

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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Robby Bliss and three other persons were recently honored for special service to our community. Find out who and why on page 8.



As American as wrenches and bolts? Cut the grease and get the dirt on page 11.



Conrad's Ferry had a name change due to this man. See page 12.



Lacrosse for girls from first through eighth grades coming to Poolesville this spring. Find out more on page 16.

White's Ferry Sold, Negotiation of Public Landing Rights Remains

By Rande Davis

With the agreement between the R. Edwin Brown family (owners of White's Ferry) and the Chuck Kuhn family of Virginia on February 11 for the purchase of White's Ferry, there is renewed hope and anticipation that the historic site will not only open again but may also continue a great tradition of family operation as well as civic pride and community spirit. Negotiation with Rockland Farm LLC majority owner Peter Brown still remains, so while there is reason for optimism, there is still much work to be done.

Chuck Kuhn, founder and CEO of JK Moving Services, and his wife Stacy Kuhn, have come to terms on a purchase of the ferry, and they plan to protect the important and historic Potomac River crossing.

Continued on page 3.



Susan and Chuck Kuhn, the new owners of White's Ferry.

Historic Decision Made by BOE to Approve New Poolesville High School

By Link Hoewing

After decades of neglecting an aging and outdated Poolesville High School building, Montgomery County's Board of Education (BOE) finally approved the design for a new high school in late January. Construction is expected to start in the fall and be completed by 2024.

The decision is momentous, especially since efforts to convince the county to build a new high school—parts of which were originally built almost a hundred years ago—have been going on for decades. Leaders of the PTSA launched major efforts in the 1990s only to see Poolesville High School repeatedly scheduled for "modernization" and then dropped from the list, usually due to "limited budget resources." All the while, other schools that are much newer—such as Seneca Valley High School which was built in

the early 1970s—received approval to be totally rebuilt.

The plan for the new high school will result in a building with two wings connected by a two-story, secure hallway. One wing—built around the "old gym" (which is seventy years old), the "new gym" (which is more than forty years old), the existing auditorium (which is to be modernized and expanded), and a portion of the existing central portion of the old school—will include a new covered outdoors eating and social area outside of a renovated cafeteria, new classrooms, and new bleachers in the main gym. Some of the new construction will be two stories.

The second wing, located to the south, will be built around the existing science building which was constructed in 2006. This wing will be two stories

and include new classrooms and labs. It will be connected to the north wing by a two-story, enclosed hallway. In between the new wings will be an open common area ("commons") for students that would encourage gathering and interaction.

The Fair Access Committee (FAC), which has helped organize community engagement to press for a new high school, was pleased to see approval, after decades of neglect, for a new high school but remains concerned about shortcomings in the new plan. The FAC contacted BOE members to point out that the new plans did not include a new, larger gymnasium to accommodate the school's student athletes and large crowds for major events, nor a Wellness Center to help students cope

Continued on page 21.

Family Album

Helping our community—
it's what we do.



These area scouts cleaned up Budd Road, not an easy task.



Tom Brady was even able to lead his team to victory in the MES Super Bowl Food Drive with a decisive score: 704 cans to 150 cans. Better luck next year, Kansas City. Adam Singh, Ziggy, and Matthew Singh load the vehicle.



Paris Copeland and Amy Soderstrum at WUMCO offices.



Paris Copeland, a former MES student, now volunteers at WUMCO.



MES staff also took part in the food drive: Annette Coats, Shari Moten, Principal Kristin Alban, and Rita Evans.

Continued from page 1.

White's Ferry Sold, Negotiation of Public Landing Rights Remains

Mr. Kuhn reported, "White's Ferry represents a piece of our region's past as an early commerce route that built and sustained local economies and remains so today. This fits with my family's interest in conserving land and history as well as supporting business and the local communities. White's Ferry has provided an important and scenic transportation alternative to the swelling demands on our local roads," he continued. "We look forward to working with nearby landowners and local jurisdictions to make this viable for the region."

The purchase of the ferry includes the store and the Maryland shoreline that supports the ferry operation.

Kuhn had originally discussed the potential purchase with the Maryland Browns two years ago. It wasn't until Herb Brown called Kuhn recently out of frustration—the Browns had exhausted their ability to reach a deal, and the ferry was destined to be closed forever—that new talks to purchase resumed between Kuhn and the Brown family.

Regarding Kuhn's daunting task to negotiate with Rockland Farm, he said, "This is a big challenge, and it is a challenge that the Browns could not accomplish. I have reached out to Peter Brown, and hopefully he will be cooperative. It is going to take cooperation from him to make reopening happen."

If successful, the ferry can be operational within seven days once Virginia shore rights are granted.

As to working with the previous owners, "They have done a remarkable job serving the community," commented Kuhn. "They have sold the ferry with the hopes that we would have a better chance of opening the ferry than they did. We look forward to bringing a fresh perspective to the ferry, enhancing the experience for riders, and making a number of upgrades to the store."

Kuhn is grateful to the Brown family, as "they have been total professionals to work with. They are ready to cross-train our team, work with our HR team to help us get the ferry restaffed for an official opening." They hope to retain the current manager and staff, but many have already departed.

The Kuhns plan to make a number of upgrades to the ferry over the next few years, bringing more operational and environmental efficiencies to improve services and preserve a piece of history.

Kuhn is the founder of JK Moving Services—the largest independently-owned and -operated moving company in North America, Kuhn employs nearly 1,100 people—a majority of which live in the Washington, D.C.-metropolitan region.

JK Moving Services has a long history in Montgomery County with a large facility located near the airport; as a result, the company has served the Poolesville community for a long time. "Poolesville is a great town, and we are just excited about serving the Poolesville area at an expanded level."

Kuhn, his family, and his company have an impressive record of protecting local landmarks and supporting the community, including: purchasing Westpark with the intention of placing 135 of those acres into a conservation easement for a park and to protect the open space from future development; partnering with Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy to buy and place into conservation easement an eighty-seven-acre parcel of land in northern Loudoun County called Stumptown Woods; starting the JK Community Farm, a charitable effort designed to alleviate hunger by growing and harvesting crops and livestock and donating them to local foodbanks, on 150 acres of conserved land in Purcellville; and purchasing and placing several thousand acres near Loudoun's historic villages into easement, including Egypt Farm—which had been previously owned by developers—the historic Wolver Hill Farm in Middleburg, and recently three farms outside the town of Waterford.

The company and Kuhn have won numerous awards, including being recognized by the *Washington Business Journal* as a Best Place to Work, and by Top Corporate Philanthropist, Loudoun Chamber as a Community Leader.

Do you or someone you know have a special announcement, or milestone you would like to share with our readers?
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Rande(m) Thoughts Everything Comes In Threes!

By Rande Davis

My mother always told me important things in life come in threes. You may not believe her, but I, wanting to be a very wise man, know it's best for one to always believe his or her mother. I think you do, too.

The three big important things for us right now that are at critical junctures are: reopening the ferry, development of the Willard property, and a new school.

All three are at the "go/no-go" stage. What happens next will impact our community and, without being overly dramatic, will do so forever.

Let's take them one at a time, starting with the most urgent to the more long-term prospects.

White's Ferry

The overwhelming consensus is, on both sides of the river, that the time for this 235-year-old service to end is not now. We need it economically, culturally, historically, and even socially. It's importance for our economy is undeniably critical but, perhaps without even realizing it at this moment, the best part is yet to come.

Nothing is set in stone yet. Until and unless the buyer of White's Ferry, Mr. Kuhn, can make an agreement with Rockland Farm, LLC on landing rights in Virginia, the ferry will not open. We need to take a deep breath and hold off the celebrations. Unfortunately, I have seen some public relation press releases being issued praising our elected officials for their help. There will be a time for that, but not now. This is still in motion.

To our elected officials, keep up whatever pressure you can muster. To those governmental officials across the river, don't blow this opportunity. To the Rockland Farm enterprise, don't let this one slip away. Yes, no matter what, you will get to keep the newly-paved driveway to your farm paid for by those politicians who pretend it wasn't really to a public landing after all. It's time to get real and to get reasonable because soon the Virginian politicians may accept their responsibility and declare the public landing to be right where it is and right where they intended it to be in 1781.

For us in Maryland, White's Ferry is so much more than a shortcut to Virginia. Let me explain. For over fifteen years, as a board member of the Historic Medley District, Inc. with five

of those years as its executive director, I strongly pushed for the town leaders and the community to embrace the power of our history as a daytrip magnet. The John Poole House and local history comprise just one leg of a three-legged stool for an economic engine that can drive community prosperity. We are somewhere like San Antonio, Texas facing the flooding river until someone said, "Let's build a river walk."

Past Town of Poolesville commissioners could never quite understand the opportunity. They lacked boldness of vision. I am hopeful this one can grasp our true potential now.

White's Ferry is not key to our success simply because it can bring traffic and daytripper visitors here quickly and easily. The ferry, in and of itself, is a source of tourism—and so much more can be done. The potential for living history events at the ferry is great. The National Parks and state should embrace the location as the perfect location to honor the great of history of ferry commerce in Maryland. When it comes to that history, is this the time to be the end of an era or the beginning of a whole new tourist opportunity for the state? Even more, can you imagine the potential? Can you see the old ferry moved to the water's edge with dining space onboard along the shore? Imagine watching as the sun sets over the Potomac in an informal dining experience. The fact is: We need more than imagination, and we need for Mr. Kuhn to succeed—and we must do all we can to help because there is absolutely no one I can imagine more appropriate for this dream to be realized than this man with his impressive sense of mission and purpose. We need the ferry to open, and we need this man to make it happen.

Added to the ferry, the strength for daytrip tourism coming from the John Poole House and the Old Town Hall Bank Museum along with the development of the plan envisioned by the Locals farmer market, bakery, and soon-to-be restaurant. The success of their goal can even help all the other restaurants, too. Its position next to the John Poole House is perfect.

Ask yourself, is it really going to take us to muster a thousand people with flaming torches at the ferry's ramp to get Virginia to understand just what is at stake here? If it does, we can do that, too.

Willard Property

The Willard family has spent over two years listening to people representing every aspect of our community. This plan reflects those

collective wishes. Just as Mr. Kuhn may be our last best hope for the ferry, this plan is our last best hope to get something there that we get to approve in advance. For the Willards, the overlay ability is critical. Their plan reflects what we have said we want again and again, and it's time to accept the change it offers. The land will not stay a pasture forever. Remember, it could be a two-story warehouse, a multi-purpose storage facility, even apartments, all of which, based on the zoning, we don't get a voice in. It is unlikely a new owner could be someone as dedicated to Poolesville as are the Willards.

There is room for more changes and adjustments, of course, but it's time we work to complete the job. Let's approve the overlay, let's make our additional requests known, and let's now move forward with a plan that will help us grow responsibly into the future.

New High School

Yes, the new proposals are not all we can wish for, but it is more than a great start, and if we wanted real hope for a new school, there has been no time more hopeful than now.



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Local News

Where Is the Vaccine?

By Jack Toomey

Most residents of the Upcounty were delighted when it was announced that two pharmaceutical companies had developed vaccines that would protect people from COVID-19. Some assumed that the vaccine would be quickly distributed to the offices of their physician where they would be vaccinated. As it has turned out, that is not the case.

Dr. Amar Duggirala, whose office at Poolesville Family Practice is in Poolesville, is the only practicing physician in the Agricultural Reserve. He explained that the vaccine is first in the possession of the federal government after it is delivered by the manufacturer. It is then distributed to the various states. Then it is up to the states to decide where the vaccine goes. Dr. Duggirala pointed out that although there are some vaccine clinics open in the down county, some of his patients do not own cars. The state recently opened two mass drive-in inoculation sites. The closest one to Poolesville is at the Six Flags Amusement Park in Prince George's County which is nearly fifty miles from Poolesville. Another site is in downtown Baltimore. Some of the less fortunate patients do not have a way to get to these places. His calls and correspondence to state and local officials have gone unheeded.

Attempts by the *Monocle* to determine how much vaccine is allocated on a daily basis to the county were futile, although the *Bethesda Beat* reported that only four thousand doses were

sent to Montgomery County during the past week. It was learned that Johnson & Johnson, the third company to develop a vaccine, would soon be approved to distribute its product. One of their laboratories for mass production is in Baltimore.

Some good news has recently been announced: The number of new infection cases for every zip code in Montgomery County is decreasing. As of February 15, Poolesville had only four new cases of COVID-19 during the last two weeks. Dickerson had just four cases, while Boyds, which has a huge geographical area, had twenty new cases.

Montgomery County is in Stage 1C of the eligibility groups to be vaccinated. This stage includes adults in the age group 65 to 74, essential workers in laboratory services, agriculture, manufacturing, and postal services.

Montgomery County Public Schools announced that schools would open for a small group of students on March 1 while kindergarten through third grade students would return to school buildings on March 15. Unfortunately, MCPS teachers are finding it just as tough as the rest of us to receive the vaccine.

Citizen reaction to the opening of schools has been mixed. The Poolesville facebook group, which is a fairly accurate barometer of attitudes, had many residents encouraged by this news, but there were some, perhaps believing the predictable internet rumors, who claimed that their children would not return to school.

Hopefully by the time this edition hits the newsstands, the state will have listened to the pleas of our local doctor and the less fortunate will have begun to be vaccinated.

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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Host Virtual Programs for The Community

Poolesville Seniors is offering a wide variety of virtual programs in February and March that meet community needs for exercise, information, and socialization. Visit their website poolesvilleseniors.org to register for the virtual events listed below. All events are open to the entire community.

Mondays

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

Tuesdays

Trivia Game Night

Do you love Trivia? Come have fun with Poolesville Seniors! One team plays on Tuesday, and another team might be formed. If you're interested in joining, email Poolesville Seniors at info@poolesvilleseniors.org. 7:00 p.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.

February 22

Book Club

February's book is: *The Island of the Sea Women* by Lisa See. All are welcome to join this social and intellectual discussion. 7:00 p.m.

February 25

All You Want to Know about Insurance

Patricia Dorn is a lead staffer in the Consumer Education and Insurance Advocacy Unit of the Maryland Insurance Institute. Ms. Dorn will present a slide show about the various types of insurance available in Maryland, with an emphasis on senior needs. She will also answer questions. 7:00 p.m.

March 4

Montgomery County Cemeteries

Glenn Wallace, a cemetery archivist, returns with a program about

Continued on page 7.

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Continued from page 6.

Senior News

Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory. He will discuss the process of coordinating volunteers for assessing the 324 cemeteries throughout the county. 7:00 p.m.

March 11

Author Presentation:

Betrayal in Berlin

Barnesville resident and author, Steve Vogel, will speak about his latest thriller, *Betrayal in Berlin*. Learn the story of the construction of a tunnel into East Berlin to tap into Soviet telecommunication lines and the operation's betrayal by dangerous British spy, George Blake. 7:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE:

Saturday, March 13

Virtual St. Patrick's Day Party

Open to the community! Wear your green and gather the whole clan for a big Virtual St. Patrick's Day Party! Invite family and friends of all ages to enjoy all things Irish, including traditional Irish songs, Irish bingo, Irish trivia, maybe a few surprises, and party favors while they last. Check the Poolesville Seniors website for updates, including how to register for this sure-to-be-fun-filled event. 7:00 p.m.

Pop-Up Walks with Jon Wolz

Back by popular demand, Jon will be narrating and leading more walks in the coming months. These will be planned and based on the three-to-five-day weather forecast. Be prepared to join his walks by completing the Poolesville Seniors Liability Release Form on their webpage and emailing it to them to indicate your interest. Watch your email, the Poolesville Seniors calendar, and their facebook page for dates, times, and information as the walks are scheduled.

For more information or to register for any of the programs listed here and receive the Zoom link for each, visit the Poolesville Seniors website: poolesvilleseniors.org. You can also join in the live presentations via their facebook page. In addition, each program is recorded and later put on YouTube. Did you know that you don't need a computer to participate? You can join the Zoom presentations using your smartphone or listen in using the local telephone number from Zoom and the Poolesville Seniors meeting ID and password. Call or text them at 301-875-7701 to learn how.



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Tribute

UMCVFD: Honoring Long-Term Volunteers

By Rande Davis

The Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department (UMCVFD) recently honored some of its long-time volunteers. The *Monocle* is happy to share with our readers the achievements of these individuals and why they chose to serve.

Janet Bliss: 65 years

Janet was a charter member of the Junior Auxiliary along with Betty Jean Selby, Becky Brooks, Dottie Cubit, and Eileen Lewis. She joined up for the Junior March Corps which, in their sharp dark uniforms, represented the UMCVFD in many area parades in the day. She has been involved in various roles over the many years but the most important was as secretary for thirty years. For her, the time given was well rewarded in wonderful memories, a profound sense of camaraderie, social fun, and most importantly, as a way to help sustain the local fire department. To any prospective member, she would want them to know how much fun being a part of the auxiliary is and how much the wonderful sisterhood means to her.

Betty Jean Selby: 65 years

It was 1955 when Betty Jean Selby was asked to join the then newly-formed UMCVFD Marching unit. Along with some friends, she jumped at the chance as they marched in many local and regional parades and actually ended up winning many trophies and awards. Eventually, the marching unit became a junior auxiliary with the girls. Come this March she will have been a member of the UMCVFD Auxiliary for sixty-five years and "loving every minute of it."



The UMCVFD Auxiliary Honorees are Janet Bliss (seated, second from the right), Betty Jean Selby (second row, third from left), and Patty Menke (second row, far right).

Over the years, she has served in every officer role except treasurer. Currently, she is serving in her favorite role as chaplain which she has now held for fourteen years. The number of hours she volunteers depends on the time of year and activities planned, but since all she has done is accomplished along with close friends, the burden is not a problem. "We work hard and have so much fun, and many friendships are formed." Her word to potential new members, "You will feel a duty and thrill to serve in the wonderful organization of UMCVFD. You will also have lots of fun."

A big role for the auxiliary is helping with the fundraising that they do with bingo, lunches, barbeques, raffle tickets, etc.

Patty Menke: 50 years

Patty started when she was very young, helping at the fire department dinners, other activities, and the

carnival because her parents were members, and her dad was the chief. For her, it's a family thing. Two of her sisters joined the Junior Ladies' Auxiliary and marched in parades. "I would go up with them for practice and watch, but I was too young to join. We didn't have a lot of things to do in the community, and it started as a way for me to get out of the house." One day, the Drill Master asked her to be a substitute in the marching corps and fill in when one of the members wasn't there, so she did. "I started going to the meetings and then later signed the agreement to become a member."

As a member, she became an officer Sergeant at Arms, which they no longer have. This includes being vice president a couple of times. She has been called the cook and the cleaner. "When Earl Moore was chief, he would request me to help him in the kitchen. He taught me many things. I have

enjoyed those roles. I have been on the Canteen Committee also. I also was vice president and later president with the Montgomery County Auxiliary." Her favorite role is cooking for dinners and outside groups. "I have always enjoyed cleaning."

Her work varied up to twelve to fifteen hours a week. Living out of the county now and the pandemic have put a limit on time working. "We all miss seeing each other and working for the cause."

For those considering to join, she says, "There are many areas one can help in the fire department. We try to make it enjoyable and fun in all our activities and fundraisers. We consider each other family. We are always there for one another."

For the record, she has four children which she would bring to help at large fundraisers when they were younger.

Continued on page 21.

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Monocacy Health Update

COVID-19 Update as of February 16, 2021

By Sam Hardwick

Wear two masks, keep a social distance of six feet, wash hands often, and avoid group gatherings as much as possible.

COVID-19 testing is now available at CVS and doctors' offices. In Poolesville, the Poolesville Family Practice (301-972-7600) also has the rapid fifteen-minute test available.

Cases of reported positive tests for COVID-19 as of February 16, 2021 by zip code:

- 20837 – Poolesville: 208
- 20838 – Barnesville: <15
- 20839 – Beallsville: <15
- 20841 – Boyds: 351
- 20842 – Dickerson: 66

Montgomery County

(source: [Coronavirus.maryland.gov](https://www.coronavirus.maryland.gov))
 Total of all cases reported positive: 61,835
 Total deaths: 1,337

Status of Vaccination in County

(source: [Coronavirus.maryland.gov](https://www.coronavirus.maryland.gov))

Phase 1A-1C: Frontline healthcare workers, staff and residents of nursing homes, first responders, residents 65 and older, and those with specific medical conditions.

Doses Administered

1st dose administered: 107,589

Schedule of Vaccination Schedule of implementation

Vaccine appointments may be registered at montgomerycountymd.gov.

Current: Phase 1A

Frontline healthcare workers, staff and residents of nursing homes, and first responders.

Phase 1B

Residents over 75, frontline essential workers.

Phase 1C

Residents over 65, those with specific medical conditions.

Coming soon

Phase 2: People with critical infrastructure roles.

Phase 3: General population.




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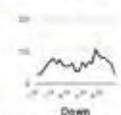
Inventory remains low, and mortgage interest rates remain low. As the Spring market approaches, inventory will improve. There are plenty of buyers out there looking for homes if you're ready to put your home on the market.

If you want to sell your house, or you need to find a house to buy, give me a call at 301-461-8840 for a market analysis.



Focus On: Poolesville, Dickerson, and Northwestern Montgomery County Housing Market January 2021

| Zip Code(s): 20837, 20838, 20839, 20841, 20842 and 20877 | Units Sold | Active Inventory | Median Sale Price | Days On Market |
|--|------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| | 30 | 34 | \$553,300 | 17 |



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Tidbits

The Return of School Sports

PHS Athletic Director Gina Grubb sent a note to the *Monocle* with some very welcome news. She tells us MCPS has been working on a plan to start in-person sports experiences beginning on February 27. They will start with fall sports and then bring along as many sports as they can. Six-week seasons many be truncated, but at least it's a season!

FarmShare Launches Program to Attack Food Insecurity

Launched in January 2021, Community FarmShare enables individuals and organizations to sponsor a family facing food insecurity to receive a weekly box of fresh vegetables and fruit from a small local farm.

"During the pandemic, I saw an opportunity to connect our local farmers to our food-insecure neighbors throughout the county," said founder Jennifer Freeman. "I have a passion for building community and making a difference in the lives of families in need. Food insecurity is a significant problem now; Community FarmShare provides an opportunity for the greater community to provide healthy food to people who need it, while also bolstering our local farms."

Community FarmShare accepts donations on its website, www.communityfarmshare.org starting at \$25. Currently there are seven participating Montgomery County-based farms.

The idea for Community FarmShare sprouted in 2020, in the midst of a global pandemic, when a group of community residents at Peas and Peace Farm in Poolesville saw a way to link farms with families facing food insecurity.

Community FarmShare is also supporting the Plant an Extra Row Program, started by the efforts of Sustainable Barnesville along with WUMCO Help, which encourages backyard gardeners to grow and donate their extra vegetables. Thanks to Locals Farm Market owners Sandy Wright and David Theriault, growers will now be able to place their backyard bounty in a brand-new community cold storage shed located at Locals Market in Poolesville

Monocacy ES SGA Super Bowl Food Drive Successful

Even though we were virtual learning, Monocacy Elementary School still had its annual food drive. Students dropped off cans at MES during our supply distribution day on January 27 and could also drop off cans at school until February 5. All this in addition to WUMCO's pantry on W. Willard Road and Pike and Valega's collection shed Poolesville.

This year, SGA even had alumni donate many cans for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers or Kansas City Chiefs thanks to the Julien Singh family. The total can count was Tampa Bay 704 to Kansas City 150. When dropping off the food, alumna Paris Copeland, who volunteers at WUMCO, helped to bring in the many boxes of food.

What's More American Than a Car Mechanic?

Okay, we know the saying goes, "There's nothing more American than apple pie, hot dogs, and baseball." Yet we all know there is much more, and Poolesville Tire and Auto may just have found a way to add "car mechanic" to the list. The company recently provided warm hoodies to its employees since, even with a heated garage, the shop can still get breezy whenever the big doors are raised and lowered. The cool part is a fun rendition of the American flag on the back that uses lug nuts for stars and wrenches for stripes. Their spirit may be patriotic, but don't fret, they work on all cars and trucks, foreign and domestic.



Poolesville Tire and Auto's Tim Murrer.



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Local History

The History of White's Ferry

By Rande Davis

This article is adapted from the book, *White's Ferry & Other Historic Ferries of the Potomac River*, by Mary Ann Kephart and Elizabeth Perry Kapsch, published in 2008 by Medley Press (www.historicmedley.org), Poolesville, Maryland.

Ferries have always been important to the Potomac River. Today, of the dozens of ferries that operated on the river, only one remains—White's Ferry. The history of White's Ferry (originally called Conrad's Ferry) provides insight into all the ferries formerly plying the Potomac River.

Potomac River history begins with millennia of Native American seasonal migrations to and from riverside villages that were catastrophically depopulated by the pathogenic incursions that accompanied the Europeans. Among the legacy they left are descriptive place names (awkwardly transliterated) and well-established migratory trails. They also left a wealth of land and natural resources to entice generations of farmers and entrepreneurs who soon found their way up the old routes from the Chesapeake to the Ohio Valley. These trails and travelers act as the main characters in White's Ferry's story.

In the 1700s, as settlement in the northwestern part of Montgomery County, Maryland was taking place, Loudoun County, Virginia was being settled at about the same rate. Travelers and commerce between the states depended on ferries. Local residents crossing the river to visit families and friends used ferries or small boats.

The arrival of the C&O Canal improved the ferry's financial opportunities as a canal-side trading center. With the Potomac River forming the boundary between the North and the South, the Civil War was fought all around the ferry. Because both Edwards Ferry to the south and White's Ford to the north were considered more important military positions, Conrad's Ferry, with a few exceptions, was left to travel routinely back and forth across the river.

According to the Maryland Historical Trust's Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey, research by senior park historian, Michael F. Dwyer, in 1973 indicated the ferry was called "Conrad Myer's Ferry" as early as 1780. "Court minutes named road overseers for this locale from 1780 to the 1790s. Newspaper ads, such as that in Bartgis's Federal Gazette of June 12, 1799 began to call it 'Conrad's Ferry.'"

John Myer (also spelled Mire) had a wife, Margaret, and children John and Mary. He served as a private in the Upper Battalion of the Maryland Militia during the Revolutionary War. Other documentary evidence shows that one Ernest Conrad operated it from 1836 until the mid-1860s.

Ferry boats from the era were built locally in all sizes from dugout log canoes that held a man and a pack with the horse swimming alongside to two-masted schooners and pettiaugers that were used in the tidal reaches of the lower Potomac to ship hogsheads of tobacco or military supplies.

Conrad Myer's ferryboat could have carried horses and riders, or a few cattle or pigs and six or eight passengers on foot, a wagonload of farm produce, and a carriage. The fare for one man was four pence plus another four pence for the horse.

The importance of Conrad's ferry as a landmark is reflected in "An Act to lay out certain roads in Anne-Arundel and Montgomery Counties" passed by the

Maryland General Assembly in November 1791. A road (Baltimore Road, later Goshen Road) was to be built "from Green's bridge, on Patuxent River, to the mouth of Monocacy" (on the Potomac). Another (Coxen's Road, later White's Ferry Road) was "from Conrad Myer's ferry, on Patowmack river" to intersect that road, and a third (River Road) was from Conrad Myer's ferry

On March 16, 1827, a petition was filed concerning improving Coxen's Road, which was on low swampy ground and many times impassable. Old Coxen's Road was the original road into Poolesville. Fisher Avenue replaced it due to the swampy ground. Beall Street in front of the town hall is a remnant of Coxen's Road that was the main road into town from the south swinging west to in front of the John Poole House and then onto what is now White's Ferry Road.

Recognizing the need for the canal superintendents and personnel to send and receive mail, the U.S. Post Office agreed to establish eight post offices about four miles apart along the route of the canal between Georgetown and Point of Rocks. The one at Conrad's Ferry was opened in the winter between 1828 and 1829 with Jared Darrow as postmaster. Mail was delivered twice a week by horseback.

Before the Civil War, fugitive slaves frequently crossed the Potomac River using fords or ferries to travel north, as Montgomery County was only forty miles from the Pennsylvania border. No incident is specifically ascribed to Conrad's Ferry, but Dan Lockhart, a runaway from Frederick County, Virginia, described his escape across the river by ferryboat in 1847. He explained that he was dressed well enough for a white man to assume that he was free and had sufficient cash to overpay.

When the Civil War broke out, Union forces swiftly occupied Potomac River crossings. The 1st New Hampshire Infantry occupied Conrad's Ferry and constructed the first earthworks in defense of the crossing in 1861. Although there was small-arms fire, there was also some fraternization, with Union and Confederate pickets meeting in midstream to exchange pleasantries and sundries such as newspapers, coffee, and tobacco.

While Union cavalry were engaged with Confederate Gen. Jubal Early in his march on Washington in 1864, Lt. Col. John Singleton Mosby used Conrad's Ferry to pass through the county and hit the deserted camp of the 2nd Massachusetts below Seneca at Muddy Branch. Following Early's march,

Continued on page 17.

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In Your Own Backyard

A Prediction

By Jon Wolz

After my first story was published by the *Monocacy Monocle* in January 2018, Rande Davis predicted that, in time, I would someday be leading walks. His prediction has come true. Recently, I have been able to share my knowledge and excitement about the C&O Canal to many people that have walked with me along the canal. Since December 2020, I have led three hikes along the C&O Canal to Benjamin Latrobe's marble quarry and two hikes to White's Ford fort for Poolesville Seniors, the C&O Canal Association, and a group of Virginia naturalists. I will be leading more hikes with the Poolesville Seniors and the C&O Canal Association in 2021. Recently, I have also led a few smaller hikes for a few friends and one with my sister Sharon and her husband Bill.

Along these hikes, I describe the history and the canal features; I talk about the historic Culvert 65 we walk by that is near the Dickerson Conservation Park parking lot. As we walk down the towpath, I point out the "mule drink" and across from the mule drink, the Trundle dock where the Trundles operated a store and a ferry across the canal in order to serve customers who traveled across the river from White's Ford and to allow local citizens a way to get across the canal without having to swim across. The nearest bridge across the canal was three miles away at Lock 27. Just a short distance from here, hikers stop at Lock 26. That is the lock that has the giant silver maple tree that is the largest silver maple tree in Montgomery County. Unfortunately, that tree is dying and is scheduled to be taken down in 2021. The tree is a hazard and loses limbs from time to time. As we walk across the lock, we stop, and I describe that during canal operating days, the lockhouse was actually on an island. The house was surrounded by water that included the canal and the bypass flume that drained excess water around the lock. I point out the bridge that leads to the berm side of the canal and off of the island. Once across the bridge, I point out the beautiful light gray granite mounting block that was once in front of the lockhouse. In the late 1980s, the C&O Canal National Historical Park moved the stone to its present location for reasons unknown. I point out the foundations of the lockhouse and mention that it was wood framed and burned down in 1969. Once at White's Ford, I describe the history of the ford dating back to Native Americans including three large Confederate crossings during the Civil War. High up on the hillside is White's Ford fort where the 10th Vermont Regiment stayed from December 1862 to April 1863. This fort was a combination of a crescent-shaped earthworks with timbers on top. On walks to this fort, once at the fort, I read aloud portions of the letters written home by the soldiers, and I finish with a reading of the ballad of the 10th Vermont Regiment. Just beyond White's Ford is Culvert 63. All around the ground on both sides of the stream flowing from the culvert is a very unusual green reed-like plant that grows up to three feet tall called scouring rush or horsetail. These plants have been around since before the dinosaur age. Across the Potomac River channel at this location is a giant sycamore tree on upper Mason Island that holds a bald eagle's nest. On a recent walk someone shouted, "Look! There are two bald eagles!" We admired the eagles for about ten minutes before continuing our walk down the towpath. For hikes to the marble quarry, Paul Kreingold, a historian from Leesburg, Virginia, has participated. He wrote a paper entitled "The Lost History of Potomac Marble" and, once up in the quarry, he enthusiastically tells the history of the quarry and its connection to the United States Capitol building. I estimate that with these five group walks, there have been about ninety people. We all wore masks and kept our distance.

I spend many hours walking on the towpath and meet people who come from faraway places just to enjoy the canal. Every time I visit the canal, I see something I had not seen before. On one walk last fall with Violet, as we came to the Marble Quarry Hiker-Biker Overnighter Campground, there was a camper at the campground. He had a bike, and he had a camper trailer he had pulled all the way from Havre de Grace, Maryland. He said it took him thirty days to get to where he was that afternoon. He was between houses and girlfriends and was heading south. He had spent the previous night in Barnesville and had entered the towpath earlier in the day at the Monocacy Aqueduct. He said the road leading to the Monocacy Aqueduct was terrible and hitting the potholes had shaken everything around in his trailer that he'd needed to pick up once he'd arrived at the canal. He said the hills in Montgomery County made for difficult pedaling. After he would break camp the next day, he planned to head to White's Ferry in the morning to



C&O Canal volunteers and a National Park Service ranger installed one of the three wayside signs at Carderock along the C&O Canal.

cross the river on his way to Leesburg. There, he hoped to find someone with a truck who could drive him, his bike, and his trailer six hours south where he expected to spend the winter in milder weather. I wonder if he found someone to take him south. If he returns this way in 2021, he may need to pedal through Point of Rocks if the ferry does not reopen.

Birds and wild animals continue to thrive in the park. I enjoy seeing the wildlife up close or at a distance. Over the last few months, I have seen river otters that I had not seen previously. Since the beginning of the pandemic, there have been more people enjoying the park and the towpath. If you have a group that would like to go on a walk along the towpath, please let me know.

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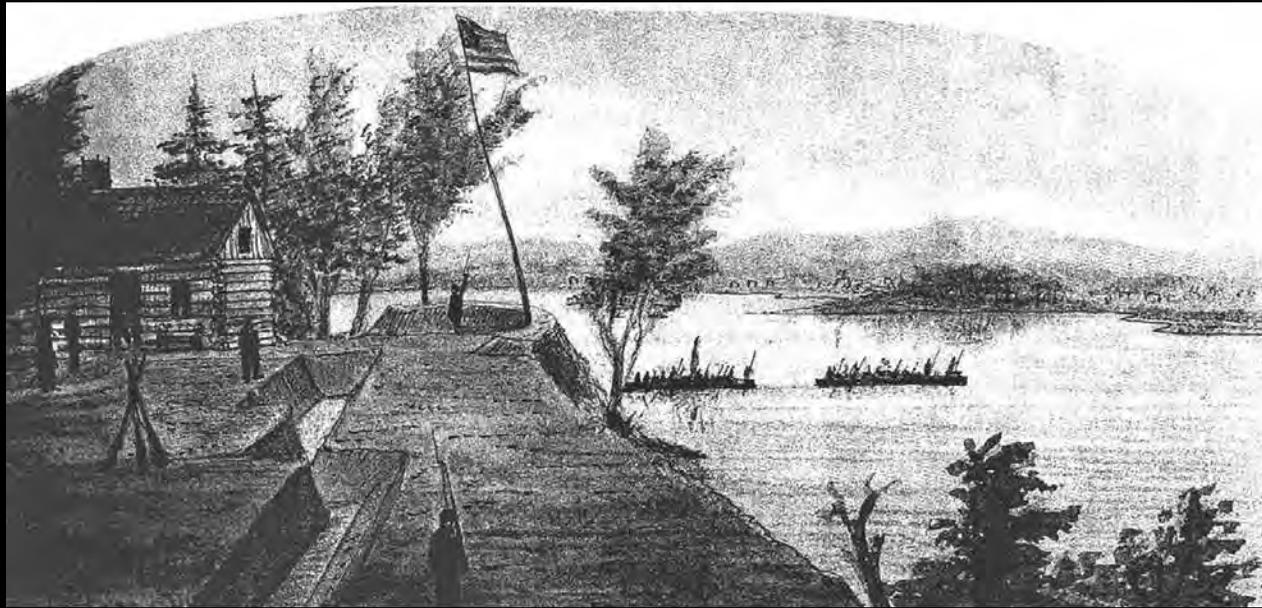
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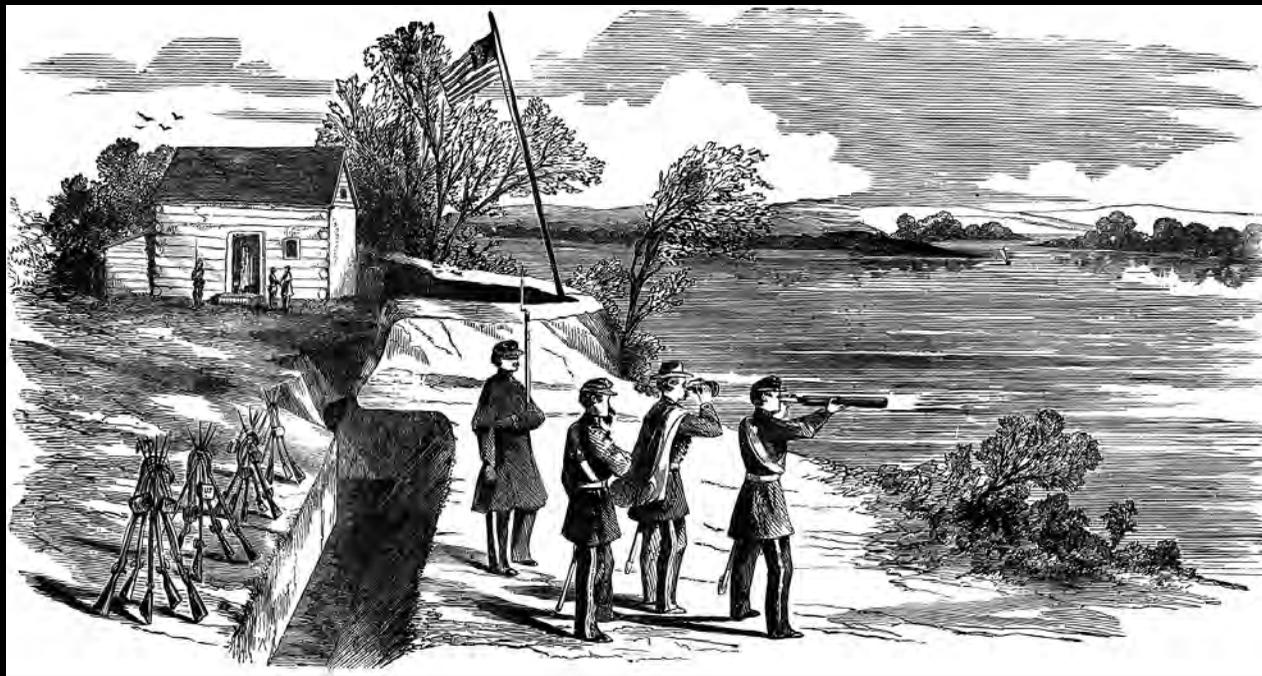
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Photo courtesy of Historic Mealey District, Poolesville, MD.



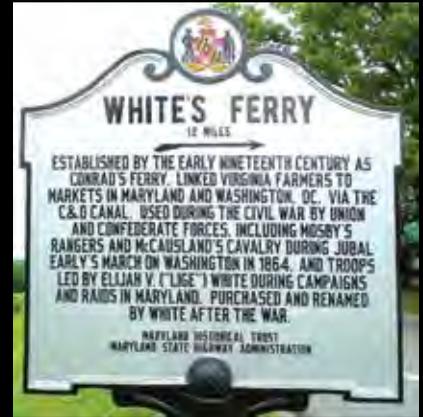
Conrad's Ferry as it appeared in a sketch by Robert Knox Sneden from shortly after the Battle of Balls Bluff, October 21, 1861.

Photo courtesy of Florida Center for Instructional Technology.



"Conrad's Ferry, Maryland, above Harrison Island, on the Potomac River, the place of the passage of Colonel Baker's regiment, October 21. From a sketch by our artist with General Banks's command." Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, November 16, 1861.

Photo courtesy of www.loudounhistory.org.



Historical Road Marker



White's Ferry is prone to flooding given its location on the Potomac River. Aerial photographs show the extent of the flooding.



Flood marks painted on the side of the building show the height of previous floods.

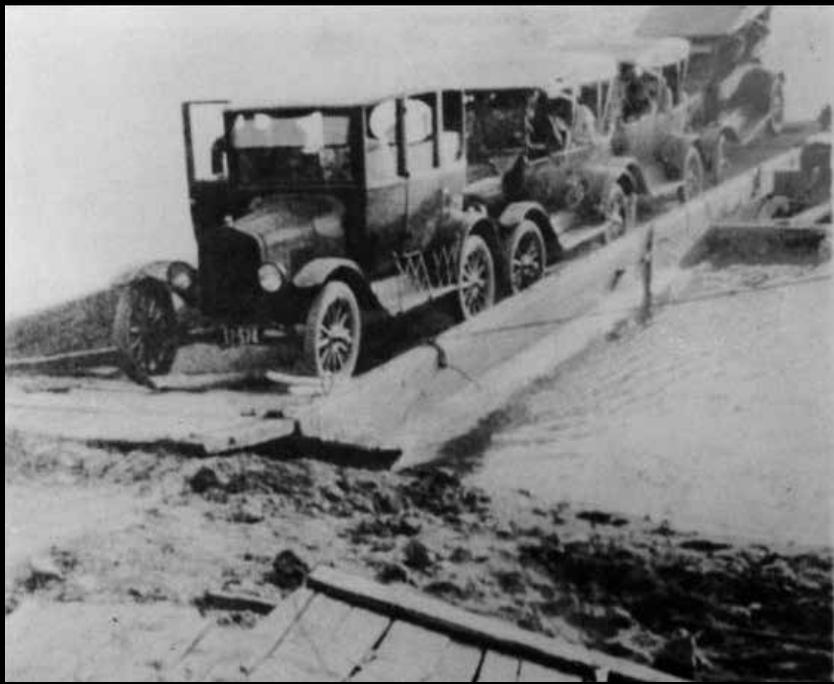
Left: In the early 1900s, Ferryman Charles Ashby Williams leaned over the ferry's railing to check its engine.

Photo courtesy of www.loudounhistory.org.

Photos courtesy of WJLA Channel 7 News. (@mcfisPIO), 2018.

Photo courtesy of www.mymedia.org.

Photo courtesy of Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, MD.



White's Ferry in the early twentieth century. To the right can be see the car engine bolted onto a rowboat that Mr. Williams installed in 1920.

Photo courtesy of Historic Medley District, Poolesville, MD.



Old cars crossing on a modern White's Ferry boat, September 19, 2014.

Photo courtesy of Historic White's Ferry Facebook.

Historic White's Ferry through the Ages

Left: Pontoon boat used at White's Ferry from 1946 to 1954. The boat was army surplus from the World War II pontoon bridge across the Potomac River near the Key Bridge, downriver in Washington, D.C.

Photo by Marion Wolcott.



White's Ferry in 1930.



Sunset on the Potomac River at White's Ferry, June 2020.

Photo courtesy of Historic White's Ferry Facebook.

Youth Sports

Bethesda Lacrosse Junior Program for Girls Expanding to Poolesville

By Jeff Stuart

The Bethesda Lacrosse Association (BLA) is expanding to the Poolesville area this spring. “We will have youth lacrosse teams for girls in Poolesville from first through eighth grades this spring—and are very excited about it,” said BLA executive director and head coach Matt Breslin, who was a team captain and an All-American goalkeeper and three-year starter for the Duke University Blue Devils. He graduated in 2001. “I loved playing and want to pass that on to the youth of the area. We hope a lot of girls from the Poolesville area sign up. It will be a great way to get out, be active and engaged in a great sport, play with your friends in a safe, welcoming, and encouraging environment.

“We work with about 1,750 boys and girls a year in our various programs (introductory clinics, recreational teams, travel teams). They brought me in in 2015 to have someone who’s really focusing on the overall well-being of the program and the kids.” Breslin has coached at various area schools and started his own lacrosse training program after graduating from Duke. He has two daughters in the program.

“We have about two hundred coaches in the program that are U.S. Lacrosse certified and trained. We are members of the Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA). BLA runs competitive year-round lacrosse teams for girls that are looking to grow individually and collectively learning from some of the best coaches in the DMV. Tryouts for our club teams are in the summer and the teams run from September through June.”

The spring lacrosse season will run from March through May. Girls’ teams will practice in Poolesville at Elgin Park Field and will play games in the Metro Girls’ Lacrosse League (MGLL).

The Poolesville Athletic Association has a lacrosse program for boys, but there is no corresponding program for girls, so BLA is providing an opportunity for the girls to come out and play lacrosse with their friends and stay local.

All games are on Sunday. Team practices and scrimmages begin in Mid-March. The club team program goes from third through eighth grades with one team at each graduating class. Tryouts determine the rosters for all teams in the summer prior to the start of the school year. Players leaving the program after eighth grade will be ready to compete for their high school teams and club teams. The girls’ recreational teams website is www.bethesdalacrosse.org/girls-rec.



Girls’ lacrosse is coming to Poolesville this spring.

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Continued from page 12.

The History of White's Ferry

Confederate General McCausland's cavalry, taking a different route than the main body of Early's forces, retreated back into Virginia at Conrad's Ferry.

Elijah Veirs "Lige" White, originally a Marylander, fought for the Confederacy. He was born in 1832 not far from Conrad's Ferry near Poolesville at Stoney Castle, the house that his father had built on 705 acres. When war came, White joined the 7th Virginia Cavalry. In part because of his participation in Balls Bluff in October 21, 1861, he quickly rose through the ranks to lead the 35th Battalion of the Virginia Cavalry.

After the war ended in 1865, Colonel White returned home to Loudoun County in late May with plans to establish himself in the business world. A ferry would provide farmers with a means of transport across the river and to the canal. In 1871, White not only obtained permission from the Loudoun County Court for a ferry, but the court agreed to pay his \$100 franchise fee.

White built warehouses in Virginia and alongside the canal in Maryland. Five years later, in 1876, he formed a partnership under the name "White and Wootton of White's Ferry," with Dr. Edward Wootton, a Poolesville physician and longtime friend who had been a surgeon in White's cavalry. Early in Wootton's tenure, the rope tether had been replaced with a wire cable, but the ferry was still poled across as it always had been. In 1918, Charles Ashley Williams of Virginia became the owner and operator of White's Ferry. After two years of poling, he decided to take advantage of the automobile engine. A Ford Model T gasoline engine was bolted onto a rowboat that was attached to the two-truck- or three-car-sized wooden barge and succeeded in powering the ferryboat across the river. The fare by now had increased to 50 cents one way for cars or horses, 75 cents per wagonload for produce, but foot passengers were now free.

One day, President Herbert Hoover, with a full contingent of Secret Service, crossed on the ferry. A newspaper photographer asked Mr. Williams if he would like to have his picture taken with the president, and he replied, "No, I'm not having my picture taken with any Republican."

In 1946, with the war ended, Dr. John Gibson, James Symington, Judge Lucas Phillips—all of Virginia—formed a corporation, along with Wilbur C. Hall and

R. Edwin Brown, a Maryland attorney, to operate the ferry. They bought the rights to the ferry franchise from the Williams family, also the two acres on which the ferry landings stood. The three men from Virginia owned land in Maryland and had not liked using their gas rations to drive the fifty-mile round trip over Point of Rocks Bridge during the war when the ferry was not operating. Hall was more interested in the future value of the right-of-way. With no profits forthcoming, three of the owners sold their interests to Ralph Altizer and R. Edwin Brown. Lucas Phillips redistributed part of his fifty-one percent ownership so that each of the three now owned equal shares.

It is not surprising that when Brown had the opportunity in 1946, he would readily join in the partnership to buy White's Ferry. Ed had grown up just to the northeast of the ferry on Gatten's Good Luck, the farm his mother, Elizabeth Oxley Brown, had inherited.

During World War II, a pontoon bridge had been constructed across the Potomac River at the base of Key Bridge in Georgetown. When the war ended, the wooden pontoon boats became army surplus. The ferry corporation purchased one. Sixty feet long with a wooden deck, it could carry three automobiles or two trucks. For propulsion, a "haybaler" engine, commonly used in farming, with a specially made shaft with a marine propeller on the end, was affixed on a swivel so that it could be turned around to propel the ferryboat in either direction along the wire cable that extended across the river. The ferry began regular service in April 1947.

A new ferry boat was built in Baltimore in 1954 and transported overland by attaching wheels to the hull and hauling it forty miles down the road to its landing on the Potomac.

The two major threats to ferry operations, besides the building of bridges, continued to be ice and flood. The worst flood in modern times was caused by Hurricane Agnes in June 1972. Near the roof of the two-story White's Ferry Store is the mark: "Flood 34 feet 6/24/72."

The Browns learned to cope with normal flooding. Every piece of equipment on the property and in the buildings was mounted on wheels. At the first sign of trouble, Malcolm Brown, who served as manager since 1971, would load everything into a truck and drive it away. Just before leaving, he opened every door and window in the buildings so that the water could flow freely through the buildings.

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Remembrances

Francine A. Davio

Francine A. Davio, 78, of Clarksburg, was peacefully called to heaven on January 30, 2021, at Holy Cross Hospital in Germantown.

She was born in Detroit, Michigan to Frank and Carmel Artzner.

She was preceded in death by Peter, her loving husband of fifty-three years.

Fran was a dedicated wife, mother, and homemaker. She was the foundation of a wonderful family, and her devotion to raising her children made possible their successes in their education and careers.

Fran enjoyed being a member of the church choir, attending Knights of Columbus events with Pete for over forty years, and raising her three children. She loved spending time with her family, cooking inspired meals, entertaining, bowling, vacationing with family, and travelling. Her ability to weather tough times, make wonderful memories for the family, and enjoy the happiness of life were her defining characteristics.

Surviving is her dear sister Colleen; her son and daughter-in-law Dennis and Courtney; son and daughter-in-law Paul and Amy; son Michael and fiancée Lindsey; and four grandchildren, Hailey, Nathan, Joseph, and Matthew.

Along with her husband, she was preceded in death by her sister Karen and brother Larry.



Francine A. Davio

Christopher Lee Mullins

Christopher Lee Mullins, age 58, of New Market, passed away peacefully of heart complications on January 25, 2021 at Frederick Memorial Hospital surrounded by his loving family.

He was a very caring and dedicated father to his son, Brandon Lee Mullins, and daughter-in-law, Katelyn Mullins, of Hagerstown. Within the last year, he became a first-time grandfather to Isaiah Christopher Lee Mullins who brought many smiles to his face. Chris is survived by his loving and devoted parents, Freddie Lee Mullins and Gloria Jean Mullins of Thurmont. In addition, he is survived by his sister whom he adored, Stephanie Lynn Killebrew and his nephew, Tucker Myddelton Killebrew, of Frederick.

He was preceded in death by nephew, Tyler Myddelton Killebrew.

Chris was born in Eden, North Carolina. Soon after, his family moved to Maryland, and he grew up in Boyds. He graduated from Seneca Valley High School in 1980 and started his long career at Pleasants Construction from July 3, 1984 to January 25, 2021 (thirty-six years). He was a very hard and tedious worker who was dedicated to things being done correctly. Chris had many hobbies. He learned to play pool at a very young age and was very good at it. He also loved hunting, riding his motorcycle, and gardening. He always had a vegetable garden and a bevy of plants and flowers in which he took much pride. Through the years, he gained many friends from childhood, work, playing pool at the Moose Lodge 371 in Frederick (among many other venues), hunting, and motorcycle rides. Chris, an avid animal lover also cared for two dogs that were always by his side, Eddie and Bitty, who will deeply miss him.

The family would love for you to share your sympathy, condolences, and stories about Chris on the Hilton Funeral Home of Barnesville website: www.hiltonfh.com.

Due to the COVID pandemic, friends and family will be invited to a celebration of life for Chris to be scheduled at a later date.



Christopher Lee Mullins

Virginia A. Gibson

Virginia A. Gibson, 88, of Boyds, died on February 6, 2021. Born in Lewiston, Idaho on June 13, 1932, she was the daughter of the late William and Rachel Jones.

Virginia is survived by her brother, Ricker Jones; children Wendy (Brian) Sutch-Kiser, Amy (Bobby) Sutch Gupta, Mark Sutch and stepchildren, Steven (Deneen) Gibson, Michelle Duchowny; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her late husbands, Edmund Leon Sutch and Steven Curtis Gibson.

After graduating from the University of Idaho with a degree in Journalism, she attended Union Theological Seminary and received a Master's in Christian Education. She served several churches as Director of Christian Education, and published articles for church magazines and local newspapers. She also edited Dory Howell's book, *Stand Straight and Grow Tall*, and assisted with Arthur Virts's book, *Boys: A Character Study by Arthur Virts and Friends*.

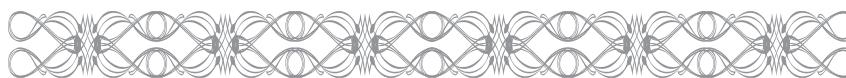
Virginia was very active in the community. She served on various organizations such as the Boyds Historical Society, the Boyds Federal Credit Union, and the Boyds Presbyterian Church. She loved flying, writing, bird watching, reading mysteries, travelling in her RV to bluegrass festivals and to Albuquerque, New Mexico on a family caravan/reunion to the hot air balloon festival.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Boyds Presbyterian Church, PO Box 320, 19901 White Ground Rd, Boyds, MD 20841.

A Memorial Service will be at Boyds Presbyterian Church with interment to follow at a later date.



Virginia A. Gibson



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Youth Sports

PHS Alum and Entrepreneur Dr. Josh Funk Gives Back

By Jeff Stuart

Dr. Josh Funk, 2004 Poolesville graduate went of to play lacrosse at Ohio State. After graduating from OSU, he went on to earn his Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree from the University of Maryland-Baltimore. He also played three seasons of professional lacrosse with the Minnesota Swarm and New York Titans of the National Lacrosse League. He was inducted into the PHS Athletic Hall of Fame in 2012.

"I played a ton of different sports growing up," said Josh. "I had just played football for the first time in sixth grade, and a lot of my friends were playing lacrosse. To be honest, I was getting bored with baseball. I needed something that was a little bit faster, a little bit more physical, and lacrosse was a great fit.

"My playing career at Poolesville could not have gone much better other than the fact that we did not make it to the states my senior year. Each year, I had a better and better season, and our team got better and better. My senior year, we were the best team in the county. We beat everyone, including Damascus, Churchill, Whitman, and Walter Johnson. I was fortunate to be named the County Player of the Year. I could not have asked for a better experience. I had great teammates. I am still friends with my high school coach, Curtiss Belcher, to this date." Josh was also named *Washington Post* second team all met, *Gazette* All-Decade selection, and a High School All American.

"My parents both went to Penn State," he said. "I always wanted to go a big school. I wanted a big campus experience where there were a lot of people, somewhere where the athletic department had a lot of different sports and nice facilities. We were not treated as a second-tier sport. We got to use a lot of the very same facilities the football team used. Ohio State was a very good fit. It is one of the biggest universities, and there was a ton of opportunities there to do things outside of lacrosse, as well.

"I got an athletic scholarship to play there, so it worked out well financially. It was an easy decision for me. I actually committed while I was on my visit there before discussing it with my parents, but they were very excited and supportive of me.

"I was one of two captains my senior year, and we made to the Elite 8, so I helped to take them to a level that they had never been before. It was incredibly gratifying. Much like when I was at Poolesville, I was able to leave the program in a better place than I found it. That is something I really take a lot of pride in."

In 2008, Ohio State won its first NCAA Men's Lacrosse Tournament game, defeating Cornell, 15-7, before falling to Duke, 21-10, in the quarterfinals. Ohio State compiled an 11-6 overall record that year. Josh had seven goals in fourteen shots, playing as a midfielder.

He returned to Poolesville High School as a coach.

"I got to coach my younger brother, Jake," he said. "I also got to coach Joel Hessels...Sean Parker, Trey Willis, Reid Patton, Jake Armstrong [his aforementioned brother], Jonathan Hetrick, Adam Branscome, and Kyle Wilkins. We had a lot of great players. We had some great years. Unfortunately, we never got past the regional final, but we got there twice.

"I have always wanted to continue to grow the sport of lacrosse, especially at the high school level. There is not a lot of press coverage. We didn't even have JV lacrosse when I was in high school. You just jumped right into varsity. There were not a lot of rec programs for younger players. I wanted more people to experience and enjoy the sport, so I ran a club program called Lax Factory for a long period of time. It started in 2011. It was open to kids from Poolesville, Damascus, all of Montgomery County, and the Frederick area. A number of talented Poolesville players came through Lax Factory. Joey Salisbury just got through at Ohio State. He went to Damascus. Eric Kolar from Urbana is going to Maryland next fall. I coached them coming up. I helped out with Rick Beaton of PAA for a little while. I was involved with a lot of other rec lacrosse programs. I wanted to share the experience that I had and pass it on to the next generation."

Josh also started his own physical fitness company that was recently named the fifty-seventh fastest growing company in the D.C. region by *Inc. Magazine*.

"Rehab 2 Perform has been in existence about six years now," he said. "Its existence can largely be credited to my college experience at Ohio State. There is a continuum of care when it comes to being injured and being back to one

hundred percent. First you see your physician. After that you spend time with the athletic trainer, and the physical trainer, and then maybe the strength coach, and then you get back with your coaches. There was a full spectrum of care, but it wasn't an integrated system. I have always been a little bit of a problem solver. I didn't see this type of care in the marketplace. I thought, Why can't we do something similar to help these people?—so it has gained traction. This summer, we will open up a fifth location of Rehab 2 Perform. We have offices in Frederick, Germantown, Mt. Airy, Bethesda, and the new location is in Annapolis. Our clients are adults who are active, adults who are trying to be more active, and athletes. When you leave our facility, you hopefully will be a more educated and a better physical version of yourself than you have been in some time.

Dr. Funk addressed the athletes at PHS via Zoom on September 24. His message to the students: Just continue to work on yourself. The things they do on a regular basis have all been altered somewhat. It is easy to focus on what you can't do, but focus on what you can do. We talked about developing social capital, financial capital, and intellectual capital—and making sure they mold themselves into a well-rounded young person.



Dr. Josh Funk,
Poolesville High School
alumnus, Class of 2004.

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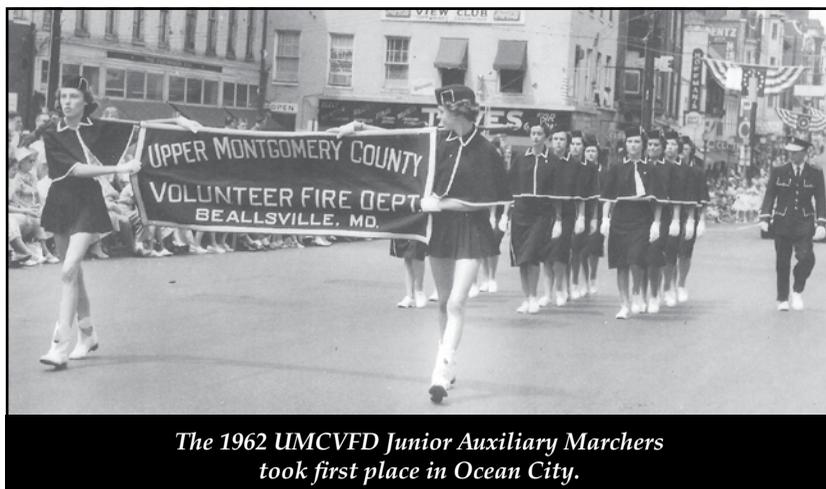
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Continued from page 8.

UMCVFD: Honoring Long-Term Volunteers



The 1962 UMCVFD Junior Auxiliary Marchers took first place in Ocean City.

Only one of her children joined the group until she went away to college. Currently, she has a grandson working to become a firefighter.

Robby Bliss: 50 Years

As a result of his father’s long service with the department and having memories since he was very young of visits to the station, he couldn’t wait to join when he could.

He has served in many different roles. He has served two years as Fire Lieutenant and two years as Rescue Lieutenant. He has been a delegate or alternate delegate to both the Montgomery County Volunteer Fire-Rescue Association (MCFVRA) and the Maryland State Fireman’s Association (MSFA) since 1982.

His favorite role was “just being a part of the organization with the other members. We were like family.”

Not as active in “riding the apparatus anymore,” he continues to help with the pig and beef roasts, Poolesville Day, fireworks, and other events, and still attends the monthly department and county MCFVRA meetings.

As to how he feels about his volunteerism, “It’s a great way to give back to the community, as well as learning fire and rescue services.”

Continued from page 1.

Historic Decision Made by BOE to Approve New Poolesville High School

with the pressures of modern high school life by providing mental health programs, services, and counseling.

“We created the Fair Access Committee to help the county and state recognize their obligation to provide not just services, but also bricks-and-mortar facilities on par with what the rest of the county receives,” says Poolesville Town Commissioner Jim Brown. “The new proposed Poolesville High School meets or exceeds our expectations in many ways, but the plans fall short when it comes to gym space. We have just as many kids participating in sports and fitness activities as the larger down county schools do. A modern-sized gym (as opposed to a remodeled forty-three-year-old gym) is a must.”

In making its contacts, the FAC and many citizens noted that the entire budget for the new Poolesville High School was not much different than larger middle schools that have been built or are being built in the county. One middle school in the county, Thomas Pyle, will have three gyms (one main gym for competition, another slightly smaller gym, and an auxiliary “practice” gym) after a new \$25 million expansion program. It will also have a weight room. The new plan for PHS will include the two existing gyms but not a modern, larger, new competitive gym for the school nor a weight room. This, despite the fact that Poolesville has as many, or in some cases more, student athletes than other larger high schools in the county.

While the FAC did not get everything it was pushing for, the mere approval of a multi-year funding program for the construction of a new high school is historic. During the comments and discussion regarding the PHS project,

several BOE members, including President Shebra Evans, Patti O’Neill, and Lynne Harris, noted the lack of a new gym for Poolesville.

The opportunity still exists to push for more funding for a new gym and a Wellness Center, and the FAC will not let up in the effort to obtain funding. While the new plan includes projected funding for several years out, actual monies to support construction are only approved annually. This means the Montgomery County Council will still be required to approve funding each year for the project for some time, providing the opportunity to press councilmembers for added funding.

“It is very important that we stay aggressive in our advocacy campaign,” said Kevin Schramm, president of the FAC. “Although the initial plan has been adopted for this budget cycle, it does not mean that a new gym can’t be included in next year’s budget.”

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Recent Crimes

Burglary: 17000 block of Oxley Farm Road (two cases).

Theft: 19300 block of Hempstone Avenue, 19500 block of Wootton Avenue.

Vandalism: 17100 block of Hughes Road.

Past Crime: 1915 to 1920

George Tiverny of Washington was arrested and charged with stealing nine pounds of dynamite from the gold

mine at Great Falls. It was suspected that Tiverny was planning to blow up the water aqueduct that supplied water to the city. When questioned, Tiverny said that his only motive was to blow up fish in the Potomac River. The dynamite was found in an old abandoned house on the Great Falls Road.

A motorman on the Washington and Rockville Electric Railway was painfully injured when he was struck with a rock thrown by a man who had just been ejected from the car at the Alta Vista stop. S. H. Washington was treated at the scene by Doctor Manion. Washington was able to make the return trip to Washington where he was relieved of his duties for the day. No arrests had been made.

John Lee of Laytonsville, an aged man of 89, died at the Freemans Hospital in Washington a week after being shot by his son-in-law at the homestead near Laytonsville. The two had quarreled over a matter, and Charles Newman had picked up a shotgun and fired. Newman was arrested by the sheriff and was being held in the Rockville jail.

The sheriff and his deputies were looking for Anna Mulligan who disappeared from the home where she worked at Dickerson. Anna was described as troubled and had quarreled with both her employer and her parents. As the result of good police work, a deputy called a colleague in Hagerstown, and Anna was found.

Her parents were reported on the way to pick her up; she told Sheriff Duffy of Washington County that she intended to run away again.

Deputy sheriffs Gingell and Thompson went to Emory Grove on a tip and arrested Samuel Claggett on a charge of violating the national prohibition law. The officers found several barrels of hard cider and wine. Before making the arrest, the officers observed a large number of people coming and going from Claggett's house.

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

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Do Your Pets Feel Pain Like You Do?

The Short Answer Is: YES!

By Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

According to studies in *Psychology Today*, the idea that dogs and cats don't experience pain like we do is a MYTH. This stems from the fact that dogs and cats HIDE their pain. Our canine and feline friends have inherited an instinct to hide any pain that is caused by injuries or infirmity. In the wild, an animal that is injured or infirm is vulnerable to attack, and there is a survival advantage to acting like nothing is wrong even when pain is present. They suppress many of the more obvious signals of pain and injury to protect themselves and their social standing in their packs (your household). They hide their pain to appear to be more in control of the situation. Unfortunately, because of this, it is often difficult for humans to recognize when their furry friends are hurting.

Very simply, if your four-legged buddies are acting differently than they usually do, like limping or refusing to eat their regular food, there is likely some pain component that is uncomfortable enough that they cannot hide it. Pets that show behavior changes, such as where they sleep or lack of normal play, may also be showing they are feeling discomfort.

The simple truth is that you may not know that your dog or cat is in pain as he may be trying to hide it. If you notice changes to the normal activity or movements of your fine furred friends, have them examined by your veterinarian. Your veterinarian is trained to identify pain and discomfort in animals that would otherwise not show outward signs. There are great medications specifically designed for pets to control or eliminate pain. Do not use medications from your own medicine cabinet unless instructed to by your veterinarian.

Every creature deserves the right to live pain free and happy in her life.

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