



Angels from on high came to Poolesville. There are more holiday-spirited pictures in Family Album on page 2.



Willis Van Devanter had a celebration recently. His friends share it with you in Tidbits on page 3.



This distinguished gentleman will be speaking via Zoom at an upcoming Poolesville Seniors seminar. Find out who and when in Senior News on page 6.



Read about the coming and goings of the town eagle at the Poolesville Tree on page 8.

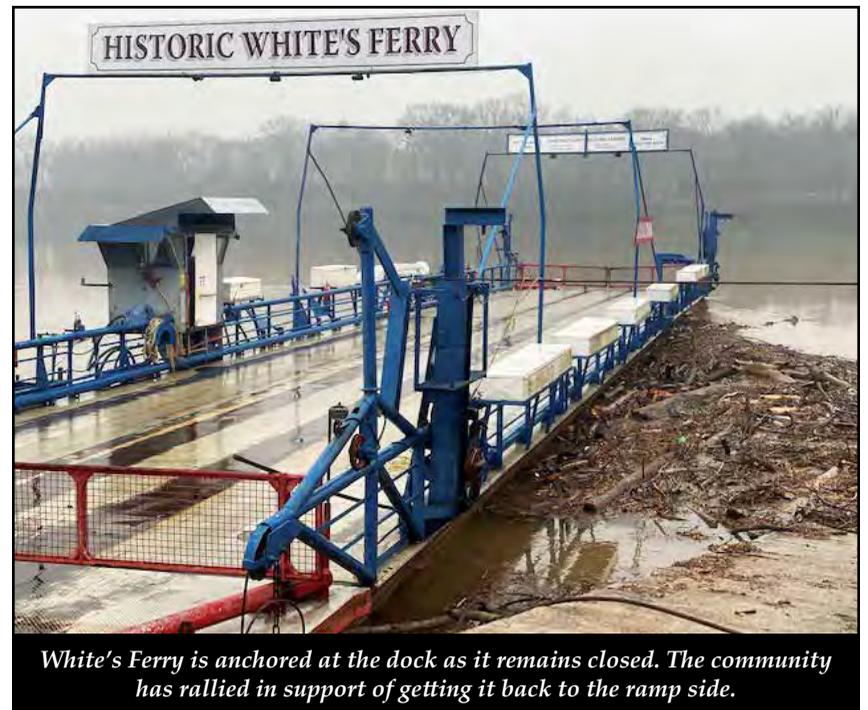
For the Community's Sake, Brown Family Hopes For Resolution

By Rande Davis

When I met with White's Ferry's family representative, Herb Brown, on January 2, the first thing he wanted to make clear to the public is their preference for the ferry operation to reopen. "Frankly, we see only one reason to reopen the ferry, and it is for the benefit of the community, not for the Brown family. We don't need the aggravation."

However, in recognizing the public outcry and in respect to their father's seven-decade dedication and passion to the ferry for the "convenience and pleasure of the public," the Browns remain open but skeptical to the possibility of a settlement. So far, terms provided have been thoroughly unacceptable to the Browns as being entirely too excessive for the financial

Continued on page 15.



White's Ferry is anchored at the dock as it remains closed. The community has rallied in support of getting it back to the ramp side.

New Proposal for Willard Property Receives Enthusiastic Reaction from the Planning Commission

By Link Hoewing

The Willard family appeared once again before the Town of Poolesville Planning Commission to offer an initial concept plan for the property they own adjacent to Whalen Commons. They had submitted a different concept plan a few years ago that was rejected by the town.

The plan presented on December 16 is by no means final but was intended to gain the approval of the planners to recommend to the town commissioners that the Village Overlay Rules be applied to this proposal. If the commissioners approve the use of the Overlay Rules, the plan will then go back to the Planning Commission which will work through the proposal

Continued on page 13.



Concept Plan	
1.4+/- Ac. Parkland	• Willard Commons - 42,800+/- SF
	• Multi-Age Playground - 13,000+/- SF
	• P/O Parcel E - 3,800+/- (or more) SF
3.2+/- Ac. Additional Open Space	
1/3 of site in Open Space	
2.1+/- Ac. Forest and Landscape Areas	
62 Single Family Homes	
Retention of Willard House	

A new development plan for the Willard in-town property boasts startup homes for the young and master bedrooms on the first level for downsizing seniors. The smaller-than-average home square footage ranges from 1,690 to 2,000.

Family Album



Santa's helper, MCPD Commander Hattenburg, visited Poolesville to spread good cheer!



It seems only yesterday that our town tree was only a bit more than a sapling. Now it's a grownup Christmas tree.



The spirit of the season was once again beautifully portrayed in a live nativity at Poolesville's Memorial United Methodist Church.



Just like Rudolph, Officer Tara Bond got in the spirit of the day as she helped guide Santa's sleigh (firetruck) around town.



The Poolesville Moms' group joined in a festive holiday cookie swap. Must be great to be a mom.



Santa gave a robust and jolly cheer to the children of the area. Rumor has it he made the special early visit here as one of his BFFs is Commissioner Jeff Eck.



Who'd a thunk it! A family night out at a drive-in movie in December at Bassett's. It only proves that when it comes to shutting-in for COVID-19, we can look pretty near for our opportunities! The next one is January 23.

Tidbits

Township Receives Historic Map



On hand for the map presentation to the town were Jon Wolz, Kerri Cook, Bob Holdsworth, Seth Rivard, and Maureen O'Connell.

Bill Holdsworth, president of the C&O Canal Association, presented a large map of the C&O Canal National Historical Park to Poolesville's Town Manager Seth Rivard. Bill also presented an 1840 \$5.00 C&O Canal note to Maureen O'Connell, president of the Historic Medley District. The map and note were donated by C&O Canal Association members Jack and Karen Forster. Town manager Seth Rivard says the map will be proudly displayed in the Poolesville Town Hall, and Maureen O'Connell said the note will be displayed in the Historic Medley District Bank and Old Town Hall building.

Bob Levey to Speak to Poolesville Seniors

Bob Levey, a prize-winning journalist who has covered the Washington scene since the Johnson Administration, will be the guest speaker for the Poolesville Senior event held via Zoom on January 14 (see Senior News for details).

For twenty-three years, he wrote a daily column, "Bob Levey's Washington," for The Washington Post. The column looked at all aspects of life in the nation's capital. It won major awards from the Society of Professional Journalists and the Washington Journalism Review. Currently, he writes a monthly column for Senior Beacon Newspapers.

In 1999, Bob Levey was named a Washingtonian of the Year by Washingtonian magazine in recognition of his community service through his column and as a hands-on volunteer.

Bob Levey has also had an extensive career in electronic media. Over the course of more than twenty years, he worked for nine radio stations, four TV stations, and one popular internet site as a commentator and talk show host. His online chats for washingtonpost.com, called "Levey Live," won consistently high ratings.

Friends Celebrate Willis Van Devanter's 90th Birthday

Willis Van Devanter recently turned ninety years old, and a small group of friends were determined to honor him even in a time of pandemic. They held the celebration outside at the Poolesville Presbyterian Church's community gardens in a socially-distant manner. A stalwart longtime member of St. Peter's Church, Willis is highly regarded as one of America's leading antiquity accessors who has had the privilege of working for many estates of some of the country's great leaders, including a number of U.S. presidents. We cannot be sure what his secret to long life is, but his biking around Poolesville during warmer seasons certainly provides a clue. His positive nature and commitment to a lifelong love of personal study may be even more important to his success.

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Rande(m) Thoughts I Can See Our Future, and It May Not Be Pretty

By Rande Davis

Sometimes, changes in our world that are so profound come at one moment in time, and life itself will never be the same. The front page of this issue speaks to such a moment. The end results of both stories will determine our future.

The closure of White's Ferry caught us as if we'd been asleep, having never even imagined the possibility of the closure of the ferry, assuming that the ferry was ours and would always be there for us. The public reaction was immediate and wide and came from our shock of coming face to face with a reality of what the loss of White's Ferry could mean to our area. Like everything else, each person responded to the news from a personal perspective, "How does this impact me?"

The businesses are worried. Our commercial sector lives on the edge even in times of normalcy. The impact of the pandemic has brought many businesses, especially restaurants, to a borderline moment. The loss of revenue from the ferry traffic, while perhaps somewhat marginal, may be just enough to put them under. For others, at first glance, some reacted that the reduced traffic might be beneficial to the Ag Reserve, until they realized that such an event may shift the prospect of an Upcounty bridge over the Potomac River into a reality. Just for the record, such a bridge, if built, would never be where White's Ferry is now.

There is an economic admonition from the past that may apply here: "As GM (General Motors) goes, so goes the nation." Can it be that as White's Ferry goes, so goes Poolesville? The ferry is more to us than a means to an end, just another pathway. The ferry is our history, our culture, our way of life. Rural, relaxed, convenient, and downright pleasurable, it is one of the major aspects of our life that makes living here so wonderfully unique. Local residents take visitors on it as a "thing to do" in our area, like hiking Sugarloaf Mountain. Its loss will change Poolesville forever in ways that will be profound, known and unknown.

Without it, a bridge will not be a potential, it will be a reality. It may take twenty years to build, but it will be built. Marylanders cannot allow our future to be determined by the preferences of Virginia. We hope a new agreement may be reached to open the ferry as soon as possible, but we can only hope our elected county and state officials recognize that this is their moment to act—perhaps as their last chance to prevent the bridge. If the ferry closes, the bridge question will not be if, but when.

Like the White's Ferry story, our second front page article also provides a glimpse of our future, a future that will similarly be set by decisions made by us today. Small towns, like living beings, do not thrive like a set on a stage in a play, seemingly frozen in time, with no change, only the shuffling of items on the stage-set between acts.

The proposal for the Willard property next to town hall is now just coming into view.

The family has been studiously listening to residents in the area for the last few years. The plan's culmination is a reflection of our desires, if something is to be built on that lot. The Willards are not like other developers, only interested in squeezing out every inch of profit. Billy Willard said it clearly: "We are not developers since our family has been farming in the area since 1871. The Willard family home will remain on the thirteen-acre property, and we want a project we can look back on in a decade from now and be proud. It is not our intent to squeeze every dollar out of the property."

It will feature small homes (1,500 to 2,000 square feet) targeted to young people just starting out or seniors wanting to downsize and remain here. We may never get another chance to work with someone with such deep roots and love for Poolesville, fully grounded in our rural and farming roots. I am sure a final plan will have changes to it once public discourse scrutinizes it, and suggestions are offered. Whether this is the right plan may be up for discussion, but we must understand that working directly with the Willards will be our best hope for Poolesville. We need a future with a financial foundation strong enough to carry us ahead without destroying what we want most, a small, loving, and caring community that can withstand the pressures that lead to unbridled growth.

Letter to the Editor Cluster Principals Thank Jerry Klubokowski

The Poolesville Cluster principals wish to publicly thank Mr. Jerry Klubokowski for his years of service to the Poolesville Cluster of schools. Throughout our collective time serving as principals in this community, we have seen Jerry's commitment and dedication to the children of Poolesville. We have seen him attend and present at MCPS Board of Education meetings and at Montgomery County Council meetings, as well as, organizing and leading community meetings to address school system concerns. We have observed Jerry at our local PTA meetings presenting on his efforts of advocacy, and we have seen him meeting with and celebrating the accomplishments of our students.

When each of us arrived in our current position at our individual schools, Jerry was among the first to

welcome us as he delivered a "town gift" and presented us with documents detailing the history of Poolesville. Through the years, Jerry sought our input on our views of education and always offered support to our schools. While Jerry may have had an opinion or belief on a variety of educational issues, he always listened to our perspectives and sought to learn more so that he could further develop his platform.

As principals, we always knew that Jerry was there. Jerry was present. Jerry was ready to tackle any issue that might confront our students and community. Jerry was going to fight for our schools.

Mr. Klubokowski, thank you for your advocacy, thank you for your humor, thank you for your care, and, most of all, thank you for dedicating your years as town commissioner to supporting the students of the Poolesville Community.

Respectfully,

Ms. Kristin Alban, Mr. Mark Carothers, Mr. Jon Green, and Mr. Douglas Robbins

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Call to Action— Support for White's Ferry

The owners of White's Ferry announced that they have closed their operations permanently after years of negotiations with a landowner on the Virginia side of the Potomac and as a result of a recent unfavorable court decision. Almost a quarter million cars use the ferry each year, and it is an important commuter route for many who live in the Upcounty. It also serves as a gateway for tourists coming to see the many beautiful historic sites and parks in this part of Montgomery County. It provides a means for many in Virginia to cross the Potomac, passing through Poolesville and other towns in the Upcounty. The use of the ferry helps boost spending in restaurants, gas stations, and other businesses located in our region. Without question, White's Ferry plays an important role in the economic health of the area, and it ties our area to our neighboring communities in Leesburg, Sterling, and West Virginia.

While this dispute is between two private parties, the services provided by the ferry are a major public benefit to both Loudoun and Montgomery Counties. Leaders in both jurisdictions recognize the importance of finding a way to reopen the ferry as soon as possible.

The Fair Access Committee (FAC) has been working to increase the visibility of key issues facing Upcounty residents for over three years. By signing up to receive updates from the FAC, you can, not only stay informed, but help ensure that our voices are not lost to our public officials. The fate of White's Ferry is just one example of the kinds of issues we work on for the benefit of all who live in the Upcounty.

More more information, go to <https://poolesvillemd.gov/your-government/boards/fair-access/>.

Fun Fact...

An article in the 1924 *Washington Evening Star*, at right, discussed plans for the Maryland State government to appoint a committee to review and consider a bridge crossing at the current site of White's Ferry. Since the late 1800s, many attempts have been made to secure funding and approval to build a bridge on this site or nearby, with several Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia jurisdictions weighing in on the importance a bridge would be to travel and commerce. So far, no attempts have been successful.

The Washington Star, previously known as the *Washington Star-News* and the *Washington Evening Star*, was a daily afternoon newspaper published in Washington, D.C. between 1852 and 1981. The Sunday edition was known as the *Sunday Star*. For most of that time, it was the city's newspaper of record. On August 7, 1981, after 128 years, the *Washington Star* ceased publication and filed for bankruptcy. In the bankruptcy sale, *The Washington Post* purchased the land and buildings owned by the *Star*, including its printing presses.

PASS WHITE FERRY BRIDGE MEASURE

Maryland Delegates Send Bill Providing Commission to Gov. Ritchie.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., February 22.—The probability of the construction of a bridge over the Potomac river at White Ferry, Montgomery county, and the opening of a direct route by improved highways between Washington, Baltimore and the valley of Virginia was materially increased when a bill introduced in the Maryland assembly by Senator Eugene G. Jones of Montgomery county providing for a commission to study the project unanimously passed the house. The bill has already passed the senate and only needs the governor's signature to make it a law.

The resolution directs the Governor of Maryland to appoint a committee of three members who will meet a similar committee appointed by the Governor of Virginia to investigate the advisability and approximate cost of erecting a suitable bridge at White Ferry across the Potomac to Loudoun county, Va. Each state will bear half of the expense incurred.

If the bridge is erected Washingtonians will be able to motor over improved highways to Rockville, thence to Poolesville, Montgomery county, and thence twenty-two miles south to the bridge and into Virginia. The structure would also afford a means for the shipment of farm produce from the Virginia plantations into Washington.

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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Sponsor Diverse Virtual Programs

Join Poolesville Seniors in January for a variety of virtual programs that stimulate the intellect, tone the body, and renew the spirit. All events are open to the entire community. For more information or to register for these Zoom programs, visit the Poolesville Seniors website, poolesvilleseniors.org.

Mondays

Tai-Chi with Maureen Ivusic, 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Wednesdays

Chair Yoga with Twyla Insalaco. 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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

January 7

Treasures of the Library

Sharat Buddhavarapu, from the Maggie Nightingale Library, will present a program on the information and services that are available free of charge through the library website. 7:00 p.m.

January 12

2nd Tuesday Lunch Bunch

This is a friendly group that meets virtually, eats (if you wish), and chats about a chosen topic. This month's

topic will be: Getting Back on Track in the New Year. What can we do to make ourselves healthier and to help us stick to our New Year's resolutions? 12:00 p.m.

January 14

Bob Levey: The Golden Era of the Washington Post

Former *Washington Post* columnist, Bob Levey, will talk about his time as a journalist here in the nation's capital. He'll also discuss his novel, Larry Felder, Candidate, about a famous Washington columnist who abandons journalism to run for Congress. 7:00 p.m.

January 21

Historic Properties of the Ag Reserve

Presented by Kenny Sholes. To date, Kenny has familiarized us with many historic structures, including homes, barns, farms, and cemeteries, some of which are no longer in existence. Join in to learn what new information Kenny will offer. 7:00 p.m.

January 26

Craft Event: Make a No-Knit Scarf

Chris Rickert and Annette Rosanelli of Needlepointers.com return with a winter craft. Attendees will follow along the demonstrated steps to make a no-knit wool scarf. A small fee is charged for this class. Materials will be delivered contact free to each participant's door the day before this event. 1:00 p.m.

Continued on page 15.

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Continued from page 3.

Tidbits

Winners of the 2020 Holiday Lighting Contest

All homeowners and merchants in the Poolesville town limits were invited once again this year to “deck their halls” and show their holiday spirit.

For homeowners, there were three categories of homes: Contemporary, Townhouse, and Traditional. One business was also chosen as most appreciated.

The judges this year were Paul and Chrissie Harney on the Wesmond side of Fisher and Christina Micioni on the Westerly side.

Contemporary

Dan and Kathy Savino –
19200 Munger Farm Road
Jimmy and Angela Dyke –
17000 Tom Fox Avenue

Townhouses

Richard and Chrystal Scheetz –
17632 Kohlhoss Road
Mark and Katie Woods –
19582 Fisher Avenue

Traditional

Dean and Sandra Wolverton –
17218 Spates Hill Road
Donald and Denise Habib –
19514 Fisher Avenue

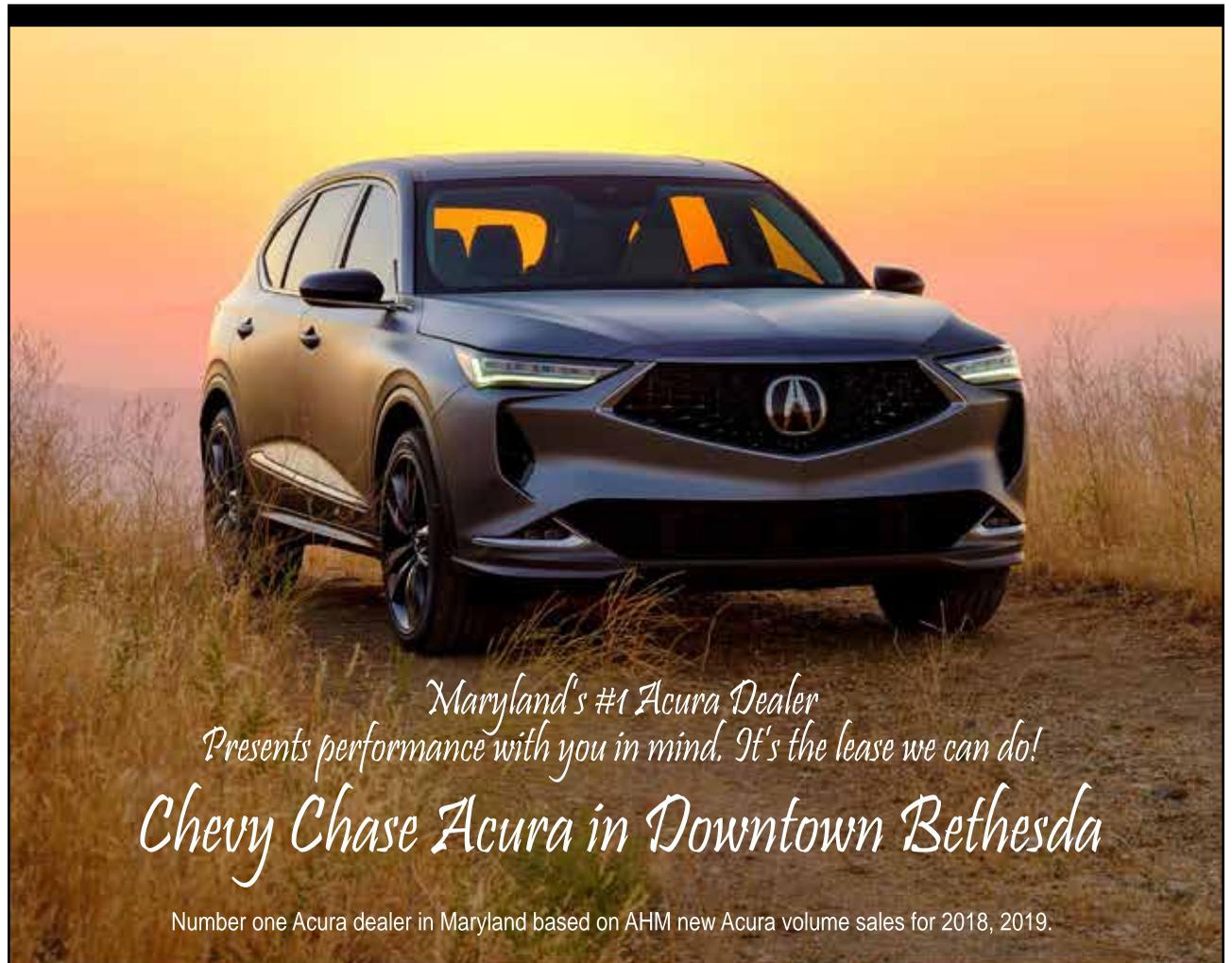
Business

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Fun Fact...

On January first of every year, many countries around the world celebrate the beginning of a new year. Festivals and celebrations marking the beginning of the calendar have been around for thousands of years. While some festivities were simply a chance to drink and be merry, many other New Year celebrations were linked to agricultural or astronomical events. In Egypt, the year began with the annual flooding of the Nile, which coincided with the rising of the star Sirius. The Phoenicians and Persians began their new years with the spring equinox, and the Greeks celebrated it on the winter solstice. The first day of the Chinese New Year, meanwhile, occurred with the second new moon after the winter solstice.

www.ancient-origins.net, April Holloway



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Monocacy Nature and Wildlife

Eagle Antics at the Poolesville Tree

By Susan Petro

Technically, there is no such tree officially designated as the Poolesville Tree; however, many locals, especially photographers, have affectionally applied that moniker to a stately bur oak that stands alone in a farm field on Route 107 just before entering the Town of Poolesville, like a beacon welcoming visitors and residents as they arrive.



Photo by Susan Petro.

The Poolesville eagle, soaring low in town.

The tree is not just a popular photography subject but also a stopping point for area bald eagles. Recent regular sightings include a pair of adult bald eagles, and an occasional juvenile. Juvenile bald eagles lack the distinctive white plumage of the head and tailfeathers of adults. It takes about five years for a bald eagle to fully mature.

Most interestingly, at least one of the adults was seen swooping down and grabbing talons full of hay on its way back into the nearby woods. Late fall into early winter is the time of year for building new nests or for fortifying existing nests in preparation for laying eggs and rearing offspring when they hatch in the spring. Both the male and female bald eagles take turns preparing the nest and incubating the eggs.

The location of the nest remains a mystery. A previous nest located on a horse farm near Edwards Ferry was lost when storm damage caused the tree to fall, luckily after the baby was successfully fledged. Other nests have been seen around Little Seneca Lake in Boyds and in various spots along the Potomac and Monocacy Rivers. Fish and waterfowl are major dietary sources for the eagles, but they are opportunistic feeders that eat other prey and carrion.

While bald eagles are still a rare sight, they have made amazing strides in their comeback after they almost disappeared entirely from the effects of DDT pesticide usage. Other poisons are still a major concern for the eagle and other birds of prey population. If they eat carrion that was killed by poison, they may also die. Additionally, lead from bullets left behind in carcasses or in fishing tackle is a major threat to the eagle's survival when ingested.

Of utmost importance for humans is also to look out for wildlife when driving area roadways. Most often, one will see vultures cleaning up deer and other carcasses. Occasionally, bald eagles will also be feeding on the carcasses; some are inadvertently killed by cars.

Keep your eyes peeled as you travel our area roads for bald eagles soaring overhead, or perhaps sitting in a field, or in a tree like our beloved Poolesville Tree.

As more and more bald eagles discover what residents and visitors already know—what a wonderful, bountiful resource our surrounding Agricultural Reserve and protected Wildlife Management Areas is—the more we will be blessed with sightings of these magnificent creatures as they make our home their home, too.

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Youth Sports

The Spirits of PHS Winter Sports Past

By Jeff Stuart

Looking back at past winter seasons at PHS, there are a lot of highlights. The obvious one that comes to mind is the 2018 Girls' Basketball Championship. It was an event that captured the attention of the community in a major way. Those who could not get to the game watched on TV screens at Bassett's and Cugini's.

On March 10 of that year, the girls, coached by Fred Swick, totally dominated Queen Anne's, 63-23, finishing the season with a perfect 27-0 record. Erin Green had twenty-one points. Julia Hobbs had eight rebounds. Kelliann Lee had twenty-three points in the semi-final victory, 61-49, over Gwynn Park. To get to the final four, the Falcons had to survive in a thrilling 62-60 win over a twenty-win Middletown team in front of a completely packed gym at Poolesville on March 3. The game was live streamed over the internet. Maddie Thompson matched the Knight's star Saylor Poffenbarger three-pointer for three-pointer in a crucial third period when Middletown, which had led 36-33 at the half, threatened to pull away. She finished with a team high nineteen points. As it was, the Falcons trailed 51-47 after three periods, but they held the Knights to just seven points in the last quarter and took the lead halfway through the period. Lee had fifteen points for the Falcons, Allie Haddaway had six.

There was another remarkable girls' basketball playoff game in Poolesville on March 6, 2014. It was the 2A West section final, and it went to three overtimes. The girls trailed by thirteen with four minutes to go in regulation, but they forced eight turnovers and, in a nearly impossible comeback, forced overtime. Anna Murgia and Whitney Carmack each hit three-pointers in the final minute, and Carmack tied the score at forty-eight, making the first of two free throws with 3.1 seconds left. She missed the second.

Century led by seven with just nine seconds to go in the final overtime, but the Falcons staged another dramatic rally, hitting a couple of three-pointers. An exhausted Carmack, who finished with twenty-nine points, drove the lane and drew contact as time expired, but no foul was called. Century won it, 64-63. Rosie Barry had fourteen points. The team finished 18-6.

2014 was also a good year for the boys' basketball team. Coach Kenny Kramek's team also finished 18-6 and also lost to Century in the section final. They finished first in the region for the second year in a row, after finishing 19-7 in 2013. Andy Baker, Stephen Morningstar, Hunter Pearre, Trevor Stottlemyer, Anthony Papagjika, Kirby Carmack, Thomas Wolz, Collin Turner, John Bateky, and Andrew Wang were among the contributors to those two seasons.

On March 4, 2010, the number four seed Walkersville Lions eliminated the number one seed Poolesville at home in front of a capacity crowd, 74-67. It was the region final. Poolesville held the lead at the half, 31-23, and maintained that lead through the middle of the fourth, but the Lions tied the game at fifty-five. With 1:45 remaining, the Falcons ran down the clock but failed to score. Poolesville's Kevin Baker, who scored twenty-nine points, hit a three for the lead, 63-62, with twenty seconds left in the first overtime, but he fouled Lions guard Scott Morris. Morris missed one free throw, forcing another overtime. Walkersville took a quick five-point lead in that second overtime and sealed the victory.

"We ended the first overtime with the ball in the hands of our best player (Baker)," said Falcons coach Tom Lang. "We came up short."

Senior Alex Carbonell already had 171 wins, the most in Poolesville history, when he walked onto the mat for the 120 State Championship match at the Maryland Class 2A/1A State Wrestling Championships at Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro on March 2, 2019, but his 1-0 victory over Loch Raven senior Marquis Kemp capped off his stellar career. He knew, going into the match, that it was going to be an extremely tough match. "In the second period, I knew I had to escape, and I did," said Alex. "I knew that I had to ride him out in order to win. That third period was probably the longest two minutes of my entire life." Another state title came quickly. On March 7, 2020 at Show Place Arena in Upper Marlboro, Poolesville senior Xavier Kresslein earned overtime, sudden victory, 6-4, over top-seeded Dustin MacDonald of Mountain Ridge in the 170-pound class to win his first state title. Colin Savage never got his state title, but last season he became the winningest wrestler in Montgomery County history.

On February 25, 2012, the PHS swimmers, both girls and boys, won their first state titles. The boys won eight more through February 20, 2020. The girls won

Continued on page 18.



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Remus Hungerford



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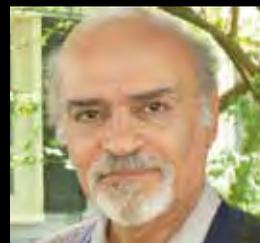
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Samuel "Clay" McCarty



Laura Amy Morrow



Esmail Mir Mozaffari

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- R. Edwin Brown
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Continued from page 1.

New Proposal for Willard Property Receives Enthusiastic Reaction from the Planning Commission

in detail in an effort to negotiate a final proposal. In considering whether or not to approve the use of the Overlay Rules, the town commission is required to hold public hearings which will allow for citizen comments regarding the plan and whether it meets the requirements for the use of the rules.

The Overlay Rules were adopted several years ago by the commissioners in an attempt to give the town tools to help better shape proposed developments primarily in the "infill" properties in town. These are open properties located in the more central parts of town where most of the properties have already been developed. Unlike traditional zoning regulations which essentially set the parameters of what can be built on proposed land but are rigid and allow for little negotiation between planners and developers, the Overlay Rules allow the Planning Commission to question a proposed development and offer ideas to better shape it, so it includes more public benefits. In exchange, developers can gain some benefits, for example, increasing the number of houses that can be built on a given parcel.

Appearing before the Planning Commission, Billy Willard, representing the Willard family, Jeff Clifford, the attorney for the family, and land planner David Ager offered an overview of their initial concept of what a new plan for the property would look like. Willard iterated, "We are not developers, and our family has been farming in the area since 1871." He said the original Willard family home remains on the thirteen-acre property. "We want a project we can look back on a decade from now and be proud. It is not our intent to squeeze every dollar out of the property."

Jeff Clifford said that the family had been meeting with a wide array of stakeholders since the failure of the previous plan. He said, "We need the Overlay Rules to make the project work." Trends have indicated that households are changing in Poolesville and are generally smaller. During their discussions with stakeholders in developing the proposal, they consistently heard that there is a need for "senior housing" that is more affordable and not multi-floor. The proposal incorporates the view that "small single-family homes are ideal for the identified demographic (i.e., first-time buyers, smaller households, move-down seniors)." In terms of other benefits to the broader public, he said that the plan incorporates "additional parkland, amenities (such as green buffering around the development on the north side, in particular), and pedestrian connectivity."

Specific public benefits included in the plan are numerous. Instead of building a road to extend Glass Way (which currently dead ends at the Willard property line) and connecting it to Beall Avenue in front of town hall, the proposal contemplates the construction of a limited access road that would be open to pedestrians but only available to cars during major town events and for emergency fire and rescue access. A park area would be dedicated to the town next to the John Poole House that could include not only green space but parking. Additional parkland would be dedicated to a "multi-age park" that would be "visually

connected" to Whalen Commons and reachable by a walkway. A planned entry to the development from Fisher Avenue would also maintain visibility for the John Poole House. Numerous "rain gardens" are included in the plans, and road designs avoid "extended straight lines."

In terms of the houses themselves, sixty-two houses are planned. A number of possible designs were presented, and front porches and "rear or side loading" garages were major features. Homes would be situated so that the fronts of the structures and not their backyards would face Fisher Avenue and Whalen Commons. The houses are planned to be single story and have anywhere from 1,500 square feet to 2,000 square feet.

Approximately one third of the entire development would be dedicated to open space in some form. Pedestrian walkways are a major feature of the proposal, and walkways run not only throughout the development but also from Whalen Commons up to the John Poole House. The potential exists to take this walkway and extend it to the center of town, creating a safer means for pedestrians to walk from Whalen Commons to the center of town at the intersection of Fisher Avenue and Elgin Road.

The reactions from the Planning Commissioners to the concept plan were positive and even enthusiastic. Commissioner Martin Radigan said, "This is quite a contrast with the original plan (presented several years ago). I like it a lot." Kevin Schramm said, "I want to echo Martin's comment. This is a complete 180-degree change. The emphasis on Whalen Commons, the John Poole House, and different styles of housing" than those that currently exist in Poolesville he views as commendable. Amanda Leichliter, who is not only a Planning Commissioner but also a member of the Moms' Club which met with the Willards as they developed their plan, said the club is "excited about having affordable homes for our parents."

There were a number of questions raised and, in particular, Lexie Huber, a new member of the commission, wondered whether some sort of mixed use concept could be used for homes fronting along Fisher Avenue which might allow for some businesses to operate. On the whole, however, the proposal received overwhelming support. On a 5-0 vote, the Planning Commission agreed to send the request for the application of the Overlay Rules to the Town of Poolesville commissioners and with the recommendation that they approve it.

The town commissioners, at their January 4 meeting, discussed when they will hold a public hearing on the Planning Commission recommendation, and they agreed to a February 1 meeting.

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.
Send to editor@monocacymonocle.com

Remembrances

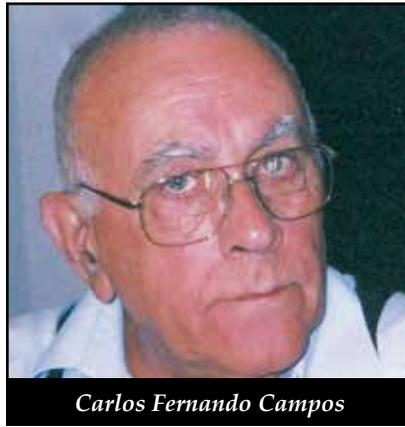
Carlos Fernando Campos

Mr. Carlos Fernando Campos, 86, of Poolesville passed away peacefully at home on December 14, 2020 following a brief illness.

Born April 27, 1934 in Valdivia, Chile, Carlos was the son of the late Juan F. Campos and Elisa E. Prochelle de Campos.

Mr. Campos is survived by two children, Patricia Moore and husband Roland, and Patricio (Pato) Campos and wife Monica; four grandchildren, David, Katherine, Danielle, and Rachel; and two great-grandchildren, Barrett and Valentina.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Juana Emilia Campos, with whom he is now reunited after fourteen long months. He will be deeply missed by all who called him Papa. As he wished, there will be no service.



Carlos Fernando Campos

Patricia Straw

Patricia "Pat" (Kane) Straw, 82, died after a long illness with Parkinson's Disease on December 19, 2020. She was born on October 22, 1938 in Queens, New York to Katherine Logan Kane and Michael Joseph Kane.

As a child, Pat loved spending her summers in Rockaway with her siblings and cousins and developed a true love for the ocean. Eventually, her family moved to Syracuse, New York where she lived for a short time before entering the convent.

After leaving the convent, Pat met and married Patrick "Paddy" Straw. They moved to Smithtown, Long Island to raise their family, two children, Kara and Patrick. Pat was an employee of Smithtown School District in various roles ranging from administration assistant in elementary school to math academic intervention support teacher in the middle school. She loved teaching and helping her students, as well as her colleagues. It was in the school system that Pat shone, and she loved her time there. Pat was also an active member of the PTA and a vital member of the Smithtown College Scholarship Association. While in Smithtown, Pat enjoyed playing cards and dominos, eating out, and having wine tastings with her neighbors who were the closest of friends.

Pat loved spending time with her family, listening to her grandchildren splash in the pool, and hearing their giggles during the holidays. She liked to vacation and especially loved family vacations to Lavalette, New Jersey or any beach destination where she enjoyed the ocean, good meals, the company of her family, and she was always up for a good-natured political debate.

Patricia was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Patrick William Straw. She is survived by her daughter Kara, her husband, Travis Johnson, their two children: Kaylee and Reagan of Poolesville, and her son Patrick, his wife, Margaret, their three children, Landon, Hudson, and Zoe of Nanuet, New York. She is also survived by her brother, Michael Kane, his wife, Patricia, her two sisters, Kathleen and Mary Joan, and many loving cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Due to COVID restrictions, no services are planned at this time; however, the family hopes to have a memorial mass in the spring.



Patricia Straw

Do you have any interesting local history or fun facts to share with our readers? The *Monocle* welcomes your contribution.

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Continued from page 1.

For the Community's Sake, Brown Family Hopes for Resolution

viability of the ferry and in terms of the aggravation at this point in their lives.

Since the facebook press release of January 26 announcing their decision to close the ferry, the public outcry and subsequent reaction by local and county government officials has been loud and clear. While there are many obstacles in the path to reopening, all involved, including the Brown family and Rockland Farm LLC, have stated a desire to find a successful solution.

In a facebook post, Rockland Farm LLC (which is not affiliated with Montgomery County's Rocklands Farm Winery or to White's Ferry Manor wedding venue) stated that "it is in everyone's best interest to keep the ferry running and sent White's Ferry an interim licensing agreement so that the ferry operation could continue without interruption until acceptable terms between the two parties could be negotiated."

The Rockland proposal was a revocable agreement for any reason with a thirty-day notice requiring payment of \$18,000 per month. This fee is considered way out of proportion to the Browns both in terms of amount and the temporary nature of the agreement.

The land in question is a plot approximately seven thousand square feet located within a severe flood zone where building and farming were inadvisable. While willing to discuss a payment for perpetual easement of use of the land, that value for the otherwise very restricted use of the plot is the heart of the disagreement. The Brown family considers proposals to date unreasonable for the level of profitability due to COVID-19 and emerging future commuting patterns most likely even after the pandemic has waned.

Rockland Farm LLC and White's Ferry have been in a legal dispute since 2009 over landing rights to the ferry on the Virginia side. White's Ferry has operated historically since legal decisions about the road in the 1871 Road Case created a public pathway to the ferry public landing, the survey specifics from the time are unclear in records available today. The 1871 case was found to not be supported specifically enough in land records in recent court rulings. Both parties acknowledge entering into an agreement of understanding for use of the land in 1952. The 2009 lawsuit was a legal dispute over the continued use of

the land after Rockland considered White's Ferry in breach of the agreement when the ferry operation made improvements to a retention wall without Rockland's approval. White's Ferry refused a court option to restore the wall to its original condition. Stating that the defendant in the case was trespassing on Rockland's land, the Twentieth Circuit Court of Virginia decision by Judge Stephen E. Sincavage ruled in favor of Rockland's claim and ordered a payment of \$102,000. With an injunction pending to cease operation by the court if further agreement cannot be reached between the two parties, the ferry service chose to unilaterally close the operation.

The original plan was to keep the ferry open until January 15 and then close if agreements could not be reached. Beyond the terms of a proposed agreement that is considered unacceptable by the Browns, the ferry additionally experienced high floodwaters requiring a cable replacement (estimated to cost \$7,000). With uncertainty that a potential agreement would be reached, pending court injunction, and facing a high cost of restoring service again, the Browns chose to close immediately rather than delay.

Over the entire of period of dispute, different proposals for settlement have been made by White's Ferry, to no avail. While Rockland cited lack of communication by White's Ferry in the past, Herb Brown stated he personally has not until recently received communications from Rockland but cannot affirm any discussions that might have occurred with others, including his father, Edwin Brown, who died on January 26, 2020.

Since the statements on facebook by White's Ferry and Rockland Farms LLC, there has been telephone communication between Herb Brown and Peter Brown, the brother of Libby Devlin of Rockland Farms. Peter Brown is the CEO of Renaissance Technologies LLC, an American hedge fund based in East Setauket, New York. The multi-billion-dollar firm is regarded as one of the most successful hedge funds in the world.

Mr. Brown has stated that an official offer of \$250,000 payment for perpetual use of the landing area had been declined by Rockland and that White's Ferry has now offered \$400,000. At the same time that these informal discussions were being made and the public outcry reached a peak on facebook, Montgomery County Councilmember Andrew Friedson arranged for a meeting between Christopher Conklin of the Montgomery County Department of

Transportation and Herb Brown on January 6.

On Monday, December 28, Herb Brown agreed to a public meeting with the Commissioners of Poolesville that can still be viewed on YouTube. In that Zoom meeting (Herb Brown participated by telephone only), Mr. Brown transparently provided his review of events. The town commissioners voted to take various actions to support the possible reopening of the ferry. Kerri Cook, commission president, was tasked with further reaching out to Councilmember Friedson, and Commissioner Jim Brown to State Senator Brian Feldman.

Joining together in a public statement with the Poolesville commissioners, Friedson, and Feldman, as well as State Delegates David Fraser-Hidalgo, Kathleen Dumais, and Lily Qi, notified the public of their support of initiatives to seek a solution that will reopen the ferry. The open letter read, "As soon as we became aware of the closure, we have been working collaboratively at the county, state, and municipal levels to engage with the private parties and officials in Loudoun County and Virginia. We are working closely with the Maryland Secretary of Transportation, the Montgomery County Director of Transportation, and the county attorney and in direct communication with their counterparts across the Potomac River."

The group recognized that the complicated dispute remains between two private parties, but, collectively, the writers are dedicated to using "every resource at our disposal to this issue and will continue to work with our public and private counterparts throughout the region to resolve the issue. We will keep our residents informed throughout the process with any and all information."

Although not formally acknowledging stated interest in advancing the prospects for a new bridge between Virginia and Montgomery County, Maryland, comments on facebook and on Bloomberg Radio indicate that at least some Virginia governmental representatives consider closure of the ferry a help to their state's long-sought desire for a new bridge. Complicating this consideration is not only that a prospective new bridge would take a least fifteen to twenty years to build, but in the immediate situation, an already nearly intolerable heavy traffic problem on Route 15 north in Leesburg is going to be even more severely aggravated by the addition of the hundreds of cars that typically used the ferry instead.

In answer to the public's request to assist in helping to reopen the ferry,

Jim Brown, Link Hoewing, and Kevin Schramm (all of the Fair Access Committee) put out a call for the public to join in an email campaign designed to put public pressure on both governments to help settle the dispute. The information on how to participate is in this issue on page 5.

Continued from page 6.

Senior News

New Event

January 25

Monthly Book Club

Hosted by Michelle Roche. The book for discussion in January is *The Dutch House* by Anne Patchett. Join us for this fun, intellectual, and social event. 7:00 p.m.

Some upcoming programs that Poolesville Seniors is working on are various guided walks. Keep checking their website for more information on these anticipated programs.

To register for any of the presentations listed here and to receive the Zoom link for each, visit their website: poolesvilleseniors.org. For a hard copy of their monthly newsletter, call: 301-875-7701. Keep checking the website for additional information and an updated listing of programs.



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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

Numerous cases of theft: 19400 block of Umstead Court.

Identity theft: 19900 block of Briarley Hall Road.

DUI arrest: 22000 block of White's Ferry Road.

Disturbances on New Year's Eve: Police were called to disperse a large crowd of young people who were driving from county to county, town to town, and drinking and carousing. They were last seen in the parking lot of Poolesville Elementary.

Past Crime: 1915 to 1920

Washington was in an uproar after the rumor of a plot to blow up the aqueduct that supplied water to Washington and Montgomery County was revealed. The rumor started when an employee of a gold mining company found several sticks of dynamite in an outhouse on a farm on the Conduit Road. Deputy sheriff Boswell was called as well as Treasury officers, and two men were taken into custody. After questioning, the federal officers announced that there was no threat to the water works.

The reported murder of attorney John Holt turned out to have been a suicide. A passerby heard a gunshot near the Sligo Bridge in Silver Spring and then found a man lying in the grass. The passerby ran to the nearest location with a telephone and screamed into the phone that there had been a murder. Several deputies and Sheriff Aud came to the scene. Aud learned that the deceased man had recently been released from the Washington Sanitarium, and, when he inspected the remains, he found a gun under the body. Aud ruled the case a suicide.

Swift justice was handed out in the jail yard in Rockville. George Williams had been arrested the day before on a charge of brutally beating his wife after she had returned from a picnic. He was tried the next day in Rockville Court and found guilty. The judge ordered that Williams receive twenty lashes to be administered by Sheriff Aud. Williams was led from his cell and tied to the whipping post. He turned to Aud and said, "Sheriff, I admit that I did it and know you have to do your duty." Aud then laid on twenty lashes that produced welts on the back of the prisoner. The county doctor was in attendance and inspected Williams and declared that he was not seriously injured. He even began administering a home remedy to reduce the welts and pain. As Williams walked away, he declared that he was through with women.

The mandatory work law was in effect in Maryland, but some said that it was not being enforced. Sheriff Aud was directed to scour the county to look for men who were not gainfully employed. He visited the Columbia Country Club and found twenty men whose only occupation was to occasionally carry golf clubs for members. Aud rounded up the men and took them before the magistrate in Bethesda, declaring that caddying was not really work.

A thirty-five-year-old Dickerson man was placed in the county jail for his own safety after a fourteen-year-old girl reported that the man had sexually assaulted her. The citizens in the upper region of the county were outraged, and threats had been made. Oscar Copeland denied the allegation but agreed to stay in the jail for the time being.

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

A Monocacy Moment



January 1, 2021: Poolesville's first sunrise of the year and decade.

Photo by Terri Pitts

Marketplace



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Remembrances

David Scott Johnson

David Scott Johnson, 74, of Barnesville, passed away on December 28, 2020, surrounded by his loving family at home. The cause of death was melanoma.

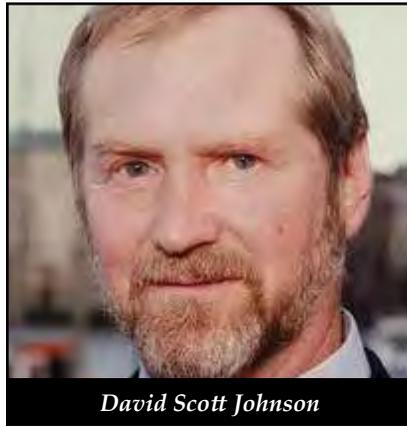
Dave was born in Kensington to the late Pauline Scott Johnson and Edwin Roberts Johnson. He is survived by his loving wife of forty-eight years, Judith Kay Johnson, daughter Abby Catherine Johnson of London, England, and son David Perry Johnson of Washington, D.C.

Dave spent his life as a skilled carpenter and artisan, restoring old homes, structures, and log cabins in and around the Barnesville area. His work has touched many homes and buildings in town and stands as a visible reminder of his craftsmanship.

Dave was a passionate and adventurous world traveler, an avid reader, and a history buff. He was also deeply interested in politics and enjoyed political activism throughout his life. He loved spending time at his home in Eastville, Virginia and sailing on the Chesapeake Bay. A bicycling enthusiast, he also spent many hours cycling through the region's mountains and could be found riding on the C&O Canal until his final months.

Dave spent much of his retirement hard at work on his farm, establishing gardens, planting fruit trees, and landscaping.

In addition to being survived by his wife and children, Dave is survived by his sisters, Elinor Sweeney of Hollywood, Maryland and Nancy Rattie of Comus, and brother, Edwin Johnson, Jr. of Clarksburg. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to a food bank of your choice.



David Scott Johnson

Dawn Marie Zinsser

Dawn Marie Zinsser, 48, of Poolesville, passed away December 26, 2020, at the Holy Cross Hospital in Germantown after a battle with COVID-19.

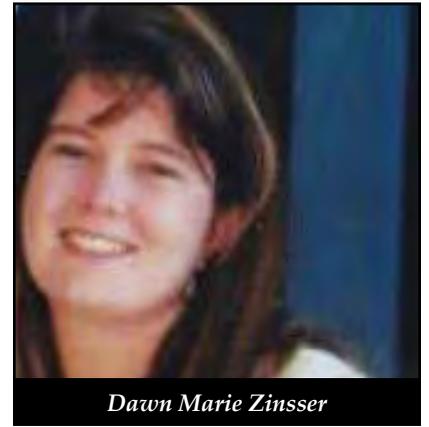
She graduated from Magruder High School in Derwood and attended Montgomery College in Rockville. She was employed by George Washington University Facility Associates in Germantown and Rockville.

She is survived by her husband, Gus Zinsser; one son, Cody James; and two daughters, Kayla Marie and Kacie Brienne; a sister, Debra Lynn (Howes) Dwyer and husband Ronald; nephew, Ronald Dwyer, Jr.; niece, Jamie Lynn (Dwyer) Harper and husband, Charles, and their children, Briana Noel and Gabriel Marie, of Germantown.

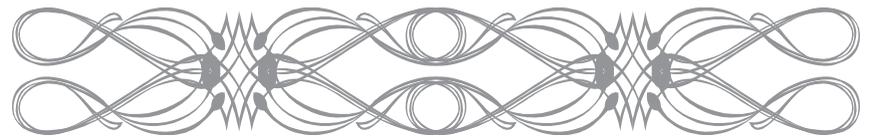
She is also survived by her mother, Mary E. Howes-Benesh and her husband, Lester; and her father-in-law August Zinsser, III, and his wife, Ann. She was preceded in death by her father, James Aubrey Howes.

She enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. Dawn loved going to the beach and tanning. She enjoyed traveling, especially on her honeymoon cruise. Most of all, she loved her children to the moon and back.

A memorial service will be held at a later date when family and friends can safely gather and share memories and celebrate Dawn's life.



Dawn Marie Zinsser





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Continued from page 10.

The Spirits of PHS Winter Sports Past

six straight starting in 2015. Before all that, Cara Chuang was a four-time champion in the 100 back at the Metropolitan Swimming and Diving Championships, from 2007 to 2010. She broke the county record in that event and was a four-time All-Met selection.

Multiple state medalists on the boys' side include Xavier Laracuate, Alex Lin, Maxwell Chen, Conner Dunathan, Justin Kim, Kevin Song, Kenny Song, and Theodore Jagodits. Multiple medalist on the girls' side include Moshelle Borjigin, Diana Hanson, Dorit Song, Katarina Lechner, Rachel Ryan, Autumn Wang, Helen Matia, Miranda Liu, Julia Wang, Lindsay Knapp, Sayaka Vaules, and Theresa Nardone.

Looking back, Coach Jon Leong has lots of memories. "I had a senior captain who did not make the states as an individual, but I did put him in the lineup as a relay alternate. He was going against the fastest kid in the state in the 100 free. As soon as he went up, our entire team was cheering so enthusiastically. It was

like a 'Rudy' moment. We were happy for Josh. I had a girl, who was always a solid second place, until the states. Before the 50 free in the states, she said, 'Wouldn't it be wild if I won?' Well, Lindsay did win, and that is etched as a highlight, knowing how much that first place meant to her."

On February 17, 2014 in the MPSSAA 2A State Indoor Track Meet at the Prince George's County Sportsplex, Chase Weaverling finished first in the 3200, posting a state record 9:29.76 time. The girls' 4x800 relay team of Denise Larson, Chelsie Pennello, Claire Beautz, and Theresa Nardone also finished first in 9:46.17, missing the state record by just a second. At the 3A West region in February of 2017, Ryan Lockett was just trying to run to qualify for the states in the 3200. "Someone stepped on my shoe," said Ryan, "so I had to kick it off. I had to kick my other shoe off too because I didn't want to run the rest of the race with just one shoe on, so I ended up running the last third of the race in my socks. The surface of the armory track was slippery, so it felt like I was running in place. After the race, my feet were all bloody, but I still got second, and it is a really good story to tell."

"It is a race that will become a legend," said PHS coach Prasad Gerard.

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Celebrating 32 Years of Service

A Very Different Holiday Season for You and Your Pets

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

The holiday season will likely look quite different for most humans this year. The focus is on home and small “pods” for interaction for the holiday. This has brought about a significant shift with respect to the interaction of humans and their pets in the last 10 months. Many more people have accepted a pet into their houses. Many more people are spending 35-100% more time at home. Many people have invested much more time and emotion into their pets than ever before in the United States.

This generally is an amazing occurrence for us and, more importantly, for our furry friends. Animals that would otherwise have not gotten a forever home for long periods are securely entrenched in a new loving home. Animals that were living the only child life are now sharing their humans with other pets. People who would not typically be the primary source of interaction with their pets are now focusing large amounts of time on them.

All these factors make it incredibly important for us all to pay much more attention to new objects, new foods, new people, and new traditions during the holidays. New pets and pets that now have new siblings may not act as you would think during these changes to their environment during the holidays. Here are a few tips for limiting problem issues for you and your festive-seeking furry friends.

1. Be sure that any new decorations, plants, candles, and foods are kept at a level that your pets cannot reach. You may think the metal and glass ball on the Christmas tree or the Hanukkah menorah is something your new or additional pets will not examine, you would be wrong.
2. It is not very festive, but an X pen (wire fence that can be set up in the house) can be placed around the Christmas tree(s) and presents to protect them until the wonderful Morning of Too Many P resents.
3. If you are having visitors (and the CDC does not recommend that this year), ask them to keep the door to their area of your home closed whenever they are not in that area. Dogs and especially cats love to investigate the new objects and smells. Peeing in your guests' suitcase is a high honor.
4. Do not assume that food on a counter, uncooked or cooked, is safe at any time but especially during the holiday seasons when humans are more easily distracted, like having small children at the mall (yes, we used to go there) would always require multiple eyes on them to avoid problems. Take the same idea for watching food and other objects on tables and in sinks. Be sure also to not leave edible gifts in a suitcase, coat pocket, or under the tree. The Seal-Team-6-like ability of your canine and feline patients to identify and “free” these gifts from their captors is a thing of legend.
5. Be sure any new medications that may be in your home during the holiday are also secured in a safe, animal-safe place.
6. Lastly, it is a great idea to consider leaving a leash attached to your dog so you can have a better chance of catching them when they make a mistake. You may consider also giving your feline friends a “special” place in the house where they can be safe and away from temptations.

Happy New Year and Peace on Earth to everyone two- and four-footed from Poolesville Veterinary Clinic.

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