

# The Monocacy

# MONOCLE

*Keeping an Eye on Local News*

*A Biweekly Newspaper*

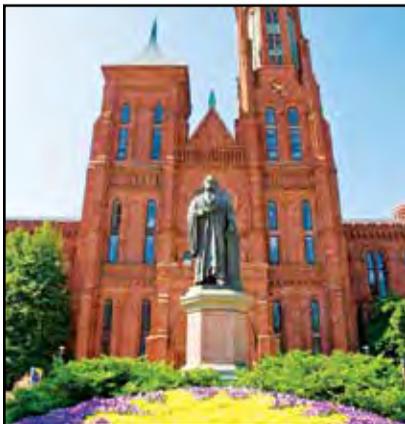
November 5, 2021 • Volume XVII, Number 17



*Minnie Mouse and SuperDog were ready for Halloween! See homes and driveway parties on page 2.*



*Vandals destroyed a few of the scarecrows on Whalen Commons just before Halloween. Read about the contest in Tidbits on page 3.*



*Seneca sandstone was used to build the Smithsonian Castle. Explore the mill In Your Own Backyard on page 5.*



*Exploring autumn's great glory! Read Monocacy Nature and Wildlife on page 8.*

## Town Water Supply Can Support 6,500 Residents Says Expert

By Link Hoewing

Appearing before the Town of Poolesville commissioners at their regular meeting on November 1, hydrogeologist Kathy Mihm provided an extensive assessment of the town's water system and its ability to support current and future populations. Mihm not only looked at whether the water system can support the current population target in the town's master plan of 6,500 but also what effects climate change may have on the aquifer that supplies water to residents. While she offered caveats, Mihm found overall that the town's water system is more than adequate to support the 6,500-person population target, though extended drought and climate change impacts would stress the aquifer supplying the town's water.

Mihm explained that the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) must issue permits for municipal wells, and it regulates both water quality and the amount of water that can be pumped by each well. Poolesville has four

watersheds from which water is drawn, and a total of thirteen pumps are located in these watersheds. Watersheds are not really separate aquifers; they are a means of ensuring wells are separated and are managed effectively. In effect, all of the town's wells withdraw water from the same aquifer.

Mihm said that the town currently has a permit from MDE that allows it to withdraw 650,000 gallons per day from all of its wells. Each well has an individually-set permit level, and all of the wells in total represent the overall permit level. The daily average water demand, according to Mihm, during the past three years (2018 through 2020) was about 521,000 GPD. This means that the total current average daily water demand is well below the level the overall MDE permit allows. The state sets the per gallon pumping permit to ensure that the aquifer is not stressed or "dewatered," meaning more water is pumped out than can be recharged naturally over time.

The state not only sets an overall withdrawal permit level for water, it also assesses how much water can safely be withdrawn during the "month of maximum use." This target level is set based on looking at usage levels over time and assessing which month represents the highest level of use and how high that level is. The current average water demand during the month of maximum use is about 622,000 gallons per day. The current MDE-permitted water use for the town during the month of maximum use is 910,000 for all water allocation permits, or about thirty-two percent greater than the current average demand during the month of maximum use. Again, even based on this metric, town water supplies are more than adequate to support current usage.

Mihm was also asked to look at the projected water demand from increased population and how that compares to

**Continued on page 11.**

## Vandals Destroying Local National Historic Site

By Jon Wolz

Vandals have been aggressively spray-painting graffiti on the red sandstone ruins of the historic Seneca Stone Cutting Mill, and their destructive behavior has progressed unabated. The original mill was constructed in 1837, and a large addition was added in 1868. The mill cut and finished stones that were quarried from the rock outcroppings on the nearby Seneca Quarry hillside. The quarry and stone cutting building are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There is a long stone-lined trough going from the back to the front of the interior of the ruins that provided the water diverted from the canal to power the turbine that operated the



*Graffiti defaces the ruins of the Seneca Quarry mill.*

**Continued on page 12.**

Family Album

HOMETOWN HALLOWEEN



## Tidbits

### Survey of Negative Impacts on Youth

Visitors to the Upcounty Prevention Network (UPN) booth on Poolesville Day were able to enter a drawing for prizes by filling out a survey about areas of concern for the young people in our community. Three quarters of the respondents identified stress as the negative factor that most impacts our youth. Depression/anxiety and fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic were noted almost as frequently in the surveys. Such clear feedback will guide UPN's programming this year as they focus on reinforcing positive mental health among area students and their families. Thanks to all who visited UPN's booth and filled out a survey.

UPN is delighted to announce the winners of its Poolesville Day drawing. A \$50 gift card to the Mexican Grill was awarded to each of the two winners: Desmond Brown and Nikhita Pabbaraju. UPN is proud and grateful to have received generous support from the Mexican Grill on this occasion and others over the past several years.

### Town of Poolesville Residents: Your Input Is Needed on Our Trash and Recycling Program

The Town of Poolesville, through a contract with Bates Trucking Trash Removal, Inc., currently provides town residents twice-weekly curbside refuse pickup, weekly recycling and yard waste collection, and certain other occasional services related to larger or specialized items. The town's original contract with Bates expires at the end of June 2022. The contract is Poolesville's largest single annual operating expenditure.

The town commission intends to issue a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new multi-year contract for these services. Whatever vendor is selected is expected to provide efficient, courteous, cost-effective, and environmentally-responsible service.

Poolesville is seeking resident input on the overall trash and recycling program in order to help shape and inform the commission's decision-making as staff drafts the RFP document. The survey includes questions about the current levels of service, as well as whether any changes or improvements should be considered as part of a new contract.

Please visit [www.surveymonkey.com/r/CSCF938](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CSCF938) to complete the survey. Your participation in this survey is greatly appreciated!

### Congratulations PHS Girls' Cross Country Team



The 2021 PHS Girls' Cross Country Team: Division Champs!

Congratulation on winning the division! Varsity teams competed in region competition at Liberty High school on November 4. Results will be in the next issue of the *Monocle*.

### Monocacy Cemetery Selected for Wreaths across America

Monocacy Cemetery has been selected as a Wreaths across America location this year. It is sponsored by the Goshen Mills Chapter of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution.

At Monocacy Cemetery, there are 475 veterans interred, and Wreaths across America is looking for that many wreaths to be donated.

On December 18, 2021 at 12:00 p.m., Wreaths across America will be at Monocacy Cemetery to remember and honor our veterans through the laying of remembrance

Continued on page 7.

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## Rande(m) Thoughts Bold New Ideas for The Old Thrift Shop

By Rande Davis

In my October 22 column, I shared my concern for the future of Poolesville's Old Thrift Shop building (properly and historically referred to as the Old Methodist Church) located on West Willard Road near Fisher Avenue. The purpose of my column was to increase awareness of its historical importance and to see it preserved, possibly as a tourist draw by turning it into a living history site. The true death knell of any building is its falling out of use, so I am pleased there are many ideas for its rebirth on the table.

I am aware of at least one private sector party wanting to purchase it and renovate it to open a retail/educational service in it. The concept's only drawback is losing the possibility of a tourist draw by not having it open to the public for that purpose—and, should the retail business not succeed, what then? Still, if it were our only option, I would not be against it; however, before going that route, three new options have come to my attention since my last column.

Local resident Matt Quinn wrote that a previous professional associate, former Chairman of the FCC, Tom Wheeler, has been seeking to establish a national museum to honor the groundbreaking use of the telegraph during the Civil War. Mr. Wheeler has written a fascinating account of the under-recognized use of the telegraph by President Lincoln to win the Civil War in a book superbly entitled *Mr. Lincoln's T-Mails*. Mr. Wheeler turns out to be as good a storyteller as he is a historian, and the book is an absolute must-read for anyone with an interest in the Civil War.

Mr. Wheeler, who well understands the unique importance of Poolesville as a telegraph station during the Civil War, expressed interest about the building and Poolesville as a site for the museum with the caveat about our location outside the metro area. He wrote Mr. Quinn, "What an interesting idea! As you know, Poolesville was from where the dispatch was sent about the Union defeat at Balls Bluff and the death of Lincoln's friend Colonel Baker.

"Your idea is certainly a creative one. My concern (having been involved in trying to tell historical stories at the National Archives) is how to make it meaningful. I worry the location is too isolated for national traffic."

Even if we are too small or too far away for a primary national museum site, we could certainly be an impressive satellite location with a living history telegraph and signal corps encampment as a living history display. Can you imagine the fun of kids sending telegrams from here to the national museum and back as an equational t-mail experience (how do you add emojis to t-mail?)? There's so much to consider, including funding issues. Of course, as the very first use of electronic communication, one would think communication corporations like Verizon, AT&T, and others might be intrigued with the notion of a museum to give tribute and honor to the roots of their industry.

Poolesville's Old Thrift Shop location was also the site of a signal corps, receiving news of the war from flag corpsmen on top of Sugarloaf Mountain.

A second new use comes from the people of the C&O Canal Association. They are seeking towns to host a hostel during the warmer months for bikers and hikers along the canal. Poolesville is already officially registered as a canal town. Could the building be used for that purpose? Stretch your wild-eyed imagination and consider another possibility. Suppose a living history Telegraph Station Encampment had a dozen Union troop tents on site for authenticity and also then used those tents to house bikers and hikers overnight? How cool would that be for the hikers? Lots of issues to work out, but how fun that would be for the town! Those "campers" now have to set up their own tents or cook out over a fire. With restrooms, showers, and plenty of restaurants nearby, I cannot imagine that they would not prefer the tents in Poolesville. It would also serve as a revenue source.

The third new possibility may be the best. It comes from David Therriault of Locals Restaurant whose current mission is to bring economic, cultural, and social revitalization to Poolesville. He wants to buy the building and restore it, create a nonprofit, and use the site for arts and culture. He is entirely open to finding a way to include aspects of the first two concepts. "Once Locals restaurant's renovation is complete, I am ready to turn the contractors on to this project."

Knowing the commissioners are seeking a solution to the dilemma of the Old Methodist Church, I am asking residents to join me and other historically-minded residents to meet and brainstorm the efficacy of these ideas—and others. This ad hoc exploratory

Continued on right.

## Letter to The Editor

Gentlemen: It was a bit disappointing to see the article regarding Poolesville being recertified as a Sustainable Maryland community relegated to page 8 of the October 22 issue of the *Monocle*. While I understand sensational events such as the shooting on River Road make for better front-page copy, this recertification is an important and prestigious award for the town and should have received better placement in the paper. In addition, the press release from Sustainable Maryland failed to include any mention of the members of the Sustainable Poolesville Committee who worked diligently during the pandemic to ensure Poolesville retained its place among the forty Sustainable-certified communities in Maryland. Some additional wording to include recognition of these dedicated volunteer citizens would have made for better reporting. Danny Embry, Joyce

Continued from left.

### Bold New Ideas for the Old Thrift Shop

committee will pursue this over the coming weeks, perhaps through the



Breiner, Jane Harris, Matthew Kierce, Maria Bowman, Thomas Jagodits, and Ed Reed all contributed greatly to the recertification effort, and they have my thanks for being a great team to work with. The Sustainable Poolesville Committee may not get as much public exposure as the Fair Access Committee or the Parks Board, but we are, nevertheless, an integral and important part of the town government's efforts to make Poolesville the best place in which to live in Maryland.

### Donald Street

Chairman

Sustainable Poolesville Committee

end of the year. In the end, we expect to provide insight as well as suggestions to our town leaders which hopefully can lead to a most positive solution. If you want to join this committee, please let me know.

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Keeping an Eye on Local News

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## In Your Own Backyard

### Seneca Stone Cutting Mill: Part One

By Jon Wolz

On a pleasant October Sunday, I participated in a walk along Seneca Creek in Seneca led by a volunteer from the Friends of Seneca Creek State Park. Walking along this path, we came to the ruins of the Seneca Stone Cutting Mill on our right side. This mill cut and finished stone that was quarried at the Seneca Quarry. The exterior walls of the cutting mill remain as well as one interior wall that separates the 1837 building from an 1868 addition. The exterior front wall is a very impressive display of cut Seneca red sandstone that towers over hikers. Stepping inside a side entrance, I was appalled at the vandalism I saw. Graffiti has been spray painted on all of the interior walls, doorways, window openings, on the side exterior walls, and on abandoned cut stones on the ground. Even all of the many trees growing inside the ruins have been spray painted. There is a large dead ash tree that has a crack in it and will be falling soon. On the back wall of the 1837 section, a tree crashed on top of the wall. English ivy climbs up the walls in various places and along the ground. Thick vegetation grows at the site, including multiflora roses and small trees. The graffiti has occurred in just a couple of years, and the vandals are now painting over graffiti previously left on the walls.

The shell of the building measures thirty by seventy-five by fifteen feet. There is a long stone-lined trough going from the back to the front of the interior of the ruins that provided the water diverted from the canal to power the turbine that operated the cutting and polishing machines of the mill. This trough is eleven feet wide and six feet deep. When we left the mill, we walked up Tschiffely Mill Road and back to the Poole Store. Tschiffely Mill Road ends very close to the stone cutting mill and provides easy access to the mill for visitors—and for vandals. There is a park gate at the end of the road; however, this gate should be moved farther up the road to make it more difficult to carry tables and spray paint cans. Also, it would limit parking at the end of the road where there are finished sandstones the Smithsonian salvaged when an old stone fence was removed by the White House and when an old D.C. bank was demolished. These stones are in the boundaries of the Seneca Creek State Park. At the end of Tschiffely Mill Road, someone dumped four sheets of old plywood next to the road.

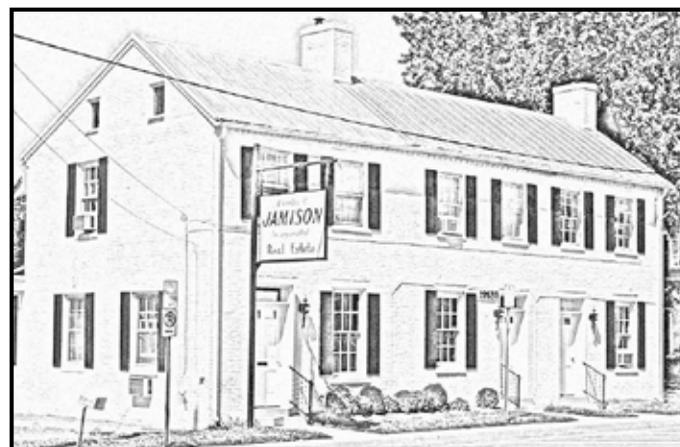
When I got home, thinking that the stone cutting mill was now part of the C&O Canal National Historical Park (COCNHP), I wrote a note to the Superintendent, Tina Cappetta, reminding her of my desire and others to meet with her and her staff to discuss the restoration of the Seneca Aqueduct. She had committed to meet in late October; however, that meeting did not happen. I also included with the email photos of the stone cutting mill, suggesting that when we meet, we could also talk about what can be done to stabilize and restore the mill. I have not heard back from her.

After writing the Seneca Creek State Park, asking about the mill, they responded that the transfer would be happening soon. The Seneca Creek State Park owns the land the mill is on and does not have the resources to police the mill or to maintain it. They thought transferring the mill to the COCHNP would provide more resources for managing the mill and the surrounding area. Last June, Maryland Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen announced that they made a request for \$390,000 in Federal funding to support a viability study to rewater and restore 1.2 miles of the C&O Canal in Cumberland. The city would provide \$210,000. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would be responsible for the study. When the project is finished, it could cost about \$25 million and would make this section of the canal a destination site. It seems to me that our Maryland Senators need to become aware of the need for restoring the area around the canal at Seneca.

The quarry and stone cutting building are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Later in October, I visited the quarry master's house on top of the hill above the quarry. That building is also included in the National Register of Historic Places.

The incorporation of the stone cutting mill into the COCNHP would provide a wonderful opportunity to give this long-neglected section of the National Historical Park, which is at one of the most visited portions of the C&O Canal, the attention it deserves, by combining the cleanup and stabilization of the

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 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 Zoom programs below which are open to the entire community.

No events on Thanksgiving, 11/25.

Watch for the return of our socially distanced, outdoor Pop-up Walks on the C & O Canal.

#### Mondays

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

#### Wednesdays

**Chair Yoga** with Twyla Insalaco. 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Virtual. No class 11/10 and 11/24.

**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. Email

[info@poolesvilleseniors.org](mailto:info@poolesvilleseniors.org) for more information. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

#### Thursdays in November

**Mahjong with Joyce Kral.** Fully vaccinated beginner and seasoned players are welcome in person. Masks are required. Poolesville Presbyterian Church's Speer Hall. 10:00 a.m. to noon.

#### Fridays

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

#### November 11

##### Veterans Day

Join this Veterans Day virtual event sponsored by our local Poolesville American Legion Post. The Daniel-Jeffers Post 247, formed to support veterans and veteran causes in the area, will help us honor veterans on this special day. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

#### November 18

##### Historic Ag Reserve Properties with Kenny Sholes

In his monthly series, Kenny will continue his exploration of slavery in the Agricultural Reserve, giving us a better understanding of the people who came before us and the land they cherished. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

#### November 22

##### PS Book Club

Read *The Wife between Us*, by Greer Hendricks and Sarah Pekkanen. This psychological thriller twists and turns as it follows the attempts of recent divorcee Vanessa Thompson to prevent her ex-husband's re-marriage. You may assume this is a story about a love triangle and a jealous ex-wife. Assume nothing. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

#### December 2

##### Cemetery Preservation

John Glenn Wallace will present a mini master class in cemetery preservation. Glenn will bring us his "do no harm" methods to safely clean, preserve, and maintain grave markers in the gentlest, least intrusive ways. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

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 view-ing on YouTube. Did you know that you don't need a computer to participate? You can join the Zoom presentation using your

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Continued from page 3.

**Tidbits**

wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and the act of saying the name of each and every veteran aloud. Please help lay wreaths at as many graves as possible by visiting [www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/169239/](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/pages/169239/) and clicking the red "Sponsor" button; or if you would like to volunteer to participate in the wreath laying ceremony, please click the "Volunteer" button next to the cemetery name below; and don't forget to click the "Invite" button to invite your friends and family to join you.

Remember the Fallen. Honor those who Serve. Teach our children the value of Freedom.

**Scarecrow Contest Winners**

Despite Halloween night tricksters damaging some of the scarecrows on display in Whalen Commons, the annual contest was another huge success. The winners were:

Business Category: Rebecca Munster Design—"Monster House Design"

Family Category: Pappano Family—"Gardens Revenge"



*The winners of the 2021 Annual Scarecrow Contest.*

Continued from page 6.

**Senior News**

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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## Monocacy Nature and Wildlife

### November's Colorful Vistas and Bounty

By Susan Petro

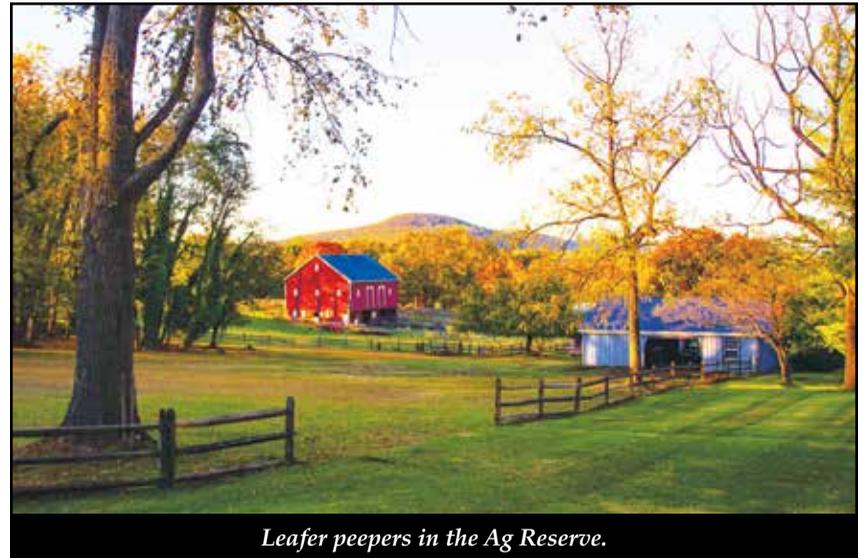
For us fall lovers, September and October get most of the credit. In September, the long, hot summer afternoons gradually shift to cool, comfortable days with increasingly shorter hours of daylight. A hint of fall colors begin to show near the end of the month, but October is when the real show of oranges, yellows, reds, and hues of golden browns begin to mix into the foliage. The month of November still has much to offer when it comes to fall colors and autumn harvests.

The mountains to the north and west of Montgomery County may be well past peak foliage by the time the last of the trick-or-treaters of Halloween have come and gone, but our local landscapes may still be vibrant and beautiful in early November. All one needs to do is take a drive, walk, or bike ride along our rural roads to experience beautiful fall scenery.

Next year's winter wheat is already sprouting green shoots in many local farm fields. Many trees are sporting various shades of golden hues of browns and yellows. Many leaves have fallen leaving a colorful carpet on the ground while others hold steadfast onto the tree branches. Some red and green leaves are interspersed as they cling to the last vestiges of the summer gone by.

Sugarloaf Mountain, a Registered National Landmark, ranks right up at the top of scenic destinations worthy of a November visit. The foliage at the top of the mountain may be past peak, but the valley vistas below may still have plenty of color left. The drive to Sugarloaf is easily as beautiful as the destination itself. Bucolic pastures, working farms, orchards, scenic woodlands, and local rivers surround the mountain.

There are numerous hiking trails at the mountain for both experienced and casual hikers, and the overlooks can be viewed just a short walk from the parking areas. The West View parking lot is closest to the summit. The top of the mountain is a moderately steep walk up an improved trail or steep stairs depending upon which route is chosen.



Leafer peepers in the Ag Reserve.

Sugarloaf Mountain is the perfect choice for many who prefer to walk off a heavy Thanksgiving meal instead of parking in front of the big screen for the traditional football games. By November, the large weekend crowds at the mountain have thinned considerably.

For those who are looking for other areas to explore, there are a wealth of other scenic landmarks worthy of a visit. The C&O Canal borders the entire length of the Potomac River as it passes through Montgomery County. The tow-path is perfect for walking or biking. Black Hills Regional Park has a large lake, trails, and play areas. Additionally, there are numerous nearby wineries, perfect for a relaxing fall visit.

Of course, November is not just for enjoying cooler temperatures, changing scenery, and the last of the fall colors; it's also time to prepare for the biggest feast of the year. Area orchards offer an abundance of freshly-harvested apples and

Continued on page 11.



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## Focus on Business

### The Sweet Lemon: A Gift Shop Just in Time for the Holidays!

By Rande Davis

You are going to love this place, I promise!

On Saturday, November 13, a most intriguing and attractive new gift shop is opening to Poolesville next to Hope Garden Ballet. Poolesville's Katie Horan is opening The Sweet Lemon, a wonderful specialty gift shop filled with things for most any occasion.



Entrepreneur Katie Horan

Actually, from the looks of it, it's not simply products she sells but ideas! She really has the answer to that most frustrating age-old question: "What can a buy for her/him?" Whether it is a seasonal gift, birthday, engagement/wedding, office party—you name it!—she has a host of marvelous, fun ideas. Women will love the store for its eye-candy appeal of fun things, men will love it because all they have to do is tell Katie who or what the gift is for, and she will have the perfect answer. I love the notion of stopping there for a gift for the host of a dinner or family party to which I have been invited.

Her Grab and Go section of pre-arranged gift packages is so enticing with everything all ready for you, including a few small gifts, gift card, and attractive packaging. She has themed packages like "For Your Book Club Friend," "The Girl on the Go," "The Baby Shower," etc. Boom, bang, buy, you're done.

Katie's strength is that she really knows Poolesville having been a staff development teacher at the high school for seventeen years. As the spouse of this entrepreneur, her husband P.J. will be a great helper, and since he was a 2002 Global Ecology Studies graduate of PHS, he too knows the town as well. This Pennsylvania-born girl even met her husband as a teacher-chaperone at a PHS lacrosse game.

When it comes to gifts for kids, she has her own built-in focus group, her three children, Johnny (9), Christopher (8), and Hallie (5).

Looking for something for kids and babies? Her Lemonade Stand is an attractive array of display gifts perfect for the moms to be, for the baby, or for children themselves.

With Christmas and the holidays coming up, you have to make a promise to yourself to stop by for great stocking stuffers and more. Guaranteed to be a popular holiday item this year is her one-of-a-kind Christmas in Poolesville candles. Don't worry, she also has her Holly Jolly Christmas in Dickerson or Barnesville or Darnestown candles.

Katie is really an engaging person to talk to about gift ideas—and she has plenty of them. She likes it that way. In fact, she avoids online sales for what she calls inline sales, face to face, smile to smile. As she says it best, "I learned that talking to people feeds my soul," so don't be shy about asking her for a gift idea, she cannot wait to share her gift of creative energy with you. She hopes you will "come in to shop or just to get the pulse of the town."



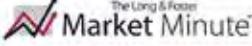
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	88	64	\$419,000	11



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## A Monocacy Moment



The gravestone embedded in the wall of the Old Methodist Church (more recently the Friendly Thrift Shop) was for its first pastor when he was buried beneath the pulpit in 1833.

## Youth Sports

### PHS Girls' Volleyball Growing as a Team

By Jeff Stuart

On September 29, the Poolesville High School girls' volleyball team defeated Watkins Mill at home in three sets: 25-8, 25-10, and 25-13. During a timeout late in the third game with victory pretty much in hand, the girls and new coach Steven Lostoski became their own cheerleaders. They stood together facing the Poolesville student section across the court yelling, "We are" several times. Each time, the students responded, "Poolesville." There's a new spirit and enthusiasm this year. A long service run by senior Sarah Tang powered the win in the opening game. There were key blocks by juniors Sarah Stanley and Jordin Cross. Freshman setter Iris Duan had a long service run in game two. Junior Michelle Ramos had a kill, and in game three, Ramos had a nice run of serves.

On September 8, the girls opened up their season at home losing three sets to a strong Whitman team 25-13, 25-18, and 25-23. They improved every game and had a 23-20 lead in the final game. The Falcons got solid performances from Duan, whose kill resulted in the first point of the match, senior libero Kelsey Alfaro, junior setter Jasmine Duan, and senior outside hitter Anna Stanoyevitch, seniors Anita King and Christine Kim, as well as juniors Meghan Jasti and Saragha Surendra. The Falcons were nearly perfect from the service line and recorded some key blocks. They generally managed to keep the ball in play and made few unforced errors.



2021 PHS Girls' Volleyball Team.

"The girls continue to work hard and are improving," said Lostoski, whose team won in three sets at Paint Branch in three sets on September 10. "I think we will win our fair share of games this year and may even surprise a few teams." The girls won three in a row after the opening loss beating Wheaton at home and Paint Branch and Northwood away. Then came a dramatic five-set loss at Magruder on September 23.

"The match against Magruder was a very close and was a very high energy game," said defensive specialist and occasional outside hitter Kim, senior captain. "We did lose 3-2, but we lost each set by maybe about two points which was really good. It was a five-set match. Even though we did not get the result that we wanted, we still kept in really high spirits and still worked really hard. The energy level was excellent. Our season is going really well. There is a lot of improvement from former years, and I think that is mostly based on how well we get along with other, but that's also because our coach is very good at picking up the spots that we need to improve. He also lets us watch videos of our opponents, and we make adjustments to how they are playing. I think that has helped us a lot. I think there are always going to be volleyball programs that are bigger and more experienced than we are, but it is most important that we play to our best ability. As long as we stick to our basics and what we know how to do, I think we are going to be alright. I want to give a shout out to Iris Duan. She is one of our setters. Even though she is a freshman, she is basically our MVP. She has a huge swing,

Continued on page 15

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Continued from page 1.

**Town Water Supply Can Support 6,500 Residents Says Expert**

the current MDE-permitted allocations. The town’s master plan target population of about 6,500 is not a legal limit in any sense since it cannot be used to control growth, but it does establish a metric for planning and allows town planners to assess future development proposals and how they might impact the master plan’s target.

Increasing the town population by an additional seven hundred residents above where it is today to a level of about 6,500 people would be accompanied by an additional water demand of about 70,000 gallons per day, for an average water demand of about 591,000 gallons per day, Mihm said. This is about 59,000 gallons per day less than the current permitted average demand of 650,000 gallons per day for all allocation permits. If the average water demand were to increase by 70,000 GPD to 591,000 GPD, the month-of-maximum-use demand would be expected to increase by about 195,000 GPD to a total demand of about 786,000 GPD, which is less than the permitted daily rate during the month of maximum use of 910,000 GPD for all allocation permits. Again, even with an increase in the town’s population to the 6,500-person target that has been in the master plan for many years, the water system is adequate.

Extended droughts and high temperatures affect water usage. These are likely impacts of climate change. Mihm noted that studies of our area have pointed to higher temperatures over time and droughts have occurred regularly in the past; however, the evidence also points to generally higher levels of participation in coming years. Even though drought and higher temperatures place greater stresses on the water system, Mihm found that, in general, the water system can sustain and support the town’s population in the future.

Mihm pointed out that while the water system in town is in very good shape, it is always good to have redundancy in the system. The current pumping levels set for some of the existing wells can be increased, and one well, number 15, is not connected to the system today and can be brought online in the future if needed.

In other business, town manager Tony Tomasello said that he had crafted a vaccine policy for town staff. Currently, three employees out of the nearly twenty staff are not vaccinated. Tomasello said that he is not using a punitive system but rather a disincentive approach. Under the proposed policy, staff who did not get vaccinated would not be eligible for the annual bonus awarded in December, although merit increases would not be affected. Also, unvaccinated staff would be required to wear masks indoors and in vehicles at all times. No one would face any disciplinary actions for not being vaccinated. The commissioners approved the new policy by a 4-0 vote. Commissioner Kerri Cook was not present at the meeting.

During the public comments segment, Rande Davis, the publisher of the *Monocacy Monocle* and former leader in the Historic Medley District society, provided an overview of recent interest generated by a column he wrote about the “old Methodist Church,” a historic building on West Willard Road that was once the town hall. He explained that the building had played a major role in the Civil War and was at one time a telegraph station for Union forces. Abraham Lincoln was the first president to use what was then a revolutionary technology, and some former officials in the communications industry have expressed an interest in exploring how to use the building as a possible museum. Davis also said that local entrepreneur David Therriault, who with his wife Sandy operates Locals, is interested in the possibility of using the building as a center for the arts.

Davis asked the commissioners to hold off on formulating any plans for the building, which the town owns, until an ad hoc group of local citizens who are interested in some of these ideas can work to try and flesh them out. The commissioners agreed.

Continued from page 8.

**November’s Colorful Vistas and Bounty**

other late season crops. Colorful pumpkins and gourds of all shapes and sizes, fresh pies, local honey, preserves, and jellies are just some of the November offerings for sale to decorate with or to prepare for Thanksgiving dinner and family get-togethers. Locally-sourced meats can also be found at local farm markets.

There are plenty of nice days left in November to get out and enjoy the beauty that surrounds us. For more ideas of places to explore, visit [visitmontgomery.com/explore/hiking-trails](http://visitmontgomery.com/explore/hiking-trails) or [visitmontgomery.com/blog/see-do/take-a-scenic-drive-and-discover-upcounty](http://visitmontgomery.com/blog/see-do/take-a-scenic-drive-and-discover-upcounty).

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Continued from page 1.

**Vandals Destroying Local National Historic Site**

cutting and polishing machines of the mill. The mill and quarry provided stones to build several locks for the Patowmack and C&O Canals as well as many buildings in Washington, D.C., including the Smithsonian Castle. The last stones cut at the mill were in 1904. By then, the red sandstone was no longer popular for use in constructing buildings.

At night, especially on weekends, gangs arrive to party and to spray graffiti. The graffiti is now on all interior walls, openings where doors and windows were once present, and on all exterior walls. Most of the graffiti is at the level that a person can reach; however, in some instances, the graffiti is high up on stones where ladders were used. There are several trees growing inside the boundaries of the ruins, and these trees have graffiti on them, too. In addition to the graffiti, the structural integrity of the mill is compromised by falling trees, erosion, and unruly vegetation.

The mill and land surrounding the mill are currently owned by the Seneca Creek State Park. Seneca Creek State Park reported that they do not have the resources or police to maintain or patrol the mill and have begun the process of transferring the mill to the Canal National Historic Park (CNHP). It is thought that the CNHP will have the resources needed to stabilize, restore what is left of the mill, and to properly police the area. The process to transfer the property between the state government and the federal government has been going on for over two years. Immediate action is needed to salvage what is left of the mill before this historic structure with its story of the building, not only of the canal itself, but the Smithsonian Castle as well, becomes lost to us due to bureaucracy. The National Park Service's acceptance of the property must not be delayed so that at least basic stabilization of the structure can be undertaken.

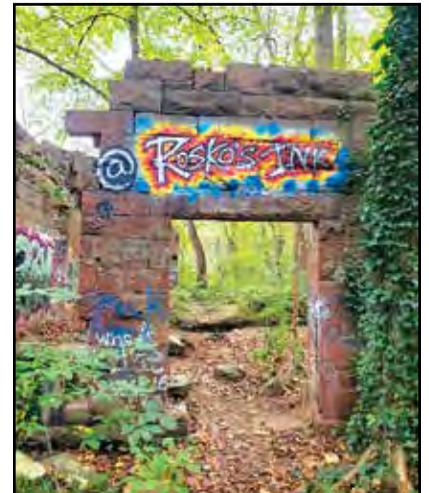
The superintendent of the CNHP, Tina Cappetta, as well as Maryland Senators Cardin and Van Hollen have been informed of the problem; however, they have not provided a response.

The incorporation of the stone cutting mill into the CNHP would provide a wonderful opportunity to give this long-neglected section of the C&O Canal



*Grffiti mars the historic beauty of the Seneca Stone Cutting Mill remains.*

National Historical Park, which is at one of the most visited portions of the C&O Canal, the attention it deserves, by combining the cleanup and stabilization of the mill with the repair of the long-damaged Seneca Aqueduct. This would create a wonderful new park focal point easily accessible from Riley's Lock. Steps that need to occur regarding the mill would be to fence off the entire area; remove trees, ivy climbing the walls, and ground vegetation; and clean up the graffiti. The park police could then install monitoring equipment for security. Wayside signs on the inside of the fencing could tell the story of the mill to visitors.



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# Things to Do

## November 6

### Annual WUMCO Food Collection

Hang your canned goods at your door for pickup by area scouts. 9:00 a.m.

## November 7

### Poolesville Farmers' Market

Last market of the season! *Whalen Commons*. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

## November 10

### Poolesville Planning Commission

Via Zoom. 7:00 p.m.

## Marine Corps 246th Anniversary

Join Crossroads Talent Solutions and your band of brothers and sisters to celebrate. *Cugini's*. 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

## November 11

### Veterans Day Observance

Sponsored by Poolesville's Daniel-Jeffers American Legion Post 247. Honor all who have served. *Whalen Commons*. 11:11 a.m.

## November 13

### Grand Opening of The Sweet Lemon

A new gift shop in Poolesville, next to Subway.

## November 15

### Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Via Zoom. 7:00 p.m.

## November 19 and 20

### St. Peter's Annual Christmas Attic Sale

New and gently used items. Christmas decorations, trees, toys, lawn items, and much more. Donations welcome through November 15. Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Would you like to announce a meeting, club, or upcoming event in **Things to Do**?

Then let us know!

Send it along to [editor@monocacymonocle.com](mailto:editor@monocacymonocle.com)



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Continued from page 10.

**PHS Girls' Volleyball Growing as a Team**

but not only that, she has an infectious positive energy. That keeps us all focused and in good spirits."

"We have had a different coach in each of my three years," said senior libero captain Kelsey Alfaro, a defensive specialist. "This year, Coach Lostoski has really pushed us to be more positive, and it has really helped. I think that game against Magruder was our best. We lost, but everyone played really well. We had some amazing plays by all of our players. Some of our players were a bit down after our loss in the opening game against Whitman, but they are a good team, and I thought we played well against them, too. We are going to go up from here. I am looking forward to the game against Northwest because they are always strong, and this year, I think we have a chance to beat them."

Alfaro was selected to the Montgomery County seniors All Star Team. Twenty-four senior girls were selected and placed on two teams. The teams will play an All Star Game at Wheaton High School on Friday, November 19 at 7:00 p.m.

"I think the season is going really great," said junior captain Mary Tang. "I really appreciate that we have a coach who is really keen on getting us to play to our best level and to use our skills effectively. I was really proud of the way we played against Magruder. Nobody expected us to win even one set against them. We ended up winning the first two. All five sets were pretty close. We were really close to winning. I thought we played to a really high level and with a lot of energy. Everyone had a real good attitude the whole game. I think that next year and next season we are going to come back really strong. I think we are all coming together really well. There is a team unity. Kelsey Alfaro is doing great in keeping our defense together. She always has a good attitude. She keeps the ball alive and goes for every ball."

The Falcons lost two more tight five-set matches to Clarksburg at home on October 15 and at Einstein on October 18. The annual Dig Pink event scheduled for October 7 against Rockville was postponed due to a shortage of available volleyball referees. They did lose in three sets to rival Damascus and Northwest. Both have eleven victories. Wootton and Sherwood are undefeated. Damascus's only loss came at Wootton early in the season.

Other juniors are Mary Abbago and Miranda Wang.

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**Holiday Food and Gifts**

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- You will need to supply the following information: Your name, your address, your phone number, your email address, number of adults and children (under 18) **who reside permanently in your household**, gender, and ages of those children, whether you want help for Thanksgiving, December holidays, or both.
- Leave your complete information on the voice mail. **You will not receive a call back unless the information is incomplete.**
- If you register, you will be contacted by WUMCO or a partnering organization with information about the basket distribution the week before the holiday. Please contact us **only** if you have not heard from us by 11/15 for Thanksgiving and 12/14 for December.

**Finally**

- Please become a member of YOUR food pantry and financial assistance program. Membership letters and return envelopes will be sent out in late November. If you want to beat the rush, send a check to: P.O. Box 247, Poolesville, MD 20837 or donate online at [www.wumcohelp.org/Membership.html](http://www.wumcohelp.org/Membership.html). **Please indicate that your donation is for the 2022 membership year.** Thank you!

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*Remembrance*

**Marguerite "Maggie" Paulette Poole**

Marguerite "Maggie" Paulette Poole, 91, of Dickerson, passed away peacefully on October 13, 2021 at home.

Born on April 3, 1930 in Marseille, France, she was the daughter of the late Alexandre Marius Giraud and Marie Emilie Francon. She was a war bride, and on July 5, 1954 became the loving wife to the late Willson Clark Poole, Jr.

Maggie is survived by her daughter, Mimi Schultze (Stephen); three grandchildren, Ryan Claus Schultze (Kaley), Nicolas Alexander Schultze (Aislinn), and Clarke Gordon Schultze (Jillian); and one great-grandchild, Calvin Nolan Schultze.

She belonged to St. Mary's Catholic Church where she expressed her love of music and sang in the choir.

A special thank you to her caregivers for their dedication and support during her final years.



*Marguerite "Maggie" Paulette Poole*

Do you or someone you know have a special announcement or milestone you would like to share with our readers?

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## Remembrances

### Patsy Jo (Sharp) Andrews

Patsy Jo (Sharp) Andrews, 83, resident of Tudor Farm near Poolesville, passed away on September 15, 2021, after a brief stay at a memory care facility in Frederick. The cause was complications of a stroke leading to dementia.

Pat was born in Pawnee, Oklahoma to Joe and Viola (Wright) Sharp on May 16, 1938. The family moved to Enid, Oklahoma when she was an infant.

Pat and Milton became a couple when they were teenagers and were married for over 64 years.

Pat graduated from Enid High School and earned a BA in Art History from American University in Washington, D.C., and a Certificate in French Civilization from La Sorbonne, Université de Paris, Paris, France. While living in New York, New York, she completed courses at the NY School of Design. She completed graduate courses in writing and editing at George Washington University, Washington, D.C., leading to her employment as a writer/editor by the Smithsonian Institution. Before retiring in 1999, she finished her twenty-seven-year Civil Service career as a Project Manager for the Indian Arts and Crafts Board, Department of the Interior. This last employment dovetailed with her longtime interest in Native American arts and crafts of which she amassed a large collection of jewelry, pots, baskets, woolen weavings, beadwork, sand paintings, and fine art. Pat was an expert level skier, certified SCUBA diver, tennis player, yoga enthusiast, and world traveler.

Pat's travels took her to each continent at least three times, except Antarctica, which she visited only once, many Pacific and Caribbean Islands, eighty-five countries, all fifty states, and eight of ten Canadian provinces. She lived successively in Pawnee, Enid, Woodbridge, Virginia, Norman, Oklahoma, Falls Church, Virginia, Paris, France, New York, New York, Falls Church, Virginia, Washington, D.C. for more than thirty years, and finally twenty years near Poolesville.

She is survived by daughter, Heather Andrews, a son-in-law, Stephen Latt, of Poolesville; a brother, Bobby Sharp, and nephew, Joseph Sharp, both of Las Vegas, Nevada; a nephew, Reese Thompson, of Guymon, Oklahoma; and grand-nephews, Gavin Pierce of Stillwater, Oklahoma and Zachary Pierce of Pawnee. Pat was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Trixie. Her ashes are buried in the Sharp family lot in the Blackburn Cemetery, near Pawnee. Her marker will read, "A Life of Learning and Adventure." No memorial service is planned.



Patsy Jo (Sharp) Andrews

### Steven L. Hawkins

Steven L. Hawkins, Jr., 51, of Poolesville, passed away on October 23, 2021 surrounded by his loving family. He courageously battled cancer for eleven years, facing every day with grace, humor, and a determination to not let cancer beat him down. Steve was an army veteran who bravely served in Desert Storm and loved his family with his entire being. He loved movies, music, and riding his motorcycle with his beautiful wife as his travel companion. He worked tirelessly throughout his illness, and if you didn't know him, you would have never known he was sick. He never complained about having cancer, and he would only use cancer if he could make a funny and/or disgusting joke around it. There were many times when laughter was the best medicine.

Born on September 30, 1970, in Silver Spring, Maryland, he was the son of Steven Larry Hawkins and Gerry Ann (Lohmeyer) Hiller.

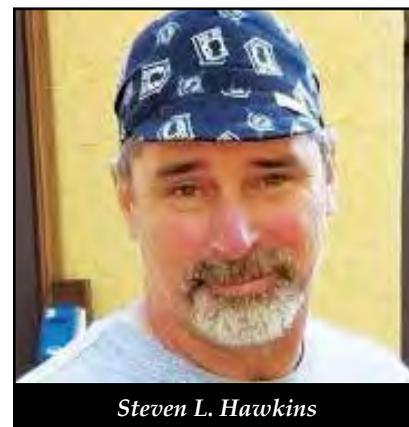
Steve was survived by his parents Steve Hawkins (Jackie) and Gerry Hiller (Andy) and by his loving wife of 32 years, Kimberlee Hawkins; their four children, Tiffanie Hawkins (Rob Webb), Steven Hawkins, III (Amber), Heather Leatherman (Nathan), Jessica Grace Hawkins; siblings, Kimberly Wade (Curtis), Brian Hawkins (Shonna), Jason Hawkins (Shannon), Kimberly Watson (Bryan), and Stephanie Roberts (Scott); four grandchildren, Madison, Justin, Colt, and Audree; and many nieces and nephews.

Steve was preceded in death by his grandparents, Richard and June Milbourne and Richard and Peggy Lohmeyer; grandfather, Ray Hawkins; uncle, Daniel Hawkins; and niece, Liberty Ray Vieson.

Steve was a member of the VFW Post 7842 of Linesville, Pennsylvania, American Legion Post 295 of Germantown, Maryland, Sheet Metal Workers Local 100 Washington, D.C., and he was one of the founding sponsors of the National Museum of the U.S. Army.

The family will be receiving family and friends for a Celebration of Life on November 6, 2021 from noon to 4:00 p.m. at the Poolesville Baptist Church Gymnasium, 17550 W. Willard Road, Poolesville. The Celebration of Life is set to begin at noon with presentation of military honors to take place around 1:00 p.m.. Steve had previously discussed his desire for people attending, to come as they are, please don't feel the need to dress up. We are coming together to celebrate a life well lived, a life filled with love. Prior to the service, Steve's last motorcycle ride will take place, rain or shine. Steve's ashes will be escorted by his son-in-law Nathan on Steve's motorcycle from Frederick to Poolesville. Any riders interested in honoring Steve on this ride can meet at FSK Sears parking lot at 5500 Buckeystown Pike, Frederick at 11:00 a.m. on November 6.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in his memory to the American Cancer Society or Wounded Warrior Project.



Steven L. Hawkins

## Marketplace



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Continued from page 5.

### Seneca Stone Cutting Mill: Part One

mill with the repair of the long-damaged Seneca Aqueduct. This would create a wonderful new park focal point easily accessible from Riley's Lock.

Robert Peter acquired lands bought at auction along the Potomac River in 1781 above Seneca Creek, and by the 1790s, the Pawtowmack Canal Company began quarrying red sandstone from rock outcroppings from the hillside. The quarry operated off and on until 1904, providing stones for many buildings and structures in Montgomery County and Washington, D.C. Also, the C&O Canal Company bought stones from the quarry when constructing the canal in parts of Montgomery County in the 1820s and 1830s. Garrett Peck wrote a book titled *The Smithsonian Castle and the Seneca Quarry* that provides a comprehensive history of the quarry, its operations, and buildings in our area that used the quarried Seneca red sandstone.

Next issue: Part two begins with a visit to the quarry master's house.

## Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

### Present Crime

**Assault:** 17600 block of Kohlhoss Road, 17500 block of W. Willard Road.

**Theft:** 19600 block of Gott Street, 19400 block of Darnestown Road.

**Vandalism:** 17600 block of Kohlhoss Road, 19500 block of White Ground Road.

### Past Crime: 1935 to 1939

County police arrested a man who seemed to be deranged. He had been knocking on the doors of residents from Silver Spring to Chevy Chase and demanding entry. He told police that he was looking for a man who had been "running around" with his girlfriend. He told one woman that he was a federal agent and that he would shoot her if he wasn't given passage into the house. Finally, Officer Windsor Poole caught up with the man and placed him under arrest.

An eleven-year-old schoolgirl was walking to school when she was accosted by a man who sexually assaulted

her. The girl was on her way to Parkside Elementary School in Silver Spring when the man pulled her into a wooded area. D.C. Police recognized the detailed description of the man and quickly arrested him on a D.C. street. When Montgomery County authorities came to pick him up, the D.C. Police refused to hand him over, fearing that he would be lynched in Montgomery County. Earlier in the day, a heavily-armed posse of men, including police, firemen, and citizens, searched for the man. Some were on horseback. Weeks later, when Montgomery County Police guaranteed his safety, the man was taken to Rockville.

Installation of police call boxes was underway at six rural locations in the county. The boxes at Poolesville, Damascus, and Gaithersburg were to be equipped with lights while those at Laytonsville, Darnestown, and Norbeck were to be without signal lights because the cost of the mileage was deemed too high. Under the system, the telephone operators at the various locations would hold emergency calls for the officers until they called in while on patrol.

There was much excitement in the area of Little Falls in the lower county. A

blood-stained boulder had been found by a camper, and he notified the police. Sergeant Earl Burdine responded and in turn contacted Doctor Dunn of Bethesda. Doctor Dunn expressed the opinion that at least two quarts of blood had been spilled, but he did not know if the blood was of human origin. Sergeant Burdine continued to investigate.

Police in Silver Spring were puzzled by a case in which a man anonymously called the Grotto Grill and the Dixie Pig Barbecue and told the owners that their establishments would be burglarized that night. Both places were hit, and products and slot machines were removed. A year later, the same restaurants were called again, and the caller announced that he would be back that night. The owner of the Grotto did nothing and, sure enough, his place was burglarized. The owner of the Dixie Pig enlisted two friends, and they all stayed overnight, but no attempt was made to break in. Finally, both owners decided to call the police.

*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

### Water, Water Everywhere, but Be Careful What You Drink

*Waterborne diseases to be watchful for when you want a drink for yourself or that furry friend.*

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

We all need water to survive. It is our most basic and important nutrient. We have many avenues to provide water for ourselves and for our furry friends. It is important to know where your water comes from, so you know it is as safe as possible. There are many waterborne diseases in our environment. They can have adverse effects on human health and the health of our pets.

Illnesses caused by pathogenic (can cause disease) microorganisms that can be transmitted in water are less of a concern in our modern water management systems. They are a concern when you are sharing water that comes from a source other than the faucet or the bottle or has been standing unattended.

Diseases can be spread while swimming, washing, drinking, or transferring water from some unknown source to a container for drinking later. Food that has been washed in unknown water sources can also potentially transfer disease.

The most common negative effects from pathogenic microorganisms are diarrhea, stomach pain, cramping, and vomiting. Skin, ear, respiratory, and eye problems can also be a factor when exposure to water that has pathogens present occurs.

Microorganisms that can cause illness include protozoa, bacteria, spirochetes, nematodes (intestinal worms), and viruses.

Here is a quick list of some diseases present in waters in our area:

1. Certain blue green algae. In some ponds, lakes, and even rivers.
2. E. coli bacteria and Salmonella bacteria.
3. Leptospirosis, a spirochete that can cause kidney damage and chronic disease.
4. Roundworms, hookworms, and whipworms.

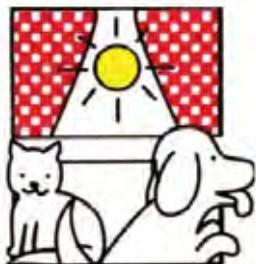
5. G.I. coronavirus, Distemper virus, parvovirus, and rotavirus. Only in very rare cases can the rabies virus be transmitted. The actively-infected animal must drop saliva in the water very close to the time you or your pet drinks it.

There are very simple steps that we can all implement to minimize exposure for ourselves and our pets:

1. Only drink water that you know the source of or have bottled from your sink.
2. Don't share water containers between yourself and others or for your pets.
3. Don't drink from a source of standing water you did not prepare.
4. Assume that any standing bowls, cups, small pools of water, or other unmonitored water sources have the potential to carry one or more of the above-mentioned diseases to yourself or your pets.
5. Areas pets and wildlife inhabit have water sources that get walked through, soiled with waste products from animals and humans, and can build up concentrations of pathogenic organisms over time, temperature, and exposure.

The bottom line is that you should bring your own water with you for you and your pet. Do not share water from common bowls or cups. Do not leave water in bowls unattended for any period of time. Carry water bottles that have self-contained cups or bowls attached, so you and your pets have secure water sources. If you have to drink from an unsecured water source, have water purification equipment to pass the water through, or boil the water for 2-5 minutes.

When in doubt, pass on unknown water sources.



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