

# The Monocacy

# MONOCLE

*Keeping an Eye on Local News*

A Biweekly Newspaper

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*Val Dickerson was named Grand Marshal for Poolesville Day 2021. Check out her list of volunteer contributions on page 3.*



*The final installment of the saga of Lock 25 of the C&O Canal is on page 10.*



*Kamron Azizi, PHS's new soccer coach. Details on page 11.*



*Before the Montgomery County Ag Fair, there was the PHS Community and Livestock Show. See pictures on page 13.*

## Commissioners Announce New Town Manager

By Link Hoewing

On August 16, the commissioners of the Town of Poolesville announced the hiring of Alfred "Tony" Tomasello to be the new town manager beginning on August 30. Tomasello's selection was unanimous.

Commissioner Martin Radigan said that the commissioners had "worked together as a team, and it is a really big deal" that the manager is now preparing to take office. Several commissioners noted the important work done by the citizens' committee that had taken the large number of applications—almost thirty in total—and winnowed them down to a handful to be reviewed in depth by the commissioners.

Tomasello had previously served as manager of the City of Gaithersburg. He worked his way up the ranks from Economic Development Director, to Assistant Town Manager in 2001, and later Deputy City Manager. He took over as Town Manager in 2012. Under Tomasello, Gaithersburg implemented a storm water management program to

meet with strict federal water mandates. He also focused on developing and implementing green building codes and environmental initiatives.

During the meeting, the commissioners also heard from Dr. Amir Duggirala and Faith Etheridge, chair of the Poolesville Day Committee. They were asked to offer comments and ideas to make Poolesville Day as safe as possible in light of recent spikes in COVID infections and the county's new mask mandates.

Dr. Duggirala said that he does "think there is a way to do Poolesville Day safely." He pointed out that the spread of the disease in outdoor environments where people are spaced apart is "rare." In places where people would be close together, he suggested that signage be posted widely, emphasizing the importance of masking and social distancing. Vendors might be asked to wear masks. He pointed to children's rides and activities as areas where it is hard to maintain social distancing and added that "bouncy rides" are potentially dangerous for this reason.



*Tony Tomasello named as Poolesville's new town manager.*

He also said it might be wise to "cordon off" the children's areas to keep crowds down. He did not think the parade would be particularly problematic.

He went on to say that he had been contacted about possibly opening his vaccine clinic on Poolesville Day to administer shots and was willing to do so if needed.

Continued on page 5.

## The Legendary Ralph Ruble: An Amazing Story about A Most Remarkable Pitcher

By Rande Davis

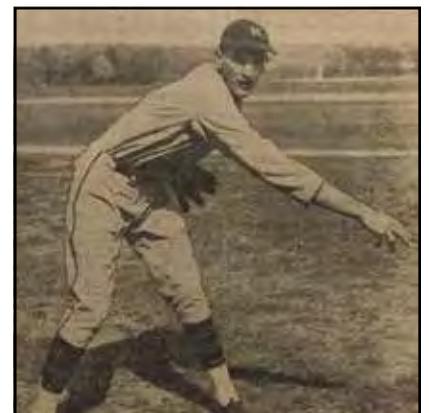
Shohei "Shotime" Ohtani of the Los Angeles Angels is the rare pitcher/batter in baseball. Not since Babe Ruth has a major pitcher been so successful in both his pitching and hitting. In 2017, he signed with the Los Angeles Angels both as a pitcher and designated hitter. Although he preferred the Dodgers, they would not sign him in as a pitcher and position player as well.

Poolesville High School 1931 graduate, Ralph Ruble, not only was a successful pitcher for the University of Maryland, but he also had a .367 batting average, thirty-three points higher than the next leading batter on that team. Amazingly, it was not this impressive record as a pitcher and hitter that distinguished him the most, though. The most remarkable thing about Ruble is that he led the team in

hitting and pitching with only one good arm. From birth, his left arm had been non-functional from above the wrist.

Although rare, one-armed athletes have performed successfully in various sports over the years. Jim Abbott, also a player for the Angels, was also born with one arm, yet in 1989, he placed fifth in the voting for Rookie of the Year award. In 1991, despite his team ending up in last place, he had a winning record, 18-11.

I played on Binghamton's Chenango Valley Central School's football team in high school. We had a one-armed kicker on the team who actually kicked field goals with a boot given to him by the New York Giants kicker, Don Chandler, at the time. Every time he went on the field, the game stood still.



*Poolesville graduate Ralph Ruble, a most remarkable ballplayer.*

We were in awe with pride at his accomplishments.

Continued on page 11.

### Family Album

*Hope Garden Ballet Impromptu Performance at Whalen Commons*



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## Tidbits

### Valaree Dickerson Named Grand Marshal of Poolesville Day 2021

Val Dickerson has lived in the area for over forty-two years and has a most remarkable list of service to the community. She has been:

- Town Commissioner—eight years (Vice President of the Commission)
- Events Committee Liaison
- Contributed to the initiation of Sustainable Poolesville
- Served on PTA Board and as PTA President
- Chair of Post Prom Committee
- Volunteer for PAA cheerleading
- Leader and volunteer of WUMCO Toy Drive
- Original organizer of the Poolesville Military Support Group (Annual Picnic for Wounded Warriors)
- Founder of Together (Now Families Anonymous)—support group for families of addicts
- Original board member of Poolesville Seniors
- Board member of Helping Hands

### His Attic Is Not Like Your Attic

Greg Shores has been on a mission to downsize and remove unwanted items from his home. We all seem to have the crowded basement, attic, or garage to deal with, so clearing things out can be

a challenge. In Greg's case, his "lost treasures" really are lost treasures of history.

Greg has been a metal detectorist for years, and he is one of our area's leading authorities on Poolesville in the Civil War. With a collection of many artifacts discovered locally and a slew of Civil War history books, he had a dilemma. What to do with all those bullets he dug up from land in our area? His dilemma became Historic Medley District's gift.

Greg will be donating them to Poolesville's Old Townhall Bank Museum, and soon you too can own a bit of local Civil War history as HMD is planning to sell them in baggies on Poolesville Day.

Be sure to visit the John Poole House and the Town Hall Bank Museum to get your very own piece of history.

### Heritage Montgomery Cancels Planned Fall Event

Given the current uncertainties associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, Heritage Montgomery has reluctantly decided to cancel this year's event, planned for October 16 and 17, and focus their energies (and hopes) on an expanded Heritage Days event in June and Heritage Harvest in October 2022.

Many of Heritage Montgomery's partners continue to offer limited in-person visitor experiences as well as virtual programs. Please visit [HeritageMontgomery.org](http://HeritageMontgomery.org) to learn more.



Greg Shores (pictured holding one of his many historical treasures) has donated Civil War bullets found in the area to Historic Medley District, Inc. to assist them in reaching their financial goals.

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## Rande(m) Thoughts

### Normalcy Is Such A Lovely Word

By Rande Davis

That normalcy seems more elusive and rare now makes it ironically anything but normal. Has normal really left us with only the new normal remaining? In life, we often reach for things thrilling, exciting, and dramatic to add spice to life. Now, more than ever, we thirst for something, anything more mundane, something seemingly more desirable, something more—dare I say it?—normal.

Even in our quiet, slow-paced little town, this past year, we have all been tested. Can it be that the end of summer 2021 ushers in a placid sense of normal? As for sailors lost at sea, is that small dot on the horizon an island of hope? As I glimpse at our frontpage articles, I see a glimmer of that hope that might just be a mirage that becomes real.

Let's count the ways:

#### Town Manager

The unfortunate experience surrounding our previous town manager appears officially over. Former Gaithersburg town manager Tony Tomasello has decided he wants one more swing at bat. As I am seventy-three years old and still holding down two jobs, I have empathy for his decision to put retirement behind him just fifteen months after giving it a try. Sometimes, while running in full stride, the idea of stopping seems wasteful, and when we do, as we catch our breath, it feels like getting a bit more in might just be perfect.

I applaud the town commissioners in their recent decision. If the decision goes sour, they can always point to this column and say I was with them. Way to go.

It's been stated that anyone's resume can look good; on paper all can be well. How can we ever be sure? You can't be, of course, but there are signs of hope in our desire for a successful town manager that surround him.

The signs start with his lifelong residence in the county. His degrees from both Montgomery College and the University of Maryland mark him as a homeboy. Longevity of service is strong when you know his last post lasted twenty-four years. Surely disruptive anomalies would show up in that length of time, and if they had, then promotions would not have resulted. Yet he kept getting it right and continuously being promoted.

He went from director of economic development to assistant city manager to deputy city manager to city manager for eight years. His most noted accomplishments were in areas of our greatest need: budget analysis and management, economic growth and development, stormwater management, and green initiatives. As the mayor of Gaithersburg said upon Tomasello's departure from the position of town manager, "He is leaving behind a wonderful legacy. We are grateful for his service, and we'll miss him." I think we can safely say that our hoped-for normalcy in the management of the town has arrived. Congratulations to him and all our commissioners.

#### Pandemic

Our dark experience through the pandemic is surely fading. What about variants? you ask. Of course, but the fact is there are always variants of viruses, and even now, with cases rising, the level of severity and death are not so fearsome. The debate on vaccinations and masks will continue, but if lowered expectation for hospitalization and death are not signs of hope, I don't know what is.

#### In-Person Education

The dreaded result of isolation from all this Zooming is quickly diminishing. In-person education returns to Poolesville sixteen months after, as we reported, it did in the Netherlands and twelve months after many other school systems around the country, but at least, it is finally here. If the potential for kids misbehaving in a classroom like days of old is not a sign of hope, again, I say, What is?

#### Return of Poolesville Day

Yep, in just a few weeks, the parade will begin, the music will play, the food will be consumed, and the pure enjoyment of community revelry will return—not the same as in the past though. There will be masks and more distancing, but at least when the smiles and waves from Grand Marshal Val Dickerson are given (a most deserving honor recognizing her many contributions over a long period of time), her honor will be another sign of hope. Yes, I say it again: If that's not hopeful, I don't know what is.

#### White's Ferry

The closing of White's Ferry has been a big blow to our town economically, culturally, historically, and in many individual ways, personally. Now from what seems to come from out of nowhere, our story will be told in a documentary, and our loss will be

Continued on page 12.

## Local News

### A Note from the Executive Director Of WUMCO

I want to briefly update you on the work that WUMCO has been doing in our community over the last several months. Our work is made possible by your support, so first and always: Thank you!

WUMCO has adjusted to the changing needs of our clients as we continue to navigate the impacts of the pandemic. We expect to see evictions and utility cutoffs increase in the coming months. As government aid programs shift, we are in a good position to be of help to those in need in our community, thanks to your support.

In just the last few weeks alone, we have helped a local resident who was under threat of eviction. We have come alongside multiple families who have had a family member die from COVID-19. WUMCO has provided food and financial assistance as they have navigated not only the grief of a loved one's death but also the challenge of losing the primary earner in their families. Your support has made it possible for us to assist these families in a time of deep need.

WUMCO has also assisted single parents who are navigating reduced options for affordable childcare and the need to provide for their families. One single parent wanted to enroll in a job training program. To enroll in the program, she needed to establish that she had reliable childcare, but to be approved for a childcare voucher, she needed to be enrolled in a job training program. We were able to step into this terrible bind and assist with paying for childcare for two weeks which got her through to when she could receive the assistance voucher.

These are just a few examples of the work that you make possible at WUMCO. We have filled food orders and distributed fresh produce from local farms and gardens. We have paid for prescriptions, doctors' visits, and car repairs so clients can get to work and make rent and utility payments. Your support allows us to assist those in need. Thank you!

Now for something fun: WUMCO at Poolesville Day on Saturday, September 18! We would love to have our members help us share WUMCO's good work with others. If you would like to march in the parade with us or hang out at the WUMCO booth, please sign up at: [www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4ca4ad2da6ff2-wumco2](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4ca4ad2da6ff2-wumco2).

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**Commissioners Announce  
New Town Manager**

Faith Etheridge detailed the many initiatives the Poolesville Day Committee has planned to help make the event as safe as possible. PPE and hand sanitizer would be widely available and signage promoting masks and social distancing would also be prominently posted. The committee planned to contact all vendors and recommend they wear masks at the event. The committee had also been working on a vaccine clinic for the day and supports the initiative. The committee had already decided not to have bounce rides of any kind and will only have outdoor rides that operate in open air.

Etheridge added that town staff have played a critical role in helping support Poolesville Day in the past. They have the trucks—and in some cases the expertise (such as with the electrical systems that power the vendors on the Commons)—to help deal with problems of all kinds that inevitably pop up. They also erect barriers to traffic all day and are there to monitor activity. She had been told that many of the staff who had worked in the past had expressed reservations about doing so this year in light of COVID. With all of the many activities and issues the committee has to deal with, if they do not get help from town staff, “we will need to cancel.”

Commissioner Jim Brown said he “can’t blame our guys about making personal decisions” regarding working at the event. He suggested that maybe paying a bonus to town staff be considered. He said this should not be a precedent, but something done in light of the current situation.

Commissioner Ed Reed suggested that perhaps a list of the duties performed by town staff could be developed, so volunteers could be trained to take them over. After further discussion, it seems that these ideas will be developed and a plan to implement them will be undertaken.

Consultant Wade Yost then presented the FY 2021 Close Out presentation. At the end of every fiscal year, the town must take a final accounting of all revenues and expenditures and ensure that the books are accurate and that everything is accounted for properly. The commissioners must then vote to approve the close out report. The town also undergoes an audit to ensure all financial items are accounted for correctly and accurately.

Yost said the General Fund, which includes general operations, all capital projects, debt service, and a grant to the Water and Wastewater Fund, stood at just over \$4.2 million. The Water and Wastewater Fund, which funds operations at the sewer plant and in the water systems alone, expended just over \$1.5 million.

As a rule, municipalities try to ensure their wastewater and water systems are completely supported by the fees citizens pay for service; however, it can often be tricky to ensure that this happens due to the ups and downs of usage levels (which generate the fees), the costs of electricity and chemicals to run the systems, and other factors. As a result, a “grant” is made from general funds (which are largely supported by income and property taxes), to ensure the Water and Wastewater Fund is made whole. This year, the grant totaled \$31,880 which is low by historical standards.

After netting out all expenses, the FY2021 Budget closed out with a positive balance of \$585,442. This is high, looking back at previous fiscal years. Yost explained that a number of factors contributed to this result including the fact that most people were staying home last year (generating more fees for the water and sewer use), higher income tax receipts (indicating that many Poolesville residents did well during the pandemic last year), and lower staff salary payments (due to less overtime pay for things like snow

Continued on page 17.





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## Senior News

### Poolesville Seniors Present Virtual and In-Person Programs

In keeping with their motto, Stay Active, Poolesville Seniors is providing virtual and in-person programs that focus on keeping minds sharp, fostering regular exercise, and encouraging social interaction. Visit their website at [poolesvilleseniors.org](http://poolesvilleseniors.org) or call 301-875-7701 to register for the programs below which are open to the entire community. These programs are open to all ages.

To protect the health and safety of a more vulnerable population during the quickly-evolving current conditions, attendees at all indoor and non-socially-distanced events need to be masked, and it is requested that everyone eligible be fully vaccinated.

#### Mondays

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

#### Wednesdays

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

#### Trivia Game Night

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

#### Thursdays

##### Mahjong—In person

This popular game returns in person every Thursday under the guidance of Joyce Kral. Beginners and seasoned players are welcomed. Speer Hall. 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. See in-person protocols above.

**Fridays—NO CLASS AUGUST 13 and 20**

**Breath-Mind-Body** with Kathy Jankowski. 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. Please register for each Friday class. Virtual.

#### August 23

##### PS Book Club

Join Poolesville Seniors to discuss *The Dry*, Jane Harper's debut novel. This chilling story will keep you on edge as past secrets and present tragedy unfold during the worst drought in a century. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

#### August 26—In person

##### All about Arthropods!—Hard Bodies for Success

Entomologist David Adamski will

survey the most successful animals on the planet. The Arthropoda have been swimming, crawling, and flying for millions of years, many before humans. Register for this family-friendly event open to all ages. and join in to see some strange and fascinating specimens up close. Speer Hall. 7:00 p.m. See in-person protocols above.

#### September 2

##### Ride the Long Island Line

Take a virtual ride with Master Railroader, Brian Sheron, as he takes you through his 300 sq. ft. HO re-creation of the busiest commuter railroad in America, the Long Island Railroad. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

#### September 9

##### Backyard Black Gold—Soil and Composting

Kathy Vazquez, Commercial and Food Scraps Recycling Program Manager for Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection, will discuss how to make your own "black gold" by composting. Learn how compost happens, what materials are compostable, and common troubleshooting techniques. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

#### September 16

##### Historic Properties with Kenny Sholes

In his monthly series, Kenny will continue his exploration of the historic homes of the Agricultural Reserve, giving us a better understanding of the people who came before us and the land they cherished. Virtual.

#### September 23

##### Big Woods Community History

Join Keith LaMar Wilkins, Sr. as he traces the history of families from the Big Woods area of Dickerson. A graduate of West Virginia Wesleyan College, Keith spent his school years as a young child with his grandparents in Dickerson so that he could attend school in Poolesville. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

#### September 27

##### PS Book Club

Join us as we delve into *Nine Perfect Strangers* by best-selling author Liane Moriarty. This psychological thriller is the story of nine people who gather at a remote health resort. Their ten days of pampering turns into more than they could imagine. Should they stay or should they run for their lives? 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

#### September 30

##### Edible Garden Girl

Poolesville photographer Hilary Schwab

Continued on page 7.

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#### Senior News

will delight the eye and the palate with her fresh-from-the-garden eggplant recipe cooking demonstration live on Zoom. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

#### October 2—In person

##### Glenstone Museum

Enjoy a self-guided visit to the world-class Glenstone Museum in nearby Potomac. With 59,000 sq. ft. of gallery space on three hundred natively-landscaped acres, Glenstone is the largest private contemporary art gallery in the U.S. Free admission. Dress comfortably and be prepared to walk. 10:00 a.m.

Unless otherwise specified, all in-person events are held at Speer Hall, 17800 Elgin Road. 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](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.

Continued from page 4.

#### A Note from the Executive Director of WUMCO

Thank you again for your support of WUMCO. We are honored to serve those in need in our community, and you make that possible.

—Katie Longbrake

## Fun Fact...

Every year, August lashes out in volcanic fury, rising with the din of morning traffic, its great metallic wings smashing against the ground, heating the air with ever-increasing intensity.

—Henry Rollins

Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? Thou art more lovely and more temperate.

—William Shakespeare

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plums*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Squash-Bonita	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Honey Crisp Apples	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beets-Golden
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nectarines*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onions-Purple	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ginger Gold Apples	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basil Plants
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onions-Sweet	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Squash-Eight Ball	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cantaloupe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hot & Sweet peppers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Garlic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Squash-Patty Pan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eggplant	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zucchini
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Green Beans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Squash-Yellow	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cucumbers: Slicing and Pickling	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tomatoes: Regular, Green, Yellow, Roma/plum and Cherokee Purple			

\* LAST CALL FOR SEASON

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## Things to Do

### August 20

**PACC Event Windridge Vineyards**  
 Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce members invited to Windridge Vineyards for a Happy Hour and Networking Event. Registration is required, and each member/organization will receive one free ticket for a glass of wine (pick up your ticket at the PACC check-in table). Light snacks will be provided. Welcome Windridge Vineyards as one of PACC's newest members. *Windridge Vineyards, 15700 Darnestown Road.* 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### August 22

**Poolesville Farmers' Market On the Commons**  
 Local produce, homemade baked goods, grass-fed beef, honey, eggs, soap, artisan crafts, art, and more! *Whalen Commons.* 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### August 25

**Planning Commission Meeting**  
*Poolesville Town Hall.* 7:30 p.m.

### August 27

**Community Gathering in the Garden**  
 Book signing and lecture by Pastor David Williams, author of *Our Angry Eden.* *Poolesville Presbyterian Church.* 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

### Friday on the Commons: Suds and Sounds

Three breweries, Manor Hill, Elder Pine, and True Respite, will be bringing their best brews. There will also be assorted wines to purchase. The bandshell will be rocking all night long with Michael Heister, followed by the 19th Street Band. *Whalen Commons.* 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. .

### August 29

**Poolesville Farmers' Market On the Commons**  
 Local produce, homemade baked goods, grass-fed beef, honey, eggs, soap, artisan crafts, art, and more! *Whalen Commons.* 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### September 2

**American Legion Poolesville Post 247**  
 Monthly meeting open to all military veterans. *Whalen Commons.* 7:00 p.m.

### September 4

**HGBA Open House**  
 The Hope Garden Ballet Academy is holding an open house with refreshments and a demo of dancing. All are invited. *19710-E Fisher Avenue.* 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### September 7

**Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting**  
*Poolesville Town Hall.* 7:30 p.m.

### September 9

**PACC Businesses Helping Businesses Grow Networking**  
 David Therriault and Sandy Wright of Locals Farm Market are hosting the first in-person meeting since COVID began. Event will be outdoors and masks optional (at this writing). Grab a cup of coffee and watch your business grow. Open to all area businesses! *Locals Farm Market.* 8:00 a.m.

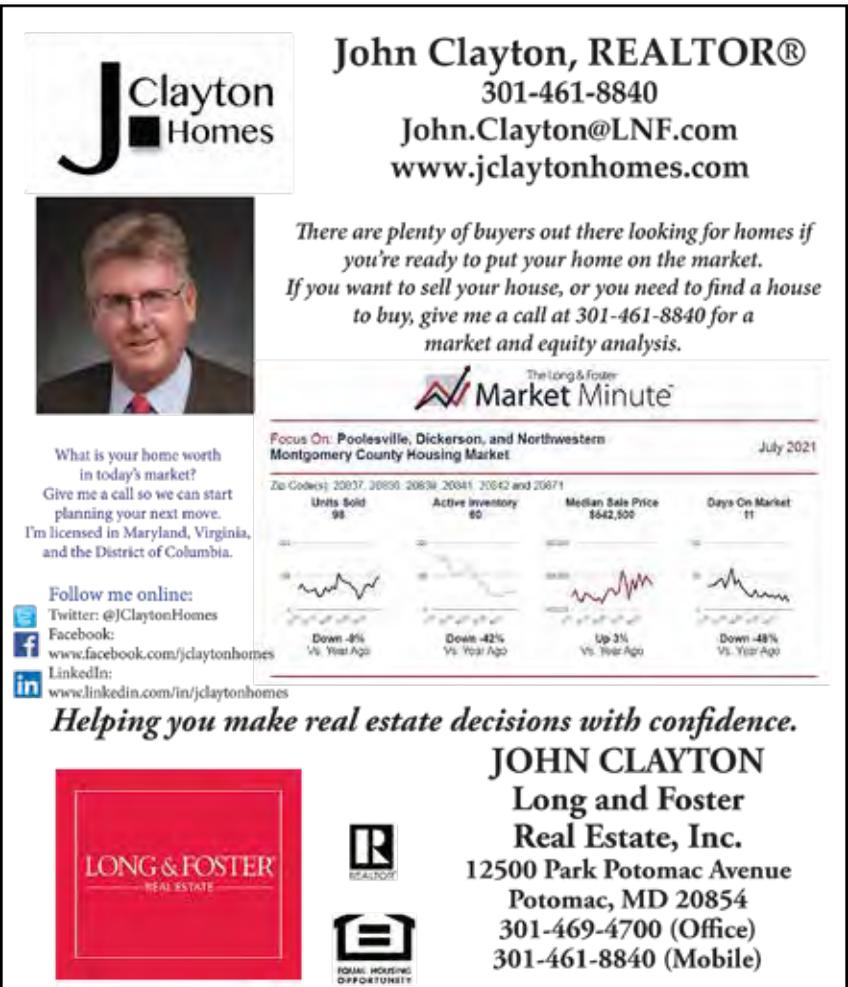
### September 18

**Annual Poolesville Day— Annual PACC/Lions 5K**  
*Online registration only.* Visit [poolesvillechamber.com](http://poolesvillechamber.com). Register early for pre-race discount.



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

Zillow Zestimate	Units Sold	Active Inventory	Median Sale Price	Days On Market
2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019	98	60	\$442,500	11

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## In Your Own Backyard

### Lock 25— Edwards Ferry: Part 6

By Jon Wolz

Throughout the early 1900s, area newspapers reported on fishing conditions and fishing trips taken by citizens of Washington, D.C. to Edwards Ferry. After the canal closed in 1924, the papers stopped reporting on fishing at Edwards Ferry.

In 1903, it was reported that Ida Jarboe, 18, of Edwards Ferry, the daughter of Eugene and Mary Jarboe, had become the fiancée of a thirty-one-year-old Hungarian globetrotter named Andrew Chrometz who was fascinated with American women. Ida did not marry Andrew but eventually married Robert Latimer of Washington, D.C. in 1919.

Four members of the Washington Canoe Club left Georgetown late one evening in July 1906, using two canoes for a paddle trip up the C&O Canal to Edwards Ferry. The Evening Star described their adventure that took forty hours of paddling, including two evenings camping out, before reaching their destination at mile 30.9 of the canal. A canoe capsized when they went through Lock 2. On the second evening of camping at Seneca, they endured mosquitoes, chiggers, and biting black ants. The story described their passing through the various locks on the way to Edwards Ferry and their contacts with the lockkeepers. Once at Edwards Ferry, the local people wanted to hear about their paddle trip up the canal. The canoeist described Edwards Ferry as being a very pretty place, and the population was so appreciative that they visited with them. After spending the night at Edwards Ferry, the four canoeists pointed their canoes towards Washington and began the paddle trip home.

In 1907, Albert Belote, 19, and Benjamin Moffatt traveled from Washington, D.C. to spend a few days at Benjamin's parents' home near Poolesville. Albert and Benjamin worked together at the United States Express Company. One morning, they went down to Edwards Ferry to swim with an acquaintance named Wright. When they tried to swim across the 150-foot canal basin, Albert got into trouble and sank to the bottom of the canal. Despite heroic attempts by Benjamin, he could not save Albert.

John E. Walters became the lockkeeper at Lock 25, Edwards Ferry, by about 1907. John was born around 1860 in Virginia, according to census records. In 1880, he was a farm laborer living in Loudoun County, Virginia with his father, mother, and five siblings. In 1898, John served as a private in the Spanish-American War. Prior to becoming a lockkeeper, John lived in Darnestown in 1900 and was a day laborer with his wife Eliza and their eight children at the time. Elizabeth "Eliza" Butts was born about 1866 in Virginia. On February 1, 1908, Lula Walters of Edwards Ferry, daughter of John and Eliza Walters, married Frank T. Beall of Poolesville, son of James and Catherine Beall. The ceremony was at the home of the Baptist minister, Rev. S. R. White.

From a May 1908 newspaper report: "James (Jimmie) Walters, the four-year-old son of Mrs. Eliza Walters of Edwards Ferry, this county, recently was kicked in the abdomen by a horse, died two days later." Son James lived and died between two censuses and does not appear in family ancestor trees in Ancestry.com. Eliza gave birth to twelve children during her lifetime, and ten survived childhood. John, Eliza, and all of their surviving children could read or write.

By 1910, only five children were living with John and Eliza in the lockhouse with two of the five being born after 1900. Children at the lockhouse included Virgie, 14, Johnny, 12, Ethel, 10, Margaret, 5, and Clifton who was an infant. The older three children attended school. The occupation given for Eliza in the census was listed as "None."

By 1920, John and Eliza had moved to Washington, D.C. where John was a laborer at a brickyard. John died in 1928, and Eliza died in 1946. Both John and Eliza are buried in Cedar Hill Cemetery in Suitland, Maryland.

In 1909, Mary Jarboe, the widow of Eugene, had a new ferry boat built, and her



C&O Canal's Lock 25.



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Continued on page 14.

## Youth Sports

### Azizi Named New Boys' Soccer Coach

By Jeff Stuart

On June 23, the Poolesville High School Athletic Department announced the hiring of Kamron Azizi as the new boys' soccer coach, replacing Mike Wills.

Azizi is a 2008 graduate of PHS and a member of the Falcons 2005 region champion and 2007 Maryland state finalist teams, and he represented Poolesville in the 2007 Montgomery County Senior All-Star game. He was a student in the Global Ecology Studies Program while at PHS.

Azizi began his coaching career over eight years ago and is a USSF-licensed grassroots coach working towards his USSF-D license. His experience includes local soccer academies, personal and team skills training, as well as the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association during his time at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County.

"I am excited to return to PHS to share my passion for the game with the next generation of student-athletes and continue the success of the boys' varsity soccer program," said Azzizi.

He himself is still an active player. "Currently, I play in the Maryland Major Soccer League as a captain for the MFC Starz, a Metropolitan Futbol League Club. While earning two bachelor's degrees at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), I was a member of the intercollegiate team and had the opportunity to collaborate with the Division I soccer program during the spring offseason."

His hiring coincides with the hiring of a new JV soccer coach whom he knows well. "I played with the new JV coach, Christian Hellwig, in 2007 on the team that made it to the state final. We are working together again to take on the challenge of continuing the success of our boys' soccer program." Hellwig graduated from PHS in 2009.

"We hope this season is a particularly good learning experience for everyone. Until I see all the players at tryouts, I will not necessarily know which areas of the game need more attention than others. Our goal is to improve, whether it is on the field or in the classroom. So how we seek the balance to execute at the highest

level possible will be an exciting challenge for everyone on the team. We want the student-athletes to be curious to learn more.

"My experiences follow me everywhere I go, and the goal is to share that and my passion for the game of soccer with all the players."

Continued from page 1.

#### The Legendary Ralph Ruble: An Amazing Story about A Most Remarkable Pitcher

Ralph Ruble did not allow his disability challenge to dissuade him from playing his beloved game of baseball. In the early spring of 1934, as a senior at the University of Maryland, the Associated Press reported on his prowess on the mound. Here is their article on his talent that ran in the papers of the time:

*He only has one good arm, but Ralph Ruble, ace pitcher for the University of Maryland asks for no odds. Rather he is able to give a few.*

*He has trounced the three teams he pitched against this year—all by the shutout method. Pitching twenty-eight hitless innings, striking out twenty-two batters, and is also leading his team in batting with an average of .367.*

*He was born with this disability, having his left arm withered above the wrist. Opponents who might have wondered about his ability were swinging empty air against his pitches, and when it came to hitting, he had them chasing all over the field.*

*As a pitcher, he holds his glove in his left arm. When a ball comes along, he stops it with this lame arm, then snatches it up with his good right. At the bat, he uses his left to rest his bat on, and when the ball sails across, he cracks it with his right.*

*The Virginia teams he has played against can best testify to his effectiveness as a pitcher. The University of Virginia went down twice before him, 3-0 (10 innings) and 8-0. Washington and Lee fell 9-0.*

*Out of the twenty-eight scoreless innings he has pitched, there have been only fourteen hits. He has fanned twenty-two.*

*Thanks to Ruble, Maryland is tied with North Carolina for the lead in the southern Conference with four wins and no losses.*

The team ended the season with a 14-5 record.

Ralph died in Poolesville at 61 in 1973 and is buried at Monocacy Cemetery.

# Poolesville Day 2021

**Whalen Commons**  
**September 18, 2021**  
**10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

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\*Rain or Shine

# Tribute

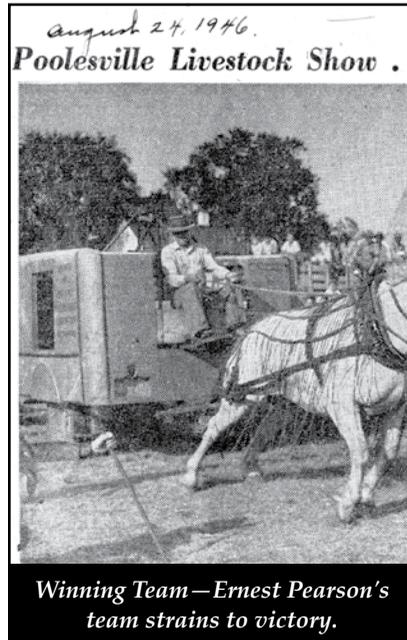
## The PHS Livestock Show and Community Fair: The Forerunner of the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair

By Rande Davis and Jim Poole

Before the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair even existed, the Poolesville High School Livestock and Community Fair was the premier agricultural showcase in the county and was sponsored by the leaders of 4-H and Future Farmers of America. Today's grand county fair, which just ended its 2021 run, was created through these 4-H leaders to provide a county venue for the livestock and produce of its members.

The first PHS livestock show started in 1930, ran through the 1950s, and was held in the field between the current back (east) parking lot that leads to the football field. In these pictures, you get glimpses of the previous school building which was a two-story brick façade building. You can also see some of the buildings today and sections of the Wootton home that is next to the current location of the high school.

Even with the population of Poolesville in the 1950s at around 375, the fair drew a crowd of 3,500, with 307 animals entered by exhibitors vying for \$1,000 in



Continued on page 16.

Continued from page 4.

### Normalcy Is Such A Lovely Word

felt by even those from outside our area. The strength felt from Mr. Kuhn, our political and governmental leaders, and from all our concerned citizens translates as high confidence that the ferry will one day reopen. That's right, if that is not hopeful, I don't know what is.

### Inspiration

The final sign of hope comes from the other frontpage story. A

one-armed pitcher who could lead his team in hitting is, indeed, extremely rare. I would propose, however, that Poolesville's Ralph Ruble, while highly unique, may also be very normal. Why? As an American, I have come to accept these kinds of miraculous stories of achievement as, ironically, quite normal. With this final example by Ralph Ruble, you have our final hope, perhaps even an unimagineable one.

If his story is not hopeful—you get the idea.

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# THE HISTORIC PHS COMMUNITY FAIR AND LIVESTOCK SHOW



**LOT OF BACON HERE**—Raymond Poole, 20, of Poolesville, shows his 4-H and FFA champion female Duroc, 20, at the Poolesville livestock show, attended yesterday by 3000 Montgomery County and nearby residents

Photos by O. B. Troup



The two-horse team at right, owned by Mrs. B. E. Gray, Poolesville, Md., won the weight-pulling contest, carrying an equivalent of 15 "road tons" a distance of 4 feet 9 inches.

Continued from page 10.

**Lock 25—Edwards Ferry: Part 6**

sons helped her operate it. The new boat was ten feet wide and fifty-five feet long. It could carry three automobiles. The fare for the ferry was 40 cents one way or 75 cents round trip. The ferry operated until 1915. Mary died in 1939 and is buried with her husband Eugene at the Monocacy Cemetery.

By 1920, James M. Beall, 74 years old, was the lockkeeper at Lock 25, Edwards Ferry. By 1923, James's son, Marion was the lockkeeper. Living with James in 1920 was his son Marion Beall, 42, his wife Pearl, 33, children, Edna, 15, Charles, 14, Sarah, 10, Nellie, 8, Marion, 5, and Clara, 1. The oldest four children were attending school. Marion was listed in the census as the head of household and was employed as a farm laborer. Marion's nickname was "Jimmy Dean." In 1920, Marion was also operating a small store at Lock 25. Some of the many items he sold included: cake mix, ginger snaps, soda crackers, Pioneer beef, potted meat, blue Karo syrup, Velvet tobacco, borax soap, brooms, oil sardines, cream blue, spearmint gum, stick candy, Old Judge cigars, and White Wilson jar gums.

Pearl's occupation was listed as "None" in 1920. Most likely, Marion helped his father operate the lock gates when he was not out working on a farm. James, Marion, and Pearl could read and write as well as their four older children living with them in 1920. James was born in Fredericktown (Frederick today), Maryland in 1845. By 1860, James's parents, Bartholomew and Mary, together with their eight children moved to Poolesville where Bartholomew was employed as a carpenter. In 1870, James was still living at home, and his future wife, Catherine Morrison, was living at home with her parents and siblings in Poolesville.

In 1873, James married Catherine Morrison. In 1880, James and Catherine had three children, Sarah, 5, Marion, 3, and Charles, 1. James "worked on farm" and Catherine was "keeping house." James's mother-in-law Catherine Morrison also lived with them. In 1899, James's wife Catherine died. In the 1900 census, living with James was Marion, 22, Charles, 21, Mary, 16, Franklin, 13, and John, 10. James, Marion, and Charles were farm laborers, and Franklin and John were attending school. They were living in Poolesville, and James owned his own home. By 1910, James was living in the household of his daughter Sarah Agnes Poole, her husband, Charles I. Poole, and their children. James's occupation

listed in the census was "working out." James died in 1924 and is buried at the Monocacy Cemetery.

In 1904, Marion Beall married Pearl Astlin in Washington County, Maryland. Pearl was born in 1886 in Poolesville. By 1910, they were living in Poolesville and had three children, Edna, 5, Charles, 4, and Sarah was an infant. Marion was a farm laborer.

In the spring of 1924, there was a Potomac River flood which caused significant damage along the canal and caused the canal to stop operations. All employees were discharged, and canal maintenance discontinued.

Marion and Pearl lived in the lockhouse until Marion's death in 1951. Pearl died in Rockville in 1973. Marion and Pearl are buried at the Monocacy Cemetery.

What was once a thriving community slowly declined and disappeared after the closing of the canal. Today, people still go to Edwards Ferry to fish, walk, or bike along the towpath at Lock 25 and stay overnight at the lockhouse. The lockhouse is now part of the Canal Quarters program run by the C&O Canal Trust. The lockhouse is furnished in the 1860s time period. Information about staying at this lockhouse can be found at [www.canaltrust.org](http://www.canaltrust.org).

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## PACC Happy Hour & Networking Event



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Friday, August 20th • 5:00 – 8:00 pm



The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce invites its members to join us at Windridge Vineyards for a Happy Hour & Networking Event! Registration is required and each member/organization will receive one free ticket for a glass of wine (pick up your ticket at the PACC check-in table). Light snacks will be provided. Welcome Windridge Vineyards as one of our newest members!

Also, don't forget to sign up for the Poolesville Day 5K on Saturday, September 18, 2021 • 8:00 am



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## Remembrances

### Betty Ruth Repass Allnutt

Betty Ruth Repass Allnutt of Poolesville passed away on August 4, 2021. She was born on August 8, 1932 to the late John and Virginia Repass in Tazewell, Virginia.

Betty was the loving wife to the late John Benjamin Allnutt, Sr. (Benny).

Betty is survived by her two children, son, Benjie and wife Marie of Poolesville and daughter, Bridget and husband Mark of Walkersville; grandchildren, Frank and wife Julie of Martinsburg, West Virginia, Benjamin and fiancée, Heather of Moundsville, West Virginia, Bethany and husband Dan of Woodsboro, and Lane and wife Liz of Thurmont; sixteen great-grandchildren known as "GG" (all of whom she boasted about); two sisters, Barbara Manaia and Gail Pearson; and one brother, Edward Repass. She also leaves behind many nieces and nephews, a special sister-in-law, Carolyn Repass, and a dear friend, Joan Carroll.

Along with her parents and loving husband, Betty was preceded in death by a daughter, Sandra; two brothers, Bobby and John Repass; and three sisters, Francis Hubble, Edith Dove, and Sylvia Miller.

She loved to play cards and watch her favorite sports teams: The Boston Red Sox and the Green Bay Packers.

We believe her purpose in life was to care for others. She did this with great pride for so many. For twenty-eight years, she was a volunteer at Shady Grove Hospital.

In the past eight months, she was rewarded for all that she did for others by being taken care of by three amazing women, Betty, Paule, and Yvonne from Warman's Home Care. When she could no longer be cared for at home, she went to live at The Leland of Laurel Run in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, and the exceptional care continued until the end.

There was no quit in her, only the determination to keep going. Just because she is no longer here, doesn't mean she has lost her fight.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Betty's memory to: The Leland of Laurel Run, 120 W. Main Street, Waynesboro, PA, 17268 or Franklin Hospice, 209 Grant Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201.

### Patricia "Patsy" Jane Offutt Smallwood

Patricia "Patsy" Jane Offutt Smallwood, 75, of Dickerson, passed away on July 30, 2021.

Born on May 12, 1946 in Washington, D.C., she was the daughter of the late Charles Elmore and Elsie Catherine (Lusher) Offutt.

Patsy is survived by her three sons, Christopher Smallwood, wife, Jennifer, Michael Smallwood, and John Smallwood, wife, Lesly; and two granddaughters, Jane and Lucy Smallwood.

Patsy grew up on her family's farm in Potomac. She attended Holton Arms School. Growing up, she began her love and passion for animals. She grew up showing and competing her horses. Her passion and love for animals continued throughout her life. Her love for horses was always known by talking to her, and everyone got to know her "Grand Horse." She would always share with everyone she met pictures of her Grandchildren and her "Grand Horse" everywhere she went with a smile. She was very proud of the accomplishments of her three boys and expressed that to everyone that came into her life.

Patsy was a member of the Garden Club and the Montgomery County 4-H.

Continued from page 12.

#### The PHS Livestock Show and Community Fair: The Forerunner of the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair

cash and premium awards. The fair was sponsored by the Poolesville Chapter of the Future Farmers of America, farmers of the community, and 4-H.

Our location and birthright as a town make Poolesville High School the perfect venue for an Agricultural Science Magnet Program. As we move to a new high school, it would be a desirable mission of the Fair Access Committee to include boosting the prospects for such a program for PHS. Unlike some of our magnet programs, Ag Science is a magnet program that, once instituted, would be very difficult to move to another school.

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## Remembrances

### Robert Lee Burdette, Sr.

Robert Lee Burdette, Sr., 86, of Dickerson passed away peacefully on July 31, 2021 while watching old Westerns in his country clubhouse on the farm.

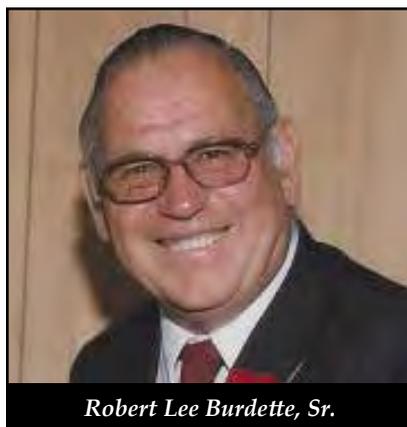
He was born on March 12, 1935 in Boyds and was the son of the late Orin Foster, Sr. and Margaret (Redmond) Burdette. He was a loving husband to Sharon Burdette, a caring Dad to ten children, and Pappy to twenty-three grandchildren and several great-grandchildren, and he was known as Bob to his friends.

Bob held many jobs over the years, including Montgomery County Road Department supervisor and worker, beekeeper, newspaper delivery, pig roaster, hydroseeding, fireman, bartender, and bulldozer driver, but he really found his passion in farming. He loved spending time on the farm, working the fields, and tending to the animals. He never told us how to live, he just showed us. He worked from dawn till dusk, and his hands were always calloused and tough from the day's work. He would greet everyone with his mischievous grin and the twinkle in his eye, looking as though he was up to something. He enjoyed working with his children and grandchildren on the farm, baling hay, going to farm sales, and helping each other work on equipment. He especially enjoyed his chauffeured rides with Cory. He always made time to visit with his friends and family. Many also stopped by to visit him at the "Country Clubhouse" on the farm.

Along with his wife, Sharon, Bob was survived by his children, Donna Lee Kennedy, Connie Webb, Anna Parks Onsted, Sherry Randles, Bruce Savage, Leroy Savage, Kevin Savage, Nicole Jones, and Kathleen Savage; two sisters, Bertha Poole and Linda Roberts; two brothers, Donald and Darby Burdette; twenty-three grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

Robert was preceded in death by one son, Robert Lee Burdette, Jr.; and three brothers, Jim, John, and Elvin Burdette.

If you prefer a donation, in lieu of flowers, the family asks that they be made in his memory to Farmaid.org.



Robert Lee Burdette, Sr.

### Nancy Jo Spring

Nancy Jo Spring, age 87, passed away peacefully on Thursday, August 5, 2021 in Derwood.

Born September 22, 1933, she was the daughter of Lewis and Nettie Mae (Norwood) Monard. On April 30, 1951, she married her loving husband of sixty-four years, Rupert Spring, Jr., and together they raised five children.

For over thirty years, Nancy enjoyed a fulfilling career at the Sears Distribution Warehouse Center in Gaithersburg where she worked her way to become manager of the Parts Department. In addition to serving as a supporting member of the Frederick Moose Lodge, Nancy also served as an active member and treasurer for Chapter 142 of the Korean War Veterans Association.

Nancy loved sunbathing by her pool or at the beach in Ocean City, riding motorcycles with her husband, playing cards, completing crossword puzzles, and relaxing with a classic Western show on the TV. Above all, Nancy's greatest joy was being surrounded by and spoiling her grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband, her twin sons, David and Dennis, and her six siblings. Surviving are her children, Michael Spring (Sandy), Pamela Jo Jamison (Bill), and Steven Spring (Jody). She is also survived by nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: Church of the Ascension c/o Pastor Darryl Fitzwater, 73 Edmond Rd., Ste. 2, Kearneysville, WV 25430.



Nancy Jo Spring

Continued from page 5.

### Commissioners Announce New Town Manager

plowing). In fact, income tax receipts were nearly \$340,000 higher than expected in the original budget while property tax receipts were only up by \$24,000.

Yost also remarked that major debts owed by the town continue to be paid down significantly. In fact, one of the town's major loans was completely paid off this year.

The commissioners asked few questions about the presentation and approved the report unanimously.

Yost made only a brief "town manager's report." Bates Trucking, which operates the town's trash pick-up service, is having serious problems obtaining staff. This an industry-wide problem, but complaints about trash service in town are significant. The town continues to press the company to improve and is in continuing contact with company officials.



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## Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

### Present Crime

**Burglary:** 22900 block of Old Hundred Road.

**Theft:** 16900 block of Hilliard Street, 16300 block of Budd Road, 19900 block of Beallsville Road.

### Past Crime: 1935

Police in Washington had recently cracked down on gamblers and houses where gambling was allowed. As a result, some brave gamblers had moved to Montgomery County to try their luck. Five county officers raided the home of H. C. Lamson at 110 Del Ray Avenue in Bethesda. Not only were arrests made, but the officers seized five telephones, six switching devices, cash, and gambling paraphernalia. Lamson was charged with running a house of ill repute.

Edward Jackson of Washington was convicted of robbery at his trial in

Circuit Court. The eighteen-year-old victim told the jury that something had bumped into her car in downtown Silver Spring, and the driver of the car offered her a dollar in compensation for the damages. When she refused, he grabbed her purse while the victim ran off through a wooded area to a house where the police were called. In the meantime, Jackson jumped into his car and took off only to stop when a police bullet whizzed by his head, and he ran into a tree.

A week after a man was killed by a train near Gaithersburg, he lay at the funeral parlor of Gartner and Sons at Gaithersburg. Police had sent out a description of the man to all police agencies nearby to no avail. He did carry a card that identified him as a former patient at the Casualty Hospital, but that proved to be false. The man had stepped off of a passenger train and had walked around the back of the last car and into the path of a freight train.

After the funeral of Jacob Jacobsen of Alta Vista, the family retired to the

family home to hear an attorney read Jacobsen's last will and testament. As the will was being read, the deceased man's son drew a gun and threatened his sister, Mrs. Irene Postel. Police were called, and Jacobsen, Jr. was arrested.

States Attorney James Pugh cleared Sheriff Eddington Bell of malfeasance in office after he failed to carry out an order issued by Judge Smith of the Circuit Court. Brown Turner, age 42, of Derwood, had been convicted of wife

beating and sentenced to ten lashes at the public lashing post. Brown had been kept in jail for five days awaiting his sentence that never came. Sheriff Bell claimed that he had never been served with the paperwork authorizing him to whip Turner. Pugh's investigation revealed that this was true, and Brown was released from jail.

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

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## Celebrating 32 Years of Service

### What's the Word? Zoonotic, I Heard

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

You may have read, heard, or talked with your veterinary team about zoonotic diseases. These are diseases that can be transmitted to and from humans and the animals that inhabit the same space.

In our modern world of advanced anti-parasite, anti-fungal, anti-bacterial, and anti-viral therapies, we sometimes become relaxed with respect to sharing diseases with our animal friends.

As we begin a new era of proximity and increased numbers of pets thanks to COVID's shift in how we live and work, it is important to review some aspects of zoonotic disease.

The number one way to minimize your exposure to zoonotic diseases is to have regular checkups for yourself and your pets. No, you cannot be checked out by your veterinarian (although many people would like that). Be sure to keep your pets on parasite preventatives as recommended by your veterinarian. It helps to keep them and you safe.

Be sure to stay current on vaccinations and diagnostic tests to check for exposure to diseases.

Here are some organisms that we all need to keep on our radar for zoonotic control.

1. **Roundworms:** These little guys can infect both animals and people. Their eggs can stay in the environment for years. They can be found in soil, sand, mulch, and feces. The worms cause gastrointestinal problems in your animals and eye issues in people. Remember to wear gloves when handling soil, even potting soil, as 16% of potting soil has some roundworm eggs present.
2. **Hookworms:** These creatures are a growing threat to you and your pets. They are bloodsucking parasites in the intestines of your pets and can cause a condition in people called "Summer Itch" or "Mad Itch." Here the larvae (immature stage of the worm) can penetrate bare skin and create local inflammation and serpentine lesions in the skin.
3. **Rabies:** This virus is still readily present in the wild animal populations in and around human inhabited areas. Rabies causes swelling and changes to the brain tissue eventually leading to death. It is 100% fatal in people and animals that do not get preventative vaccinations or treatment when bitten by an infected animal.
4. **Leptospirosis:** This is a bacterium (spirochete) that is present in the urine of some infected wildlife and pets. This organism can cause kidney disease and lead to kidney failure. The spirochete can penetrate intact skin, so having your pets vaccinated if they are going into areas with standing or flowing water is important for human protections.

Both rabies and leptospirosis can be vaccinated against for your pets. Roundworms and hookworms can be prevented by the administration of the current oral and injectable preventatives available from your veterinarian. Your veterinarian has been trained in zoonotic disease transmission as an accredited USDA veterinarian. Do not hesitate to ask their advice if you think you or your pet may have been exposed.



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