbyterian Church's Speer Hall*. 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

Fridays

Breath-Mind-Body with Kathy Jankowski. Please register for each Friday class. 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. Virtual.

Continued on page 7.

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Continued from page 1.

Fire Destroys Home on Edwards Ferry Road

down a passing motorist who then called 911," Piringier added.

Seventy MCFRS personnel responded to the fire. The home was fully engulfed in flames upon the arrival of the fire-fighters. The house was a total loss, but no injuries occurred. Damage has been estimated to be \$300,000 for the structure and \$100,000 for the contents.

The cause of the fire is currently under investigation, with multiple ignition sources possible, including an air fryer, stove top, electrical wiring, etc.

There is a GoFundMe account set up for the Smith family to help them with their daily needs as they work through the process of finding new housing. Visit gofundme.com, search Smith family in Poolesville.

Continued from page 6.

Senior News

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

August

-On August 6, 1762, the first-ever sandwich was created, at least with such a name. It was named after the Earl of Sandwich when he requested a dish involving meat between two pieces of bread. As the story goes, he requested it as he was in the middle of a gambling game and didn't want to interrupt it.



- Back in the days of the Anglo-Saxons, the month was called Weod Monath. Its translation of "weed month" is quite literal—in this month, weeds and other plants grow the fastest in the northern hemisphere.

thefactsite.com



New Handcrafted Acura TLX Type S PMC Edition Previewed in Three Stunning Paint Colors

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Continued from page 5.

Mystery History Tidbits of the Past: Dickerson

Here are some of Dickerson's most prominent buildings:

W. H. Dickerson General Store

Moved twice from its original location at the corner of Mt. Ephraim Road and the station, the store sold groceries, meats, dry goods, clothes, fabrics, candy, and mail. It was originally a log cabin. The railroad allowed Dickerson to sell delicacies like ice cream which were brought in daily from Frederick via Point of Rocks.

Site of the Sellman Boarding House and Livery Stable

Located at the intersection of Mt. Ephraim and Route 28, it was established in the 1890s by Frederick O. Sellman. It was a rectangular two-story frame structure with a front porch. Home to the Sellmans, it offered four rooms to rent to travelers, mainly salesmen and tradesmen. Temporary telegraph operators and other station masters also stayed there. The livery was an early version of Hertz or Avis. Visitors could rent a horse and buggy to visit customers. Sellman also ran a horse track, but all this ended after his death in 1902.

Dickerson Methodist Episcopal Church

Built in 1930 to replace Mt. Pleasant Methodist Episcopal Church founded in 1888. The graveyard is still there. The church is still famous for its festivals and sometimes strawberry festivals.

Gott's Mill, near the current Mt. Carmel residence

No longer standing, it was built of sandstone and ironstone found on the property. It was powered by a great overshot water wheel that emptied into the Little Monocacy. Founded before the 1800s, the grist and flour mill was operational until 1910. It met the larger needs of local farmers for their wheat. They arrived with wheat in bagged burlap strapped on horseback or wagon. The wheat was ground between giant granite millstones turned by wooden gearshifts. Bran was set aside for feed; the resulting flour retained all the germ and most of the partly-ground husk of the grain. Farmers traded their wheat to be ground with some of the flour sold by the Gott millers.

Inverness

The home of four generations of Whites is at the corner of Martinsburg Road and Route 109. Constructed in 1818 by Charles White, the compound includes nine well-preserved outbuildings, including slaves' quarters, chicken house, smokehouse, springhouse, large corn cribs, bank barn, and blacksmith shop.

Historic Old Martinsburg Road

Built to provide access to Gott's Mill and other local mills around 1838 and also later to bring products to the C&O Canal. The stone walls outline the route of the original road with its twenty-foot width. Today a Montgomery County Rustic Road, the roadway was constructed of Seneca Sandstone.

Linden Park and Farm

Located on the old Martinsburg Road, the farm was purchased at auction in 1932 by Walter Matthews. This was the joyous scene of band concerts, picnics, and family reunions.

The farm is named for the Linden trees planted on the once-255-acre site. The farmhouse was constructed in 1883 by Franklin White. The farm produced grains, corn, and livestock. It was farmed by Lawrence Allnut White until 1919.



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 17917 Barnesville Rd., Barnesville, MD

facebook.com/barnesvillebaptistchurch



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- Squash-Eight Ball
- Green Beans
- Squash-Patty Pan
- Squash-Yellow
- Peppers: Bell, Hot, Sweet
- Cantaloupes
- Beets-Golden
- Beets-Red
- Roma beans
- Basil Plants
- Collard Greens
- Kale
- Okra
- Zucchini
- Eggplant

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Things to Do

Poolesville Farmers' Market

Every Saturday. Whalen Commons. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

August 5

Fridays on the Commons: Game and Movie Night on the Commons

Games galore along with inflatables, food trucks, artisan vendors.

Movie: *Jumanji—Welcome to the Jungle*. 6:00 p.m.; movie at dusk.



Live at AHOP

Featuring Patrick Budd and the Starwood Flyers. *House of Poolesville*. 5:00 p.m.

August 6

Cars and Coffee

Gathering of car enthusiasts with old cars, odd, cars, antique cars, new cars, unusual cars. *Bassett's Restaurant*. 9:00 a.m.

August 10

Planning Commission Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:00 p.m.

August 12

Movie Night: Black Rock Center for the Arts

Free outdoor movie, featuring: *In the Heights*. 8:00 p.m.



August 15

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:00 p.m.

Monocacy Critters

Serendipitous Pet and Animal Pictures*



Rusty Smith caught the Poolesville Bear scouting the status of White's Ferry. It is reported the animal found the situation nearly unbearable.

*Do you have an unusual or funny picture of an pet or animal? Mail or email the picture to editor@monocacymonocle.com or P.O. Box 372, Barnesville, MD 20838

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Monocacy Lions 2022-2023 officers and Board of Directors: Tom Conlon (Immediate Past President), Bill Jamison (BOD), Craig Dickerson (Lion Twister), Val Dickerson (BOD), Dick Franklin (Membership Chairman), Gary Burdette (Secretary), Tom Rojas (2nd Vice President), Heidi Brenholtz (1st Vice President), Roger Brenholtz (King Lion), and Rande Davis (BOD).



Tom Rojas was awarded the Lion of the Year.



Heidi Brenholtz, awarded the highest honor in Lionism, was named a Milton Jones Fellow.



Gary Burdette was awarded the Knights of the Blind, a high honor in recognition of Helen Keller's call to the Lions to make vision impairment their key mission.



Dick Franklin received the Lions Legacy Award, recognizing service over many years.



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Continued from page 1.

Town Ends Fiscal Year with Huge Surplus

Income for the town in the past fiscal year was influenced by several factors, including a substantial amount of funding coming from the federal government’s American Rescue Funds program. Yost pointed to the fact that, for the first time in memory, the percentage of total tax revenue coming to the town from income taxes exceeded that coming from property taxes. This is a testament, in part, to the high median income of town residents. Substantially lower levels of funding from State Revenue Sharing, Highway User Funds, and rental fees from cell companies who rent space for their transponders on the town’s water tower rounded out the town’s income picture.

In terms of spending programs, Yost said that the Water and Wastewater systems have been affected by increasing costs for most of the inputs that make these systems run, including chemicals for water treatment, contracting services, and replacement equipment like pumps. Despite the fact that the town raised the salaries of employees, the head of the Water and Sewer Department, Adam Witt, was lured away to another job. Yost said that even though the town has made its pay system more competitive, all other governments and contractors have done the same, and in the case of Witt, he could earn comparable pay without having to be on call for extended periods of time.

All of the spending in the General Fund programs involves what are called “Unrestricted Funds” because they come from resources like town taxes and cell phone water tower revenues that the town can use as it sees fit. A substantial chunk of the town’s overall budget comes from Restricted Funds, meaning the town can only use them to fulfill set program goals. While the funds involved are substantial, they can only be spent on certain programs and goals.

The biggest category of Restricted Funds in FY 2022 came from the federally-established American Rescue Funds Program, nearly \$1 million. The town also collected \$257,587 in the form of Impact Fees. Yost added that this category of funds is going away as housing construction in town nears an end. The town is also moving toward imposing “connection fees” for the remaining homes that are going to be built that are more directly relates to the costs of hooking up new homes to the town’s primary infrastructure, its sewer and water system.

Overall, the town collected almost \$2.5 million in Restricted Funds and Impact Fees in FY 2022, leaving the overall income of the town at nearly \$9 million. The town has some major spending programs ahead, like the Streetscape Program, and is investing in major upgrades to its administrative systems. It also continues to upgrade its sewer system with its Infiltration and Inflow Program designed to stop leaks in sewer lines. Another major expenditure on the horizon will be the upcoming trash collection contract which will likely be much costlier than the current contract.

In other business, the commissioners approved a bid to purchase the old Methodist Church, the previous location of the Friendly Thrift Shop. The town has been working on developing a set of restrictions for the building that would allow it to be sold but keep it from being demolished or having its exterior and historical character erased. As a result, the bidding process involved what is called a “restricted bid” in which only bidders who commit to the protective restrictions are qualified. Only one bidder, the husband-and-wife team of David Therriault and Sandy Wright, the owners of Riverworks and Locals, qualified in the bidding process. The commissioners voted 5-0 to approve the bid which was



A rendering of the rear of the proposed Riverworks Performing Arts Center.

for \$50,000. Therriault and Wright have already developed plans to turn the building into a center for the performing arts.

Finally, Yost said that eighteen candidates had submitted their names as candidates to become the town’s new assistant town manager. Yost said the names will soon be submitted to the volunteer committee that will be screening them. He expects the committee to produce three top candidates soon for the commissioners to interview.

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Tidbits

New Home for WUMCO

WUMCO Help, Inc. ushered in a new era with the opening of its new location at the Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church. The church recently completed the renovation of its brick auxiliary building adjacent to the church entrance in preparation of hosting the community food bank and family assistance program.

The big move was an Eagle Scout project by scout Ben Savino. He supervised participants from Boy Scout Troop 496 and other volunteers assisting in the moving process. Impressively, what was expected to be at least a two-day endeavor was essentially completed in one day due to the enthusiastic volunteers.

They moved food, shelves, refrigerators, freezers, and all of WUMCO's office supplies. Over 215 hours of work were volunteered throughout the project, not including those who were responsible for the renovation of the building.

The project helped WUMCO in a variety of ways. The new building provides WUMCO with a proper office, a large, multipurpose room, and proper overflow storage. The additional space expands room so cabinets can open fully, and shelves can be loaded from the back, allowing older food



Many young people chipped in to assist in the move.

to be pushed forward. This ensures that WUMCO will not lose food to avoidable causes like expiration.

Ben told the *Monocle*, "It was an amazing experience. I would like to extend a thank you to all of the volunteers. I also would like to specifically thank Katie Longbrake, Bill McDonald, Catherine Beliveau, Patricia Brown, and Jon Kasner for their help throughout the whole process. They were instrumental in the success of the relocation."

Katie Longbrake, executive director of WUMCO, observed, "We are looking forward to continuing to serve as our community's emergency assistance organization with care and creativity." The facility will house its administrative

offices as well as a food pantry where persons in need can obtain food assistance.

Pastor Tim McDowal said, "As the pastor of Poolesville Memorial, I am proud of the long-running relationship between Memorial and WUMCO, and thankful for this opportunity to deepen that relationship, as together we strive to serve the needs of our neighbors."

Gary Hartz, Chairman of the WUMCO Board of Trustees, said, "Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church is looking forward to a long-term hosting collaboration with WUMCO on our campus at the newly-renovated Community Center. This joint effort in a readily-accessible location will provide service to Poolesville and Upper Montgomery County."

Extending Courtesy to Our Farmers

Throughout the Ag Reserve, we are currently in the middle of harvesting season for summer crops. This is the time of year when the farmers will more frequently be up and down our roads with their large farming vehicles and equipment. Please remember that our farmers are the economic lifeblood of our community, and we are especially blessed with the local availability of the bounty of their hard work. While

Continued on page 15.

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Eagle Scout candidate Ben Savino welcomes and instructs the volunteers to help move WUMCO to its new location at PMUMC.



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Continued from page 14.

Tidbits

we go about our busy lives, it will behoove us all to never lose sight of their contribution and to treat them with respect and patient courtesy while they move their equipment from pasture to pasture.

Taking impatient chances to circumvent them in traffic or rudely blowing your horn is not appropriate (and dangerous), so please remain calm and enjoy how lucky you are to live here.

New Fence for a Lockhouse

A new picket fence has been constructed by volunteers from the C&O Canal Association in front of the lockhouse at Lock 24, Riley's Lock. The old fence had been vandalized, and parts of it were burned in a fire by the river. Volunteers removed the remaining old fence, and the National Park Service removed the old posts. The volunteers cut new boards, dug holes, planted new posts, connected risers, and attached pickets.



A new fence for Riley's Lockhouse.



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Youth Sports

10U and 12U UMAC Attack Baseball Teams Win Cal Ripken State Championships

By Jeff Stuart

On Sunday, July 3, the 12U UMAC Attack won the Maryland Cal Ripken State Tournament hosted by the Calvert County Youth League in La Plata, Maryland, a great way to celebrate the Fourth of July weekend. Longtime UMAC President Gene Lowery was on hand to witness a dramatic extra-inning, 4-2 victory over the Prince George's County team. After Prince George's tied the game in the bottom of the sixth, UMAC answered, scoring two runs in the top of the seventh on a series of singles. With runners at second and third in the bottom half of that extra-inning, shortstop Elias Speicher speared a line drive, making a key defensive play to end the game.

Nine out of the twelve players and two coaches are from Poolesville. The players are Bobby de los Santos, Isaac Morrow, Elias Speicher, Sawyer Thompson, Etham Dimmerling, Jonathan Kwon, Maddox Mauer, Aiden Mazur, Sean McDonald, and Nicolas DePasquale; coaches are Dean DePasquale and JP Williams; assistant coaches are Kevin Williams and Dennis McDonald.

"We played four games with our group to determine seeding and to qualify into the single elimination tournament," said Coach DePasquale. "On July 1, we beat Calvert County Youth League, 4-0. Then on July 2 we played three games back-to-back-to-back. We beat St. Mary's County, 13-3, and D.C., 14-0. We lost the third game, 6-5, to Prince George's County, so we finished 3-1 in our group, earning the second seed in the single elimination tourney, and on Sunday, July 3, we again beat St. Mary's, 8-3. That win earned us a rematch against Prince George's. It was special to have President Lowery come watch us play.

"It was basically the consistency of our hitting that carried us. Everybody got the bat on the ball. We had great pitching and spectacular pitching throughout. We appreciated President Lowery coming out to cheer us on in every game.

"We earned an invite to New Jersey to compete in the region in New Jersey to compete against other state championship teams. We eventually got knocked out by the State of New Jersey."

On Sunday June 26, at Walkersville, the UMAC 10U Attack Team won the Cal Ripken 10U Maryland State Championship, going 4-0 on the weekend and defeating the host Glade Valley Athletic Association team, 12-5, in the final. Earlier in the day, the UMAC 10U squad defeated Prince George's County, 10-4, to advance to the championship game. On Saturday, July 2, they defeated the Charles County Chargers, 17-1, and Glade Valley, 11-7, in their closed game of the tournament. On the weekend, UMAC 10U dominated the competition, outscoring opponents, 50-17.

Offensive Most Valuable Players for the tournament were Dominic Sheehan, with eight hits and ten RBIs, and Russell Royster, with eight hits and eight RBIs.

"My teammates are all super funny and we pick each other up when we make mistakes," said Dominic. "Our coaches tell us to have a next play mentality. It was a great season, and I will always remember winning states."

"The tournament was pretty cool," said Russell. "I liked having my name announced on the loudspeaker and that I got to walk out with the coach as a captain for the first game. The best moment was when we played the Saratoga Blue Sox at the regionals. I was on third base and walked in as the winning run. That was the best feeling ever."

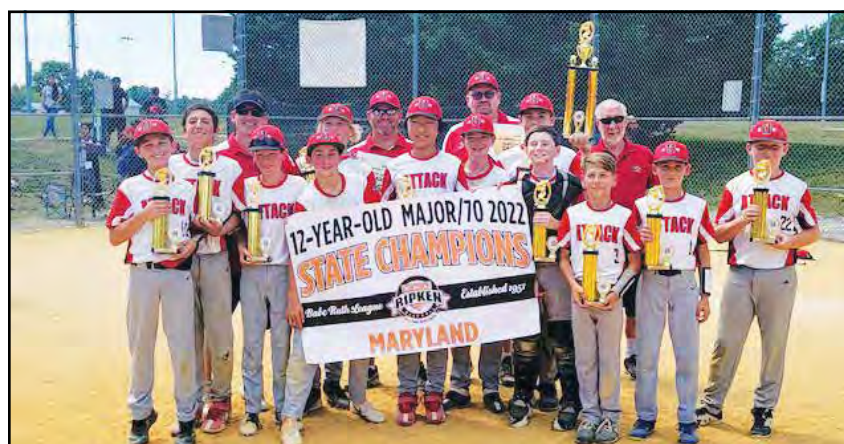
"Many of these boys have been playing together since they were six or seven years old," said Coach Greg Matthews. "Our coaching staff has focused on reinforcing baseball fundamentals and having a growth mindset and next play mentality, especially when things don't go according to plan. Coaching baseball gives me the opportunity to mentor these special athletes and instill core values that I'm confident will transfer later in life beyond baseball.

"With the state tournament victory, the team earned the opportunity to compete in the Cal Ripken Region Tournament on July 14-18 in Audubon, Pennsylvania, the tournament qualifier for the World Series. There were ten teams from New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and UMAC represented the State of Maryland. UMAC won two games over Buffalo and Saratoga, making it to single elimination playoff before their season came to an end with a loss to a team from Pennsylvania.

"The boys may or may not remember all the wins and losses, but they will for sure remember how much fun they had and the lasting relationships they built with their teammates. Staying at hotels, going to arcades, riding go carts, playing



Front Row: Ryan Jamieson, Dominic Sheehan, Sutton Straniero, Klay Dimmerling, Bryce Matthews, Johnny Horan. Second Row: Liam Spiecher, Orion O'Connell, Russell Royster, Joshua Beebe, Ben Becker, Christopher Kokolis, Manager Greg Matthews. Back Row: President of UMAC Gene Lowery, Coach TJ Kokoklis, Coach PJ Horan.



Bobby de los Santos, Isaac Morrow, Coach Dean DePasquale, Elias Speicher, Sawyer Thompson, Etham Dimmerling, Coach Kevin Williams, Jonathan Kwon, Coach Dennis McDonald, Maddox Mauer, Aiden Mazur, Sean McDonald, Gene Lowery (UMAC President), Nicolas DePasquale, Dean DePasquale, JP Williams.

cornhole, and just being kids is what it's all about. I also think we have a great group of parents that don't put too much added pressure on them.

"I'm excited about the future of this team and what they can achieve. At 8U, this team also won the Maryland State Championship. Due to COVID, we did not compete in the state tournament at 9U."

Players are Ryan Jamieson, Dominic Sheehan, Sutton Straniero, Klay Dimmerling, Bryce Matthews, Johnny Horan, Liam Spiecher, Orion O'Connell, Russell Royster, Joshua Beebe, Ben Becker, and Christopher Kokolis. Assistant Coaches are TJ Kokoklis and PJ Horan.



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Remembrance

Deborah "Diane" Ayers (Crawford)

Deborah "Diane" Ayers (Crawford), 65, of Dickerson, died suddenly on July 22, 2022 at her residence. She was the wife of Donald Carter.

Born on August 30, 1956, in Tennessee, she was the daughter of the late William and Martha (Carmony) Ayers.

Diane was a hard worker and worked at McDonald's for twenty-six years. She enjoyed time with her family and, most of all, her grandbabies. She loved playing cards on the weekend and enjoyed going out to the moose lodge. She was a loving mother, wife, and grandmother.

Surviving besides her husband are four daughters, Kimberly Ford of Cumberland, Karrie Crawford and husband Jake Lowe of Dickerson, Jessica Crawford and husband Anthony Lowe of Dickerson, and Amy Sapp and husband Dustin Bream of Frederick; four brothers, Kenneth Ayers and wife Dee of Mt. Airy, Charlie Ayers of Rockville, Eddie Ayers of Winchester, Virginia, and William Ayers of Tennessee; two sisters, Grey Ayers of Tennessee and Jeannie Ayers of Mt. Airy; eleven grandchildren, Kai, Jenaya, and Deshawn Ford, Jake, Jr., Travis, and Savannah Lowe, Matthew Lowe, Alexis Crawford, Andrew Sapp, and Kynsley and Kolten Bream; four great-grandchildren, Aurora Randall, O'melia Ford, Loyal Cole, and Zy'mere Ford; and several sisters-in-law that she loved.

She was preceded in death by one sister, Roberta Ayers, and three grandchildren, Barron Ford, Jr., Grant Lowe, and Mackenzie Neal.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Hilton Funeral Home to help with funeral expenses.



Deborah "Diane" Ayers (Crawford)

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Continued from page 3.

McGill Belt: 'A Man above Reproach'

on son Norvell's bed with her arms around him. McGill told her about the deaths and went on to say about her husband, "Since the time we used to ride in the same saddle around the grounds of our old place at Frederick, I have had more than a brother's love for him. I am older and always took care of him in the old days, and it seems cruel that he has died before me. He was in the finest spirits yesterday and several times said his only regret was that his wife and other little fellow were not with him." Dr. E. Oliver Belt was 40.

In 1908, McGill attended a meeting held by the State Road Commission that was attended by Maryland Gov. Austin Crothers. The meeting at the courthouse in Frederick was to allow residents of Frederick County a chance to be heard regarding the expenditure of the county's share of \$5 million in funds appropriated by the legislature for road improvement in Maryland. McGill spoke at the meeting, urging the making of a road from Rockville to Frederick through Dawsonville, Beallsville, and Dickerson to connect with the Buckeystown Pike.

Occasionally, McGill would travel, and sometimes his trips were mentioned in the newspaper. One trip in 1908 was written up in the paper thus: "Thursday morning, a party of ladies and gentlemen from Poolesville and Dickerson left for a ten-day trip to Atlantic City. In the party were Miss Linda Jones, Mr. Wickerson Jones, McGill Belt, Mrs. George Jones, Miss Nan Poole, Miss Mary Jones, Mr. Fremont Jones, and Dr. B. W. Walling."

In 1910, the Frederick County Commissioners named McGill as one of the county's road commissioners. On December 14, 1910, McGill married Anne Barnard of Wilmington, Delaware at the Trinity Protestant Episcopal Church in Wilmington. After the ceremony, the bridal party and their guests were driven in carriages to the New Century Club. The parlors and dining rooms were beautifully decorated with palms, white chrysanthemums, asparagus vines, and crimson roses. The new Mrs. Belt moved to Rock Hall and lived with husband McGill and McGill's sisters, Julia and Sarah.

In 1914, McGill ran as a Democrat and won a seat in the Maryland House of Delegates where he served one term. In 1914, during his term as a State Delegate, he brought up to the State's Chairman of the Road Commission, Mr. O. E. Weller, the matter of the promise made in 1909 by a prior chairman to "pike" the road from Darnestown to Buckeystown. By 1914, the road had been single-laned cement paved from Rockville to Dickerson. McGill wanted the road paved all the way to the Buckeystown Pike. Chairman Weller told McGill that "he could not

recall anything the other chairman promised in 1909." Delegate Belt began his fight to get the rest of the road "piked" when he introduced a bill requiring the State Roads Commission to pike the road and make appropriation to pay for the road. His bill was defeated, and subsequently McGill worked diligently to have the present commission make good on the former commission's promise. Later, McGill wrote a letter to the Frederick News, giving reasons why the road should be finished. He said, in part, that there were ten automobiles owned by people in and around Dickerson, six to eight in Barnesville, and fifteen in and around Poolesville. People in those areas preferred to use the paved roads that led to Washington, D.C. to shop. People would have preferred to go to Frederick to shop, but the roads there leading from Dickerson were poor. He mentioned that the government used that road. Over the previous seven years, twice troops from Fort Myers and the War College have not only traveled this route, but for four years out of seven, they had camped on his farm, and there were 150 men and 150 horses. He wrote that in 1755, General Braddock had passed over the road and, during the Civil War, both armies had used this road for military purposes en route to Harper's Ferry, Antietam, and Gettysburg.

In 1914, Charles Shipley was arrested for stealing a horse from McGill Belt. Shipley was released pending his court date. When brought before the judge, the judge said if Shipley could secure regular work, he would release him upon his own recognizance. Shipley stated he had secured work.

In 1915, McGill Belt had an event that occurred at Rock Hall that was published in papers across the United States. McGill had a collection of glass eggs. A dozen of his artificial eggs were taken from a "nest" inside his home before he could figure out what had happened. The last snake to steal a glass egg entered by way of a knothole but could not depart by the same route because the egg protruded so far that its body would not go through the hole. The snake was captured, then opened, and the egg removed. McGill returned the glass egg to its nest in the house. In 1916, William Watson of Baltimore was visiting Rock Hall with his family. A snake was found draped over the doorway of the icehouse where a watermelon was being kept for dinner. When the reptile was dispatched, it was found to contain a glass egg and a hen's egg. Norvell told Jon Mullen a story of how the Belts' servant, Aunt Delia, placed marble eggs in the chicken nests in the chicken coop. The snakes would swallow the marble eggs, and she would catch the snakes that could not make a fast escape. After telling Jon that story, the two men walked out back where Norvell showed Jon the location where the chicken coop and the icehouse that had once stood behind Rock Hall.

To be continued.

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'The Heat Is on, On the Street'—sung by Glenn Frey

So how hot is it for your pets?

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

This summer has been regular hot so far. That being said, danger of high heat to you and your furry pets is always something to look out for when outside, or even inside.

The Summer Sun has a much more direct angle to the surface of the Earth. This enhances heating of all structures, on the ground or raised.

So where should you check for heat when you and your furry friends are outside?

1. Any impervious surface (blacktop, concrete, milled stone, gravel, and dirt) can absorb excessive amounts of heat. When you or your pet contact that surface, the heat transferred to unprotected skin, hands, feet, noses, and other body areas can be rapid and create second- and third-degree burns in as little as 30 seconds. Always check a surface with your hand or toe before letting your animal walk on it.
2. Traveling down the road of life is wonderful, but at this time of year, please do it early in the morning, after a good rain, or later in the evening when the sun has gone mostly down. This will limit potential skin injury and reduce the chances for heat stroke. Remember, your dogs do not have sweat glands, so all heat transfer must take place via the mouth. When the temperature outside is above 90° F, there is not enough heat sink to allow for adequate cooling from their mouths.
3. Hanging out is also a terrific way to pass the time on a sweltering day. If you are letting your furry friends stay outside, it is critical that they are in a location with full shade, clean cool water that is not in the sun, and active air flow. If you feel you need a fan, then your pet does also. Artificial turf can get as hot as asphalt—don't be fooled.
4. "I think my pet is hot." If you think this, your pet may already be in the initial stages of heat stroke. Heat stroke occurs as the body temperature rises above 103° F. on its way to 107° F. Any body temperature above 106° is already starting to have critical shock events to the brain, kidneys, liver, spleen, intestines, and heart. The damage can be significant and life ending.
5. When in doubt, stay cool for yourself and your pets. When the weather is a yellow or red flag day, consider changing your plans to more inside activity. This way you avoid heat dangers. Remember also that a house without AC can become a "hot box" for you and your pets just like the family car when out in the full sun. Windows open or partially rolled down will not stop the heating effect. When you leave your hot house or hot car, take your pets, and kids. Your husband? Well, that is up to you.



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