

# The Monocacy

# MONOCLE

*Keeping an Eye on Local News*

*A Biweekly Newspaper*

April 26, 2019 • Volume XV, Number 3



*Nothin' beats finding your very first Easter egg. More Easter pictures in Family Album on page 2.*



*Is this Nessie of Loch Ness fame? Nope, only a real-life otter living in a Poolesville pond. See other wildlife in Local News on page 4.*



*Last year's mud means major changes to the Potomac Hunt Races this year. See Yeas and Neighs on page 13 for the details.*



*Play ball! PHS baseball in Youth Sports on page 14.*

## *Sugarloaf Citizens' Association Gathers Activists For Local Meeting*

By John Clayton

The local environmental activist group, Sugarloaf Citizens' Association, held its annual meeting at the Linden Barn in Dickerson. As usual, the meeting featured updates on the club's activities during the past year, presentations from schoolchildren on environmentally-focused projects, lively discussions on various topics, and an address by a keynote speaker, in this case, recently-elected Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich.

Elrich's welcome as he approached the microphone suggested that of a beloved partisan returning from a great triumph. Over his twelve years as a Montgomery County Councilman At Large, Elrich was familiar to Upcounty activists such as those that populate SCA for his presence and support of Upcounty initiatives. To put it another way, Elrich historically showed up for a myriad of causes and events even when it wasn't during an



*Marc Elrich with Myersville Elementary Environmental Club members after they presented their winning project: Olivia Baltrosky, teacher Melissa Hargreaves, Eloise Dominesey, Isaiah Shuman, and Melanie Bernal.*

election; however, none of this spared Elrich from being upstaged by students from Montgomery and Frederick Counties who presented their winning Piedmont Environmental

Trust Grant projects. In all, SCA awarded \$9,284 in grants for the school year 2018-2019.

**Continued on page 11.**

## *History Should Not Be Forgotten*

By Maureen O'Connell

Historic Medley District, Inc. continued its Speaker Series on Sunday, April 7, 2019 by hosting James "Skip" Etheridge who spoke about Sugarland and how the African-American communities in and around Poolesville affected the region and the nation. Etheridge, a descendant of one of the founders of the Sugarland community, is a retired Maryland state trooper; his father had been a D.C. police officer. He began his talk by saying that "he is so attached to Sugarland. It is his family, family land, and family heritage. It is very important to me." He talked about "pull[ing] the bandage off; we are going to talk about slavery. We can't be afraid to speak about it. It is our history." Some people are uncomfortable speaking about this subject, as the past has the uncanny ability to disrupt the present.



*Skip Etheridge told the tales of the area's African American history.*

Poolesville is ringed by areas where plantations once stood. After the Civil War, these lands were deeded to freed slaves. Many people pass through

these streets every day, and they don't know the history of those who lived

**Continued on page 19.**

# Family Album

Photos by Terri Pitts.



Hunting for eggs with  
the Easter Bunny



Area ministers organized a community Easter Egg Hunt:  
 Rev. Emily Lloyd (St. Peter's Episcopal Church), Rev. Tim Dowell  
 (Memorial United Methodist Church), Rev. Joel Gilbert (Poolesville  
 Baptist Church), Rev. Chuck Copeland (Warren Baptist Church),  
 and Rev. David Williams (Poolesville Presbyterian Church).





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## Rande(m) Thoughts Eureka!

By Rande Davis

I never thought we would make a trip to California as a weekend getaway. One would think that a trip's length should be at least two days for every thousand miles traveled. An absolutely amazing airline rate for two people, a chance to be with the best of friends as well as a couple of beloved nephews for even just a few days drew us to Los Angeles, Hollywood, and Malibu. Add to all that a chance to visit the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, and this grand old man of the grand old party couldn't resist, and when our newspaper's spring break rolled around, we had, as pilots like to say, nothing but blue sky.

There is an old axiom that after three days, guests and fish should not still be around. Actually, it's stated a bit rawer, but I don't need to go there to make my point. Similar proverbs like never wear out your welcome, or the entertainer's rule, always leave the stage with them wanting more may be how great friendships can go on for decades. On the other hand, the why of longevity is more basic. It's simply a wonderful thing to be around wonderful people—even when it's in California. Sorry, this dyed-in-the-wool Republican couldn't resist the jab.

We had a weekend of no politics (what an amazing experience, you should try it some time), hosted by a certified nutritionist (proving that healthy food can be as reassuring as comfort food), and entertained by friends and relatives with a boundless sense of humor (proving that laughter is always and all ways the best medicine).

For me, California proved to be the land of extremes. One the one hand, Los Angeles is a city built in the desert, but on the other, well, you have the Pacific Ocean right there, so close its

sandy or rocky beach seems like a sidewalk along the highway. The hills don't just rise up, they skyrocket like an urban skyscraper, peering down at you, not as upon the horizon but right directly above you. You feel nearly as small in stature as the seemingly limitless view when atop them makes you feel so all-seeing and grand.

Californians are thought of as laid back, but what we saw was not their swagger but their resilience, not their chill but their grit. Last November, the dried, brown grass burst into flames, giving a horrific visual to the term scorched earth: hillsides entirely black, trees, leafless and charred from the ground up. Even our friends hoping to escape the sparks flying above their home found themselves trapped in traffic a mere quarter mile from their house, with flames and deadly smoke all around them, turning the sky black in the late afternoon, no sense of it being daytime possible. Only a perfectly-timed movement of the cars prevented total disaster. When fires cannot be stopped, the firefighters stop fighting them and instead take up a defensive position of keeping the sparks and flames off roofs. We saw the vestiges of the aftermath of the flames that had rushed from the mountaintops, sweeping through the valley to the sea—the Pacific Ocean the only thing big enough to stop the flames. Despite charred tree trunks and limbs, the green grass had begun to flourish after the unusually strong rains that had followed the horrendous conflagration of earlier months. We got to see a Los Angeles area at its "nature's best," its most lush green-scape, a momentary resemblance of what we easterners might simply consider normal before the desert droughts and winds send it back to its sandy-colored landscape. We saw how nature can destroy yet renew, how people can bounce back from intense fear and near tragedy, how an America charred and sullied can rebound, and how in California, as with this entire great nation, hope springs eternal, and all we can say is: Eureka!

## Local News

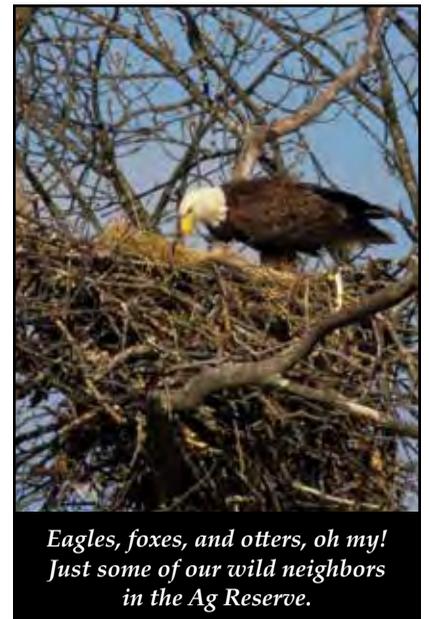
### Caution, Wildlife Crossing

By Susan Petro

Spring is a special time of new life in the Agricultural Reserve. The fields and trees are once again alive with color; beautiful cherry blossoms and other flowering trees that rival our nation's capital's Tidal Basin have mostly come and gone, but new flowering trees are emerging, as are beautiful wildflowers in shades of blues, violets, yellows, and whites.

A drive through the Agricultural Reserve in the springtime is not just a feast for our human eyes, but it's also time for our local wildlife to become increasingly active. This treasure we call the Agricultural Reserve is not just a blessing for all of its human inhabitants, but those fields, streams, lakes, and forests are prime habitats for animal life, as well.

Migrating birds are passing through or coming here to make their summer nesting sites. Winter species are leaving for destinations further north. Animals that have spent much of their time in dens are beginning to emerge, some with young in tow.



*Eagles, foxes, and otters, oh my!  
Just some of our wild neighbors  
in the Ag Reserve.*

To discover with which types of wildlife we share our community, all one has to do is to take a walk or bicycle ride on nearby trails or paths and look and listen. A favorite way to learn what critters might live nearby is to look for animal prints in the fresh mud after a rain. It's fun to try to identify what creature made the print, most often found by the edge of a creek or waterfront. In the winter after a

Continued on page 9.

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## Town Government

### Town Commissioners Consider Grants and Approve FY20 Budget And Taxes for Public Comment

By Link Hoewing

At their April 15 meeting, the Town of Poolesville commissioners, after a brief review, approved for public comment the FY2020 budget and tax rates. They also considered a number of grant proposals for local groups and approved major paving contracts for streets and park pathways.

PHS sophomore Charlotte Vogel appeared first before the commissioners to request a \$250 grant to fund the building of a pollinator wildflower garden in Campbell Park. Vogel is pursuing a Girl Scout merit badge, and the garden is the project she is undertaking to achieve the award. The garden will include wildflowers such as milkweed, and Vogel will also install a butterfly feeder. The commissioners approved the request unanimously (Commissioner Valaree Dickerson was absent).

Maureen O'Connor, the president of the Historic Medley District, appeared next to discuss the request HMD had made of the town previously for a grant to help repair the John Poole House. The historic house has already undergone some repairs internally using a grant the town previously approved. O'Connor explained that HMD is trying to enhance its visibility and impact by holding a number of events over the year, including the recent town "ghost tours." A renovated John Poole House would be at the heart of HMD's plans and would provide a great venue for events for citizens, she said.

In her earlier appearance before the commissioners, O'Connor asked them to consider a multi-year grant that would be used to annually match grants applied for with state and local organizations. At the April 15 meeting, O'Connor said the grant process takes so long and is so uncertain that HMD would likely have almost no chance of getting approval to do repairs on the John Poole House for the balance of the year. She asked the commissioners to consider a one-time \$10,000 grant that would not be tied to matching a grant application. For the remaining two years (2021, 2022), the match would remain in place. The commissioners approved the request and voted to include it in the FY2020 draft budget.

Poolesville Day Committee Chair Faith Etheridge spoke next in support of the committee's request for a grant to support the 2019 Poolesville Day. The \$20,000 request was \$3,000 more than has been the norm but added costs for things like the "headliner" band for the day (The Reagan Years) and even services like the port-a-potties are a part of the reason. The committee's total budget for the event is approximately \$46,000 according to Etheridge and about \$26,000 of that amount comes from sponsor support.

In discussion, the commissioners were unanimous in praising the work of the Poolesville Day Committee and the positive impact the annual event has on the town and its reputation. Commission President Jerry Klobukowski expressed misgivings about a proposed stipend that would be paid to Etheridge for her work as chair, but all other commissioners agreed that the event is now a huge and vital annual undertaking and involves tremendous commitment by Etheridge to make it successful. Etheridge even takes many days of vacation time in order to make sure all of the many aspects of Poolesville Day and the work of its committees come off without a hitch. The commissioners decided that they would approve the \$20,000 request and leave it up to the Poolesville Day Committee to decide what to do about the stipend.

Town Engineer John Strong outlined the results of bids submitted recently to repave a number of roads throughout the town and to repair and build new

Continued on page 16.

April 18

Maryland and town flags were flown at half-staff in honor of the day of interment for Staff Sgt. Dinora Flores of the Maryland National Guard. Staff Sgt. Flores passed away on April 2, 2019.

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## Tidbits

### Maggie Nightingale Library User Survey

The Maggie Nightingale Library has placed a survey form for branch hours and services online, and they would like *Monocle* readers to fill out one of the survey forms online. Their communications department has created two URLs for each agency to use as follows:

The *Monocacy Monocle* website <http://bit.ly/mcpl-hours-mn1>

The *Monocacy Monocle* print newsletter <http://bit.ly/mcpl-hours-mn2>

The Poolesville Chamber of Commerce Facebook page <http://bit.ly/mcpl-hours-mn3>

The Poolesville Chamber of Commerce website <http://bit.ly/mcpl-hours-mn4>

### Perfect Score in AP Exam

Congratulations to PHS student Srisrujan Penikelapati for an outstanding accomplishment in his Advanced Placement Exam in United States Government and Politics; he not only reached the top score of five (maximum score on each portion of the exam) but is also, as reported by Trevor Packer, Senior Vice President, AP and Instruction, the College Board, one of only 113 students in the world to earn every point possible, receiving the maximum score on each portion of the exam.

Mr. Packer wrote, "This outstanding accomplishment is likely a direct reflection of the top-quality education being offered at Poolesville High School."

### Honoring Six Graduating Eagle Scouts

At its spring Court of Honor, Poolesville's BSA Troop 496 celebrated and honored its six graduating senior Eagle Scouts. The boys were awarded graduation cords that can be worn with their graduation regalia to recognize their work to achieve Scouting's highest rank, the Eagle Scout. The six Scouts, Jimmy Kavanagh, Aidan Auel, Chris Falcone, TJ Kaminski, Tommy Behrens, and Thomas Wilbur, have a combined total of 940 hours of community service and 405 camping nights.



Eagle Scouts: Jimmy Kavanagh, Aidan Auel, Chris Falcone, TJ Kaminski, Tommy Behrens, and Thomas Wilbur.

### Putting the Unwanted Cats to Work

The Montgomery County Animal Services Department wants to provide free help to county businesses, farms, garden centers, outbuildings, warehouses, or any place where rodent and pests may cause concern. Rather than pesticides, why not adopt a cat! These are not house pets, but a personal employee, providing an essential and highly-efficient service free of unnatural or potentially dangerous chemicals. These cats live on site at the establishment, protecting the property from unwanted "guests."

The program saves the lives of unwanted cats while at the same time solving the problem of undesirable animals and rodents. Call 301-773-5900 for details.

### Ag History Came Alive

The Gas and Steam Engine Show on April 13 and 14 was held at the Agricultural History Farm Park in Derwood and was sponsored by the Friends of the Ag. The past, present, and future of Montgomery County farming can be experienced at the Agricultural History Farm Park. This scenic 455-acre park features rolling hills, open fields, an apple orchard, and a variety of farm animals. The visitor gains a unique perspective on the county's rich farming heritage while visiting



Pretty in Pink? A historic tractor ahead of its time.

barns, historic buildings, a modern farming activity center, and other facilities at the park.

Several groups play an integral role in the maintenance and programming of the Agricultural History Farm Park:

- The Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park offer programs and provide demonstrations on historical farm life and agriculture. To volunteer or join the Friends, please call 301-670-4661.
- MCE Master Gardeners offer a variety of plant-related programs and maintain a demonstration garden. For more information, call 301-590-9638.

### Phillips Wins Mystery Photo Contest

Congratulations to Mary Phillips for her correct answer to the *Monocle* Mystery Contest in the April 5 issue. The picture shows town residents gathering for the infamous *National Geographic Magazine* cover picture taken in 1959. The population of Poolesville at the time was 350, and it corresponded to the hourly rate of

Continued on page 22.

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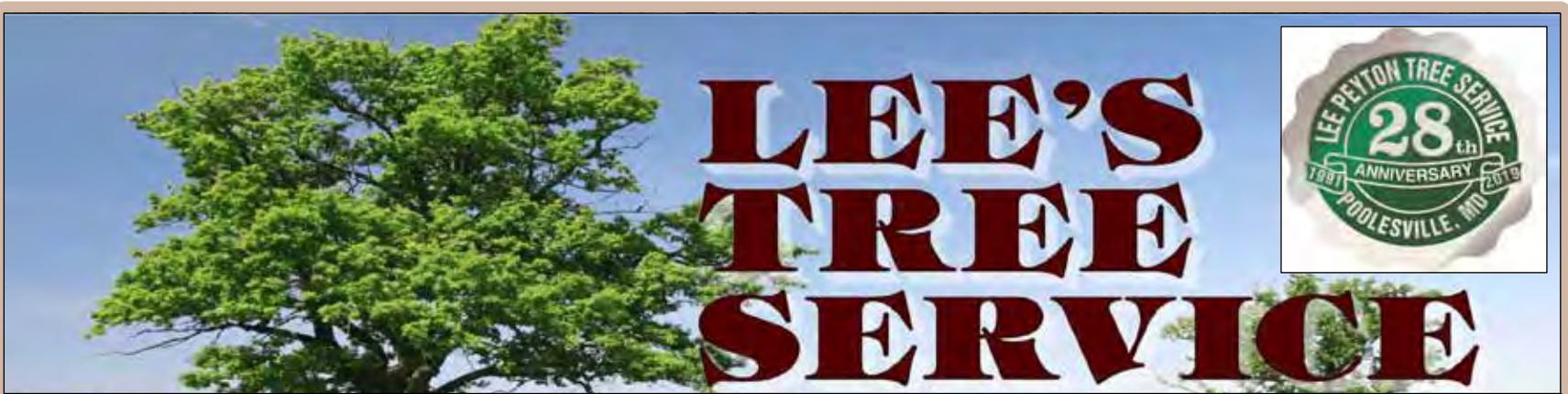
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## In Your Own Backyard

### "Shameful!"

By Jon Wolz

"Shameful!" and "Wow!" were two of the many comments from volunteers upon seeing the massive amount of trash along the riverbank from the two Potomac River cleanups that were held on consecutive Saturdays on March 30 just above White's Ferry and on April 6 behind Lock 27 near the Monocacy Aqueduct.

I am a level walker volunteer for the C&O Canal Association for two levels between White's Ferry and the Monocacy Aqueduct which is almost seven miles. I am responsible for inspecting canal structures, reporting hazards, picking up litter along the towpath, and writing and submitting reports on my completed walks. The towpath is 184.5 miles long, divided into sixty-nine levels of varying lengths up to five miles. The park service is understaffed and appreciates the help provided by level walkers. At times on my walks along the towpath, I notice a lot of trash along the riverbank of the Potomac which, periodically, is more trash than I can pick up by myself.

In 2017, I heard about the Alice Ferguson Foundation. They have spearheaded Potomac River cleanups since 1989 and have provided supplies to volunteers to help with cleanups. In 2017, I signed up to lead a cleanup at the Monocacy Aqueduct/Lock 27 areas. After 2017, I led a cleanup again at the Monocacy Aqueduct/Lock 27 area. For 2019, I added a new location at White's Ferry/Indian Village sites. This year, we had twenty volunteers on March 30 and twenty-four volunteers on April 6. On March 30, the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc.-Gamma Alpha Eta Zeta Chapter participated. There was a Poolesville High School student and three middle school students, two from John Poole Middle and the other from Gaithersburg Middle. Parents of the students also participated. My sister Sharon and her husband Bill and my sister-in-law Patty participated. My brother Scott and Steve Horvath participated in both the March 30 and April 6 cleanups. On April 6, members of Boy Scout Troop 496 Flying Eagle patrol and parents, Mark Gochnour and Andy Wight of the Izaak Walton League, a Poolesville High School student and her mother, and a John Poole Middle School student and parents participated. Linda Dellinger who is a member of the C&O Canal



C&O Canal cleanup results on April 6.

Association participated on April 6 as well. This was her third year.

Volunteers asked, "Where does the trash come from?" Whenever the Potomac River floods, after the water recedes, trash is left behind on the riverbank. Trash gets into the river from illegal dumping, littering, uncovered trash trucks, and curbside collection overflows. Trash that is on the ground in the Potomac watershed is transported to the Potomac River through storm water which washes trash off of streets, into storm drains, and eventually into the Potomac River or its tributaries. Once trash is in the water, it is very difficult to retrieve. The Potomac River watershed includes parts of Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and the entire District of Columbia.

Some of the major tributaries of the upper Potomac River include the Shenandoah River, Conococheague Creek, Antietam Creek, and the Monocacy River. A lot of trash ends up on the riverbank, but a lot of trash also continues flowing down the Potomac to the Chesapeake Bay and eventually to the Atlantic Ocean.

This year, between the two events I conducted, volunteers collected sixty-two bags of trash, sixty-three bags of recyclables, eleven tires with rims, seven fifty-gallon plastic barrels, a refrigerator door, and large pieces of styrofoam. The recyclables included hundreds of plastic and glass bottles. All of the recyclables were brought to Poolesville for recycling because the

Continued on page 21.

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**Caution, Wildlife Crossing**

snowfall, a trek through a neighborhood path shows we are not alone in the woods. Deer, foxes, rabbits, beavers, muskrats, and so many other animals use these same trails

Recently, a North American river otter was discovered swimming and diving in a pond on a local horse farm. With almost every dive, the otter brought up another fish which was promptly devoured. The pond was located close to a creek from which the otter likely came and to which it returned once the fish became less plentiful.

Sightings of bald eagles have become increasingly frequent. There is at least one confirmed nesting site in the Reserve, also on a horse farm near the Potomac River. Observations in March showed two parents taking turns incubating an egg. In early April, one of the parents was observed feeding an eaglet which is still too small to be seen above the nest bowl. Although raising baby eaglets is fraught with risk, with luck, a new generation of Poolesville area eagles will be fledging from their nest mid-summer. A handful of additional nesting sites have been reported along the C&O Canal where the Potomac River and local streams provide plentiful fish and other prey on which the eagles thrive.

Beautiful red foxes are often seen traveling down local area rural roads, swiftly moving from one field to the next in search of prey. Although foxes have a reputation for raiding local henhouses, their normal diet consists of smaller creatures including voles, mice, rabbits, grasshoppers, insects, and also berries, fruits, and grasses. Soon, fox kits will be emerging from their dens

Of course, Poolesville's most popular wildlife topic is none other than our own Poolesville Bear which was most recently sighted crossing the road by Routes 28 and 109 in Beallsville. Of course, the Poolesville Bear has most likely been a variety of different bears over the years as sightings have become more and more prevalent.



*The red fox thrives in our area. What do the chickens think about that?*

The original Poolesville Bear started making the news in the winter of 2015. He was photographed on numerous area trail cameras and found to be a rather large adult male who made his home in the outskirts of town. He enjoyed destroying bird feeders and tackling a few trash cans in search of food. The bear's most egregious violation was when he discovered beekeeper Joe Long's honeybee hives and helped himself to about a fourth of his honey. Long usually protected his hives with an electric fence, but he had inadvertently left it turned off the night the bear came calling.

A meeting was held at the Izaak Walton League to discuss changes humans needed to make to discourage the raids (e.g., bringing bird feeders in at night, and not bringing trash to the curbs overnight). That bear eventually moved on, but younger bears in search of new territory are occasionally seen passing through. Back in 2015, it was thought there were no permanent bear populations in Montgomery County since cubs were believed to be coming from other counties and not born here. Today, wildlife biologists believe the sows may be giving birth to cubs in the western part of the county.

Many of us who live in the Reserve are fiercely protective of our open landscape and farms, willingly agreeing to spend more time behind the wheel to preserve the land; however, the possibilities of development and new

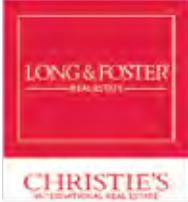


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highways are a perpetual threat; legislators in Virginia are constantly beating the build-a-highway-through-it drum. Our treasure is their key to traffic congestion relief and additional growth. Developers see the Reserve as an untapped goldmine just waiting for legislative opinions to shift so they can tap the approximately-ninety-three thousand protected acres.

Not only does our water supply, our farms, our open spaces depend on our continual pushback to those who want to turn the Ag Reserve into a new Clarksburg or Leesburg, our wildlife depends on it. The nesting bald eagles, the beavers, the river otters, the bees, the butterflies, and the five-lined skinks with iridescent turquoise tails need us as well.

If you haven't taken the time to discover more than just the serene view and multicolor sunrises and sunsets on your commute through the Ag Reserve, it behooves you to get out and really discover the flora and fauna that share our space. The best part of enjoying the Reserve is that the activity is free. Get out the bug protection and take a walk on one of the neighborhood trails, or the nearby C&O Canal, or Little Seneca Lake. See how many creatures you or your kids can

**Continued on page 21.**

## Garden

### What Hath Winter Wrought?

By Maureen O'Connell

As we gardeners come to the end of April, the state of our gardens after the winter weather should be quite evident. This past year ranks among the top five wettest years on record for our area. That fact had a lot of people asking if that meant that they should expect lots of snow. Last November, Channel 4 Chief Meteorologist Doug Kammerer predicted a white winter with colder-than-average temperatures; he was less than half right. Now, I love winter—the cold and the snow—so I might not be a good judge of the severity of winter weather or lack thereof. There were some very cold days, but they did not last long. There was a little snow, nothing very seriously shovelable. I had been told that there were some very cold days in December, but I was in London and missed the experience, so by March, I believed that my garden had been spared; I was wrong. The damages were unpredictable for the damage-affected plants that I thought were very hardy. There were the “good and the bad.”

Let's start with the unlucky plants. For the eight or ninth (I lost track) year in a row, my *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Endless Summer' was a big disappointment. When it was introduced in 2004, its claim to fame was that it was heat- and disease-resistant, and more importantly, its flowers form on the current year's growth as well as on old wood. That “old and new” factor made a big difference. It meant that even if a severe winter cold killed the plant (and its dormant flower buds) to the ground, it could still grow the next year and produce flowers. My eight bushes bloomed reliably and beautifully for a few years, but then our area's weather pattern changed. Heavy frost in mid-March killed the last year's emerging buds, which meant no flowers in May, June, and July; there were lots of bright green leaves, but no flowers. The buds on the new wood didn't produce any flowers until August, and they were smaller than usual. I would not plant 'Endless Summer' again. The four hydrangeas that I will recommend are *H. quercifolia* (Oakleaf Hydrangea) 'Snow Queen'; *H. paniculata* 'Limelight' and 'Little Lime'; and *H. arborescens* 'Incredible.' The vagaries of our winter weather have not adversely affected them.



**Heliopsis 'Asahi' with blue Perovskia Russian Sage last July.**

I lost all of my twenty lavender plants, many of them have bloomed prodigiously for many years. I think that it was the long months of wet soil that killed them. I also lost my rosemary, thyme, tarragon, and sage herbs. Really surprising was the loss of all my coneflowers, *Echinacea*. I did have one loss that I cannot attribute to the weather. It was the fault of my sous gardener Spencer. For several years, I have tried to order the plant *Astrantia* 'Sparkling Stars' from Wayside Gardens or White Flower Farm. No matter how soon in early spring I checked on their availability, they were always sold out. This March I was lucky and was able to order four plants. As I carefully planted them, I noticed Spencer watching me. Later as I looked out the kitchen window, I saw him digging them all up. I ran out to replant them, but they were victims of my Lab's teeth—maybe next year.

So who survived? There were many hardy souls, and I completely recommend them to you. They have stood the test of time. If you don't have any Siberian Irises in your garden, buy some now. Few flowers can compare with their grace and beauty. I recommend these two varieties: 'Gull's Wing' and 'Wind Over Water.' *Dicentra spectabilis* 'Alba' has been around people's gardens for many, many years. White Flower Farm says of it: “This is the white old-fashioned Bleeding Heart—a description that is about as accurate as calling an ermine a white weasel.” *Coreopsis* 'Moonbeam' never gives up. The highly-mildew-

Continued on page 26.

## House of Poolesville



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**April 27**  
**Jeff Carmella**  
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**May 4**  
**Minus One**  
**Blues Band**



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Continued from page 1.

**Sugarloaf Citizens' Association Gathers Activists for Local Meeting**

Students from ten schools won awards, and three groups gave presentations. Students from the Myersville Elementary Environmental Club in Myersville, Olivia Baltrosky, Eloise Dominesey, Isaiah Shuman, and Melanie Bernal, and teacher Melissa Hargreaves talked about protecting local streams and the Chesapeake Bay from pollution. They will use their grant to install stainless steel storm drain markers. Kristin McNavage, a teacher from Viers Mill Elementary School, discussed her students' grant for a living classroom project aboard a ship in Baltimore Harbor. Cade Sealy and Nick Caxsado from Poolesville High School presented their project on Wood Duck Breeding Boxes. Also from PHS, but unable to attend the meeting, a team of students led by Aidan Auel won a grant for a project on "The Effects of Artificial Habitats on the Population of Local Bee Pollinators." SCA moderator Jim Brown concluded that "it will be this generation of kids who will save the planet."

Elrich was introduced by SCA president Lauren Greenberger as "part of the family" for his past efforts on issues such as smart growth, zoning, and an effort for the county to "grow responsibly." Elrich opened by saying that after he became executive, he was told, "This is when you tell us what to do," and he replied, "I've never told anyone what to do in my life." He then discussed a range of topics, including the fight to prevent the renewal of the contract for the incinerator in Dickerson in 2026, which only recently received a reprieve until that time. He discussed various methods of reducing the waste stream and a proposal to enlarge the Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station, and the additional pressures on the Agricultural Reserve as it becomes the last place left on which to build.

He supported extending rail lines into West Virginia to aid commuting and wants to see what can be done with the existing Interstate 270 without adding to the right-of-way to add new lanes which would be a massive road-building project. He also referred to expanding the American Legion Bridge over the Potomac River as Virginia adds lanes of traffic on its side, in lieu of a new bridge over the river, which he opposed as "always been a bad idea and will continue to be a bad idea." Other transportation issues included his opposition to building M-83, a long-standing and much maligned down county project from Gaithersburg to Clarksburg, instead preferring to expand Maryland Route 355 with one lane alternating for rush hour demand. He acknowledged that Clarksburg residents have been "stranded." He discussed his overall conviction that, above all, we will solve problems ranging from global warming to the Mirant incinerator project by promoting tough anti-pollution standards.

Elrich expressed support for funding expansion of Poolesville High School's science facility and for a county multiuse facility. He also talked about the infrastructure that would be needed to support 5G wireless broadband communications, with the considerable number of ground-based devices that would be required to support it.

Greenberger, Brown, and fellow SCA members Ellen Gordon and Gil Rocha gave an overview of SCA's primary areas of attention such as pollution issues related to the coal-fired power plant and the attempt to prevent trash incineration from being considered a legitimate part of a renewable portfolio standard like solar and wind. This is an area of contention in the state legislature. The association continues to insist that producers of alcoholic beverages in the Ag Reserve be required to grow a substantial percentage of their materials, so that they will constitute agricultural, and not just industrial, enterprises.

The aforementioned crossing over the Potomac into the Ag Reserve was mentioned again to remind all that the area Council of Governments, encouraged by Loudoun County, Virginia, would keep the issue alive. The Barnesville Oaks Subdivision developers are trying to void constraints on their limits from prior agreements, and the SCA stands ready to file suit if this happens. A final update was on land use and environmental issues related to Seneca Creek State Park and the areas of Riley's Lock and the McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area.

Poolesville Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski addressed the proposed multipurpose facility in support of Fair Access for Western Montgomery County. The facility would include a new, modern Poolesville High School, a community center offering senior and recreational services, a health clinic, and a police satellite station. Member Heidi Rosvold-Bernholtz conducted officer elections, and Greenberger was reelected president. The association is looking for a qualified candidate to be secretary.

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## Things To Do

### Poolesville Area Senior Center

All events at 17750 W. Willard Road, Poolesville

**Pickleball:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 8:30 a.m.

**Zumba Gold:** Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.

**Mahjong:** Thursdays, Room 129, 10:00 a.m.

**The Blue Hearth is now open every weekend.**

**Bruster's vendor truck now open** in Poolesville. Check Facebook for hours. Be sure to clip the Bruster's coupon below for a dollar off.

### April 26

#### PHS Varsity Sports Home Games

Volleyball. Gaithersburg. Boys at 5:30 p.m.; coed at 7:00 p.m.

Boys' lacrosse. Magruder. 7:15 p.m.

#### UMCVFD Auxiliary Bingo

Featuring cash and gift cards as well as door prize drawings. Enjoy an evening of relaxing fun while helping to support your local fire department. Bring a friend! Refreshments available for purchase. UMCVFD Firehouse, 19801 Beallsville Rd. \$20. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.; games start at 7:00 p.m.

### April 26, 27, and 28

#### Countryside Artisan Spring Tour

The Countryside Artisans of Maryland represent a selected group of accomplished visual, sculptural, and textile artists working in oil, pastel, watercolor, pencil, ceramics, porcelain, glass, enamel, stone, wood, yarn, textiles, photography, tea, hops, and grapes. Visit countrysideartisans.org for details. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

#### Native Plant Sale

Sponsored by the Friends of Black Hill Nature Programs. Many of the plants

on sale have been cultivated locally and are important food and shelter for Maryland butterflies, birds, and other wildlife. All proceeds from the sale go to support nature programs at the park. For more information: Friendsblackhill@gmail.com. *The Greenhouse at Black Hill Regional Park, 20930 Lake Ridge Drive, Boyds.* Friday: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; Sunday: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### April 27

#### Library Special Event: Kids Connect with Computer Science

Learn Python 3 with basic programming class. Ages 8 to 11. *Maggie Nightingale Library.* 3:00 p.m.

#### PHS Varsity Sports Home Games

Baseball and softball. Quince Orchard. 1:00 p.m.

### April 28

#### PHS Varsity Home Games

Baseball and softball. Quince Orchard. 1:00 p.m.

#### Montgomery County Green Fest

Exhibits, kids' games, workshops, plant sale, live music, electric cars, and food. Free admission for vendors. Free shuttle from Glenmont Metro (onsite parking limited). *Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton.* 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

#### Calleva Special Event: Seneca Showdown

Kayaking event; visitors and spectators welcome. Lunch provided. Whether you love to compete or want to be part of a fun community paddle, the Seneca Showdown is the event for you! Come out and test your endurance against some of the Potomac River area's best paddlers. The Seneca Showdown offers both a Downriver Race and an Attainment Race. Do one or do both! Donations accepted for Team River Runner. The race course is

located on the class II section of the Potomac River known as the G.W. Canal and Seneca Breaks. The Attainment Race starts at High Noon. The Downriver Race starts at 1:30 p.m. If you are participating in both, you must be back from the Attainment Race by 1:15 p.m. If you are only competing in the Downriver Race, please arrive by 1:15 p.m. for a racers' meeting.

### April 29

#### PHS Varsity Home Game

Girls' tennis. Richard Montgomery. 3:30 p.m.

### April 30

#### PHS Varsity Home Game

Girls' lacrosse. Watkins Mill. 7:00 p.m.

### May 2

#### PHS Art Show

6:00 p.m.

### May 4

#### 11th Annual SCA Plant Swap

Buy, sell, swap, give away, your choice! Seeds, seedlings, plants, divisions, flowers, shrubs, veggies, heirlooms, pots, plus garden gear. *Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson.* 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### May Fair

To support enhancements to the Early Childhood Program at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Poolesville. Carnival games, petting zoo, and more. See our ad on page 16 for more details.

#### 29th Annual Richard S. McKernon Youth Fishing Tournament

Ages from six to sixteen. Many prizes. Registration fee: \$1.00. *Stevens Park.* Registration starts at 11:30 a.m., fishing from noon to 2:00 p.m.

#### PHS Varsity Home Games

Baseball and softball. Sherwood. 2:30 p.m.

### May 6

#### PHS Varsity Home Games

Baseball and softball. Wootton. 5:15 p.m.

#### Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

*Poolesville Town Hall.* 7:30 p.m.

### May 7

#### Calleva Special Event: Grand Opening of Calleva Farm Store

Fresh produce, bread, honey, and crafts. *19936 Fisher Avenue (next to Anytime Fitness), Poolesville.*




**May 10**



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## Yeas and Neighs

### Heads Up! A Major Change to Potomac Hunt Races in May

By Andie Devynck

After last year's soggy experience of saturated ground that presented myriad problems to race administrators and attendees alike, the Potomac Hunt Races management has decided to institute off-site parking and shuttle service to the event for the first time in Potomac Hunt Club history. Organizer Beverley Bosselmann says the implementation of the new parking plan will bring several advantages to the racegoers. Details are available for review on the website, PotomacHuntRaces.com, as well when purchasing tickets.

First, there will be two off-site parking locations, each with at least three hundred parking spaces, more than enough parking for all. Quince Orchard and Poolesville High Schools have offered their parking lots for race day, and shuttles from them to Bittersweet Field on Partnership Road will run every fifteen minutes.

Ms. Bosselmann stresses that all who wish to attend the Potomac Hunt Races must buy tickets for admission in advance if they wish to park on the grounds; there will be no ticket sales on the day of the event. Shuttle tickets (a one-time fee of \$10) can be purchased on the website until May 10 or at the off-site parking the day of the races. Children under 5 get in free.

The main advantage for racegoers of off-site parking is that there will be little-to-no traffic slow-down or back-up at the gates; however, even if there is no rain on race day, remember to wear or bring your Wellies because mud may still be an issue. Bosselmann also wants the public to know that there are still plenty of premium parking spaces available for purchase (\$100 per non-allotted space), and there are limited rail-side spaces available for \$250 which allows one vehicle per parking space. All parking proceeds (excluding those bought by PHR membership) go to the charitable organization, TAPS (Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors).

In addition to the fabulous flat and timber races for which the Potomac Hunt Races are famous, this year's event will also include the visually-dashing Side Saddle race, Park Police crowd control demonstration,



The Potomac Hunt Races provide a day of great fun for all ages.

and the cute-as-can-be kids' pony and stick-horse races. Continuing her tradition, local vocalist Jackie Kempa returns to open the day's festivities with her singing of the National Anthem. Rounding out the field

of entertainment, the petting zoo, climbing wall, and Vendor Village return to give racegoers a chance to refuel with food and drink, and perhaps to take home a souvenir of the day's adventure.



# Potomac Hunt Races May 19, 2019

Pack a tailgate and join us for a day of horse racing and family fun at the Kiplinger Estate.

**ALL ONSITE PARKING MUST BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE.**

Limited **Rail Side** and **Premium Parking** is available for purchase online by May 9<sup>th</sup>. Passes cannot be purchased at the gate.

Don't have a pass? No problem! Park at Poolesville High School or Quince Orchard High School and take the race shuttle. Shuttle passes are \$10/cash (kids under 5 are free). Shuttles run 9:45 AM-6 PM every 15 minutes.

**NO VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED ADMITTANCE ON RACE DAY WITHOUT A PRE-PURCHASED PASS.**

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Photo Credits: Chris Weber and Robert Keller

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## Youth Sports

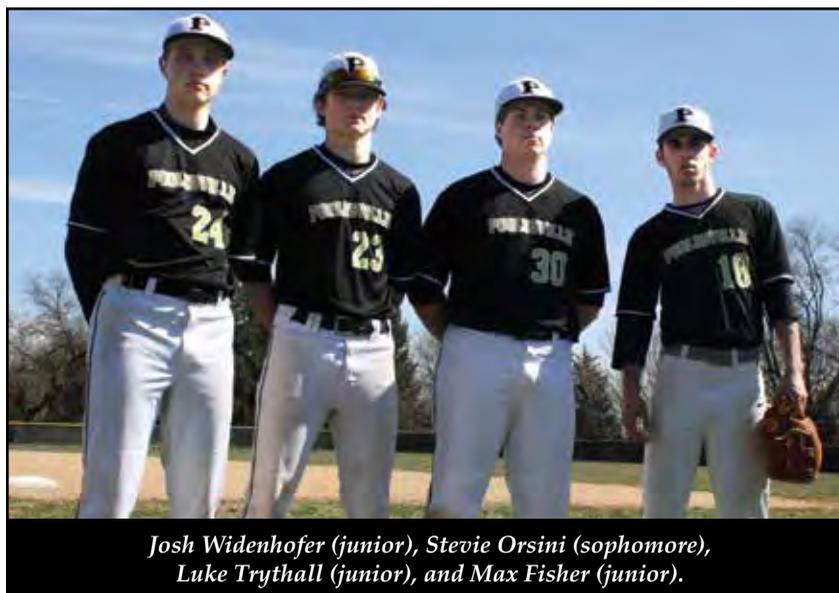
### Young PHS Baseball Team Battling for Division Title

By Jeff Stuart

After ten games, the PHS baseball team was 6-4 with a couple of exciting wins under their belts.

"I think we have lost some games we should have won," said sophomore outfielder and pitcher Stevie Orsini. "I think we are playing better as the season has gone along. Our pitching is just getting better every time out. This season, I expected there to be a learning curve for a lot of people, and I expected us to be fighting for every game and every win. The Northwest game was a fun game. It was back and forth. There was a lot going on, lots of good hits. Everyone was hitting the ball really well. Tommy Miles came in at the end and pitched like a dog to close it out. I hit into a double play in the bottom of the sixth, I bunted, but Max Fisher scored from second base on the play."

Miles, a sophomore, entered the game with the Falcons clinging to a 10-9 lead. The bases were loaded with



Josh Widenhofer (junior), Stevie Orsini (sophomore), Luke Trythall (junior), and Max Fisher (junior).

nobody out. He struck out two and retired the last batter by fielding a hard comebacker to the mound and throwing to first.

Junior, Max Fisher, also commented on that bottom of the sixth against Northwest.

"I got a base hit and then Luke walked. When Stevie bunted the ball, they tried to make a double play, and I rounded third and ran home. I was safe. That was a big run. It was definitely our best game of the season. It was the game we really had to fight

the hardest...I like to play games against teams that are very good because I want to see how our team stacks up against them. We have a lot more pitching depth this year. Last year, we only had two or three pitchers. This year we have six or seven solid pitchers that are improving every time they go out there on the mound and getting better with each appearance. I am really excited to see how far we are going to go because each one of our pitchers is going to be back next year, so next year we will have an even

better game. For me, personally, I think the B-CC game was the best game. We kind of gamed them that game. I'd love to play them again to see what happened if we didn't have any errors, but it was the first game of the season. We were really raw. A lot of us weren't ready for the experience."

That run scored by Fisher made the score 9-7, but with two out, Poolesville put a few more runners on base, and junior outfielder Tommy Stoughton scored from third on a wild pitch.

"I think our best game was against either Northwest or Whitman," said junior outfielder and pitcher Josh Widenhofer. "At Northwest we won, but against Whitman, we might have played a more complete game because we hung with them the whole game. They came back in the last half of the sixth inning to beat us. We were ahead, 2-1. We held them to five hits. That was disappointing, but we played well. We started off slow this year, but we have gotten better every game. Right now, I have confidence in our team."

"We are really young," said junior first baseman Luke Trythall. "Our chemistry is getting better. Next year will be a good season, too. My best game was probably the Richard Montgomery game or maybe the Northwest game."

Continued on page 23.

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## School News

### Spring Break 2021: Travel to Spain For Diaz's Spanish Highlights

PHS Spanish language teachers, Angela Diaz and Melanie Rivera, will be leading a group of high school students on a once-in-a-lifetime educational tour of Spain during spring break in 2021. Themed Diaz's Spanish Highlights, the group will explore famous historic sites, discover the rich heritage and diversity of different cultures, and experience the places studied in class. From this unique experience, students will grow and mature as individuals and will return home with a whole new world view.

The tour will be under the guidance of Explorica, chosen for its expertise in educational tours, supportive services, and exceptional safety record. Other teachers within our community have traveled through Explorica's services and provided strong recommendations on its behalf. The tours have a reputation for balance of fun and learning. Cities on the tour are: Barcelona, Granada, Seville, and Madrid.

### Spain 2021-Spring Break

#### Spanish Cities

- Barcelona
- Seville
- Granada
- Madrid

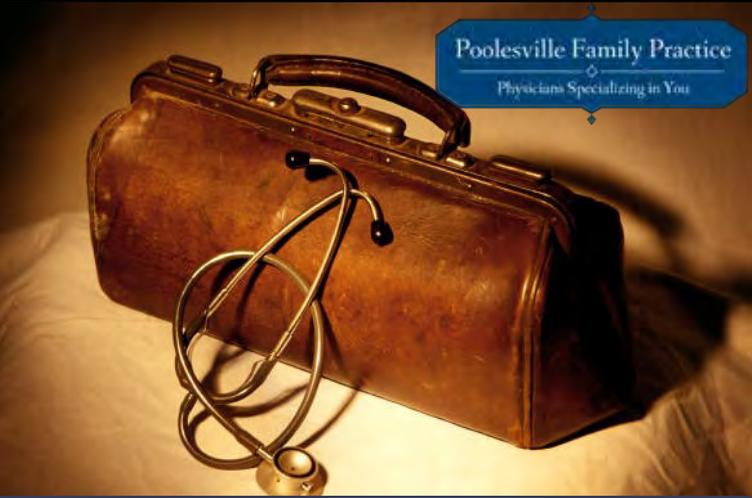
#### Trip with students



The four cities scheduled for a student spring break educational trip.

The deadline for enrolling with a discount is Wednesday, May 8, 2019. There will be an informational and organizational meeting on April 30 for interested students and parents/guardians at Poolesville Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. You can learn more about the trip by visiting [www.explorica.com/Diaz-1734](http://www.explorica.com/Diaz-1734). You may also email the sponsoring faculty by emailing Ms. Diaz at [lalasim@yahoo.com](mailto:lalasim@yahoo.com) or Ms. Rivera at [einalem2345@yahoo.com](mailto:einalem2345@yahoo.com).





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Continued from page 5.

**Town Commissioners Consider Grants and Approve FY20 Budget and Taxes for Public Comment**

portions of pathways in various areas. The two types of repaving projects require different equipment; therefore, separate requests for bids were posted. Spring repaving and road repair are an important part of annual town maintenance activities.

In terms of the road repaving, American Asphalt offered the lowest bid of \$257,000. Strong pointed out that bids the town received were substantially different from the various companies reflecting, in part, the costs for setting up and bringing in needed equipment. He also said that due to the costs of oil, asphalt costs are very low right now, making it a good time to issue the paving contracts. The total contract, including a contingency budget to cover unexpected or more costly repairs, came to \$340,000, and the commissioners voted unanimously to approve it.

The trail repaving contract included building some new pathways and repairs on numerous parts of the existing paths. American Asphalt was also a bidder for the path repaving contract but came in much higher than the lowest bid offered by Bob Nichols Paving. The contract, including a contingency budget, totaled \$66,000 and was approved unanimously by the commissioners.

Town Manager Wade Yost presented an overview of the proposed FY20 budget for the town. The proposed budget is based on overall revenue of \$3.78 million. Most of the revenue comes from property taxes (\$1.56 million) and income taxes (\$1.35 million). Property tax rates in the proposed budget will increase from approximately 17.5 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation to 18 cents per \$100. The town charges fees for water and sewer use, and these charges will also go up in the proposed budget by six percent. The impact on residential water bills will vary based on usage, but, as an example, those using between 20,000 and 30,000 gallons of water per quarter will see their bill go up by \$15.69.

The revenues generated by town operations and by income and property taxes fund an array of town services and capital projects. The salaries and benefits of the nineteen town employees along with the costs of administering town functions make up more than half of the \$2.3 million in operating expenses for the town. Among the largest operating expenses for the town is the contract for trash service which this year comes in at almost \$500,000. Capital spending of about \$1.2 million funds sewer and water plant repairs and construction projects and capital projects like road repaving and sidewalk construction and repairs.

Debt service represents about six percent of town spending. The town has three outstanding loans that have been taken out to fund construction projects and sewer line repairs.

The town commissioners voted several years ago to maintain a reserve fund (sometimes referred to as a Rainy Day fund) to support town operations in the event of severe financial stress. The fund is supposed to be maintained at a level of 17.5 percent of general budgeted revenue, and in this year's budget comes in at about \$715,000.

Because the budget has been under development and review by the town commissioners for several months, there was only brief discussion, and no changes were proposed. The commissioners voted unanimously to schedule public hearings on the budget and new tax rates on May 6 and on the water and sewer rate increases also on May 6.



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Continued from page 1.

**History Should Not Be Forgotten**

there before. Let's look at the founding of these five regions: Sugarland, Jerusalem, Big Woods, Martinsburg, and Jonesville. They were not only home for these men, women, and children, they were important contributors to the economic and social stability of Poolesville.

Many of the black communities were tight-knit, rural, and centered around school and church. The Sugarland Forest Community was established by freed slaves after emancipation. Patriarchs William Taylor, Patrick Hebron, Jr., and John Diggs, as trustees, purchased this parcel of land from George W. Dawson, a former white slaveowner, on October 6, 1871 for \$25.00. It was specified in the deed that the land be used for religious worship, a school, and a burial site for people of African descent. The heart and soul of Sugarland resided in the St. Paul Community Church on Sugarland Road in Poolesville. Skip Etheridge is the great-great-grandson of William Taylor, one of the three founding fathers of the church. The history of Sugarland cannot be told without the name of Gwen Hebron Reese, a direct descendant of the town's founders. She grew up there in a wood-frame house built by her father, a direct descendant of freed slaves. "Sugarland was a community born out of slavery," Reese said. In 1995, she, her cousins, and other descendants of the founding fathers organized the Ethno-Historic Project to document the African-American community of Sugarland. Its mission is to promote and highlight the experience of the African-American from slavery to the present day. The organization has collected more than one thousand artifacts and documents that shed light on the daily lives of the people living in the Sugarland community.

Traveling in or out of Poolesville, you pass Jerusalem Road, just off Route 109, the Beallsville-Poolesville Road. This area, being in a central and easily-accessible location for many in the black community, played an active presence in their lives. The Jerusalem Baptist Church and Cemetery were the centerpiece, and many of the founders of the community are buried there. The church celebrated its centennial in 1974, making it one of the oldest rural black churches in the county. An interesting footnote to the history of Jerusalem is what we now call

the Beauty Spot, one of Montgomery County's solid waste disposal centers. On this piece of land was a Rosenwald School, one of more than five thousand state-of-the-art schools, shops, and teachers' homes in the U.S. built primarily for the education of African-American children in the South during the early twentieth century by Booker T. Washington of the Tuskegee Institute and Julius Rosenwald, philanthropist and president of Sears and Roebuck. This effort has been called the most important initiative to advance black education in its time. By 1928, one third of the South's rural black schoolchildren and teachers were served by Rosenwald schools, and only a small percentage of Americans are familiar with their impact on our nation's history.

Just off Route 109 between Poolesville and Beallsville was another large black community called Big Woods. Founded in 1813, it was one of the oldest in the area and was home to many slaves.

Another vibrant African-American community was Martinsburg, located on White's Ferry Road. Its center was the Warren Historic Site, and it is the last such site in Maryland to retain all three of the structures that were the heart of the community: the Warren UM Church (built in 1903), the one-room Martinsburg Negro School (built in 1886), and the Loving Charity Lodge Hall (built in 1914).

North of Poolesville off of Cattail Road, near Route 28, you will find the area that used to be known as Jonesville, an early black settlement. It was named in honor of its founders, brothers Erasmus Jones and Richard Jones, who bought the land for \$135. Researchers have said that the Jones brothers were former slaves who they believed worked at a nearby plantation, called Aix-la-Chappelle, on the corner of Cattail and Route 28. One of the homes in Jonesville, the Jones-Hall-Sims house, built by Richard Jones in 1875, lives on today as a testimony to its history in the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. Acquired in 2009, the home was stripped down from 140 years of additions and siding and was rebuilt as part of an exhibition called "Defending Freedom, Defining Freedom: The Era of Segregation." The house was very distinctive in its time as it was a two-story structure; it stood apart and separate from what would have been thought of as a slave cabin.

Etheridge emphasized many times that "education is the key to freedom," especially for black children. In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled in Brown v. Board of Education that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. After that, Rosenwald Schools became obsolete, but that did not remove bigotry against black people from many people's minds. In 1956, a year after Montgomery County integrated public schools, Poolesville integrated its schools. George Barnes, Jr. was one of eight students who was escorted by policemen into the Poolesville school. These guards also closely followed him and his friends down the school halls and back home. Demonstrations against racial integration by the townspeople went on for days. Tensions continued into 1957. Connie Morella, who would later become a Congresswoman, taught English and Civics at Poolesville High School. She said, "The people in Poolesville are all wonderful people, but they just could not understand integration." Black students in many areas of the U.S. did not begin to enter predominately white schools until the mid -1960s.

Etheridge closed his talk saying that "black people brought life to the economy and the social fabric of the Poolesville community." Many small towns were built by ex-slaves, but he reminded us that "they were all Americans." We have come a long way, but our journey is not finished. "History must not be forgotten. It is our history—our town."

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**COMMISSIONERS OF POOLESVILLE  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
RESOLUTION 001-19**

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on May 6, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at Poolesville Town Hall, 19721 Beall Street, Poolesville, Maryland. This public hearing is for the purpose of receiving public comment concerning Resolution 001-19, which proposes to change the existing quarterly graduated water and sewer rates schedule pursuant to Poolesville Code §16.51. Copies of the Resolution are available at Town Hall.

The Water and Wastewater Fund continues to face challenges to be self-sufficient due to low water and sewer rates. It is always the goal to have the Fund pay for its own operations. Many of the expenses, such as electric, chemicals, sludge hauling, and mandated State water quality tests are fixed or controlled by others. The Town has made adjustments to increase efficiencies as much as possible, but a large deficit remains. A recent rate comparison study indicated that the Town's rates were significantly lower than surrounding providers' and an increase was in order. This budget proposes a 6% increase. Consumer impacts, of course, depend on usage.

Below is an average per quarter increase from each water/sewer rate tier:

- 0 - 10,000: \$4.11
- 10,001 - 20,000: \$9.34
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***The Bygone Days of White's Ferry***



This is one of the earliest pictures of White's Ferry as a powered ferryboat. Prior to that, boatmen used poles to push it across the Potomac River.

Continued from page 8.

“Shameful!”

park service does not recycle. There are some large items left along the riverbank that I reported to the C&O Canal Trust. One volunteer found a black piece of plastic sticking out of the dried mud. We found unopened cans and bottles of beer inside the dirty bag. At the towpath at Lock 27, Mark Gochnour saw something shining in the sunlight on the other side of the canal prism. He walked through the muck of the canal to

the other side where he came upon an old stone foundation and an old trash pile. Mark had found the remains of the old store that operated in the 1800s and had served canal travelers as well as travelers who came across Spink’s Ferry from Loudoun County, Virginia.

The park service provided a dump truck at the parking lots; however, the volunteers had to either carry bags or large items down the towpath by hand or by wheelbarrow. The park service does not allow the use of personal motor vehicles on the towpath and

would not give me permission to use mine, and they did not help with the cleanups. I am very grateful to all of

the volunteers who participated in this year’s cleanups and, hopefully, in 2019, there will be no river flooding.

Continued from page 9.

Caution, Wildlife Crossing

identify: perhaps a dragonfly, a great blue heron standing almost four feet tall, a salamander under a creek side rock, a furry creature swimming in the marsh, perhaps a beaver or muskrat. Look up in the trees and listen for

bird calls or rustling in the leaves. Perhaps a hawk, owl, a baby raccoon, or any number of colorful birds may be nearby.

By preserving our Agricultural Reserve, we are helping so much more than ourselves. Our flourishing wildlife is proof that we truly are surrounded by a living treasure.



C&O Canal cleanup results on April 30.

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## Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

### Present Crime

**Assault:** 19500 block of Jerusalem Road, 17600 block of Kohlhoss Road.

**Burglary:** 17700 block of Elgin Road, 17500 block of Seneca Road.

**Theft:** 18300 block of Jonesville Road, 20900 block of Big Woods Road.

**Traffic offenses:** 17500 block of W. Willard Road, Poolesville High School.

### Past Crime: 1953

A man and three teenagers were arrested and charged with a store-house breaking spree in the Upcounty. The thieves would strike at night and target stores in rural areas without much lighting. In one case, the police stopped a teen who seemed to be out of place and alone on a rural road. When asked what he was doing there, the teen said that he was taking a shortcut home. The next morning it was reported that a store not far from the encounter had been burglarized and that the other defendants had been inside when the teen was detained.

The owners of Congressional Airport on Rockville Pike called the police after an unfamiliar airplane landed and the pilot walked quickly away from the plane. Police investigated and learned that the plane had been reported stolen from South Hill, Virginia. The owner was enroute to fly his plane back home while the police searched for the airplane thief.

Montgomery County Police were investigating a bus crash that happened on the Rockville Pike near Montrose. The bus had been returning from Camp Waredaca when the seventeen-year-old driver hit a tree. Twelve campers were seriously injured; their injuries ranged from a ruptured liver, damaged spleen, and broken arms and legs. The owner of the camp said that the driver served as a bus driver, swimming instructor, lifeguard, and camp counselor.

A twenty-seven-year-old Glenmont housewife was arrested and charged with shooting her husband after an argument about family finances. Police said that the husband had come home from his taxi driving job with less money than expected and that the couple quarreled. The wife then went to her bedroom and obtained a

handgun and shot the husband in the abdomen. He was expected to recover.

A rookie D.C. police officer got himself into a lot of trouble one night. He had been hired while a training class was in session, so he was sent to the 2nd District substation and told to help out with answering the phone and other clerical matters until a new class started. One evening, the officer apparently got bored and set out in his own car and decided to find a speakeasy. He drove to a particularly dangerous part of the city where he did find a place where illegal whiskey was being sold. He questioned the owner and, when the owner refused to talk, the officer placed him in the backseat of his car and they set out for a drive into Montgomery County where eventually the D.C. man was forced to disrobe and was tied to a tree while he was being questioned. In the meantime, Montgomery County Police received a call for an accident and responded to a rural road north of Rockville where they found the pair. The rookie officer flashed his badge, but the Montgomery officers were not impressed and contacted D.C. Police supervisors who took custody of the young officer and took him back to his station. Whatever

became of the young man is not known, but it's doubtful that he remained on the force.

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

Continued from page 6.

### Tidbits

growth of the U.S. at the time. The publisher invited everyone in town to come together in the center of town. This picture is well known as taken from a helicopter above the crowd. The photo in the *Monocle* Mystery Contest was taken from the ground level. You can see the helicopter in the air.

In entering the drawing, Mary wrote, "Yes, I am in this picture with my twin sister, Martha, my mother Myrtle, and two of my brothers, Eddie and Freddy Remsburg. My sister and I were six years old, my brothers, nine and ten. Mary retired from being the secretary at John Poole Middle School.



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MHIC 128570

MDA 28831

J.D. Kuhlman

Continued from page 14.

**Young PHS Baseball Team  
Battling for Division Title**

The Northwest game was obviously very close, and I went two for three, but against RM, I went four for four with two doubles and two singles.

"I started playing select baseball with Max Fisher when I was eight. I have played with him for years now. I have tried to play every season. I have tried to work hard. Playing in college is my goal. My grandfather, who recently passed away, was a big influence on me. He got me going to camps for the Frederick Keys, and after those camps, I just fell in love with it."

"I am very pleased," said Coach Steve Orsini. "In the opening game at B-CC, we had eleven errors in five innings. They beat us 12-2. Traditionally, we don't make errors. We work on fielding the ball and making those routine plays, but we made too many mistakes that day. Since then, we have been in one- or two-run games. We have hit the ball well. We have pitched well and played good defense. I think our best game was the Northwest game. I think that showed them that we can win close games and come back from behind. We can compete with anybody. They are a good team. We haven't played any bad teams. B-CC and Whitman are teams that are going to be battling in the playoffs. I look forward to getting better and better. I think our pitchers are coming along. We have six or seven pitchers that can all throw strikes. We are getting three or four innings out of them. We can just rotate. We have three lefties, so we can go rightly-lefty or lefty-righty, whichever combination we want to do to get out of difficulty."

On Thursday, April 11, the Falcons beat Rockville, 4-3, in an extra-inning nail-biter. Great pitching by Trythall and Fisher were undercut by a few dropped fly balls. All three Ram runs were unearned, but junior Owen Brill retired the side on three flyball outs in the top of the seventh, and Trythall led off the bottom half with a single. Stevie singled and, after an intentional walk, sophomore third baseman Alex Pope singled home the game winner. Sophomore Connor Dorsey made a terrific diving stop and throw to first for an out in the fifth. In the third inning, Widenhofer scored all the way from first on an errant pickoff throw by the pitcher. Will Jamison and Cade Seeley are seniors. Ben Jamison, Jake Carin, and Eamon Murphy are juniors. Second baseman Colin Goss is a sophomore.

A 14-4 loss on April 13 at rival Damascus hurt the Falcons' chances to win the division.



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 My hands are crowned with mercy."*

*(Diary of St. Faustina, No. 301)*



## Remembrance

### Samuel Balmore Polanco

Samuel Balmore Polanco, thirty-six, passed away on April 14. For the past two years, Sam fought each day against squamous cell carcinoma cancer with strength, his faith in God, and positivity. His last days were spent under the care of the incredible staff at Montgomery Hospice and with the love of his life, Christina Embrey, by his side always. He took his last breath in her arms as she said the Lord's Prayer.



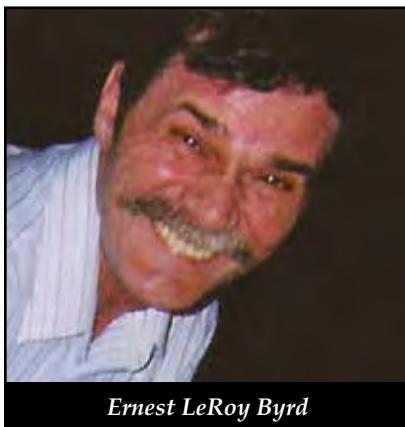
Samuel Balmore Polanco

Sam was a class of 2000 Richard Montgomery High School graduate. He worked as an expeditor/culinary assistant at Del Frisco's Grille in North Bethesda. He was well regarded for his attention to detail, being a hard worker, and always bringing people together. He spread kindness, happiness, and laughter to all those who crossed his path. Sam will be forever remembered for his strength and tender heart.

Sam is survived by Christina, his mother and father Noa and Jose (Moyo) Polanco, his brother Alex and sister-in-law Jessica Polanco and nephew Kalani Polanco, Christina's mother and stepfather, Jennifer and Tor Ofsthun, and her brothers Randy and Lauren Embrey, and Danny and Adrienne Embrey, as well as many friends that became chosen family, including Alex Guevara, Victor (Vik) Gonzalez Diaz, Nelson (Nelly) Padilla, Alex Canas, and Maricio Giron.

### Ernest LeRoy Byrd

LeRoy Byrd passed away on April 15, surrounded by family. He was sixty-seven and the only son of the late Luther Ernest Byrd and Marjorie "Dove" Byrd (née Rambo).

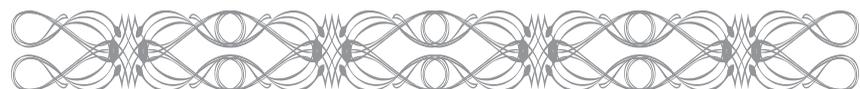


Ernest LeRoy Byrd

LeRoy graduated from Poolesville High School in 1969. When his father passed away in 1964, he became the only man in a family of seven sisters and his adored mother. At age fourteen, LeRoy began walking his sisters down the aisle at their weddings, one after another, finally becoming the father of the bride to his daughters.

LeRoy was a lifelong truck driver employed by Neutron Products in Dickerson for thirty-three years. The road and his girls were his life. He looked forward to watching NASCAR and enjoyed hunting, fishing, and building things with his hands. He knew how to enjoy a beer, a sunset, and a good Hank Williams song.

Surviving him are his daughters, Robin Byrd of Aurora, Illinois, and Deborah Lawson of St. David, Arizona; and his grandchildren Michael and Melissa Kiss. Also surviving him are his seven sisters, Jeanette Michelsen of Harker Heights, Texas; Mary Beitzel of Boyds; Sandy Sermon (Bill) of Monticello, Indiana; Donna Righter (Wayne) of Thurmont; Bonnie Miller of Frederick; Janice Byrd of Frederick; and Joyce Price of Clarksburg; and numerous nieces and nephews. Online condolences may be left at [www.resthaven.us](http://www.resthaven.us).



Do you or someone you know have a special announcement, or milestone you would like to share with our readers?

The Monocle welcomes your contribution.  
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Continued from page 10.

**What Hath Winter Wrought?**

resistant phlox 'David' is the only phlox you can reliably grow in our area. *Baptisia Australis* with its sky blue/lavender spikes of flowers is underestimated. I have eight planted behind the disappointing 'Endless Summer' hydrangeas. At least they bloom right on time. Last spring, I planted eight *Alstroemeria* 'Inca Ice.' They bloomed all summer. They were an experiment, and I did not know if they would return this spring. They all

made it and are setting out new little green leaves. I am not so sure about my other experiment, the *Agapanthus*. Last year, I planted four in the ground and four in containers; so far, there is not signs of emerging life from any of them. The Brown-Eyed Susan *Rudbeckia* 'Goldsturm' returns every year to my garden with dazzling mounds of long-blooming yellow flowers with deep brown centers. Another reliable, dazzling plant for your garden is *Heliopsis* 'Asahi,' meaning morning sun in Japanese. These prolific, long-bloomers resemble

marigolds, with all the benefits of perennials. Last but not least is my very wonderful, twenty-five-year-old pussy willow tree which majestically stands guard in my Upper Garden. He never disappoints. His little, silver-gray catkins appear faithfully every January and February and lead one's thoughts to the soon-to-arrive spring.

I could tell you about many more of my wonderful, beautiful, and reliable plants, but if you are planning your garden now, these highly-recommended ones will give you a good start.

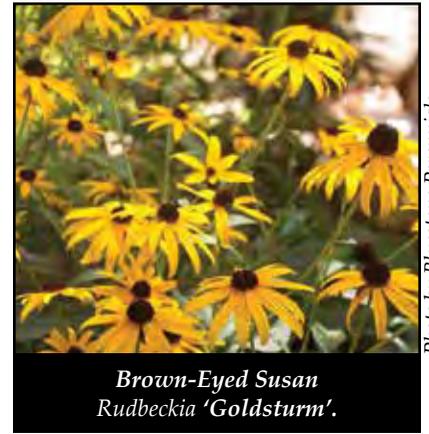


Photo by Bluestone Perennials.

*Brown-Eyed Susan  
Rudbeckia 'Goldsturm'.*

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## Celebrating 30 Years of Service

### A Brief History of Veterinary Medicine: Part 1

By Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

The practice of veterinary medicine is an intensely human activity that has great importance to quality of life, agricultural and pet owner economics, and international health protection.

Evidence from archaeology indicates that animal medical treatments were practiced in ancient times by Stone-Age and Tribal peoples. Not until the invention of writing between 3000 and 1200 B.C. did a graphic record emerge of human attempts to understand and treat animal disease.

Evidence of whole-body type medicine, including mysticism, magic, superstition, astrology, and religion, were central parts of medical and veterinary practice in ancient times.

The oldest medical writing is the Kahun Papyrus of 1800 B.C. which describes some human diseases, two diseases of cattle, and a disease of dogs. Treatments included the use of incantations and empirical treatments for the relief of suffering.

Hammurabi, the king of Babylon about 2000 B.C., produced a stone carving that shows the first recorded legal code with references to medicine. The king also introduced a code for doctors of oxen and asses, with fees established for service and penalties listed for malpractice.

The practitioners were called veterinaries, or *medicus pecorum* or *ars veterinaria*, and practice was known as hippiatry. There are even references to veterinary medical records for this region of Babylon in the Old Testament.

The first named veterinarian was Salihotra, who lived in India in 1800 B.C. He produced writings about horses and standards for veterinary practice.

King Asoka in India constructed what are believed to be the first veterinary hospitals in 250 B.C. due to his intense love of horses.

In A.D. 4<sup>th</sup> century, on the order of Byzantine Emperor Constantine, the Hippiatrika was published by Porphyrogenitus. This was not only a critical veterinary document but one of the prized literary works of all time. It is based on the fourth-century Greek veterinarian Apsyrtus, who is considered the father of veterinary medicine. Byzantium was thus acknowledged as the birthplace of veterinary literature. The Hippiatrika was never published in English, but the writings of a later Roman, Vegetius Renatus, who lived in the sixth century, were translated into English in 1748. Vegetius was a layman with an intense interest in the veterinary arts, and his writings used for the first time the term "veterinary" in a book title. Veterinarius translates to "beast of burden".

Part 2, Medieval Veterinary Medicine, Renaissance Veterinary Medicine, and the Age of Enlightenment.



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