

### TOWN PARKS CLOSED

**EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:** All Town Parks are closed until further notice. The playground equipment is roped off, parking is prohibited, and use of restrooms at the park is no longer permitted. This is not intended to prohibit the use of walking on the trails as long as safe social distance is observed. Town staff will not be actively patrolling or responsible for enforcement of infractions. Reports of public infractions should be reported to the Montgomery County Police Department's non-emergency number at 301-279-8000.

# The Monocacy

# MONOCLE

*Keeping an Eye on Local News*

*A Biweekly Newspaper*

April 3, 2020 • Volume XVI, Number 2

## Poolesville High School Students React to School Closure

By Andrew Sojka



*Glenn Tallia took this commuter picture on the MARC train. Glad they had a "quiet" sign to keep the roar of the crowd down. More COVID-19 activity pics on page 2.*



*Toilet paper shortage solved on page 8.*



*Read about the sporting highlights of senior athlete Rachel Onderko on page 12.*

On Thursday, March 12, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) announced the closing of all schools in the county from March 16 to March 27 as a result of the Coronavirus, COVID-19, pandemic. As of March 25, the closure was extended to April 24. The decision followed announcements by Virginia closing schools for the duration of the school year and Washington, D.C. closing through April 27.

With the extended school closure and continued quarantine, some Poolesville High School students and staff are feeling the effects of social distancing. As a result of canceled school activities, students have fewer opportunities to interact with their peers.

"I know closing schools is the right thing to do and initially I was relieved to have a break from schoolwork, but I'm also devastated because the spring musical was canceled, which we put so much

work into and would have been my last show at PHS," said senior Elizabeth Phelps.

"I miss everybody!" said PHS Principal Mark Carothers. "I miss seeing our students in the hallway, and I miss watching teachers do great things for students in the classroom. At the same time, however, I am comforted in knowing that we are doing the right thing to keep everybody safe and healthy."

Whether it be studying, exercising, or learning a new instrument, students have had to find new ways to spend their time away from school.

"I've of course been watching a lot of Netflix, but I've also been having so much fun learning the ukulele," said Phelps. "Also, since I live on a farm, my dog and I have been taking extra-long walks and exploring the woods."

Continued on page 15.



*Poolesville High School senior Elizabeth Phelps has been spending some time practicing the ukulele while away from school.*

## A Fair Access Community School: Back to The Future in 1978

By Rande Davis

As we reach the crunch time on the final decision regarding the funding of a new high school/community center for Poolesville, it is intriguing to note that the notion of the combined facility service center, while hopeful, is not novel. In the 1970s, there was a drive to bring a community center to Poolesville that did not succeed. As the concept was being developed, though, the community used Poolesville Junior-Senior High School as a community center to demonstrate the value and practicality of the concept.

In the Volume 3, No. 2 edition of the

### Community Calendar

At the Center:

**Mondays:**

3:30 - 5:40 Modern Dance taught by Barbara Ekloff (Old Gym)

7:30-8:30 Slimnastics, cafeteria; Library 3:30 - 9:00

7-10 pm Open Gym, Co-Rec Adult Basketball, New Gym

7-10 pm Open Gym, Women over 16 volleyball, Old Gym

**Tuesdays:**

3:30 - 5:50 Modern Dance, Old Gym; Library: 3:30 - 9:00 TOPS Rm. 122

Karate 7-9:30 (7-8 for youth, 8-9:30 for adults)

**Wednesdays:**

5-6:30 Track (Upper Montgomery County Athletic Club)

7-10 Open Gym, Adult Co-Rec Volleyball

*The schedule of community activities in a Poolesville School Community Center forty-three years ago this week.*

Poolesville "Your Community Life Center Report" published in February of 1978, the opening paragraph stated, "The Community Life Center: The total family center—a model of interagency

cooperation—serving all citizens living in Western Montgomery County, Maryland. A fun place—a Recreational

Continued on page 7.

## Family Album



Mark Corbett shot this picture of social distancing neighbors engaged in conversation.

## Social



Manna Food distributed weekend backpack food sacks to area residents in need on March 27 at PHS. MCPS employees Shari Stream and Dawn Garciaguirre helped with the distribution.



Eight-year-old Joshua Mitchel (left), with his family, not only got a great COVID-19 drive-by birthday party, but reporter Gary McGrady of Fox 5 stopped by to film the big day for the evening news report.



Town Manager Seth Rivard drew a winner of a gift certificate to a town restaurant. The sponsorship is done to help area restaurants and promotes the need to support them during the COVID-19 crisis.

## Distances



A few days before the town parks were closed, people practiced social distancing while picnicking on the lawn. Elisa Goldstein, with son Zach, and Mary Zehnly, with son Nick, took advantage of the nice day in town. Walkers distancing themselves may still use the trails.



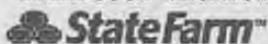
Terri Pitts is taking pictures of families on their front porches as they shelter at home.



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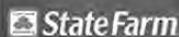
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## Local News

### WUMCO Still Working Hard To Supply Its Clients

By Link Hoewing

The Coronavirus Pandemic has made life more difficult for all of us as our area and others throughout the nation go on various forms of lockdown. In such trying times, life can be especially difficult for those with limited means who are suddenly without a job or who are elderly and less able to get out to buy needed supplies or pharmaceuticals.

This is where the local charity WUMCO Help comes in. WUMCO was started by Jane Stearns some fifty years ago and is the emergency assistance provider for many who are elderly and those with limited means in the Upcounty, including Dickerson, Poolesville, Beallsville, Barnesville, and Boyds. The charitable organization is now headed by Executive Director Katie Longbrake, and she is assisted by her deputy Adam DeBaugh. They are the only paid staff for the organization. All other work for the organization—including stocking and arranging the food pantry, providing transportation for those who need to get to doctors, and financial assistance of various kinds provided to needy clients—is done through volunteers or supported by donations from the community.

WUMCO's offices are located in the Poolesville Baptist Church where it has a large food pantry. In 2018, the organization, according to its annual report, provided food to more than 150 people, assistance with utility bills for over eighty families, gasoline for vehicles to eleven persons, and transportation to doctors' offices for twenty people. During the holidays, WUMCO provides toys and gifts to over 370 needy children, Christmas food baskets to 157 families, and Thanksgiving food baskets to 125 families.

In an interview, Katie Longbrake noted that the initial response to the pandemic from WUMCO has centered on the need for food assistance. The organization sent out more than 2,800 pounds of food in the last two weeks of

Continued on page 16.

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## Rande(m) Thoughts

### A Surprising Way To Come to the Aid of Others

By Rande Davis

*"Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the country."*

For those who took typing classes in high school back in the early 1960s, that sentence may be very familiar. For some reason, that was the line we were given to practice our emerging skills. At the time, World War II and Korea were recent memories, and they fired our patriotic fervor, so it seemed most appropriate back then, especially at a time when there was little eye for seeing the gender slight.

With the scourge of COVID-19 ravaging the world, surely this is a time for "all good people" to come to the aid of our country, and perhaps most importantly, to our community. We are beginning to make new habits that are the essential changes if we are to get back to any sense of normalcy.

It's amazing how almost everything can change nearly overnight. It will be essential to stay as aware as possible to all the new norms as soon as they are put out by the CDC. We all know now what to do for each other. At the very least, we must continue to distance ourselves a minimum of six feet from each other. Coughing into our elbows is more than polite, it becomes a must. Stay at home as much as possible. Wash our hands often, especially if we touch unfamiliar surfaces. Kissing cheeks will be replaced with a respectful bow, with or without the folding of our hands. This lesson must have been learned by the Asians many generations ago. Since shoes can carry the virus, another lesson to be learned from Asian culture is to remove them as we enter our homes. Much of this will surely become permanent social

behavior going into the future for a very long time.

As these habits will become the norm, they serve as the most effective way we, as individuals, can come to the aid of each other. Covid-19 threatens us all equally, but it is hurting some among us more than others. We all understand that those "others" are seniors. Yet there are even some other "others" who may be permanently damaged, more than the rest of us. These are people who have always been there to help us in our community through financial donations to the many (over thirty-seven in our area alone) charitable and nonprofit groups serving all of us. They provided coupons, free goods, and even allowed us to use their windows and walls with messy and sticky flyers promoting our good causes or fundraisers. It is to them that we go to over and over again. I am speaking of all our local businesses, but even more specifically, our local restaurants, especially those offering dining-in and bar services. All of a sudden, nearly thirty-five local residents have lost their jobs or their essential second jobs that helps balance their lives. Without warning, those working in dining and bar services have lost a huge part of their income. How they get by today may depend on what we do tomorrow. Watershed Café closed this week.

The best way to help them is to increase your carryout dining. If you want to double your support, order a lunch or dinner for a senior citizen. Every time you order now, it is like saying over and over again: Thank you for all your past support to us and our special causes; thank you for being there for us then, we hope this helps you now. As you sign for the food, and you come to the tip line, remember that there is no better time to be generous.

Practice your community service by remembering: Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid of our restaurants.

## Local History

### No Work on Sunday

By Jack Toomey

People of a certain age vaguely remember the days when almost all stores were closed on Sunday, and manual work of any kind was banned. These were the days of Maryland's Blue Laws which were enacted in the 1700s to protect the sanctity of the Sabbath.

In Colonial times, blasphemy, swearing, and drunkenness were more severe offenses if the crime happened on Sunday. In one case, a blasphemer had his tongue bored through with a hot iron and, after he recovered, he was fined twenty pounds of sterling. If he couldn't come up with the silver, a jail term of six months awaited him. Those who broke the Sabbath by smoking were fined two hundred pounds of tobacco. People who were particularly profane or drunk on Sunday were branded on the forehead with a letter denoting their crime.

As time passed, these laws were relaxed, and most of the Blue Laws were applied to commerce and labor. In the not-too-distant past, it was against the law to cut grass on Sunday.

Also banned were fishing, crabbing, and hunting. Baseball could be played but not before 1:00 p.m., presumably so people could go to church.

As the twentieth century progressed, the only stores that were allowed to open on Sundays were pharmacies, and they were only allowed to sell medicine. As late as 1961, the Supreme Court sided with the states that had Blue Laws. Chief Justice Earl Warren, in a 1961 landmark case, wrote, "The state seeks to set one day apart from all others as a day of rest, repose, recreation, and tranquility—a day which all members of the family and community have the opportunity to spend and enjoy together, a day on which there exists relative quiet, and a day on which people may visit friends and relatives who are not available during the working days." Finally, in the 1980s, most of Maryland's Blue Laws were struck down, and stores of every type were allowed to open although some counties still prohibit the sale of alcohol.

Now let's go back in time to a century earlier. Sheriff Howard, who apparently believed in the spirit of the Blue Laws, set out on the morning of Sunday, September 30, 1912 to search the county to determine if the Blue Laws were being obeyed. With three

Continued on page 18.

## The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

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## Letter to the Editor

By Poolesville Town Commission Vice President Valaree Dickerson

The commission form of government we have in Poolesville is one in which, if all commissioners don't work together, very little gets done. It is referred to as a "weak executive" form of local government. Unlike a mayor-council form of government in which a separately-elected mayor runs the executive branch, virtually everything in our government must be done by either consensus or vote, according to our charter. For decades, it has worked as volunteers who have served have worked together to hammer out laws and make decisions. It can be messy and time-consuming, but it is democracy in action, and it's our small town's character as well.

Sadly, we have reached a point where our commission is not working. Four commissioners agreed unanimously a few months ago to limit the amount of time any commissioner can spend in town hall. The commission president elected not to vote but made it clear he did not agree with the policy.

This policy was adopted to give the town manager time to settle in and get a handle on the many complex parts of our local government. Our intent was to keep commissioners, who naturally command attention and cause distraction even if they don't intend to, from making the transition from one town manager to another more difficult and wrenching than it has to be. To be clear, the new policy only says that no commissioner may spend more than two hours per day in town hall. Given modern technology, commissioners can do most of their work via phone calls and online contacts. Two hours should be plenty of time to hold a meeting or two if needed.

Since the vote, we have had to revisit the issue at several public meetings because President Jerry Klobukowski continuously violated the policy. He

said in response to a direct question about whether or not he would comply: "I promise I'll do it this time."

Despite his promise, our commission president, who at times has spent the better part of an entire day at townhall as if he were a staff member, still continues to violate the rules. All other commissioners have abided by them.

All commissioners have been in discussion over this matter and concerned about the lack of respect the president has evidenced for our town's charter and the vote the commission took. The issue is not whether or not anyone disagrees with the policy, rather it is about whether the town's charter, which calls for most policy matters to be voted on by all commissioners, can willfully be ignored by any one commissioner. Especially now, with everyone's health and safety at risk and the pressures on our staff, this distraction caused by the president is not only a violation of our laws, it is immoral.

Why did I write this letter to the editor, you ask? As an elected official and the vice president of the commission, I believe no commissioner should ever be denied the request for a public agenda item to be discussed at a meeting by the resident alone. After asking our Town Manager to add a discussion on this matter to our upcoming agenda, our president demanded it be removed. At a very minimum, any decision about removing or placing an item on the agenda that is in dispute should be subject to a vote.

As elected officials, if we refuse to abide by the decisions of the board, we stifle our commissioners' voices who are elected to represent the citizens as best they can. If we can't work together and we allow the charter to be ignored, we fail all of our citizens. I am sorry to have had to write this letter and raise the profile of this issue even further. After repeated attempts to discuss it and reason with the president, however, I felt the public should understand what is happening and what is at stake.

**JIM BROWN**  
jimbrown.sales@gmail.com



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## Center Stage

### Chief: The Man, the Myth, the Legend

By Tor Ofsthun

Nonagenarian George Hillard has truly led a remarkable life. Lifelong local resident Donna Mitchell encapsulated his life in her new book, *Chief*, which has no lack of interesting and exciting anecdotal accounts of fire department rescues. Far from it, for when one assumes the noble life of a firefighter and the mantle of leadership, adventure is never far from the mundane daily grind for it is their duty to rescue those in harm's way, to proceed forthwith into danger from which others flee to save themselves. Admirable heroes, yes, but men in the flesh who oftentimes are injured and sometimes perish, making the ultimate sacrifice, performing their duty.



Donna Mitchell with Chief George Hillard.

Born in 1928, Hillard grew up in Boyds. He and his sister Jane, who was one year younger than he, attended a one-room schoolhouse in Clarksburg that had no bathroom, only an outhouse. The students were responsible by schedule to either bring in a bucket of spring water or a bucket of coal to fuel the potbelly stove. That sort of puts rural life in the thirties and forties in perspective. Hillard married Katheryn in 1948, moved to Poolesville the next year, and started Poolesville Plumbing. Hillard has been a fixture in Poolesville and upper Montgomery County ever since. George and Katheryn sadly lost their first child George, Jr. at only six months old but raised five daughters, Diane, Patty, Kathy, Betty Lou, and Libby (and now they have twelve grandchildren and twenty-four great-grandchildren). His true calling came when part of his plumbing store burned in the Elgin drugstore fire in 1953.

"The fire spread quickly. With the fire threatening to spread to George's house, he and Katheryn began removing furniture from the house to salvage what they could," wrote Mitchell.

Fortunately, the Hillard's home was spared from disaster, but the incident served as a catalyst for Hillard to become a firefighter. That proved to be a boon to the fire department as well as to the citizens of Montgomery County.

"As George stood in the street reflecting on the events of the night, it became obvious to him that changes were needed. The following month, George and his business neighbor and friend Bill Bliss, joined the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department."

Continued on page 9.

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Continued from page 1.

**A Fair Access Community School: Back to the Future in 1978**

place—an Educational place—a Healthy place with opportunities for everyone—growing with each passing day.”

**Thursdays:**  
 3:30 - 4:30 Children’s Dramatics Rm 150  
 6:30 - 8 4-H Basketball practice, Old Gym  
 7-9 Cake Decorating, Home Economics Room  
 Youth Square Dancing - 7-8 pm, Cafeteria  
 Crochet - 7 - 8:30 Rm 126  
 Macrame 7 - 8:30, Rm. 125  
 5-6:30 Track Team, Upper Montgomery Athletic Club  
 7-10 Open Gym, Men’s Basketball, New Gym  
 Library 3:30 - 9:00  
**Saturdays:** Library 9 am - 5 pm  
**Sundays:** Library 1 pm - 5 pm; Poolesville Baptist Church School (9:30  
 April 15: Movie: The Impossible Years 7:30, cafeteria  
 April 16: Potomac Valley Country Club Tennis Tournament (9 am - 4 pm  
 High School Tennis Courts  
 April 19: WUMCO, meeting 8 pm cafeteria  
 April 25: 7:30 - 10:30 Homemakers Rm. 150  
 7:30: ESSO Parents’ Night Rm. 002

*The schedule of community activities, continued.*

In this report, Bert Moore, the Facilitator (manager) of the center wrote, “In recent weeks, there has been some questioning about the name ‘Community Life Center.’ For the benefit of new residents, Community Life Center is an umbrella title referring to the development of the high school site as a total family support facility through the interagency cooperation of numerous government, private, and local groups. Philosophically, the concept is rooted in an affirmation that there is in fact a lifelong interrelationship between Education, Recreation, and Health.”

The report further stated, “The community life center concept is in harmony with, yet goes beyond the traditional ‘community school’ concept.”

Moore wrote, “In fact, the contract signed with the Board of Education does not even refer to the center being a community school but a community center. It is, in fact, that in order to maintain this contract and keep these facilities open for community use, we must show interagency cooperation as one condition. The purpose herein is simply that the entire cost of facility operation (utilities, custodial, etc.) not fall on the school system alone, nor on local community groups who cannot afford to pay for such large facilities. The school system rationale document under which I work specifically states that I am to ‘encourage community participation in the use of the school facilities during the regular school day... to secure and support the implementation of joint-tenancy agreements between Montgomery County Public School and service providers... to expand the use of the school facilities beyond the K-12 grade operating day.’”

As the new center began to operate, it was on February 6, 1978 that the new high school gym opened.

It is interesting to see that in the town newspaper, *The Chronicle*, its Community Calendar (pictured here) listed all the many things available to the community through this school-community joint effort. This all begs the question: Where are Marty McFly (as played by Michael J. Fox) and “Doc” Brown’s DeLorean when we need them the most?

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*Offered in the spirit of April Fools' Day and the need for humor during troubling times.*


Continued from page 6.

**Chief: The Man, the Myth, the Legend**

Hillard was an innovator and a leader. It took him only months to become chief, a job to which he was well suited. He instituted new policies and recruits and brought in instructors from the University of Maryland to ensure his men were well trained.

"It was a different time," Hillard, now 91, reflected. "It was mostly farmland between Rockville and Poolesville. We had only 350 people in town here."

Hillard has influenced, helped, and befriended many people over his ninety-one years, and Donna Mitchell is assuredly counted among them. Mitchell, a twenty-year member of the UMCVFD Auxiliary, is well suited to author a book about Hillard, having known him from her childhood as the best friend of Hillard's daughter, and then as a member of the Auxiliary.

"I'm a life member of Station #14, which means I have served twenty years of active service," she explained, "but I have been around the firehouse and around these firefighters and have loved listening to their stories. George's daughter, Patty, and I have been best friends for forty years, and I have loved the time that I have spent with this family. They are incredibly community-minded people, always thinking of family and friends."

Completing the book in two and a half years, Mitchell said that it was a labor of love. Her research from the Montgomery County Historical Society and her many interviews emphasized something that she already knew. "I was amazed at the true grit these men showed in their dedication to running calls," Mitchell revealed.

Certainly, this was no more evident than in the water rescues—and one incident in particular as retold by Mitchell captures this element of danger and suspense. After arriving on the scene at flooding Seneca Creek on a call to save a man in 1975, Dave Jeffers (Hillard's son-in-law) and Buddy Bodmer rescued the man. The rescued man then informed them that there was a second man trapped. A local fisherman volunteered to help in maneuvering the boat between the trees.

"As the rescue boat went out into the raging waters, it was tossed about and pummeled by floating debris. After finding the second victim and getting him onboard, Dave attempted to position the boat for the trip back. Unfortunately, at that point, the boat flipped over, and everyone went into the river. Another call went out to the firehouse to rescue the rescuers."

By this time, Hillard was on the scene and went out on another boat to reach the men who had latched onto a rescue rope that had been fastened across the swollen creek.

"When George arrived and saw that Dave was not among the men, his heart sank. Then in the distance he heard a cry for help."

Hillard's son-in-law had been clinging to a tree and jumped in when they came close enough. Hillard's daughter Kathy had spent the night in anxious suspense.

"Knowing that her husband was on the rescue, she could do nothing but rock her baby and listen to the call on her fire radio. It would be a long night for all."

In 1966, St. Mary's of Barnesville appointed a new priest, Fr. George Reid, who would subsequently become the Station #14 pastor as well. George and George became friends and Father Reid held two special events annually on the first Sunday of November. The first was a service at noon at the church, during which he blessed all the firemen and their firetrucks and such. The second, held that evening, was a Vesper Service followed by a catered dinner. Father Reid had a favorite prayer that he often recited, the Firefighter's Prayer: "When I am called to duty, God, wherever the flames may rage, give me strength to save a life, whatever be its age. Help me embrace a little child before it is too late or save an older person from the horror of that fate. Enable me to be alert, and hear the weakest shout, quickly and efficiently to put the fire out. I want to fill my calling to give the best in me, to guard my friend and neighbor, to protect his property, and if according to Your will I must answer death's call, bless with Your protecting hand my family one and all."

Mitchell said that everyone had told George that he should write a book but that she had become the instrument and wrote it for him. Hillard is grateful to Mitchell for writing the book, replying with a bit of sarcastic wit, "She did a heck of a job. She didn't get everything right, but she was pretty close."

Besides his son-in-law, Jeffers, Hillard's daughter Patty has been a volunteer for fifty years in the auxiliary, and his granddaughter's husband is a firefighter in Greensboro, North Carolina. Mitchell's son is a volunteer fireman in Old Monroe, Missouri.

Hillard certainly has lived a life worthy of publishing. You might say that even though he is no relation to George Bailey, our George has had "a Wonderful Life."



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# Fun Fact...

The Romans gave this month the Latin name *Aprilis*, but the origin of this name is uncertain. The traditional etymology is from the verb *aperire*, "to open," in reference to its being the season when trees and flowers begin to bloom.

Since some of the Roman months were named in honor of divinities, and as April was sacred to the goddess Venus, her festival Veneralia was held on the first day of the month. It has been suggested that *Aprilis* was originally called *Aphrilis*, from her Greek goddess name Aphrodite (Aphros), or from the Etruscan name Apru.

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## Youth Sports

### Rachel Onderko: Inside the Lines and Lanes

By Jeff Stuart

#### What have been your major highlights/achievements in soccer and track?

This year in soccer season, I was honored to be recognized as the U.S. Army Impact Player of the Month in the state of Maryland for the month of November. Coach Nubgaard nominated me without my knowing, so it was completely unexpected and very humbling. For track, I have been lucky enough to run at Penn Relays the past three years with the 4x400 and 4x100 relay teams. I have also gone to states each year, twice for the 4x400 and most recently for the 4x800m relay.

#### What are your most memorable games or in-game moments?

For soccer, it was our playoff game against Middletown my sophomore year. We won 2-1, and I scored both goals. That sent us to regionals. It was the kind of game you always imagine yourself playing in as a kid. For track, it was running the 4x400 at the Penn Relays my freshman year. I was the youngest on the team and when I got the baton, we were in fourth place. I ended up passing each of the other girls. I knew when I handed off we would win our heat—I trusted our anchor leg runner (junior Juanita Jaramillo) so much—and we did. We never expected to do so well at such a competitive meet.

#### If you could get a redo or reset for any moment, what would it be?

I would like to reset right before Oakdale scored their one goal against us in the playoffs this year. It was off a mistake that would not normally happen on our team, and it happened so fast. We ended up losing, 1-0, but our team had the potential to go so much further. It was heartbreaking for me and my senior teammates to end our high school soccer careers too early.

#### Do you like or participate in other sports?

I played basketball until I got to high school, but I wanted to focus on soccer, which is definitely my favorite sport, and track.

#### What academic subject do you enjoy most?

AP Psychology which I took my junior year.

#### What have you read recently?

My favorite author to read is James Patterson. I have enjoyed his recent books: *The Beach House* and *Now You See Her*.

#### How do you handle stress and pressure?

By taking some deep breaths and reminding myself of times I have been stressed before where it all worked out.

#### What are your hobbies or interests outside of athletics or PHS?

I love going to the gym, being outdoors, and going hiking. Recently, I started skiing, and it is one of my favorite things to do.

#### Are you involved in any other extracurricular activities at Poolesville?

At PHS, I am the senior class secretary and part of the Girl-Up Club, a group of

boys and girls focused on empowering young women leaders.

#### On a scale from one to ten, how competitive are you?

I think I would probably rate myself as an eight because I am extremely competitive and put a lot of pressure on myself to win and be the best I can be, even if it is just at practice. At the same time, I know how to not take things too far and let my competitiveness get the best of me or take away from the enjoyment of playing.

#### How do you balance athletics and academics?

It is not always easy. Because I have been doing it for so long, it has become less of a problem. I just plan ahead and prioritize my schoolwork. I try to get work done during track meets since it involves a lot of sitting and waiting.

#### When did you get your start in soccer?

I started playing soccer in kindergarten because a team that a bunch of my classmates were on didn't have enough girls. Nobody truly expected me to stick with it. I did not even have the right cleats at first, but I have not stopped since then.

#### What are your main motivations for doing athletics?

Just the love I have developed for them. I grew up always playing different sports. Nothing makes me happier than playing soccer. All of my siblings have played sports, so a lot of my life has centered on athletics, playing or cheering someone else on.

#### Do you have any pregame rituals or superstitions?

I always wear my hair the same way for soccer, and I always have to have two of the same color hair ties in my braid, never two different colors. For track, I can't race without my shin compression sleeves on. I started getting shin splints sophomore year. Now I don't even notice them, but I wear them anyways because if I look down and see that I don't have the sleeves on in a race, it completely throws me off.

#### Tell us about your coaches and teammates and the Poolesville experience?

My teammates on every single one of the teams I have been on have been my best friends. They have all meant a lot to me. Before every soccer game this past season, I reminded the girls to play for each other. It is motivating to know you're playing for people you love. For soccer, the other two captains on the team really gave their all to the team and stepped up as leaders. I have been playing with Sabrina Edwards and Rachel Tievy since kindergarten, so it was really awesome to finish high school together as captains. Lizzie Kovacs, a freshman, and Erin Cherian, a sophomore, really stepped up for us this year.

Track is a very mental sport, so it has been so important to have teammates who are supportive and encouraging. Older teammates have been like mentors to me. My close friend Heather Robinson has been running with me since freshman year. My coaches have always been awesome. They dedicate so much time and effort. My soccer coaches have really helped to build my confidence as a player since freshman year. My track coach always pushes me to realize that I am capable of much more. Poolesville is a tightknit community and that really shows through the connections people make in sports.

#### What are your college plans?

Next year, I will be attending Indiana University of Pennsylvania. They have a great Division II soccer program, and their nursing program is really successful,



Senior Rachel Onderko.

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**Rachel Onderko: Inside the Lines and Lanes**

so when they offered me a spot, it was an easy choice. My dad went there, and my family is from that area.

“Primarily a striker, Rachel was asked to play multiple positions throughout last season,” said Rod Nubgaard. “She did it without a complaint. More than that, she took on a leadership role for the team. Her work ethic and athletic ability allowed her to rally her teammates around a common goal. She never let them hang their heads when the going got tough. She pushed them during practice and games and offered encouragement before games and during half-time. She often offered me suggestions about how the team could improve and was an integral part of why we developed into a successful close-knit team with high expectations.”

“Rachel is a great team leader,” said track coach Prasad Gerard. “She always looks to help the team work efficiently and has a positive attitude. I can always count on Rachel to give her best and push her teammates”

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Continued from page 1.

**Poolesville High School Students React to School Closure**

Although PHS is closed, the administration has been working on laying the foundation for online learning, planned for the week of April 1. Additionally, staff is working to keep the school clean and minimize the risk of infection for when school reopens.

"We are working to support students and staff as best we can in these unique and trying circumstances," said Principal Carothers. "Our Chromebook distribution for students went extremely well on March 26, and my administrative team is responding to student, staff, and community requests as soon as we can to the best of our ability."

Although the Montgomery County Board of Education has approved online learning for all MCPS students, some students remain skeptical about how effective it will be.

"I think MCPS classroom learning can be effective if done right, however, I'm scared that teachers will just be giving us busy work for the next month," said junior Carina Derewonko. "Also, if there's no accountability, some students might not care."

Phelps thinks it's a good idea in principle, but she's not convinced it will work. "It might be a good stop-gap measure for the time being, but it definitely won't replace in-classroom learning, and I'm not sure how many students will actually use it correctly and effectively, since it's so easy to put off online work."

Throughout the school closure, Principal Carothers has continued to provide ongoing updates to the school community with weekly telephone calls and emails updating students and staff as new information is available.

"I have found that regular and consistent communication has been the biggest support for all of us right now," he said. "It helps to just let everybody know we are still here to provide support, guidance, and information."

With other counties across the country extending their closure through the rest of the year, some Poolesville seniors are anxious if school might not return. This could mean prom and graduation are canceled, and grades could be affected as some students would not have the opportunity to make up previously-scheduled assignments or tests.

"I'm most nervous about keeping my grades up," said Phelps. "Even though I've been accepted into college, I need to maintain good grades so I can keep my offers of admission. Also, I'm really nervous about missing out on all the traditional senior activities like prom and not seeing my friends for a long time."

According to Principal Carothers, as it stands, graduation will proceed as scheduled. The administration is still awaiting guidance from the county concerning the prom, as a formal decision has yet to be made.

Along with the prom and graduation, some students are anxious about the changes being made to Advanced Placement (AP) exams, which are the final exams that many students enrolled in AP classes signed up for in November. In March, the College Board announced that AP tests would proceed as planned; however, they would be changed from two to three hours in duration to forty-five minutes.

Derewonko wished she had known that the AP exams would change so drastically. "I knew we would have a quarantine, but this is not what I expected."

Despite the uncertainty of the ongoing situation, Principal Carothers remains hopeful.

"I look forward to all of the personal growth we will all show when we have overcome this challenge. I am proud to lead such a wonderful, talented group of students and staff."



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**Thank you, Poolesville, for all your love and support during this time. Everyone has really come through and has proven how we are all in this together. Bassett's will keep doing what we love to do and continue to keep supporting and helping out our amazing community! Stay safe & healthy!**

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## Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

### Present Crime

**Theft:** 19900 block of Fisher Avenue.

**Missing Person:** 20400 block of Beallsville Road.

### Past Crime: 1877 to 1890

Sheriff White arrived in Rockville with a prisoner after traveling to Washington to take custody of him. Thomas Marmaduke was charged with kidnapping the child of Franklin Mace of Montrose. It was said that Marmaduke was in good spirits and was confident that he would be acquitted; however, a few days later, he was found guilty of kidnapping in a trial that entertained those who habituate the courtroom. Testimony was full of accounts of women threatening men with guns, a child thrown into a wagon, and divorce papers filed.

Thousands of Methodists descended on Washington Grove for their annual camp meeting. Their conduct was so perfect that even the townspeople who usually complain to the sheriff were quiet that year. The only complaints lodged with the sheriff were: too many trains on the railroad; too much dust stirred up by campers looking for a place to pitch their tents; and, as usual, the yearly complaint by Mrs. Griffith who insisted that pitching tents on the campgrounds was illegal.

Samuel Earbart of Darnestown was brought to the courthouse by Sheriff White on a writ of *de lunatico inquirendo* (an inquiry if the person is a lunatic). Fortunately, there was a jury seated that was involved in another trial. After a short hearing, Mr. Earbart was taken to the Maryland Insane Asylum at Catonsville. Sheriff White left with his prisoner on the 2:12 train.

The heat wave that had caused so much discomfort was broken on a Saturday night at about 11:00 p.m. when a violent thunderstorm swept over the county. Temperatures in Washington had reached 102° F. during the day and fell to 78° F. after the storms passage. Edward Huck, a German laborer, was found passed out on the 7th Street pike (Georgia Avenue). It was first thought that he was drunk, but when Sheriff White arrived, he realized that the man was prostrated by the heat. He was taken to the Freedmans Hospital.

Two fires in the same week caused total damage to two houses. The home of Samuel Claggett at Deer Park was consumed by fire. The loss of his house was estimated at \$500 and furniture at \$100. A week later, Robert Nathan was coming home from a tavern when he saw a glow in the sky near Clarksburg. He hurried home only to find his house burned down.

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

Continued from page 3.

### WUMCO Still Working Hard to Supply Its Clients

March alone, a significantly larger amount than normal. As Longbrake noted, "We are starting to see an increased need for financial assistance, and we are expecting that to grow as families are faced with missed paychecks." She said that WUMCO's most pressing needs right now are for financial support to help those who have unpaid bills and support to restock pantry shelves.

Citizens interested in supporting WUMCO financially can go to its website, [www.wumcohelp.org](http://www.wumcohelp.org), and click on Donate. Contributions can also be made via check sent to WUMCO's address, P. O. Box 247, Poolesville, Maryland, 20837. Canned foods such as fruit, vegetables (except corn and beans which they have a lot of), and other non-perishable items can also be donated. These donations can be left in the WUMCO food box which is located outside of the dentist office of Drs. Pike and Valega.

WUMCO also has freezers and refrigerators and can always use donations of eggs, frozen or fresh meats, cheese, and milk. In order to donate these items, call the WUMCO office at 301-972-8481 ahead of time to make sure someone is there who can come out to the curb and pick up contributions.

Many are suffering now on many levels due to the pandemic. Those with limited financial means or who are feeble or isolated suffer more than most. WUMCO helps us all help those most in need.

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## Remembrances

### Teddy Lee Burriss

Teddy Lee Burriss, Sr. passed from this life on March 24 in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. He was born in Frederick, on March 31, 1938 to Horace and Eva Burriss.

He grew up in Barnesville where he was a member of the Barnesville Baptist Church. He attended Poolesville High School, graduating in 1957. He was a loving and devoted husband to his high school sweetheart; Patricia Ann Burriss for sixty-three years. The couple resided in Barnesville for more than twenty-five years and were the proud parents of fifteen children: eight boys and seven girls.

He is survived by his spouse, Patricia Ann Burriss, and fourteen of his fifteen children, Nelson Burriss (Bridget), Teddy Burriss, Jr. (Rebecca), Frederick Burriss (Laurie), Michelle Reed, Daniel Burriss, David Burriss (Roberta), Deborah Wilson (Christopher), Lisa Burriss, Jeanette Howard, Mary O'Brien (Shane), Amy Young (Charles), Matthew Burriss, Eric Burriss (Nicole), and Beth Pearson (Brian), as well as thirty-three grandchildren and thirty-three great-grandchildren. He is also survived by a brother, Ronald Burriss, and a sister, Sylvia Little.

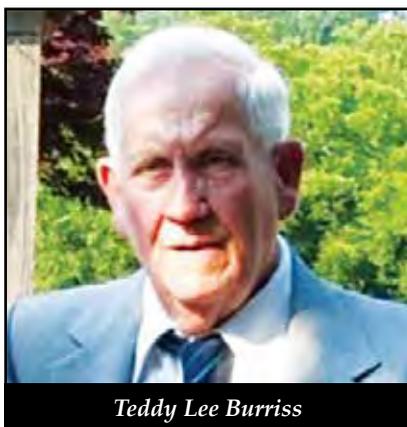
He is preceded in death by his son, David Michael Burriss; his father, Horace Burriss, his mother, Eva Burriss; his three sisters, Betty Barnes, Jackie Ward, and Pauline Burriss; his daughter-in-law, Rhonda Burriss; and his great-granddaughter, Daphanie Balcharan.

Teddy was an electrician by trade. He worked for Truland Electrical for more than thirty years until his retirement in 1999. He was a skilled metal worker, designing and fabricating numerous trailers used for hauling vehicles, lawn equipment, and other items which were commissioned by neighbors, friends, and acquaintances. He was also an accomplished woodworker, designing and building kitchen cabinets, furniture, and other items for his home. Shortly after his retirement to South Carolina in 2002, he began designing and creating lamps, which he generously gifted to friends and family.

Teddy was generous with his time, love, and kindness, always willing to help friends, family, and neighbors. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Children's National Hospital which so compassionately cared for their infant son David Michael who died in 1961.

Due to the current pandemic, the family will not be holding a viewing or funeral services at this time. Please visit his obituary page on the Hilton Funeral Home site [www.hiltonfh.com](http://www.hiltonfh.com). A celebration of life party will be held later in the year, once this crisis is contained.



Teddy Lee Burriss

### James Welsman Napier

James "Jim" Welsman Napier, 65, of Germantown, Maryland passed away on March 16 surrounded by his family. Jim was the loving husband to Patricia A. Spino Napier.

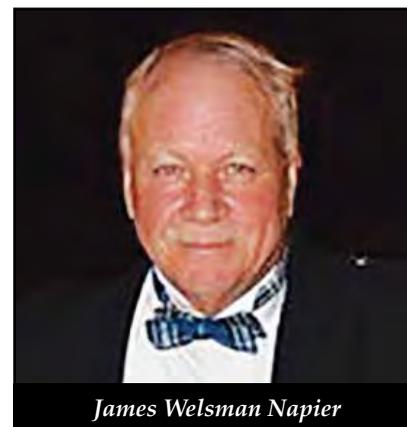
Born on June 2, 1954, in Corona, California, he was the first son of the late Captain Edward Dankey Napier and Catherine Jackson Napier. He is survived by his wife and sons, Edward Michael Napier and Erik Alexander Napier; one sister, Christine Napier Louder (Daryl); two brothers, Joseph Jackson Napier and David Harrison Napier; and his many beloved nieces and nephews.

Jim began working at Bretton Woods in 1972. He was awarded PGA membership in 1978 and became Head Professional in 1989. For forty-eight years, he dedicated his life to the members and staff at Bretton Woods. Over that time, he introduced hundreds, if not thousands, to "the game of a lifetime."

Jim was an avid hunter and belonged to the Izaak Walton League for many years. He especially enjoyed hunting and hours of banter with his dear friend, Abe.

Jim was all about family. He made his father proud by becoming the patriarch of his family for the last twenty-two years.

A Celebration of Life will be held for friends and family at a later date at the Bretton Woods Recreation Center, Inc. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to: The First Tee of Greater Washington, D.C., 2020 Penn. Ave. NW, #106, Washington, DC 20006.



James Welsman Napier



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Continued from page 4.

**No Work on Sunday**

deputies, Howard was patrolling on the Rockville Pike when he came upon a Baltimore and Ohio section gang, several miles west of Rockville, repairing the railroad tracks. Howard told the section boss William Coleman that working on Sunday was illegal. Coleman argued that maintaining the

railroad tracks was absolutely necessary and failure to do so could cause a calamitous train wreck. There was a provision in the law that allowed work in case of emergency. Howard was not deterred and arrested all thirteen men and took them to the courthouse at Rockville. Judge Mace was called from home and released the men with the promise that they would return to court on Monday.

Howard was not finished. He and his deputies went out again and found another crew working on the tracks in Gaithersburg. This group of seven men was also arrested and taken to court.

Albert Bouic was a well-known high-powered attorney at the time. He also represented the railroad. He nearly blew a gasket when notified by the railroad president that the

employees were in jail. From the courthouse steps, he proclaimed that the arrests were illegal and that the work being done was an absolute necessity.

When the cases came to trial, all charges were dismissed, but the Blue Laws remained in effect until the 1980s when they were finally struck from the books.

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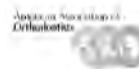
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## Celebrating 31 Years of Service

### Brave New World and the New World Order: Living in COVID-19 Times

By Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

#### Dear Friends,

Our community is facing unprecedented times amid the COVID-19 threat. With day-to-day changes in CDC and WHO guidelines, as well as local school and business closures, the toll on our respective veterinary team and clients is significant. The uncertainty of our livelihoods—to which we've dedicated our lives—is understandably stressful and scary.

Poolesville Veterinary Clinic is considered an essential operation by Maryland Department of Health. For this reason, our goal is to—as safely and effectively as possible—maintain a level of operations that will allow our clients and their pets to be evaluated as quickly as possible should they need care. Illness and injury will continue to receive top priority. Handling elective procedures may be more limited and will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Vaccinations will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with most vaccinations being rescheduled to a later date if there is no direct health implication to the pet or if the pet is required to be boarded as part of a COVID-19 event. We highly recommend that you review or call our office to be sure your pets are up to date on all core vaccinations and preventative health measures. We will determine if any action is needed.

Maintaining public health by maintaining animal health will continue to be at the core of our mission for the community. I want the community and our clients to know how incredibly proud I am of all our staff members. We have made sure every member of our team knows that if they feel the stress of COVID-19 exposure is too great for them, they should not feel we will judge them with anything but care and love. Currently, almost all our staff continues to work to care for patients and to provide veterinary support for our veterinary team and our clients. They do so knowing there are risks, but they shoulder those risks for the greater good.

Please remember them in your prayers and give them a well-deserved thank you as we move forward in these uncertain times.

It has and continues to be a great honor for myself, my fellow veterinarians, and our dedicated staff to care for you and your pets. We promise to continue our work as long as we can maintain the safety and security of you and our team.

**Peter H. Eeg BSc, DVM**

*"It is only in total darkness that we can see clearly where the light will eventually shine."* -Unknown.



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