

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

April 27, 2018 • Volume XIV, Number 4

Montgomery County Police Briefs Parents on School Safety

By Rande Davis



Face painting at a spring festival at the Blue Hearth. More pictures in Family Album on page 2.



Heather Darragh, Tom Kettler, and Alex Adkins made a great team! Find out how and why in Tidbits on page 5.



Senior class secretary Julia Rich works on a mosaic. Details on page 16.



Zachary Dou rises to the occasion at just the right time. Read about boys' volleyball on page 20.

The PHS PTSA hosted a meeting on school safety and security on January 17. Montgomery County Police 1st District commander, Capt. David Anderson, Community Outreach Officer, Doug Tressler, and School Resource Officer, Chris Winkler, attended the gathering to brief the parents on related topics.

Principal Deena Levine, prior to introducing the visiting police officers along with school security team leader, James "Skip" Etheridge, passed out an outline of the current MCP forty-five-day action plan for school safety and security.

The plan, still in the active progress stages, is made up of four key components: Facilities, Technology, Budget, and Training. Under facility security, making sure classrooms have adequate locking mechanisms is essential. MCPS is introducing a new system by issuing door magnet locks; they are

Continued on page 24.



Community Outreach Officer Doug Tressler, Captain David Anderson, and School Resource Officer Chris Winkler at a recent PHS PTSA meeting on school safety.

Brian Feldman Addresses Sugarloaf Citizens' Association Annual Meeting

By John Clayton

The local environmental activist group, the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association, held its annual meeting at the Linden Barn facility in Dickerson. Before an acceptably-large and attentive crowd, augmented by what had to be a record number of aspiring political candidates, keynote speaker State Senator Brian Feldman of our own District 15 provided a blow-by-blow account of legislative attempts to reduce incentives for the use of trash-burning incinerators to generate electricity. This relates to the Dickerson trash-burning facility and the SCA's ongoing effort to prevent the plant's operator, Covanta, from renewing its lease with the state.

Feldman began his comments with a sure-fire crowd-pleaser: his role, along



Sophie Skanchy and Renee Quaranta of Poolesville High School presented their award-winning beehive project.

with councilmen (and candidates for county executive) Roger Berliner and Marc Elrich, in helping to thwart

Virginia's efforts to build a new bridge across the Potomac River into

Continued on page 21.

Courtesy of Mackenzie Mullett.

Family Album



Alden Farm's sculptor David Therriault with tourists Jutta and Arndt Boauseler at this spring's Countryside Artisans showcase.



The Blue Hearth Market Weekend featured spring plants from Common Ground, music, and fun children's activities.



Tons of good stuff at Our Lady of the Presentation's spring rummage sale.



Lenni Berry at Claire Howard's art studio during the Countryside Artisans' spring studio tour. With her are the artist and her husband, Frank.



PAA's U-13 girls' softball league, the feeder league for future varsity stars, gets the spring season going.



Barnesville residents celebrated Earth Day by cleaning up: Woody Bailey, Shirley Hilton, Timothy Hilton in four wheeler, Joyce Bailey and Lisa Hilton in front of four wheeler, Woody Hilton in background, Marina Callear, Mildred Callear, Audrey Morris, and Jane Thompson. Not pictured: William Price, Cherry Barr, David Wagner, Toni Wagner, Holly Larisch, Darina Callear, Jaime Field, William Field, Caroline Field, and Steve Vogel.



Peter Gallo, Gary Burdette, Roger Brenholtz, and Joe Ryba with HMD president Maureen O'Connell (center) at the Monocacy Lions's spring cleaning day at the John Poole House.



Terri Pitts caught this beautiful sunset at Willis Road off of Hughes Road.

Gail Lee

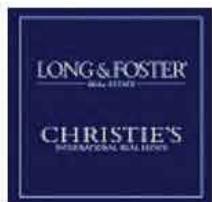
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Rande(m) Thoughts This Is Driving Me Nuts! How about You?

By Rande Davis

I really love seeing pictures of people from all over the world smiling or laughing about something unknown. It doesn't matter why or what they are laughing about, just that their joy bursts out and, for a moment, you share their joy, you share their humanity.

The things we share can often be the very simplest of things. Profundity does not have to be complex. Along with the smile or laugh, we share hurts. We share a family birth or the loss of a loved one the same. What startles and confuses me the most is World War II Nazis or contemporary terrorists expressing an unexpected positive emotion like a smile. Can this be a microscopic spark of symbol of hope that something positive exists within us all or just a brief representation of how twisted some people can be?

Along with so many things we share as neighbors and friends like love of our families, this community, or perhaps faith, we also share something else hidden deep within inside us. We all have pet peeves. Okay, so you should have known I could not keep this on a deep path of insight for long.

I look at pet peeves as those favorite things that drive us nuts, most usually petty to boot. Quite often they are so petty, we prefer not to even speak of their haunting control over us. It's our little secret, but when it comes to pet peeves, we all have one, two, three—Lord, I hope not many more than that!

Pet peeves reside deep inside us, hibernating for that moment of exposure most often locked within our personal psyche unnoticed by all around us. Then it happens. You know the moment you get hit with them, the there-it-is sting. Our mind shifts to a faster gear, the voices in our head shouting from ear to ear: "What!" or "Why do they do that?" Then we calm down, move on with our lives, waiting for the next time we come face to face with this pet peeve.

My poor copyeditor has to go through this every time she edits my work. I can hear her now. "What? Another sentence starting with 'and' or 'so'?"—but, I can't help it; it's just the way I like to write. Ha! Now let's see her try to remove the "but" that started this last sentence. (Guess what, folks, she did it [using the amazing and magical em dash]!—Signed Rande's copyeditor.)

To prove my point, I asked around town from a variety of people about their pet peeves. I got at least one from all but one person who mostly likely did not want to expose hers. I think she kept her pet peeve hidden under the guise of preferring only to be positive never negative.

For the others, here are the pet peeves from some of your neighbors:

Commissioner Cal Sneed: One of my greatest pet peeves is drivers and cyclists who treat public roads as their own private pathway by not paying attention to the act of driving/biking. Whether it is texting or other distractions, not maintaining a safe speed (high or low), or bikers riding two, three, or sometimes even four wide and blocking cars, such actions disregard the needs and safety of others.

Val Dickerson: My pet peeve is when people don't take the time to realize that being diverse and different doesn't mean being difficult. Just because someone doesn't see something your way doesn't mean they are wrong. Without this diversity of thought, we would all appear to be clones. Take the time to understand people and then attempt to be understood! We are all guilty (including me, believe it or not).

Jim Brown: My pet peeve would be the use of social media—and the anonymity of social media—to allow members of any community to cower behind their keyboards instead of engaging in meaningful (and usually civil and positive) dialogue. The good news is that this amazing town is almost always better than that.

Kevin Schramm, school cluster coordinator: When websites assume that my preferred store location is Sterling, Virginia, the political signs littering the landscape during election season, drivers on roads like Fisher Avenue using a right turn lane or shoulder to pass, and shoppers who leave the CVS or Dollar General shopping carts in the parking lot instead of returning them inside the store.

Susan Petro, Monocle Writer: People talking on their cellphones while in public and having a loud phone conversation apparently alone. A coworker constantly had an earphone in his ear and was always having a conversation with an unknown individual. He just walked around all day talking, no matter who else was around. Grocery shopping lines are the worst. They just continue their conversation as if no one else is around. Hang up your darn phone and engage with the people around you!

Continued on page 25.

Town Government

Commissioners Approve Takeover Of Fisher Avenue from County

By Link Hoewing

At their April 16 meeting, Poolesville's commissioners gave final approval to a longstanding proposal to take over the ownership and maintenance of the town's main thoroughfare, Fisher Avenue. Currently, Fisher Avenue is under the control of the county, and negotiations have been underway for many months to give the town ownership of the road.



Town commissioners capped the PHS girls' basketball state championship season with one last heartfelt proclamation.

Before voting on the takeover proposal, the commissioners welcomed the Poolesville High School girls' varsity basketball squad and their coach, Fred Swick. The team was praised for its undefeated season and for capturing

Continued on page 19.

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Tidbits

Want to Make a Difference in Your Life? Start Here



UMCVFD fire department volunteers, Alexa Brown and Judith Murgia, with Jeff Eck, smilingly give the pitch to become a volunteer to this prospect.

Have you been looking for a way to really make a difference, fill an important need, do something critically important in your community? The Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department wants to meet with you. Relax, it's not just fire fighting and emergency medical personnel they need. Of course, that is always a wonderful way to contribute, but they are in need of other very important backup roles: administrative, fundraising, operational, and managerial roles.

While no experience is required to find a role to help, a heart for helping others is a great place to start. They provide the training, the equipment, and a pathway to help others. You provide the desire. Want to explore this possibility to bring something really special to your life? Contact Jeff Eck by emailing membership@umcvfd.org or by calling the non-emergency phone number 301-972-8719.

PES Outdoor Classroom Rejuvenated

It's hard to imagine, but it has been twenty years since Poolesville Elementary School was gifted an outdoor classroom. Through the hard work of parent volunteers, teachers, Fine Earth Landscape, and Capital Fence, a beautiful waterfall was created with plantings and wooden benches.



A section of the twenty-year-old outdoor classroom at Poolesville Elementary School.

The teachers and students have enjoyed their outdoor classroom for the past two decades. In fact, the PES outdoor classroom won both a Montgomery County Beautification Award and was designated a wildlife habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.

In 2016, Principal Doug Robbins and PTA leader Kevin Schramm thought that their awesome outdoor classroom could be made even more awesome. They contacted the original landscape architect, Bernie Mihm, of Fine Earth Landscape to prepare another award-winning design. With the help of PES teachers Margaret White and Amy Hufnagel, Bernie and his team prepared a design that was integrated into the school curriculum. Everyone was hopeful that the plan would meet MCPS's approval. It took a year, but MCPS approved, and the crew at Fine Earth went to work. They collected logs and forest litter and created a natural woods area. They planted dozens of native plants, both in the natural woods garden but also in a sunny butterfly garden. Fine Earth also built a series of raised flower and vegetable gardens. The storage shed was too large to be moved through the school so Fine Earth provided muscle power to lift it over the school roof. Poolesville Elementary School alumnus Sean MacKenzie led his Capital Fence crew in constructing more benches. The kids love these beds and enjoy growing (and eating) strawberries, raspberries, and other vegetables and flowers. The teachers, especially Sharon Zagoda, have done a tremendous job in maintaining and expanding the flower and vegetable plantings.

It was a great partnership of dedicated education professionals, parents, and local businesses who combined to create an outstanding learning space for the kids at Poolesville Elementary School.

Funds Raised for Town Art Project

With a smile on his face and a steady hand on the beer tap, Tom Kettler, of Kettle Forlines Homes and community volunteer, poured the drinks at Bassett's Restaurant with the helpful guidance of Bassett's bar staff Heather Darragh and Alex Adkins on April 20 to raise money to support the murals of town scenes. The jammed-in crowd contributed \$446 toward the production of murals to be hand-painted on the exterior of the restaurant. Along with a Sugarloaf Mountain pastoral view, the regionally-famous local sunflower field on River Road, and White's Ferry, the attendees made

Continued on page 11.

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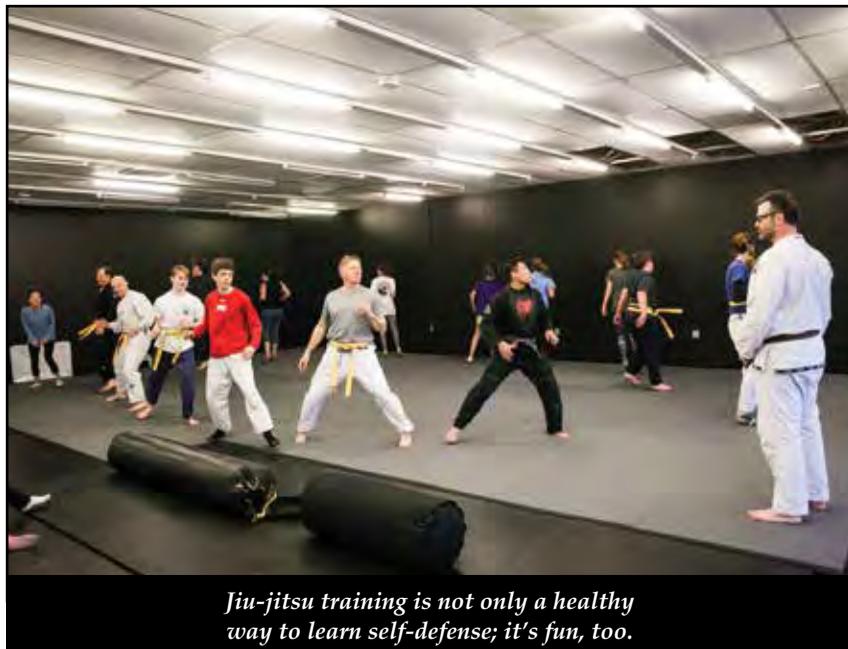
Your Health

Poolesville Self Defense: Defining Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu

By Kerri Cook

The building and parking lot on 19831 Fisher Avenue that regularly house the Brewster’s ice cream truck have been vacant for some time. It was most recently the location of Discovery Daycare and other businesses before that. On April 1, however, it reopened its doors as Poolesville Self Defense. Inside, students practice Brazilian jiu-jitsu, a form of martial arts that focuses on ground fighting.

Leigh Peper has been showing up since last September when Poolesville Self Defense was housed in the Glad-I-Yoga studio down the street. She’s there at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday mornings. She stays an hour late on Tuesday and Thursday nights to spar (or more commonly “roll”) with others. She is new to martial arts, but she says she is hooked. “I find that it is more about physical and mental mechanics and not all about muscle. I didn’t know if the fighting piece would appeal to me, but, as they say, each day of our lives is a fight. We have to fight sometimes just to get out of bed.” As a yellow belt, she has participated in one competition so far, and Peper says she would like to do more, with training. “Being able to compete is just another tool to have in your toolbox.”



Jiu-jitsu training is not only a healthy way to learn self-defense; it's fun, too.

Sixteen-year-old Luka Brizhik recently earned a third place ribbon in his first competition. “Jiu-jitsu is something I love and will continue to do for a very long time.” Luka has been practicing with “Mr. Mark” since the beginning, when Mark Munster taught five or six students in his basement jiu-jitsu studio. Luka continued, “I keep showing up for class because we’re a family there. We train together, we make mistakes together, and we get better together.”

“Mr. Mark” and “Mr. Ray,” as students affectionately call them, are co-owners of PSD, Mark Munster and Ray Castro. They have been passionate about the sport for over a decade. What has brought both of them to teaching the sport is a shared sense of creating an environment wherein everyone is connected, enjoys his/her time on the mat, and helps one another. Castro, who also offers personal training, left a long career in accounting to pursue the sport. He says that he has dealt with bouts of depression in the past, and his practice of jiu-jitsu was key in becoming more focused. “The physical and mental components of jiu-jitsu can change your philosophy about what it means to be a winner.”

When Mark Munster first came to Brazilian jiu-jitsu, he assumed that because he is large in stature that he would easily dominate in martial arts, but instead found that he was “tapped out” or bested by much smaller individuals. He liked the adventure of learning the technical prowess needed to be good at the sport. “You have to get comfortable in uncomfortable positions.” Says Munster, “The platform is truly self improvement and that breeds confidence—in many parts of one’s life.”

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Garden

Fertilizers 101

By Maureen O'Connell

As we head into the spring planting season, gardeners often ask if they should use fertilizers in their vegetable and flower gardens, and if so, which ones are recommended. If you visit garden centers and the plant section of big-box stores, the choices are overwhelming and the package labels are mysterious. What do those three numbers mean? Today, let's take a closer look at fertilizers: What do they do for plants? How much do you use and how often? Organic vs. chemical? Are they safe for the environment? More importantly, are they really necessary for the health of your gardens?

Plants are living organisms, and they need proper nourishment to survive. They must obtain various nutrients from the soil or medium in which they are growing. Plants need large amounts of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium, calcium, magnesium, and sulphur. They also need smaller amounts of iron, copper, zinc, manganese, molybdenum, boron, nickel, and chlorine. Quite an appetite that can't be supplied by a One A Day vitamin pill—so where do they get all these nutritional goodies? Ideally, a well conditioned-soil would partially satisfy their needs, but not all soils are created equally, and different species of plants have special needs.

The first step in addressing this issue is a soil test which will help you understand what nutrients are present in your soil. This is important for deciding what nutrients, if any, you should add. Interestingly, the reading may vary from different locations in your yard. Inexpensive kits can be bought at many garden centers and hardware stores.

Soil is the very foundation of a garden, and the maintenance of its well-being is a very important role for gardeners. A garden is as good as its soil. I am a firm believer in the benefits of organic matter (humus). My preference is for Leaf Gro which is composed of grass clippings and ground-up leaves. I spread it over all my gardens at the end of fall. Earthworms and the essential bacteria that liberate minerals in the soil can do their job better if there is a good humus content. This organic matter will improve the texture and structure of the soil, but it will not be enough to feed hungry plants year in and year out.

The next question is: Are fertilizers needed and what kind? Visual signs can be deceiving. It could be that the plant is just not suitable for your yard's climatic conditions. No fertilizer has a magic wand to cure an ailing plant. As I have said many times, here is where native plants have a distinct advantage over non-native and/or exotic cultivars. They have adapted to the environment, the soil, and the climate in which they live. If you are happy with the color and appearance of your landscape plants (shrubs, flowers, trees, etc.) you actually don't need to fertilize them.

If you decide that you want to use fertilizers, let's take a closer look at what is in the marketplace. When selecting a fertilizer, look at the three numbers on the label of the bag. They will read something like, 10-10-10 or 5-12-6. The first number represents the percentage of nitrogen in the product, the second refers to phosphorous, and the third is the amount of potassium. The first two numbers are the ones to be cautious of, as they cause the most problems with regard to water pollution.

There is always a lively debate among gardeners as to whether they prefer organic or chemical fertilizers. You might say that nutrients are nutrients, so what difference does it make? There are significant differences in terms of nutrient availability, the long-term effects on soil, plants, and the environment. The word "organic" does not refer to the standards of processing associated with food. Organic fertilizer is usually made from plant or animal waste or powdered minerals. They are usually sold as soil conditioners, as the nutrient ratios are difficult to gauge. As they are the ultimate slow-release fertilizers, there is little danger of over-fertilizing and harming the plants. There is also no risk of toxic buildup of chemicals and salts. They are renewable, biodegradable, sustainable, and environmentally friendly. I will admit that they are more expensive than chemical fertilizers. I believe that the top organic fertilizers are blood meal, bone meal, earthworm castings, bat guano, fish emulsion, alfalfa meal, cottonseed meal, and rock phosphate. They are a little difficult to locate in our local stores, but they are available online.

Chemical fertilizers have been refined to extract nutrients and bind them in specific ratios with other chemical filters. They may be made from petroleum products, rocks, or even organic sources. Now I must admit that they have advantages: the nutrients are available to the plants immediately; they are analyzed to produce the exact ratio of nutrients

Continued on page 10.

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Things To Do

Poolesville Area Senior Center (PASC Events – Poolesville Baptist Church)

Pickleball: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Free Form Movement: Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in Rm 129.

Zumba Gold: Wednesday in gym at 1:00 p.m.

April 27

PHS Varsity Home Game

Tennis. Einstein. 3:30 p.m.

April 27 and 28

St. Peter's Annual Spring Rummage Sale

Tons of great used and cared-for items for home and individuals. Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to noon.

April 30

PHS Varsity Home Games

Baseball and softball. Walter Johnson. 3:45 p.m.

May 1

WUMCO Fundraiser

The Mexican Grill will donate 10% of the proceeds from all food sales for the day to WUMCO Help. Dine in or carry out, lunch and dinner. 19710K Fisher Avenue, Poolesville.

May 2

PHS Varsity Home Games

Baseball and softball. Einstein. 3:45 p.m.

Community Dinner

All welcome. Spaghetti and meatball dinner with salad and dessert. Free. St. Peter's Church. 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

May 3

PHS Art Show

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

May 4

PHS Varsity Home Games

Lacrosse. Northwest. Girls: 5:30 p.m., boys: 7:15 p.m.

UMCVFD Auxiliary Bingo

Featuring cash and gift cards, as well as door prize drawings. Refreshments available for purchase. Please, do not bring outside food and beverages. Enjoy an evening of relaxing fun while helping to support your local Fire Department. \$20. Beallsville Fire Station, 19801 Beallsville Road, Beallsville. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; games begin at 7:00 p.m.

May 4, 5, and 6

Barnesville Baptist Church Revival Weekend

Featuring Rev. Michael Salim Mattar. Friday: Opening service at 7:00 p.m. Saturday: Continental breakfast at 10:00 a.m., worship at 10:30 a.m., lunch served at noon, and worship with southern gospel music group Damascus Road Trio at 1:00 p.m. Concludes Sunday with worship at 10:45 a.m.

The Blue Hearth May Market Weekend

Find the perfect gift for Mom from our selection of fabulous, creative, and unique refurbished décor items. Friday: noon to 8:00 p.m.; Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and Sunday, featuring the Common Ground Market: Noon to 5:00 p.m.

May 5

10th Annual SCA Plant Swap

Sponsored by Sugarloaf Citizens' Association. Buy, sell, swap, give away—your choice! Offering seeds, seedlings, plants, divisions, flowers, shrubs, veggies, heirlooms, pots, and garden gear. Linden Farm, Martinsburg Road, Dickerson. 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Special tour of farm's honeybee hives at 11:00 a.m.

St. Peter's Dance Night

Open to whole community. Snacks and cash bar: wine, beer, and soda. \$25 per person, pay by cash, check, or online at stpeterspoolesville.org/new-events. Dance lessons at 7:00 p.m., a variety of dance music offered by a local DJ from 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

May 7

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

May 9

WUMCO Help's Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting will be held in the conference room next to the WUMCO office at the Poolesville Baptist Church. We will be honoring two of our exceptional volunteers, electing board members, and giving a report on 2017 operations and plans for the coming year. Come learn how we serve your community. 7:00 p.m.

Canal Conversations:

The Cultural and Natural History of the C & O Canal

The C&O lecture series continues with William Bauman who will speak about the agricultural history of Montgomery County, the breadbasket for Georgetown and Washington, D.C. Between 1840 and 1850, the canal was a major transportation channel for agricultural products. From data on those deliveries, we can learn how the

industry changed, e.g. from shipping barrels of flour to shipping thousands of bushels of wheat and corn. Maggie Nightingale Library. 7:00 p.m.

May 12

Pork & Beef BBQ Sandwich Sales – UMCVFD Fundraiser

Pork or beef sandwiches or platters available for eat-in or takeout. 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or sooner if sold out.

May 16

Poolesville Planning Commission Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

May 18

Earl Moore Charity Golf Tournament

For details and to register, go to www.umcvfd.org. Poolesville Golf Course. Checkin: 11:15 a.m. Shotgun start: 12:30 p.m.

May 18, 19, and 20

The Blue Hearth May Market Weekend

Fabulous, creative, and unique refurbished décor items for spring. Friday: noon to 8:00 p.m.; Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; and Sunday, featuring the Common Ground Market: Noon to 5:00 p.m.

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In Our Own Backard

Winter Sightings on The C&O Canal

By Jon Wolz

During January and February, Steve Horvath and I visited (on two separate trips) Riley's Lock, the nearby Seneca Stonecutting Mills, the Seneca Quarry, and the Seneca Quarry workers' cemetery. The temperature in January was about freezing and the temperature on our February visit was seventy degrees. In January, Seneca Creek was almost frozen over and there was a lot of ice in the Potomac River. There were a few people on the canal towpath in January walking, and there were several people out along the towpath in February, including walkers, cyclists, and birders. Turtles sunned themselves on logs, frogs hopped into the water, and mallard ducks fished in the canal. The mallards were feeding on something underwater. They went in head first, leaving their rear out of the water. We also saw a pileated woodpecker.



Steve Horvath and Bruce Kirby on their walk on the C&O Canal.

John C. Riley was the last lock tender when the canal permanently closed because of flooding in 1924. The lock house at this location was built in 1829 as evidenced by the date chiseled near the roof in a stone in front of the lock house. The lock house is restored, and Girl Scouts provide interpretations on many weekends. This June 23 to 24, from noon to 4:00 p.m., there will be interpretative tours provided by the C&O Canal Association as part of the Montgomery County Heritage Days. Also at Riley's Lock, is the Seneca Aqueduct. There is a tall ornamental stone on the aqueduct next to the towpath with "1889 June 2" with a horizontal line cut into the stone indicating the high-water mark from that year's flood. The aqueduct and lift lock were constructed between 1829 to 1832. Several of the stones in the lock bear carved signature symbols and dates chiseled into them by the stonecutters from the mill.

The aqueduct received significant damage from a flood in 1971 that brought debris from up Seneca Creek, including houses, boats, and trees, slamming against the aqueduct. The National Park Service stabilized the aqueduct; however, private funding and private initiative are needed to restore this historical structure.

Continued on page 13.



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Continued from page 7.

Fertilizers 101

desired; the labeling is easy to understand; and they are inexpensive. On the down side: they are primarily made from non-renewable sources, including fossil fuels; they grow plants but do nothing to sustain the soil; there is a danger of over fertilization; and the repeated applications may result in a toxic buildup of chemicals which can make their way into our waterways and be harmful to people, wildlife, and the environment. Dan Pearson, an English garden designer, once described chemical fertilizers as garden junk food: They give the plant a quick fix and encourage soft, fleshy growth that

is prone to disease and die-back in winter.

How do you know if you are buying an organic or chemical fertilizer? Read the label for the nutrients in the package. If it says something like 10-10-10 or 10-15-10, then you know it is chemically made. Natural fertilizers don't come in perfect combinations of nutrients, so you might see numbers similar to 4-12-0 or 13-1-0.

Making a choice; it is up to you. If you want the biggest tomatoes, containers spilling over with blossoms, and the greenest lawn in the neighborhood, load up your garden with chemical fertilizers, but be sure you understand what's really happening to the earth under your feet, and make your choice consciously.

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Continued from page 5.

Tidbits

various suggestions for the fourth panel. It will be chosen at a later date.

Boyd's Civic Association Honors WUMCO

The Boyd's Civic Association presented a special proclamation to Western Upper Montgomery County Help, Inc. (WUMCO) upon its fiftieth anniversary, noting it as an extraordinary and essential organization within the



Ray Hoewing (President, Board of Directors of WUMCO), Jeff Sypeck (Food Coordinator for WUMCO), Hammet Hough (President, Boyd's Civic Association), Adam DeBaugh (Assistant Executive Director of WUMCO), and Link Hoewing (Volunteer Transportation Coordinator for WUMCO).

community which provides assistance to persons in need with emergency financial aid for critical needs like heat or water, rent, medical bills, temporary transportation, and food.

The proclamation also observed that WUMCO Help does these good deeds from the heart in offering what is often lifesaving assistance.

WUMCO depends on private donations from individuals and community organizations and is able to provide vital support to persons in need living in Boyds, Poolesville, Barnesville, Beallsville, and Dickerson. There is no better time to donate than today.

Poolesville Initiates a New Wellness Wednesday Program

Cathy Bupp, recreation director of Poolesville, reports that the town is offering special wellness seminars to be held on Wednesday evenings. Appropriately called Wellness Wednesday, the informative seminars will be offered from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the town hall. The first seminar on Overcoming Addiction had guest speaker Korey Shorb, founder of the Up & Out Foundation. Upcoming events and dates are: May 23 - Living with Lyme with Christina Murphey, Wellness Coach with Can Do with Lyme; May 30- Go Further with Food by Kimberly

Zisman, Dietitian from Frederick Blood Pressure/Stroke Prevention by Joyce Sampson of Circle of Rights.



Korey Shorb of the Up & Out Foundation spoke about overcoming addictions at the first Poolesville Wellness Wednesday special event.

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School News

New Principal At JPMS

By Kerri Cook

John Poole Middle School has a new principal, and his name is Jon Green. Serving as acting principal since the beginning of this school year, Green becomes official on July 1. Before coming to Poolesville, he was assistant principal at other middle schools in the area as well as Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. Having gone through the interview process along with other candidates for the JPMS post and, after receiving tremendous support from the Poolesville parent community, he is very grateful to have found his home. Former Principal Bob Sinclair left JPMS at the end of the 2016-2017 school year to lead James Hubert Blake High which, coincidentally, is where Jon Green taught mathematics for eight years.

Green is not your average Joe Principal. He is much more playful and fun-loving than one might expect from an administrator. He has a hard time covering up an almost-constant smile. A Penn State graduate, he is a



Jon Green and the community are well pleased with his permanent appointment as JPMS principal.

self-admitted “middle-schooler in an adult’s body,” and his good-humored energy is contagious. When he walks the halls of JPMS, he receives a lot of smiles from students in return. Parents like him, too.

In fact, a large parent-led letter-writing campaign to Montgomery County Public Schools surely didn’t hurt in boosting his candidacy for the spot. Green notes that he was overwhelmed by the support and good thoughts he received on social media as well. Says the school administrative secretary Alison D’Aiotolo, the staff is

also thrilled that Green is staying on. “The morale is really great here at the school. People are happy.”

Green’s upbeat personality seems to be a good fit for the middle school years during which students have many academic and social stresses while at the same time still being very much children. What he says he likes most about JPMS is the feeling of inclusion—that everyone is treated like a family member. Indeed, he says that his guiding philosophy for leading a school of 370 pre-teens is to “treat ‘em like my own from eight to three every day.”

A father of three and a county resident, he says he is constantly learning. Leading a team of fifty teachers and staff is a juggling act. He is

learning what his teachers want of him in order to best do their job and what students need to be successful. “I want to make sure we are giving JPMS kids the best instruction we can for each of the five forty-seven-minute periods of each school day. I want them smiling when they come through the front door in the morning and when they leave at the end of the day.”

Principal Green expressed his lively side again at the end of our interview, when he made a suggestion to this reporter, who is also a parent of a JPMS sixth grader: “Hey, let’s go check in on your kid in fifth period—she’ll see her mom and the principal standing at the door of her English class, and she won’t know what to think! It’ll be fun.”

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Winter Sightings on The C&O Canal

The aqueduct is a combination lift lock and aqueduct. Of the eleven canal aqueducts, this is the only combination lift lock and aqueduct on the C&O Canal. Both the aqueduct and lock were constructed using Seneca red sandstone from the nearby quarry that were cut at the stonecutting mill. This is also the only aqueduct among the eleven aqueducts constructed with Seneca red sandstone. Quarried and cut stones were used to construct locks from Lock 27 near the Monocacy Aqueduct to Georgetown. Seneca red stones were used in the construction of some local homes and buildings in Washington, D.C., as well, such as the Smithsonian Castle on the National Mall. Seneca red stones were boated down the C&O Canal via the Washington Canal.

The stonecutting mill is a short walk from the aqueduct and is on the berm side of the canal. When Steve Horvath and I explored this large structure, we saw that graffiti artists had applied their distasteful spray paint to the historical structure. The canal is watered here for about a mile, with stone walls on the berm side of the canal. Boats used the walls to tie up to load stones that were quarried from the cliffs a short distance away and boated to the mill. Stones were quarried out of the steep hillside that parallels the canal.

One mile west of the aqueduct along the towpath, Steve and I crossed the canal prism and hiked up through the woods in search of the Seneca Quarry workers' cemetery. There are no paths or signs leading the way to the cemetery. I had visited the cemetery in January 2017 with the C&O Canal Association. The cemetery is high on top of a hill overlooking the Potomac River; it contains five headstones with hand-carved inscriptions and about twenty-five fieldstones marking grave sites. There are several sunken ground impressions that could contain unmarked graves.

Exploring the remnants of the quarry and the cemetery should be done in the winter or early spring months. The area is overgrown during the summer months. Steve and I hope to get back to this area for further exploration.

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Yeas and Neighs

Have Trailer, Will Travel — Part Two

By Andie Devynck

In Part One, we got the truck, trailer, and horse ready for travel to great weekend riding retreats. Those trips were all under three hours from Poolesville—perfect for spring jaunts that get you thinking about longer excursions for summer vacations. Here they are then: **The Five Hours or More** Mid-Atlantic trips that are worth the time, money, and effort by virtue of their ample trails, picturesque settings, wide variety of lodgings, and the serenity we all seek for a week or more. Please remember to contact any site on the list below to inquire about the current status and availability of the facility—and their cancellation policies—before you make a reservation either over the phone or on their website.



A bucket-list item for any rider: the Carriage Trails at Acadia National Park in Maine.

North Carolina—The Biltmore Estate looms large in the dreams of horse vacationers. The eight-hour drive is well worth the trip as the facility offers on-site lodging at the inn, full-service boarding or temporary stabling, as well as lessons, shows, clinics, and camps. Best of all, the estate features more than eighty miles of well-marked trails. **Chadbourne Farm Lodge and Stables**, just over six hours away in Hoffman, bills itself as a “Trail Rider’s Paradise”—replete with easy access to **Sandhills Gameland**, a wildlife preserve of sixty thousand acres, wide, sandy trails, and miles of ‘em. The farm offers large pastures, paddocks, and box stalls. Riders stay in the old-fashioned charming farm lodge with a kitchen and living room, too.

Pennsylvania—Cook Forest Area Scenic Trail Ride, Dude Ranch, and Campground features over three hundred miles of trails, Jacuzzi, hot showers, water and electric hook-up, an arena, recreation hall, swimming pool (June-August), mapped trails, and package deals available with meals and cabins. What’s not to love? Plan for five hours on the road, and head up to Clarion for low-budget fun.

Virginia—The George Washington and Jefferson National Forests may be only four hours’ drive, but it’s worth sneaking it into this compilation due to the sheer size and magnificent terrain. Both parks allow riding on open forest roads and on many forest roads that are gated to prevent motor vehicle travel. There are also over fifty marked trails with more than 1,290 miles of horse and multi-use shared trails. There are also several developed horse campgrounds, so be sure to inquire about those.

West Virginia—Bear Mountain Wilderness RV Resort, a BYOH in Princeton, is just over five hours’ drive and offers an eight-hundred-square-foot lodge with two-room suites, paddocks, and a restaurant and lounge, as well as fifty RV sites with paddocks, bathrooms, bathhouse, laundry facilities, and fifty miles of trails. **Canyon Rim Ranch**—just a five-and-a-half hours’ drive—has plenty of tent camping in an exclusive camping area high above the ranch, although RV space is limited. They also provide fire pits and charcoal grills, but you must supply your own wood and charcoal. Shower and bathroom facilities are available, picket lines are provided, and portable pens allowed. **Sunday Stables** in St. Albans boasts boarding with a B&B (pets welcome, too!) just under six hours’ drive. They provide large box stall or indoor arena space, shower stalls, and outdoor arena access. Ask about their on-site apartment and their trail system when making a reservation.

Continued on page 17.

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Youth Sports

PHS Coed Volleyball Team Has a Flashback Moment

By Jeff Stuart

When the PHS coed volleyball team won an epic 32-30 third game at Clarksburg on April 16, it was a momentary flashback to last year's championship game. They had led, 19-12, before the Coyotes had rallied to tie the game at twenty. From then on, the intensity level of both teams had increased. The Falcons had faced game point three times.

"It's been a pretty good season so far," said junior outside hitter Kyle Stevens-Donati, whose hit from the left side landed inside the left sideline for the game winner. "We are off to a good start. That game three against Clarksburg was really intense. It was going back and forth. It was probably one of the highest-scoring games I have ever seen. I got up to block their really tall guy, Kevin Kiser (6'6") a couple of times. That was a really good team. I think we are going to be competitive in the playoffs and hope to make it to the finals. Kevin Song came over from the swim team. He has never played volleyball before, and he has made a huge impact. Our best individual set was that game against Clarksburg. It would be hard to top that. Our best match was against Whitman in the first game of the season. We were just coming together as a team, and we played really well. Everyone gets along really well. It is really fun."

"It was very nerve wracking," said freshman setter Ainslee Barger who served the final two points of the game against Clarksburg, "especially when the score was tied at 30, and I was serving. I was shaking. I don't normally serve. Playing against that number 15, Kyle Kiser was definitely hard, but we needed to see what we could do. I love coed. Playing with boys is different. They are a lot stronger. I like the camaraderie. You have to trust your setter, and I think I have had that trust from the start."

"We have a really good mix of people who are experienced and a bunch of people that are new," said senior Amirah Paksmia, "so we are teaching the new



The 2018 PHS coed volleyball team: Anislee Barger, Kyle Stevens-Donati, Anthony Sheehi, Amirah Paksmia, Katarina Lechner, Kevin Song, Olivia Paksmia, and Megan Nee; not pictured: Bryanna Sellers, Minsu Kim, Lauren Penn, and Robert Queen.

people the ropes and improving our own skills. We have some great new middles like Kevin and Minsu Kim, a sophomore, who came over from the swimming team, but they had never played before, so we are getting them familiar with the sport. I feel like they have a lot of potential...The other teams we have played have been good but not challenging like [Clarksburg]. That game really pushed us. We came together as a team." Freshman Olivia Paksmia, the libero, is his sister.

"I had never played before high school," said Anthony Sheehi. "I tried out my sophomore year and didn't make it, so I became a manager, and I learned the

Continued on page 25.



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School News Happenings

By Melody Zhang

Staff Appreciation Luncheon Held to Celebrate a Late Chinese New Year

Photo courtesy of George Zhang.



Parent organizers of the PTSA appreciation luncheon posed for a group photo.

The PHS PTSA and the Asian/Chinese Student Parent network hosted a staff appreciation luncheon on Monday, April 9 to celebrate Chinese New Year with the hardworking staff of Poolesville High School. Students from all grade levels, as well as parents from the Chinese community, volunteered at the luncheon at which they served a variety of traditional Chinese dishes and desserts to staff, including fried rice, sesame balls, and vegetable dishes. Following the lunch, students raffled off prizes, including gift cards and surprise packages, to thank the teachers for their dedication and commitment to PHS. The luncheon was originally scheduled for Thursday, January 25, a few weeks before the official start of the Chinese New Year; however, the event was rescheduled due to emergency snow conditions.

PHS Senior Class SGA Organizes Mosaic Tile Mural as Graduation Gift for Class of 2018

Instead of doing the annual cultural arts assembly held at the end of the year, this year's senior SGA officers, as a graduating gift for this year's class of 2018, organized a mural made of mosaic tiles. They hired artist Carien Quiroga to help create an original and creative design for the mural. Together, they decided on a sunset and chose silhouettes of a falcon, corn field, the football stadium stands, and the Poolesville water tower. Each senior designed a small part during English classes, while a small group of seniors helped put together the final design using the glass tiles.

"We chose the mosaic to include elements that we feel best represent Poolesville and PHS," said senior class secretary, Julia Rich. The students often see the sunrise as they arrive at school in the mornings, "so we thought that was important to include," she added.

With the help of assistant principal Katie Rossini, the senior class SGA and the PTSA put funds together to make this happen. The final mural is scheduled to be revealed on June 7, when seniors return for the picnic and graduation rehearsal.

Forensics Club Member Qualified as Finalist in Countywide Forensics Competition

Leeah Derenoncourt, a junior in the Humanities House and a member of the PHS Forensics Club, has recently placed fifth in the Poetry Category at the countywide forensics competition. Forensics is the art of public speaking, featuring different categories from prose to extemporaneous speaking. Derenoncourt,



PHS Forensics Club members at the qualifying tournament in December. Jonah Tash, Lila Weir, Anya-Speck McMorris, Leah Derenoncourt, and Lizzie Phelps.

Photo courtesy of Leah Derenoncourt.

Lila Weir, Anya Speck-McMorris, Lizzie Phelps, and Jonah Tash, all members of the PHS Forensics Club, competed at the countywide qualifying tournament in December; however, Derenoncourt was the sole member to advance after performing the poem, "Before I Read This Poem" by George David Miller. Derenoncourt's performance helped her qualify for the quarterfinals, semifinals, and final round of competition. The finals took place on February 10 and 11 at James Hubert Blake High School, where she placed fifth in her category.

PHS Chess Team Placed First at Scholastic Chess Competition

In mid-December, the PHS Chess Club placed first at the 2017 Greater Baltimore Scholastic Chess Championship at Poly-Western High School. The team consisted of junior Sahil Sinah, freshman Shreedatta Indur, freshman Michael Edwards, freshman Jason Daniels, as well as senior president Jason Hsu. Standouts, Jason Daniels placed fifth and Sahil Sinah placed first in the individual high school championship. Sinah came home with a \$750 stipend to be Maryland's representative at a national chess tournament to be held in June 2018. Club veteran Jason Hsu expressed his appreciation for the club: "I really like how our team is made up of people from different grades, programs, and backgrounds. We all enjoy playing chess, but we're able to bond over other things, too, during the time between matches."



President Jason Hsu, Sahil Sinah, Jason Daniels, and Michael Edwards posed with trophies after the Scholastic Chess Competition.

Photo courtesy of Jason Hsu

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Maine—**Acadia National Park** and the **Rockefeller Carriage Roads & Bridges** within the park are the northern-most gems of riding glory, and a bucket-list item for many a trail rider. The carefully stewarded expanse boasts fifty-seven miles of auto-free roads on fifteen thousand—yep, you read that right—scenic forest acres with some stunning ocean views. The carriage trails themselves are now over a hundred years old, and were created with early nineteenth century sensibilities: They are sixteen feet wide and some of the finest remaining examples of broken-stone roads in the U.S.—but expect a thirteen-hour drive to get there, so plan ahead!

Massachusetts—For a unique **Cape Cod** adventure, try either the **Outer Cape Escape B&B** in Eastham, or the **Truro Seashore Park Vacation Rentals**. The impressive list of human and equine amenities for both places runs long so check out their websites, but rest assured that each gives beach riding access, an uncommon summer event, as most of the Mid-Atlantic beaches are off-limits to horses and riders from May through October. Figure on trailering for around ten hours to get there.

New Hampshire—For the luxury traveler, the **Farm by the River B&B** is a Four Season Inn with stables. Guest rooms and suites have King or Queen beds, fireplaces, or private Jacuzzi baths. Riding trails crisscross seventy scenic acres.

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Continued from page 4.

Commissioners Approve Takeover of Fisher Avenue from County Control

the state championship. Commission President Jim Brown read a special proclamation lauding the girls and Coach Swick on their historic achievement.

Following the recognition ceremony, the commissioners heard from Roger Berliner, the current District 1 councilmember who represents Poolesville as well as down county areas like Bethesda and Potomac. Berliner is running for county executive and offered his views on key issues. Much of his commentary focused on economic growth which he argued is key to the county's future. He said the county can no longer continue to raise taxes as it has done and instead must generate growth in order to sustain programs. He also said that education and transportation, particularly congestion on county roadways, must be top priorities. He has focused a lot of his efforts recently on attracting a major new Amazon.com headquarters facility which he said could generate billions of dollars in taxes and income for county residents.

Several commissioners questioned Berliner on his priorities. Commissioner Valaree Dickerson focused heavily on the county's regulations that impede the growth of new small businesses and noted that only six new small businesses have been started in the county in the past year. Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski pushed Berliner on the importance of supporting a new high school facility for Poolesville. He noted that a residential building moratorium that has been talked about might well be a good idea in the county if it leads to a focus on modernizing and building new schools so the education system can handle the influx of new homes. Commission President Jim Brown said, "We need you to be more than a partner. We need you to be our advocate and to open doors."

Berliner did express support for the innovative idea of building a new multi-purpose facility that would house not only a new school but room for senior activities, exercise, community meetings, and even medical services for those in need, but he said the county council has limited ability to add to the budget proposals submitted by the Board of Education.

Town Manager Wade Yost next presented the draft FY 2019 budget for the town. He opened by saying that the proposed budget would maintain the existing tax rate of 17 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. He said the town had scrubbed the budget to reduce costs wherever possible and pointed to only a few items—including employee salaries, chemicals mandated by the state for

maintaining the sewer plant, sludge hauling, and park maintenance—as areas where spending levels are projected to increase compared to the 2018 budget. This has allowed the town to propose a budget that maintains general operating expenses at the same level as last year.

While this is true, capital spending and spending on the waste water and water systems are increasing this year as compared to last. While the tax rate is staying the same, water rates will increase by two percent by July 1 if the budget is adopted. In addition, property assessments are increasing, allowing the town to generate more revenues without having to raise property tax levels.

Yost said that due to continuing increases in operating expenses for the water and waste water treatment plant, the town would need to increase the water rates as noted. Even with this increase, the town has still, in the past, been required to transfer funds from its general fund accounts in order to support these two systems. It may be necessary in the next fiscal year to do the same thing although that will not be known until later.

Overall, the town receives the bulk of its funds from income and property taxes. Over sixty percent of its expenditures are in the form of employee salaries and such things as electricity. A significant cost, too, is the contract for trash pickup. A number of projects would be funded in the next fiscal year through the proposed budget, including some costs that might be incurred to promote and develop the idea of a multi-purpose facility that would help secure county commitment for a new high school.

In terms of capital spending, the town will be purchasing a number of new vehicles, including a skid loader that it can use to do many of the water repairs in town that now require outside contractor support. The town is also proposing to replace all town lights with LED bulbs which, over the long term, will reduce replacement costs (LEDs last much longer) and reduce the costs of electricity.

The commissioners had no comments on the draft proposal (they have been working on drafting it for several months) and approved a public hearing on the draft budget for May 7.

Finally, the commissioners considered a draft legal agreement—called a Quit Claim or Take—that would transfer control of Fisher Avenue from the county to the town. This proposal has been under discussion for many months, and town attorney Jay Gullo pronounced himself satisfied with the draft legal agreement, recommending that the commissioners agree to sign it and send it back to the county for its approval.

Under the legal agreement, the entire length of Fisher Avenue essentially would be transferred to town control, including the rights of way and easements for such things as storm drains. Commissioner Chuck Stump explained that this proposal would give the town control over such things as the pedestrian crosswalks which have been cited as dangerous by some residents and would allow the town to determine how its proposed streetscape plans (still being developed) would be implemented. He acknowledged that the costs of maintenance for the roadway would be shifted to the town but added that the county was not proposing to spend much to keep the roadway in good shape and yet has been pocketing revenues from the state because of its ownership of Fisher Avenue. That revenue would go to Poolesville instead if the transfer proposal goes forward.

Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski said he could support transferring portions of the roadway but thought that the county should have modernized or improved it before transferring it to the town. In his view, the town is buying a used car without knowing if all of its parts work.

The commissioners voted 4-1 (Commissioner Klobukowski voting "no") to approve the transfer agreement.

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Youth Sports

Boys' Volleyball Looks for a Breakthrough Game

By Jeff Stuart

After eight matches, the Poolesville High School boys' volleyball team has a 5-3 record, but they are looking to do better. Their last three matches were wins, and they hope to continue the streak but have tough competition coming up in the schedule.

"We have a lot of experienced players returning," said senior Zachary Dou. "We have some new players who are very athletic, but they don't have the technical skills yet. We have Feras Ismail, a senior. He is really fast and can jump very high, and Vaihab Patil, a junior. They are both getting playing time. They haven't played a lot of volleyball, but they are slowly learning how to hit and pass. I also think the first game against Blair was good for us. We had a lot of energy. We minimized our errors. I personally hit a lot of good serves. I didn't have much volleyball experience when I started my freshman year. I made the team my sophomore year, so I have improved a lot and so has the team."

"I think our best game was against Blair because I think we had the most energy playing together in that game," said junior Vivek Mehta. "I think I have improved a lot. When I first started playing volleyball, I actually thought the serve had to hit our side and bounce over the net like in ping pong. That's embarrassing, but that's what I thought, so, yeah, I think I have improved a lot. We have a diverse team. We have players with multiple skills. We are good at working together. I am looking forward to the Walter Johnson game because they beat us badly last year, and I want to show them that we can play with them."

"My favorite moment in my career here so far was serving for game point in a game last year," said senior Ching-Yuan Lin who plays libero. "I tried a risky jump serve, but I got it in, and it was an ace. We have some experienced players. I think that our new players have some potential, and they will get much better over the course of the season. I am looking forward to seeing them develop their skills. I like playing the libero position. Everything that gets past other people, it is my job to get. I am looking forward to the Walter Johnson game, too, because they were county champions last year, and I want to see how much the team and how much I have progressed."

The Walter Johnson match took place on April 25, too late for the results to be printed in this issue.

"So far the season had been just okay," said coach Tiffany Grimes. "Technically speaking, we should be better than we are. We need a higher energy level than we have shown. We have good team speed and phenomenal servers who are game changers for us. Our court coverage is above average for the county. We are working on building more hitters and improving our hitters. Zach is one of our better players for sure. He leads quietly and helps out our younger players. I think Chin is the best libero in the county. He doesn't know it yet. I haven't seen our best performance yet. That will come when I see them competing and working hard. I have a lot of solid players that do a good job. I just want to see more passion. I thought Watkins Mill has improved dramatically. They haven't been a good team, but they are now, and I thought we played well against them. We made them have to work. We won, three games to one."

Rounding out the roster are: seniors, John Ting and Thomas Mathews; juniors, Alex Firestine, Darien Berger, and Srikar Mareddy; sophomores Daniel Chen, Steven Tan, and Justin Hui; and freshmen, Albert Chen and Edward Wu.



Vivek Mehta, Ching-Yuan Lin, and Zachary Dou.

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Continued from page 1.

Brian Feldman Addresses Sugarloaf Citizens' Association Annual Meeting

Montgomery County, quite possibly leading to roads through the Agricultural Reserve, which the SCA and similar organizations are pledged to protect. He reminded his audience that developers are unceasing in their efforts to build a new crossing.

Feldman also spoke in memory of the late Lisa Bethel who recently passed away and whose funeral was later that day. She was the wife of District 15 State Delegate David Fraser-Hidalgo.

The core of Feldman's address was a bill he co-sponsored in the senate, the Clean Energy and Jobs Act, which would increase the use of renewable energy sources and eliminate trash-burning as a renewable source, a core issue for the SCA. Feldman chairs the senate finance committee which considers energy legislation. Renewable energy legislation generally involves the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) which sets the percentage of energy generation that must result from renewable sources.

An irony highlighted in the SCA's recent newsletter (printed as a paid advertisement in the April 23 issue of the *Monocle* and mentioned by Feldman) is that trash burning was once considered more cost effective and less polluting than landfills. In fact, the activism that rose up against landfills in the Upcounty contributed to the initial formation of the SCA and other groups. In its recent column, the SCA argues that landfills are less expensive and less damaging to the environment than releasing pollutants into the atmosphere and having to deal with toxic waste ash. The SCA pointed out that landfill sites in Virginia are available for a price and accessible via rail.

Feldman gave an inside-baseball rundown of the path his energy bill took before being defeated. A previous, less-ambitious bill mandating a twenty-five percent RPS, passed the legislature, was vetoed by Gov. Larry Hogan, then was overridden by the legislature. Feldman's bill raised the RPS to fifty percent, but had to compete with a bill in the General Assembly sponsored by State Delegate Shane Robinson of District 39 in Frederick which eliminates the standards in favor of incentives to reach one hundred percent compliance with renewable energy sources by 2035. Between the two bills and various other legislative moves and counter-moves, resistance in the house doomed both bills. Feldman acknowledged that further progress in an election year would be difficult, but that "the end is near for incineration," with significant momentum for a successful bill to support renewable energy in the state.

In a version of be careful what you ask for, SCA President Lauren Greenberger noted that it was also time to consider "what is the post-incinerator plan?" While "the writing is on the wall for this one," how will the county handle refuse when it can no longer be burned? She also discussed what would happen to the property presently occupied by the incinerator. Feldman elicited a good laugh when, put on the spot, he lateraled to the councilman in attendance and said it sounded like a county problem.

The highlight, as always, was the presentations by local students of projects which won Piedmont Environmental Trust grants. Cedar Grove Elementary School students in Germantown presented their study of how runoff affects the Chesapeake Bay. Sligo Creek Elementary in Silver Spring presented its Outdoor Classroom project that also incorporates their Asperger's Program. Poolesville High School students, Sophie Skanchy and Renee Quaranta, with faculty sponsor and SCA board member Dan Savino, presented their honeybee project.



State Senator Brian Feldman



SCA President Lauren Greenberger

SCA members continued the meeting with a review of important issues they are facing. Greenberger further discussed the need to make progress on a viable zero waste plan before the incinerator is shut down. Member Ellen Gordon discussed issues related to tourism in the Ag Reserve, alcohol production with breweries, wineries, distilleries, and cider mills, and the issue of non-conforming uses of land in the Ag Reserve that might be grandfathered in and possibly expanded. Peter Gimbrere discussed potential issues related to potential food composting at the Dickerson composting facility. Jim Brown revisited the success in getting the Potomac River bridge demoted as a priority with the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments, and took another victory lap for a thus-far resistance to the megachurch plan near Hyattstown.

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Drug Arrest: 17500 block of W. Willard Avenue.

Assault: 19600 block of Fisher Avenue.

Vandalism: 17600 block of Kohlhoss Avenue.

Past Crime: 1928

The entire morning session of Police Court was taken up by a case involving the collision of two vehicles on the Frederick Pike north of Gaithersburg. Officer Asbury Case had been called to the scene to investigate. Both motorists, one from Baltimore and the other from Rockville, gave such conflicting accounts that Case arrested both for reckless driving. In court, the entire morning was taken up with conflicting testimony, charges and countercharges, and insults hurled towards each party. In the end, Judge Riggs found both men guilty and fined them five dollars each.

It was revealed that officers from the county police had recovered twenty-five stolen autos but only once did the officer receive the traditional reward (in those days it was typical for an insurance adjuster to come to police headquarters and inspect the stolen car. He would then pay a reward to the officer who had made the recovery). Officers in nearby states were found to have always been compensated, and the chief said that he would look into the matter.

Montgomery County Police requested that the county attorney draw up an ordinance that would prohibit "petting parties" that occur in parked autos along county roads. This practice of boys and girls involved in "petting" had grown to become a real problem with the advent of warm weather. Not only did the occupants and their autos endanger other motorists because their lights were usually extinguished,

but they also offended homeowners who were able to see into the vehicles.

Chief of Police Alvie Moxley, accompanied by two other officers, raided the premises of James Carter of near Poolesville. They seized whiskey and mash and destroyed Carter's twenty-five-gallon still. Carter was unable to make bail and was lodged in the county jail.

On the same day, Frank Lewis and Mrs. Helen Hoffman got into an affray in the lobby of the county courthouse, and Lewis reported that Hoffman struck him in the face causing injury. The two were arguing about a civil suit that was pending.

Eraillio Bona, the proprietor of the Villa Roma roadhouse on Rockville Pike, was arrested by Officer Joe Oldfield for allowing dancing after midnight on Saturday night. It was said that this was the second offense involving the Villa Roma, a notorious roadhouse that drew patrons from all over, and that another incident would cause its liquor license to be taken away. At that time, allowing dancing on Sundays was against the law and carried a fine of \$100.

What had started out as a murder mystery involving both the Montgomery and Washington Police was resolved by nightfall. It seems that a box of bloody clothing had been found next to the Conduit Road, and someone made the judgment that the clothes were that of a murder victim. All day, officers from both jurisdictions worked on the case until Officer Burdine discovered that the clothes belonged to a man who had been accidentally killed in a weightlifting contest in Great Falls, Virginia. The clothes had been given to a Washington man who, on the way home, inspected the clothing and decided he didn't want them and discarded the clothing by the roadside.

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

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Remembrances

Richard S. Twigger

Richard "Rick" S. Twigger, 43, of Poolesville, died on April 12, 2018.

Born on September 19, 1974, in Washington, D.C., he was the son of Richard T. and Judith A. Twigger of Poolesville.

Also surviving is his sister, Lynda T. D'Amelio, and husband Peter of Poolesville; one niece, Jami D'Amelio; and two nephews, Ryan and Sam D'Amelio, all of Poolesville.

Rick was a graduate of Poolesville High School, Class of 1993.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 11:00 a.m. on May 5 at Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic Church, 17230 Tom Fox Ave., Poolesville.

Inurnment will follow in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Barnesville, followed by a reception at the church pavilion.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital (stjude.org).



Richard S. Twigger

Rev. Ronald N. Hiester

The Rev. Ronald Norman Hiester, 82, former priest at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, died on January 21, 2018. Father Hiester was born on April 20, 1935, in Reading, Pennsylvania, a son of the late Wellington and Mary S. (Hiester) Shade. He was a graduate of Oley High School in Oley, Pennsylvania, in 1954, Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania in 1958, and Moravian Theological Seminary in 1962. He first served at First Moravian Church in Uhrichsville, Ohio, and was then received into the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of West Virginia in 1964. Father Hiester was active in the Golden Kiwanis Club where he was a member and past president. He was a scholar of the Old Testament, especially the Dead Sea Scrolls, and of history in general. He was also an avid model railroader, particularly fond of the Atlantic Coastline Railroad, and was a member of several model railroading clubs. He is survived by his wife of sixty years, Jane Elizabeth Powell Hiester of Florence, South Carolina; two daughters, Nanci J. Shrout, of Mountain View, Arkansas and Wendy S. (Richard) Gilbert of North East, Maryland; and a son, Paul (Charlene) Hiester of Inman, South Carolina.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the St. Luke Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, 1201 Cherokee Road, Florence, SC 29501.



Captain Alex J. Viessmann

Captain Alex J. Viessmann, USN, Retired, of Dickerson, died on April 7, 2018.

He was the husband of Kathleen Viessmann.

Born on August 4, 1935 in Munich, Germany, he was the son of the late Alfred and Dorathie Viessmann.

Inurnment will take place at a later date in Arlington National Cemetery.



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Continued from page 1.

Montgomery County Police Briefs Parents on School Safety

designed to simplify the process of immediately locking each classroom door in the event of a lockdown alert. The way the lock works is by having a magnetic shield placed over the locking plate mechanism on the interior of the door which then allows the door, while still in a locked position, to open and close. When the magnetic strip is pulled away, the door locks automatically.

During his presentation to the attendees, Captain Anderson gave strong support for this magnetic lock device, noting that in the intense, high-adrenaline moment of an attack, trying to manipulate a small locking knob or even a key may not be easily done by many people under such heavy stress. In these critical moments, the simple process of simply turning a small lock can be difficult. "The magnetic locks solve that problem. You don't want to be trying to manipulate a tiny lock, but rather to simply grab a magnetic strip, pull it off the inside door is easier and works better for more people."

Security Team Leader Skip Etheridge emphasized the importance of the repetitive drill process that is now being put in place regarding school shooting/lockdown alerts. Etheridge operates under the strategy of "drill, drill, drill." Eventually, all students will become efficient in fulfilling the guidelines of what to do in such an emergency.

Principal Levine pointed out that such drills are done during a variety of different circumstances to broaden the training and to expand the learning process. For example, drills are held at times when most students are in classes, other times when most are passing through halls. "We are successful in drills when we discover problems," she stated, "as this is how they get better."

Captain David Anderson affirmed during his presentation to the group that "in an active-shooter incident, not just in a school or anywhere, the cop on site will go in, they will not wait. That's our job, that's what we do."

He pointed out that while a handgun versus an assault weapon has an inherent disadvantage, the shooter is someone who has been doing a great deal of planning, but once confronted by armed resistance, the shooter's plans often go awry, confusing the individual and throwing him off his plan. "The reality is that we (cops) are armed, the staff and students are not. They cannot defend themselves." The police's goal is to confront, disrupt, stop, and even kill the assailant as quickly as possible, thereby saving the maximum number of lives. Once a public alert goes out of a shooter in school, a comprehensive plan to respond goes immediately into action and that response is not limited just to MCP. It could include other police districts. Said Anderson, "Everyone is coming."

Anderson added that there are three phases in a plan for every active shooting incident. The biggest piece is the first stage, which is identified as terminating the action of the shooter which could include killing the shooter, chasing him from the building, or arresting the individual. The first and primary goal is to stop the killing. The second phase is to stop the dying. MCP is trained to render medical emergency aid, even before EMTs can be on the scene. Within their situational supplies, they have military grade tourniquets and quick-stop bandages to control massive bleeding.

While they may use military protocol and tools, Anderson emphasized that they are first and foremost peacemakers. Anderson is a proponent of Homeland Security's national CRASE program which stands for Civilian Response to Active Shooter Event. This protocol seeks to avoid, deny, and defend in response to a shooter. While fleeing the site may be the most preferred objective, he points out that in the 208 school shooting events since Columbine, only twice has the shooter breached a locked door to kill someone. There is much more to defense than just a locking a door, but in the timeframe from when the call of a shooter first comes in (today, usually by cellphone), response time from the local police can vary, and staying away from the shooter either by flight or under locked door will define the ultimate degree of tragedy.

Anderson explained that while Governor Hogan has called for \$10 million to better secure our schools with a goal of having a school resource officer in every school, it is unlikely that can fully happen. Montgomery County has 205 schools with twenty-five high schools, so their immediate plan and ability is to at least have an SRO visit each school at least once a month on a rotational basis.

For Anderson, he would like to see three goals for security realized: advocate more for the ability to flee, improve the technology for better communication, and the use of magnetic locks. With the cinder block hallways, radio communication is not always clear. "Every single student must be trained to note exit strategies in every room they are in." This is no different than having a family plan in case of a house fire.

Levine described actions of the school security team, which would be led by the principal or other designated individual in the event she is not present at the time of an attack. The team has ready access via security cameras to every aspect of the facility and school grounds with the first priority to locate where the shooter is, so they can properly direct SRO or other police response.

The Parkland shooting incident has resulted in renewed emphasis on school safety, and while the schools continue through their forty-five-day action plan, MCP will continue to meet with MCPS leadership to better formulate other methods of response and identify needed areas of improvement.

Correction

We would like to correct an oversight in the April 13 issue by acknowledging Tina Thieme Brown as the artist of the beautiful Sugarloaf painting featured on the front page.

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(2018)

Continued from page 15.

PHS Coed Volleyball Team Has a Flashback Moment

game, and then last year I made the team. It has really been an amazing experience. We lose seniors every year, so each team is new. It is fun to see how different people can come together to form this coed volleyball team that has such great synergy every game. Our rookies, Kevin and Minsu, had no idea about the rules at the beginning, but they have become extremely important assets to our team."

"It is my senior year," said Song. "I kind of wanted to do something different. I had never played volleyball before. We were all super motivated in that third game against Northwest. I feel like I have learned a lot, especially during the games. It has been a lot of fun."

"I think we were a little shell shocked after the first two games at Clarksburg, 25-9 and 25-14," said head coach Megan Kenneweg. "Clarksburg is a very strong team, especially their big man; his hits hurt us. It was the first time we have been pressed, but they really stepped up to the plate and pushed back. We decided to play our own game. At the end of that game, I told Ainslee to serve it underhand if she had to—just get it over the net. Even if we had lost, it would have been exciting because none of their fans thought we could beat them, but I knew it all along. It was a flashback to the championship game last year. The returners from last year knew what it feels like to win a game like that, so it was nice to for the newcomers to experience that. Kevin has been a real surprise. He got to practice late because he was swimming at the nationals. I am really glad he got his land legs because he has gotten better and better each game for us. Minsu has been important, too."

The starters are Song, Bryanna Sellers, and Stevens-Donati along the front line, and Barger, Sheehi, and freshman Olivia Paksmia at libero in the back line. Other seniors are Ma, Katarina Lechner, and Queen. Lauren Penn and Megan Nee are sophomores.

Continued from page 4.

This Is Driving Me Nuts! How about You?

Andie Devynck, Monocle writer: I can't stand the goody-goodies anymore. They're driving me nuts.

John Clayton, Monocle: People who drive on interstates in the rain with their lights off, people who tie up meetings by acting as if it's a personal conversation between them and the presenter or moderator, and people who don't at least consider there might be another side to an issue.

You see? You are not alone. We all laugh, we all cry, and we all have pet peeves. Now, doesn't it feel great to have all that out in the open?

Oh, yes, I have one, too: People who say "no problem" to my "thank you." I never view my request or your good deed as being in any way a problem. When the world never, ever responds with the phrase "you're welcome" to a thank you, then a glorious little light of civility will sadly dim. By the way, did you see what I did there to my wonderful copyeditor, Dominique Agnew, by starting this paragraph with the word "and." By letting it go, all I can say to her is "thank you."

From Dominique Agnew: Uh-oh, I had already changed "and" to "oh" (so delightful, n'est-ce pas?). Now what? You're welcome!

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Is Technology Driving Your Pet Insane?

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

We would not put up with devices that emit annoying whines or clicks, or lights that flicker intermittently, but pets in our modern society may be changing their behavior due to the noises in the world around them.

Their sensory inputs are configured differently from ours. Their hearing is particularly different. They hear everything we do, plus much more. They routinely respond to sound above and below our hearing range. You may notice that your dog becomes very nervous when the smoke detector "low battery" sound begins. You may not know that the smoke detectors give out a continuous high frequency sound that dogs become accustomed to, but, when the sound changes, they can get nervous.

Dogs can hear sounds up to 45,000Hz and cats up to 64,000Hz. "Ultrasounds" like this are very high frequency, and humans cannot hear them. Electronic companies remove high pitch sounds that humans can hear but do not consider our pets.

Both dogs and cats take in light waves differently from humans. They see color in a different way, and they take in pulsed lights (like the refresh rate on a television screen) emissions differently. This may be why your dog or cat does not seem to notice one television in your house but stops to look at the screen of another television with a different refresh rate.

While we know that animals hear a vast amount of sound to which we're deaf, we don't have as clear a handle on how it may affect them. In 2005, a study on the effects of noise on lab animals found that some frequencies could alter heart rate, sleep patterns, and endocrine cycles. It found that it could also make them more susceptible to seizure.

Strategies to reduce these sounds include turning off and unplugging components when not in use. This also helps to reduce the "phantom power draw" of your electronic equipment. You can set up one room in the house to be a "quiet space" where electronics are not in use. It is also important to consider any change in your pets' behavior as related to a new piece of electronic equipment or appliance. If you are concerned there may be a correlation, turn off the equipment and evaluate improvement in your pet. If there is not a return to normal after about seventy-two hours, consider an appointment with your veterinarian.

There are many factors in a day that can affect your pets' appreciation of their home. Remembering that your furry friends take in sights and sounds differently from us can help you understand if new equipment may be causing problems for your pet.

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