

# The Monocacy

# MONOCLE

*Keeping an Eye on Local News*

*A Biweekly Newspaper*

*April 23, 2021 • Volume XVII, Number 4*



*Asan and mom operated a lemonade stand. Check out others at the farmers' market on page 2.*



*If you live here, you know this grand lady. Find out who she is in Tribute on page 8.*



*Scouts at White's Ferry loaded a dump truck at the conclusion of the Potomac River cleanup. See page 9.*



*Field hockey inaugurated PHS sports for the 2020-2021 school year. Read more in Youth Sports on page 10.*

## *Town Professionals Recommend New Investment To Upgrade Sewer System*

By Link Hoewing

The Town of Poolesville's commissioners and Planning Commission joined together to hear a presentation offered by consultant Wade Yost, temporary town manager; Jay Gullo, town attorney; and John Strong, town engineer, about the condition of the town's sewer system. The system continues to need upgrades to prevent water from leaking into the pipes which causes the sewer plant to have to work harder to clean the water it receives; however, the upshot of the presentation is that investments made by the town over the last nearly two decades have helped to reduce such leaks significantly, reducing pressure on the sewer plant.

In his opening remarks at the April 14 meeting, Yost stated that the State of Maryland, which regulates municipal sewer systems, uses a 250 gallon per day (GPD) per household figure to calculate daily flow levels. Poolesville has always chosen to use a more conservative per-household figure of 325 GPD. Using the town's figure, the

three-year rolling average of 668,000 GPD subtracted from the state permitted sewage capacity limit of 750,000 GPD for the plant leaves a total of 82,000 GPD that is unused. Yost said that the commissioners have always chosen to use the more conservative 325 GPD per household number, and he believes that it is wise to stick with this number.

Yost said that the 82,000 GPD surplus capacity could theoretically serve all of the already-known developments such as Westerly Avenue, the Beaulieu property, and other smaller projects, the remaining houses to be completed in Brightwell Crossing, the Westerly Grove development, and the commercial space owned by Donegan, as well as the Willard property and a possible Bricklin development; however, this would mean that all of the unused capacity would be taken. Yost made it clear that it is not only unwise to use up all projected sewer capacity, it is also against the Maryland Department of

the Environment's policies. The state mandates that a municipality must have a plan to ensure that it will use no more than eighty percent of sewer plant capacity.

Yost said that the problem is not a "housing issue but rather a flow issue," meaning that the capacity issue relates much more directly to leaking groundwater that finds its way into sewer pipes. This problem is a common one and affects all sewer systems. It is called "Inflow and Infiltration" (I&I) and involves the aging of sewer infrastructure. Over time, pipes age and can develop cracks that allow water to seep in from the earth that covers them. This water is relatively clean and does not need to be treated, but because it finds its way into the sewer system, it gets taken to the plant and is treated with waste water. The result is the sewer plant is forced to handle more water than it would otherwise, and more chemicals, electricity,

**Continued on page 5.**

## *Arrest Made in Murder of PHS Grad*

By Jack Toomey

In July 2020, a Frederick City Police officer found the body of an adult female in a wooded area at the rear of Ollie's Discount Store at Frederick Towne Mall. The individual was later identified as Kelly Meadows Serra, a former resident of Poolesville and a graduate of Poolesville High. Her death was ruled as a homicide.

While attending PHS, Serra was a pompon athlete and was known for her upbeat attitude and pleasant personality.

The Frederick Police Department, along with several other agencies,

began an investigation which led them to the state of New York. The New York State Police, Hempstead N.Y. Police, and FBI all assisted the Frederick Police.

On April 13, a task force of officers arrested Margarito Turcios Benitez, age 45, of Hempstead, New York, and charged him with first degree murder in the death of Serra. Benitez is incarcerated in the Nassau County Jail, awaiting extradition to Maryland.

The case is still under investigation, and anyone with information is urged to call Detective K. Yackovich at 301-600-2100.



*Kelly Meadows Serra*

# Family Album

# Springtime Farmers' Market on the Commons



Danielle Roche (and pet dog Layla) of Loving Paws Pet Care and pet products.



Emerson Pollicino of Sit and Stay.



Go and Glow Candles.



Sarah T Artist and Kaly McKibber.



Alicia Micazzi of Cozzi Family Farm.



K. Marie Criddle, illustrator, of Brush Quibbles.

## Town Government

### Commissioners Take Initial Step In Dealing with Personnel Issues And Hiring Town Manager

By Link Hoewing

At their April 19 meeting, the Town of Poolesville commissioners approved a motion to develop a "Request for Proposal" (RFP) that will result in the hiring of a human relations consulting firm. While the details have not been worked out, such a firm could help develop a personnel policy manual, examine and make recommendations about staffing arrangements, and assist in identifying and vetting candidates for town manager.

Before reaching this decision, the commissioners heard a presentation from consultant Wade Yost who provided an overview of the draft FY22 budget. Yost said the overall budget will total just a little over \$4 million. The key funding sources to support this budget are the income and property taxes paid by Poolesville residents. They represent close to three-quarters of all revenues. Additional revenues include Highway User Funds from the state and leasing revenues paid by mobile companies which rent space on the water tower for their antennas.

Yost said the tax rate of just a little over 17.8 cents per one hundred dollars of assessed value will not change; however, water fees will increase by two percent under the proposed budget which is allowed by town ordinance.

General operating expenses supporting such things as employee salaries and benefits, maintenance of the parks, trash removal, and so on will total just under \$3 million. Included in these monies is a five percent employee bonus, and a special overtime allotment for town staff who have to be on twenty-four-hour or weekend call.

On the capital side of the budget, \$760,000 would be allocated to a range of projects and purchases. The town hall would be painted (it was built in 2008), an assortment of trucks and mowers will be purchased to replace aging equipment, and improvements to the parks will be made, including the addition of special rubberized mulch for tot lots that is safer and will not rot readily.

Total revenue for the wastewater and water systems is estimated to be \$1.5 million in the proposed budget. Given the expenses for the two systems, this means revenues still come up about \$40,000 short. A grant will be made from the general fund, as has been the case in most years, to make up the deficit.

Overall, the proposed budget is balanced and includes enough funding to ensure that the "rainy day" fund, which can support town operations in the event of an emergency or a shortness of funds, is well over the 17.5% of total revenues required by the town's code.

With little discussion, the commissioners unanimously approved a motion to set a hearing date of May 3 for the budget. It will be available for public review on the town's website. After the public hearing, a final vote on the budget will occur on May 17.

The commissioners then heard a presentation by an HR firm regarding the services it provides. They have been considering whether to hire such a firm to help address personnel matters—such as the lack of an HR policy manual—and to make recommendations concerning improvements in the organization and management of the town.

Dru Davis, representing Bambee Human Relations, based in California, said the firm is focused on helping a town ensure that it avoids violating state laws regarding personnel matters. Its key focus is on compliance and ensuring that sound personnel policies are in place.

The firm first does an audit and evaluation of the town's personnel management policies and systems. It looks at everything from job descriptions to compensation levels to termination policies. It also examines a town's records retention and management systems regarding personnel.

Davis was asked whether her firm helps with identifying and assessing potential candidates for town positions such as town manager. She said they do not but can partner to provide such expertise.

At that point in the meeting, it appeared the commissioners were moving to adjourn. There were no other items on the agenda. Commissioner Martin Radigan, however, said he remained concerned that they still had not developed a strategy for hiring a town manager. He also said he remained convinced they needed to

Continued on page 7.

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## Rande(m) Thoughts Thinking about Windfall

By Rande Davis

Word is out that the Town of Poolesville may receive up to four million dollars from the federal government. Time will tell.

Is this to be our latest and greatest windfall? I have no idea who first came up with the term windfall. If the legend of the apple falling from a tree onto Sir Isaac Newton's head has any validity, I suspect it was he who first conjured up the concept. After all, it seems the concept of gravity came to him without provocation or deep deliberation, a seemingly random act by a simple breeze knocking an apple from its branch which led to his fame and fortune.

It is expected the new federal funds will be required to be spent on infrastructure. You may remember the first go around of federal infrastructure funds, when most really went to paying down state and local government debt from overspending. The term shovel-ready even became a snarky joke by those who came up with it.

Like the initial motion of a train on the tracks, important decisions concerning Poolesville will slowly pick up speed in the coming weeks and months. What to do with all that money—an amount roughly the same as our annual budget—may be dominating the news soon. Like that locomotive picking up speed, who knows how fast or how far down the tracks we will be by this summer, but it is safe to say, many key decisions will be made and some of them will be irreversible.

What's in the docket that has my attention?

A new comprehensive master plan for starters. The decisions made on this issue will set the stage for our lives for the next couple of decades.

Then there are the costs of addressing inflow and infiltration (I&I) and the anticipated need for repair to our sewer lines (read the headline article this issue). If you are new to Poolesville, the discussion of I&I issues may confuse you. A few years back, the news of the day in town used to be dominated by the topic, and the day that I&I was no longer a part of town meetings and discussions had me grateful that I might not have to write about it again. I was very pleased to think the term I&I would become something of an anachronism. Oh, well, here we go again.

How about the notion of new homes in the center of town? Of course,

discussion on new homes never really leaves the stage. It is expected that a decision on the new proposal by the Willards for a community of small and affordable homes, poised perfectly to boost the local economy which will be ideal for the young starting out or the elderly ready to downsize, will be finalized (or not) soon.

Don't forget about the challenge of finding a new town manager. If successful, it will have a long-term impact on the town. If it is not a long-term success, then we may be seeking a new town manager again next year.

In the midst of all this, there are emerging proposals being made to create a human resources department for the town with its own director and perhaps a financial assistant to the town manager as well. If these ideas go forward, those salaries added to the town budget will be permanent.

There you have it in a nutshell, the many balls we have to juggle through the summer: master plan, I&I repair, new residential development, HR director and department—and we haven't even mentioned what the town plans to do with the suggested four million dollars it is supposed to be getting from the Fed for infrastructure. Oh, and please don't think I have forgotten about a new school or White's Ferry, they are still big items on the horizon.

In the economic world, Poolesville is like a small business. There is nearly an infinite number of small businesses of our size that operate successfully without their own HR director or department. If others can do it, why can't we? Why do we think our solution is in hiring someone new or contracting with even another consultant? The professional HR resources to improve the town's handling of such matters are close at hand, could most likely be received for free, and all of it available right here in our town. As an example, I am personal friends with one person who has taught the subject of HR at Georgetown University. How many other people in our town deal professionally with this topic day in and day out who could also come forward to help address the town's need to solve our concerns? Is the answer to hire even more people just to help others who have not ever hired, fired, trained, or supervised any employees in their career? Commissioners should bring more than loving Poolesville to the table; they should come with real life managerial and executive experience as well.

Yep, it's going to be a very busy summer, but with the newfound hope from the vaccine and the possibility of emerging from a life of lockdown, we should all be ready and willing to face the issues head on.

## Tidbits

### Poolesville's Baby Miss Maryland

The newest Baby Miss Maryland is Poolesville's Kennedy Kileen Rice, born on October 15, 2019. Her parents are Glenn and Lindsay Rice, and she has a brother, Jackson Rice.

Kennedy was the first-place winner at the East Coast USA pageant on March 14 in Towson where she earned the

2021-2022 title of Baby Miss Maryland. With this title, she will be offered many unique opportunities to get involved with the community, print modeling jobs, runway shows, acting careers, attend VIP concerts, and so much more. Kennedy also earned a spot at Nationals to compete for the Baby Miss National title being held in New Jersey July 23 to 25.

The East Coast USA Pageant is the most popular and prestigious beauty

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Poolesville's Kennedy Rice, Baby Miss Maryland 2021.

## The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

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**Town Professionals Recommend New Investment to Upgrade Sewer System**

and machinery must be used to treat the water. In the end, I&I not only uses up capacity, it taxes the sewer plant.

Gullo used an analogy to explain the situation. He said that the I&I problem is like a car that has about a quarter of a tank of gas left. You know it is getting low, but you still have plenty gas left to keep going and get to the next gas station. When asked whether Poolesville is at one-quarter tank or nearly empty, Yost said, "We've been at a quarter tank for years." The implication being that the town has successfully managed the I&I problem to ensure that it has maintained a cushion of unused capacity.

Yost added that the town has not always successfully managed the problem. In the late 1990s, the sewer plant did get overloaded, but in the years since, the town has embarked on a continuing program of I&I investment to help fix leaking pipes, cracked manholes, and leaking drains. Many millions of dollars, mostly using very low interest loans, have been invested to reduce I&I. The data in the presentation does appear to show reductions in I&I over the years, but it should be noted that heavy yearly levels of precipitation do increase flows. Strong said that the reality is that I&I investments will be an ongoing feature of the town's operations.

To some degree, the presentation made it clear that it is not possible to be absolutely sure how much impact any I&I investment program will have due to the complex nature of the cracks and holes in the system, all of which are underground and out of sight. The level of rainfall in any given year also affects how the sewer system performs in any given year. Even so, the town has done extensive survey work using smoke testing and cameras to find the locations of many of the leaks. Strong recommended a \$1.7 million investment program that he said should get the town close to the eighty percent performance mark going forward. A number of financing options were discussed, including taking out a low-cost loan as has usually been done in the past to using funding from the American Rescue Fund monies the town expects to receive from the federal government.

During this discussion, it was brought up that every new house built generates a connection fee of more than \$12,000 paid to the town. The town cannot approve new houses without adequate sewer capacity to support them by policy; however, once capacity is freed up, newly-constructed homes will generate significant revenues—due to the connection fees—that can offset costs.

Since this was an educational presentation, no decisions were made. Yost, Gullo, and Strong recommended that the town staff develop a bid package for the proposed I&I project and investigate funding sources and report back to the commissioners. They also recommended that the Planning Commission continue its work on site reviews for new developments while moving ahead with the development of a new Master Plan for the town.

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## Senior News

### Poolesville Seniors Present Virtual Programs

In keeping with their motto, Stay Active, Poolesville Seniors is providing virtual programs that focus on keeping minds sharp, fostering regular exercise, and encouraging social interaction. Visit their website at [poolesvilleseniors.org](http://poolesvilleseniors.org) to register for the Zoom programs below which 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

If you love Trivia, come join a team with Poolesville Seniors. Email [info@poolesvilleseniors.org](mailto:info@poolesvilleseniors.org) for more information. 7:00 p.m.

#### Wednesdays

**Chair Yoga** with Twyla Insalaco. 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (No class 5/19, 5/26, and 6/2)

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

#### Fridays

**Breath-Mind-Body** with Kathy Jankowski. 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.

#### April 26

##### Monthly Book Club

The book for April is *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. All are welcome to join this lively social and intellectual discussion. 7:00 p.m.

#### April 29

##### Monocacy Monocle Mystery History

Rande Davis will entertain us with a history of the many and varied

celebrations held in Poolesville more than a century ago. Hear what the Montgomery County Fair, Chautauqua, and two 150th Anniversaries have to do with Poolesville.

#### May 6

##### Denali National Park and Reserve

Tom Medema, cofounder of Rally for Rangers and associate director of education programs for the National Parks Service, will explore the unique history, resources, and management challenges of Alaska's renowned national park. 7:00 p.m.

#### May 13

##### The Joys of Raised Bed Gardening

Join Sarah Defnet as she introduces the many ways raised beds can transform your gardening experience. 7:00 p.m.

#### May 20

This month, Kenny Sholes will introduce the historical homes of the eastern Ag Reserve to help us better understand the people whose land we have inherited. 7:00 p.m.

For more information or to register for any of the programs listed here and to receive the Zoom link for each, visit the Poolesville Seniors website: [poolesvilleseniors.org](http://poolesvilleseniors.org). Many of these presentations are also streamed live on their Facebook page and recorded for later viewing on YouTube. Did you know that you don't need a computer to participate? You can join the Zoom presentation using your smartphone or just 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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Continued from page 3.

**Commissioners Take Initial Step in Dealing with Personnel Issues and Hiring Town Manager**

hire a reputable HR firm to help with reforming and upgrading the town’s personnel policies and systems.

Radigan offered a motion to require town staff to develop an RFP to find and hire an HR consulting firm.

In the discussion, it was not immediately evident that a clear idea of what the HR consultant would do had been developed. It was agreed that the town staff needed to have direction as to what to include in the RFP.

After a number of exchanges, Commissioner Ed Reed said he thought the RFP should be built around several concepts, including recruitment, compliance, and training, and should include a special focus on helping identify and vet possible candidates for town manager. He also said the firm should provide ongoing and accessible assistance and advice to the town and the town manager going forward.

The basic outline suggested by Reed was accepted by the commissioners on a unanimous vote. The town staff will present an RFP for the consideration of the commissioners at their next meeting.

**Fun Fact...**

**Sonnet 98**

From you have I been absent in the spring,  
 When proud-pied April, dressed in all his trim,  
 Hath put a spirit of youth in everything,  
 That heavy Saturn laughed and leaped with him.  
 Yet nor the lays of birds, nor the sweet smell  
 Of different flowers in odour and in hue,  
 Could make me any summer’s story tell,  
 Or from their proud lap pluck them where they grew:  
 Nor did I wonder at the lily’s white,  
 Nor praise the deep vermilion in the rose;  
 They were but sweet, but figures of delight  
 Drawn after you,—you pattern of all those.  
 Yet seem’d it winter still, and, you away,  
 As with your shadow I with these did play.

– William Shakespeare  
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# Grand Women Of the Monocacy WUMCO Women

## Part II

By Maria Briançon

In the early 1970s, WUMCO Help was still in its infancy. The seeds had been planted, but Jane (Bast) Stearns and Beulah (Clarke) Harper recognized early on that their venture would need widespread community support to get off the ground. They reached out to area churches and civic organizations for assistance. Overwhelmingly, the responders saw no need for a HELP organization; however, after witnessing the need firsthand, especially in the more isolated areas, Jane and Beulah would not accept a “No” answer.

The two ladies forged on. They needed space for the donations that people were tripping over in Beulah’s modest home. Providentially, in 1971, the Stearns were building a new home in Beallsville. Fred Stearns designed it specifically to accommodate Poolesville Help’s growing needs. Eventually, the food pantry filled the Stearnses’ two-car (and later, three-car) garage. The office was in their living room.



Grand woman of the Monocacy:  
Jane Stearns.

At the same time, Beulah continued to add new initiatives to her plate. With Fred’s assistance, Beulah co-founded a new WUMCO called Western Upper Montgomery Citizens’ Association. The new WUMCO—not to be confused with the food and ride assistance organization WUMCO Help—led the effort to establish a park for local area minority communities.

In 1975, after five years of meetings with the Maryland-National Capital

Park and Planning Commission and the county, the WUMCO citizens’ group secured a \$243,000, twenty-acre recreational complex in Beallsville. Owens Park was the site of the area senior center until it was closed as a result of the 2008 Recession.

Beulah also volunteered for ten years at the Women’s Interfaith Services, as a night manager and its president. This network of sixty-nine churches and synagogues across the county contributed donations to a Rockville clothing center for low-income individuals.

In 1972, Fred retired from his position as the Budget Officer for the U.S. Geological Survey and devoted more time to the two WUMCOs. Beulah’s worsening health made it difficult for her to keep up her frenetic work pace. Her doctor advised her to curtail the intensity of her activities; nonetheless, she continued to provide food, clothing, shelter, and even funds to others in need. When she passed away in 1976 at the age of 64, the last of the Harpers’ seven foster children was still living with the couple.

The Stearnses carried on with the mission started by Jane and Beulah. The couple stayed active in the area’s

Continued on page 14.



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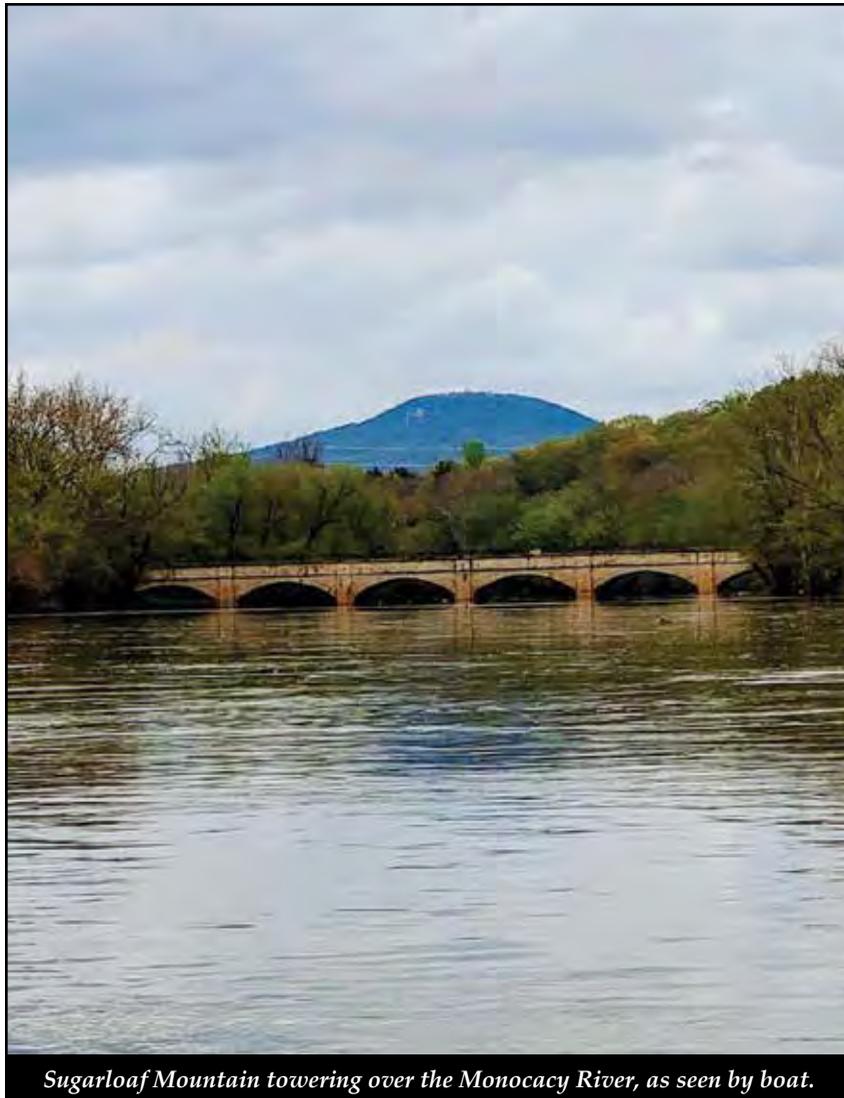


## In Your Own Backyard

### A Different View

By Jon Wolz

In recent years, I have organized and conducted Potomac River cleanups at the Monocacy Aqueduct area, and in 2019, I also included the White's Ferry area. In October 2019, I attended an awards ceremony for Jack Alleman who received an award for all of his years supporting Eagle Scouts in the White Oak District of Montgomery County. Jack was my scoutmaster when I was a Boy Scout in the late 1960s and early 1970s. At that event, hearing that I was involved with the river cleanups, he suggested that it would be a good annual project for the Boy Scouts. I agreed. Bill Totten, who is the chairperson of the White Oak District, thought Jack's suggestion was a great idea. With my help, Bill began planning for the river cleanup for spring 2020. The Boy Scouts and Scouts, who are girls now included in the Boy Scouts, were to take over running the cleanup sites for 2020; unfortunately, the cleanup for 2020 was postponed because of the pandemic. On four different days in February and March 2021, Bill and I went out to three different locations along the Potomac and Monocacy Rivers to look for trash. Our walks along the rivers included walking the riverbanks in the Monocacy Aqueduct area, the Dickerson Conservation Park area, and the White's Ferry area.



Sugarloaf Mountain towering over the Monocacy River, as seen by boat.

On one of those walks, Bill's wife Sharon came along, too. I introduced Bill to the White's Ferry Grille, and when he came anywhere near White's Ferry, he wanted to buy his lunch there.

In late February, both the Potomac and Monocacy flooded their riverbanks and left a lot of trash when the waters receded. Bill scheduled the cleanup for April 10 and 11. Both Boy Scouts, Scouts, and Cub Scouts from the White Oak, Potomac, and Seneca Districts participated in the 2021 cleanup.

Continued on page 15.



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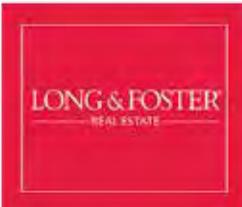
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## Youth Sports

### PHS Field Hockey Led The Return of PHS Athletics

By Jeff Stuart

At 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 19, on the last full day of winter, the first athletic event of the Poolesville fall sports calendar began. The Falcon field hockey team beat Northwest, 2-1, at Poolesville. It was the first such contest at PHS in over a year. The weather was clear and chilly but not much different from the evening temperatures in late fall. The specter of the pandemic was still in evidence. Fans were not allowed but could watch the game—as they can every Falcon 2021 sports event from the fields and gym—on [www.nfhsnetwork.com](http://www.nfhsnetwork.com) by subscription. The two teams had the spotlight to themselves as the rest of PHS sports were scheduled to begin on Monday, March 22.

"For our first game, we played well," said coach Katie Hackey. "I felt we controlled the ball well and maintained the ball on our side of the field a good portion of the game. With less time to prepare and get in shape, conditioning played a role; we were tired. Our defense was solid; Marta Brannman really stepped up as a flyer to break up corners on the defensive end. Senior Elizabeth Bean scored the first goal in the first half and sophomore Phoebe Snelson scored the deciding goal in the second half. Goalie Gina Miller had three saves. With about ten minutes to go in the game, Katherine Leonard scored for Northwest, assisted by Lily Irvin."

The field hockey team followed that up with a thrilling double overtime win, 2-1, at Damascus on Tuesday, March 23. About fifty-three seconds into the second overtime, Bean, on a breakaway, approached unobstructed from the left and lifted a shot over the Jaguar goalie's right shoulder for the win. Bean also scored the winning goal in a 2-1 regulation-time victory over Damascus in the fall of 2019.

"It was a very good game," said Hackey. "Phoebe Snelson had the goal during regulation on a corner—another great showing for our goalie Gina with six



The Falcon field hockey team in action.

saves. It was an excellent team win. Our defense was solid again, led by Senior Dora Kietzer with help by juniors Marta Brannman and Emily Bupp. Another well-played game by our senior midfielder Jess Mense; she always seems to be around the ball.

"We started slow, but really stepped up after the first quarter. The girls never gave up and kept pushing. I was very pleased with their effort."

"What a game by both teams," said PHS Principal Mark Carothers.

For the field hockey seniors, Hackey is their fourth coach, all highly qualified, in four years. There is a kind of consistency in that.

On Monday, February 22, the girls' soccer team was the second Falcon team to take the field at Poolesville stadium. They lost to a very strong Quince Orchard

Continued on page 11

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Continued from page 10.

**PHS Field Hockey Led the Return of PHS Athletics**

squad, 3-0. "We had a lot of rust due to being off for a year and a short preseason without the normal scrimmages to iron out positions," said coach Rod Nubgaard. "Our rosters are much smaller. After losing seven seniors, we essentially have a new team to build. We are focused on learning and building for the fall. We are a 2A school playing top 4A schools this spring. Goalie Marissa Edwards played great; she was my MVP. Defense was solid. My midfield was new, so they are playing together for the first time. Fitness level was okay but far from where I have them in a normal season and the fact that they normally have a workout routine from May to August they do on their own. I lost a starting senior to a high ankle sprain which will make things challenging. Only two weeks left and the season is over! Fast season. Then I will be coaching boys' volleyball later in the spring."

**Fun Facts...**

**Field Hockey**

Hockey is one of the oldest team sports in the world, dating back nearly three thousand years to the Greek classical era. Modern day hockey was first played in Scotland in the seventeen hundreds. Hockey was originally called "shinty."

Women's hockey was only included in the Olympics in 1980 with Zimbabwe winning the first ever Olympic Gold medal. At the London 2012 Olympics, hockey was the third most spectated sport.

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## Youth Sports

### Falcon Football Earns Big Win Over Clarksburg

By Jeff Stuart

On Senior Night, April 9, and in the only Poolesville home game of this mini spring season, the Falcon football team defeated Clarksburg High School for the first time ever, 30-20. It was a very satisfying win, fall or spring, fans or no fans.

Poolesville kicked off to begin the contest. On second and two at their own thirty-eight-yard line, Clarksburg quarterback Nick Bolling threw a pass to his right. Poolesville's Mason Bean deflected and eventually corralled the ball for an interception at the fifty-yard line. That led to a score.

With 6:07 left in the first period, senior quarterback Aaron Brown scored on a first and five draw play. In the second quarter with just 1:17 left, Logan Marsh scored on a straight ahead thirteen-yard run. Avi Godsey made both extra points, and it looked like Poolesville might just coast into half time with a 14-0 lead, but there was a lot more action in that final minute and a half.

Clarksburg's Drew Moore returned the ensuing kickoff eighty-eight yards—after initially muffing the catch. With 1:04 left, Poolesville's Desmond Brown matched Moore by returning the Coyote's kickoff eighty-six yards for a Falcon touchdown and a 20-6 lead at the half.

Three touchdowns in the last two minutes!

The pompon squad performed an inspiring routine at halftime.

Godsey kicked a field goal with 5:02 left in the third period, but before the Falcons could catch a breath, the Coyotes' Drew Moore again returned the kickoff eighty yards for a touchdown, making it 23-13 at 4:47 in the third.

After a PHS punt, Clarksburg took over at the forty-six-yard line, and Bolling completed a fifty-four-yard touchdown pass to Paul Vance: 23-20 Poolesville.

With 2:39 left in the third, Poolesville took over on the thirty-yard line after a fair catch following the kickoff. They drove for a first down at the forty-one. They



The Class of 2021 football team seniors.

had a second and five at their own forty-six as the fourth quarter started. They picked up three more first downs. They had a third and eight on the CHS twelve: incomplete pass. They went for it on the fourth down, but a completed pass came up short, and CHS took over on downs at their own six-yard line.

In what was probably the deciding play of the game, CHS fumbled on the next play. Aden Godsey recovered, giving the ball back to the Falcons. With 8:03 left, Evan Taylor scored on a five-yard run. Avi Godsey's kick was good, extending the lead to 30-20.

After the final kick off, CHS took over at midfield with 7:56 left and picked up a first down at the PHS forty, but on the second and six at the thirty-five, Bolling

Continued on page 14.



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Continued from page 4.

**Tidbits**

competition around, giving away over \$150,000.00 annually in cash and prizes. When you attend one of their events, you can expect a well-run competition and quality prizes. They pride themselves on professionalism, attention to detail, and the experience of each individual contestant that walks across the stage. Girls and women of all ages can compete to earn their state title and represent their state throughout the year.

**Annual Pinewood Derby Races Held**



*The Cub Scouts' annual Pinewood Derby was held outside at Whalen Commons.*

Cub Scouts from Pack 694, a few scouts from Troop 496 and Troop 2027, and some siblings made their own pinewood derby cars from wood blocks and raced them in the annual contest on April 18. It was a beautiful day at Whalen Commons and a fun event as the first pack event in a year. Individual dens have continued to meet. Pinewood Derby is typically an event for Cub Scouts, kids in grades kindergarten through fifth, and siblings; however, a few older kids raced today who had made cars for last year's race that didn't happen due to COVID. The winners were: Ava Shelburne (first), Jack Cogan (second) and Noah Desmond (third). Thank you to John Speelman at Poolesville Hardware and Matt Hoehler for the use of their homemade tracks and to Troop 496 for helping to run the event. Anyone who has questions about Cub Scouts can reach out to Laura Eckert at LauraEckert95@gmail.com.

**Shared Tears of Joy**

This story was submitted by Jeff Eck from his time as a volunteer helping with COVID vaccine administration:

I am a fire department EMT in Montgomery County. I am also a COVID vaccinator. I am sharing this experience with you so that you know that every person is unique and every person deserves individual attention.

A patient approached my vaccination table. She was, as most of my patients, both enthusiastic and apprehensive at the same time. I tried to allay her fears. I asked her the required questions. Each answer came with wide, fearful eyes.

I prepped her arm. I could see that she held her breath, and she contracted her muscles. After the inoculation, I held pressure with my gloved hand. It was unnecessary but routine.

I said, "All done." She started to cry, a whimper, then a cry. I thought she had pain. I asked her, "What's wrong?" She answered through her tears that she was happy to be free. Hearing that, I started to cry with her. I told her that her cry for joy made me cry, too. We both cried/laughed together.

I told her to go to the observation area for fifteen minutes. She left.

**Monocacy Lions Participate in Road Cleanup in Barnesville**

In observance of Earth Day, volunteers from the Monocacy Lions and the Town of Barnesville met at Hilton Funeral Home, and then collected over forty bags of trash from the roads running in and out of the Barnesville metropolitan area.



*Volunteers wore reflective vests so they wouldn't be struck by cars while performing good deeds.*

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Continued from page 8.

### WUMCO Women, Part II

predominantly Black churches. Fred volunteered as the accountant of the (now) West Montgomery United Methodist Church near their home. Jane served as their recording secretary and mowed their lawn. In 1982, the Stearnses received a citation for outstanding leadership by Community Ministry of Montgomery County.

WUMCO Help was formally incorporated as a 501(c)3 organization in 1985. The new nonprofit status allowed the Stearnses to apply for grants. In 2000, they were able to hire their first staff person aided by a grant from the United Way. The organization continued to grow and blossom as community organizations and churches lent support. Thanksgiving Day baskets and a Christmas Toy Drive were added to their list of services.

After Fred passed away in 2006, Jane soldiered on as WUMCO Help's driving force. By 2008, fifty volunteers helped weekly. In 2014, more than 14,000 pounds of food were donated (by 2020, that amount had grown to 35,000 pounds).

WUMCO Help finally left Jane's home in 2015 when she was 88. The organization's headquarters moved to the Family Life Center across from Poolesville High School. WUMCO Help held a "Salute to Jane" to honor her decades of service.

Jane—individually and with Fred—received several awards for service to others, particularly the Black community. In 1989, former Gov. William Donald Schaefer honored Jane and Fred as two of "Maryland's Most Beautiful." In 2008, Jane was inducted into the Montgomery County Human Rights Hall of Fame. Jane served as the Poolesville Day Parade Grand Marshal in 2010.

Beulah, too, in her leadership roles, was recognized for her exemplary volunteerism. In 1972, former County Executive James Gleason recognized her distinguished Interfaith Women's Service contributions. Former Maryland Congressman Gilbert Gude honored Beulah at a County Chamber of Commerce meeting in 1973. That same year, the County Chamber saluted her work for the 1960s Community Action Committee Food Stamp Advisory Committee.

During the extended time the Stearnses ran WUMCO Help, they chose to forego compensation and reimbursement for any of their associated expenses. Before passing away in 2019, Jane expressed how she viewed her life's work, "I was put here to do this, and that's what I have done."

In her final hours, Beulah expressed concern for the people she was helping. She was worried they wouldn't be able to reach her and requested that they all be contacted and told why she was unable to answer them personally.

Jane and Beulah were two strong-willed individuals who never let anything—not race, not economic circumstance, and not even their own illness nor the frailty of aging—stop them from their mission. They, along with Fred, touched many lives through their selfless love for others. They deserve to be remembered by the communities that they served for so long.

Continued from page 12.

### Falcon Football Earns Big Win Over Clarksburg

fumbled and PHS took over at their own forty-five with 7:09 left in the game. PHS punted from the CHS forty. The Coyotes took over on their own fifteen with 4:50 left. They never quit. Bolling directed an eighty-five-yard drive, hitting Mohamed Modi with an eight-yard touchdown pass with thirty-four seconds left.

"My seniors," said coach Anthony Nazzaro, "are Aaron Brown, Desmond Brown, Aden Godsey, Max Knight, Trevor Riggs, Justin Sheehi, Carl Stahlberg, Vladimir Velasquez, and Junior Ventura.

"It is great being back out on the field again. Even though it is a short season, I am so happy that the seniors can put on the uniform one last time and represent PHS. In addition to the seniors, we have a lot of young talented players that got their first taste of varsity football...I am looking forward to working with and growing with this team."

Poolesville opened the 2021 season with a 30-0 defeat at traditional power Seneca Valley in a game played on the newly-installed synthetic turf field at the renovated SVHS.



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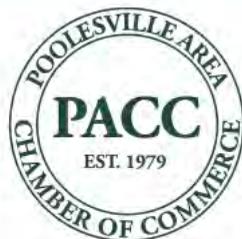
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Continued from page 9.

**A Different View**

On the morning of April 10, I met Bill at White's Ferry and grabbed cleanup supplies and headed to the Monocacy Aqueduct. I intended on picking up trash along the riverbanks in the area of the mouth of the Monocacy River. Jon Mullen asked if he could help me. Jon met me at the aqueduct, and we ventured towards the aqueduct and then down to the riverbank. By the end of the day, we had gathered sixteen bags of trash that included pieces of Styrofoam; soft drink, water, and Gatorade bottles; as well as a variety of soft drink and beer cans. By late Saturday afternoon, Steve Horvath offered to help us move bags from as far away as the mouth of the Little Monocacy River up to the dump truck the National Park Service had left by the parking lot.

At the mouth of the Little Monocacy River, looking on the other side, we could see a voluminous amount of trash. That trash would be collected on Sunday afternoon by volunteers. By the end of Saturday afternoon, the dump truck at White's Ferry was completely full of bags. There were several five-gallon buckets, a rusty full propane tank, four fifty-five-gallon plastic barrels, and several tires. One of the fifty-five-gallon barrels was about a quarter full of diesel fuel. The White's Ferry volunteers collected sixty-six bags of trash. At the Monocacy Aqueduct, there were forty-six bags collected, three fifty-five-gallon plastic barrels, and one fifty-five-gallon rusty metal barrel.

At the Dickerson Conservation Park, participants walked up the Potomac and collected fourteen bags of trash. Over the two-day event, there were eighty-four volunteers, including forty Boy Scouts, Scouts, and Cub Scouts. A total of 126 bags of trash was collected at the three locations. All of the volunteers marveled over the beautiful Virginia bluebells covering the forest floor where they picked up trash. Three motorcyclists walked up to Sharon who was signing in volunteers at White's Ferry. They asked her if she had a petition to reopen White's Ferry because they wanted to sign it.

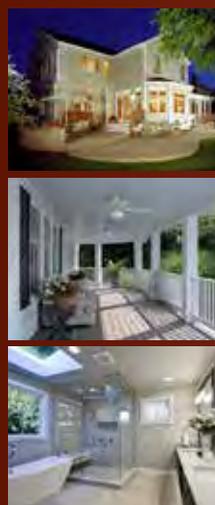
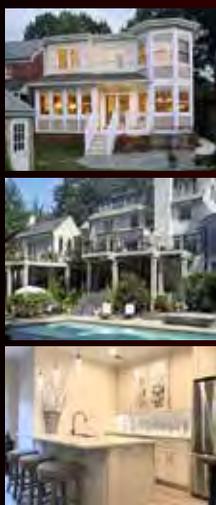
On Monday morning, I sent Rusty Smith a photo of the dump truck full of trash at White's Ferry. He replied that he had seen a lot of work being done on Saturday, and the "BSA should be proud." Rusty phoned me and mentioned

there was a cliff on the Virginia side across from the power plant where dumping of rubbish was occurring. He offered to take me on his boat up the Potomac River to see the dump site. I met Rusty at White's Ferry later that morning, and we both boarded his jon boat. The water was high and brown with tree debris floating by us as we went upriver. We went up the west side of Mason Island and on the east side on the way back down the river. Also floating downriver were plastic drink bottles. All of the bottles had their caps on. I wondered where the bottles would eventually end up. The Chesapeake Bay? The Atlantic Ocean? Soon Rusty pointed out the "Potomac Pyramid" on the Maryland side. The pyramid is the giant ash mound Montgomery County is building for the trash that was burned at the incinerator. As we passed the red cliffs on the Virginia side, where there is a beautiful red stone home, we came to the area of the cliff where the rubbish appeared strewn from the top down to the river. At the bottom, the trash appeared to be old, including large metal objects. Up high near the top of the cliff, the debris appeared to be smaller in size.

Going farther upriver, Rusty pointed out the Monocacy Aqueduct. Behind the aqueduct was a view I had never seen before. Sugarloaf Mountain rose high above the aqueduct! That mountain certainly gets around! We went through one of the arches of the aqueduct and continued up to the railroad bridge. The stones for the bridge abutments came from the same quarry as the stones for the aqueduct that is located behind Rock Hall. Coming back downriver, I could see where there had once been trash along the riverbanks as Bill and I had seen on our walks, now all of the trash was gone. The blue bells and spring beauties covered the forest floors along the riverbanks. We saw different varieties of birds on the water, including mallards, great blue herons, two merganser ducks, bald eagles, and cormorants. As we boated down the east side of Mason Island, we stopped and picked up two fifty-five-gallon plastic barrels that we later left by the dump truck at White's Ferry.

Rusty took us up the water split that divides upper and lower Mason Island. The blue bells on both islands are a sight to behold. I am incredibly grateful to Rusty for taking me for a boat ride. I am extremely grateful to all of the volunteers for making our part of the world a better place to live.

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# Monocacy Health Update

## COVID-19 Update as Of April 20, 2021

By Sam Hardwick

Wear masks or two masks (optional); keep social distance of six feet; wash hands often; and avoid group gatherings as much as possible.

COVID-19 test now available at CVS and doctors' offices.

Poolesville Family Practice (301-972-7600) also has the rapid fifteen-minute test available.

**Vaccine appointments may be registered at [montgomerycountymd.gov](http://montgomerycountymd.gov).**

**Montgomery County**  
(source: [Coronavirus.maryland.gov](http://Coronavirus.maryland.gov))

**Total of all cases reported positive:**  
68,662

**Total deaths:** 1,451

**Cases of reported positive tests for COVID-19 by zip code:**

	Cases	Deaths
20837 – Poolesville	264	4
20838 – Barnesville	<15	0
20839 – Beallsville	53	3
20841 – Boyds	395	7
20842 – Dickerson	81	2

**County Deaths by Age**

- Under 20 – 0
- 20-29 – 1
- 30-39 – 16
- 40-49 – 30
- 50-59 – 80
- 60-69 – 141
- 70-79 – 173
- Over 80 – 377

**Doses Administered in Montgomery County**

First Vaccine Dose – 485,550 (46.2%)  
Fully Vaccinated – 300,314 (28.6%)

**Vaccine Eligibility Timeline for All Marylanders 16 and Older**

Following an order by Governor Hogan, Maryland is currently in Phase 3 of its distribution plan. According to the Maryland Department of Health, all Marylanders age sixteen and over are eligible to receive the vaccine.

Pre-registration ensures you will be notified when you or your loved ones are able to make an appointment if you are eligible to receive a vaccine. To determine if you qualify for a vaccine, visit [montgomerycountymd.gov](http://montgomerycountymd.gov).

There are several different websites that provide information on recent vaccine appointment availability across the state. You may find the following websites helpful in your search for a vaccine appointment:

[www.findashot.org/appointments/us/MD](http://www.findashot.org/appointments/us/MD)

[www.vaccinespotter.org/MD/mdvax.info/](http://www.vaccinespotter.org/MD/mdvax.info/)

**NOTE: Vaccine supply is dependent on the federal government's allocation to Maryland and is subject to change.**

**Phase 1A:** All licensed, registered, and certified healthcare providers; nursing home residents and staff; law enforcement, and firefighters, EMS, and other first responders; correctional healthcare staff and officers; and front line judiciary staff.

**Phase 1B:** Marylanders age 75 and older; in assisted living, independent living, and other congregate facilities; individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities; high-risk incarcerated individuals; continuity of government vaccinations; and education, including K-12 teachers, support staff, and childcare providers.

**Phase 1C:** Marylanders age 65 and older; public health and safety workers not covered in Phase 1A; and essential workers in lab services, food/agriculture production, manufacturing, the U.S. Postal Service, public transit, and grocery stores.

**Phase 2A:** All Marylanders age 60 and older.

**Phase 2B:** Marylanders age 16 and older with underlying medical conditions that increase the risk for severe COVID-19 illness.

**Phase 2C:** All Marylanders age 55 and older, as well as essential workers in critical industries, including construction workers, food services, utilities, transportation, financial services, IT, and other infrastructure.

**Phase 3:** General population, including healthy adults age 16 and older.

## COMMISSIONERS OF POOLESVILLE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on May 3, 2021 at 7:00 PM via Youtube.com., search: Poolesville, Commissioners Meeting. You will only be able to see the meeting once it starts. This public hearing is for the purpose of the Commissioners of Poolesville receiving public comments on Proposed Ordinance 218 - FY22 Budget. Pursuant to Section 82.13 of the Charter of the Town of Poolesville the Commissioners shall adopt an annual budget that provides a complete financial plan for the budget year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. The proposed budget includes a tax rate equal to the Constant Tax Rate. The real property tax rate shall be \$.1781 per \$100.00 of the assessed real property value. The Town of Poolesville is closed to the public due to COVID-19. Public comment can be presented. You will need to call Town Hall by noon on May 3 to obtain access for the meeting. You will have to have access to Zoom Conferencing to join the meeting. Written comments are also accepted and would need to be received by 4:00 PM on Friday, April 30. Copies of the proposed ordinance can be found at [www.poolesvillemd.gov](http://www.poolesvillemd.gov)

## A Monocacy Moment



Poolesville town commissioner Jeff Eck bumped elbows with Governor Hogan at the Montgomery College Germantown Campus Mass Vaccination Site. Jeff was a COVID vaccinator through Montgomery County Fire Rescue Services (MCFRS) and Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services System (MIEMSS).

## Fun Facts...

### It Must Be Spring

Hush, can you hear it?	Telling you the sticky buds
The rustling in the grass,	Are bursting on the trees.
Bringing you the welcome news that	Look, can you see them?
Winter's day is past.	The primrose in the lane.
Soft, can you feel it?	Now you must believe it—
The warm caressing breeze,	Spring is here again.

– May Fenn  
[www.familyfriendpoems.com](http://www.familyfriendpoems.com)

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](mailto:editor@monocacymonocle.com)

## Remembrance

### George D. Dimopoulos

George D. Dimopoulos, 94, of Silver Spring, passed away on March 28, 2021.

He was the loving husband to the late Angie Dimopoulos.

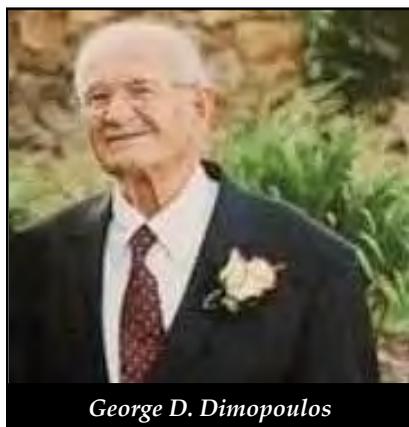
Born on July 23, 1926 in Sparta, Greece, he was the son of the late Demetrios George and Diamando (Tournas) Dimopoulos.

George is survived by his daughter, Anastasia Hill (Joe); son, James G.

Dimopoulos (Melanie); two brothers, John and Nick; three sisters, Koula, Maria, and Rebecca; three grandchildren, Angela, Christopher, and Andrew; and six great-grandchildren, Gracie, Cora, Lucas, Chloe, Amelia, and Theodore.

Along with his parents and wife, he was predeceased by three adult siblings, Christos, Stavroula, and Panayiotis; and three infant siblings, Vasilis, John, and Vasilis.

The family will be holding a private service at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church of Washington, D.C. with his final resting place at Parklawn Memorial Park. A public celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date.



George D. Dimopoulos



## Monocacy Critters

### Serendipitous Pet and Animal Pictures



Kaia, a livestock guardian dog, watching over her herd of goats.

Do you have an unusual or funny picture of a pet or animal? Mail or email the picture to [editor@monocacymonocle.com](mailto:editor@monocacymonocle.com) or P.O. Box 372, Barnesville, MD 20838

Do you have an interesting story to share? Send it along to [editor@monocacymonocle.com](mailto:editor@monocacymonocle.com)

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## Celebrating 32 Years of Service

### Dogs (and Cats) Eating Cicadas: Tasty Treat or Trouble?

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

*Cicadas don't bite or sting, so no problem, right?* **Wrong.** If you have a dog or cat who likes to munch on whatever can be found on the ground, you need to prepare to stop them from devouring this plentiful treat.

In most cases, your dog or cat will be fine after eating a few cicadas; however, dogs and cats that gorge on the large, crunchy insects will find the exoskeleton difficult to digest and can suffer serious consequences.

Some of the aftereffects can include severe stomach upset and abdominal pain, vomiting, and diarrhea (sometimes bloody). Some dogs and cats may require intravenous fluids, pain medications, gastro-protectants, or anti-nausea drugs.

#### Key Points

- After a 17-year hibernation, trillions of cicadas are due to emerge in parts of the U.S.
- Cicada exoskeletons are difficult to digest and can cause dogs to suffer serious consequences if eaten.
- Some time this spring, when the soil temperature reaches 64 degrees F., your dog may suddenly start digging up the yard. He can hear something you can't yet hear—juvenile cicadas tunneling through the ground getting ready to emerge.
- Most of the more than 3,000 types of cicadas appear every two to five years, and their cycles can vary, but the periodical cicadas spend exactly 13 or 17 years underground, and when they appear, trillions surface, blanketing the ground, cars, trees, and houses. According to entomologists, densities can be as great as 1.5 million cicadas per acre.
- This time, the big brood is coming. After a 17-year hibernation, trillions of cicadas are due to emerge in Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

#### Some side effects to look for if your dog or cat just can't get enough of this crunchy treat.

- Experience mild to serious GI upset.
- Choke on the stiff wings or hard exoskeleton.
- In rare cases suffer allergic reactions.
- Consume unhealthy amounts of pesticides.

The cicada cycle will last about six weeks, so those emerging in mid-May should be gone by late June, depending on the weather. Then the babies or nymphs will dig into the ground to suck tree roots for another 17 years. The exoskeleton can be found on the ground and in trees for longer, so be careful.

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