

# The Monocacy

# MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

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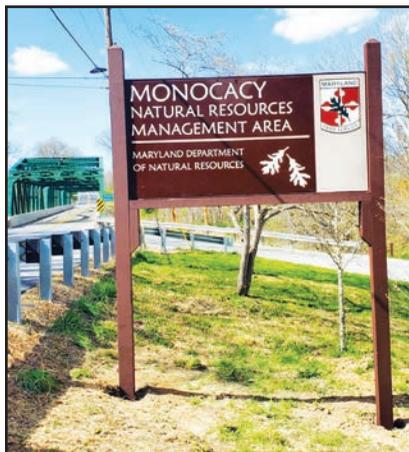
A special religious festival was recently celebrated at Whalen Commons. See pictures in Family Album on page 2.



PHS sports are in the air! Read about softball and baseball on page 8.



Where did the entrance to PHS go? Find out on page 9.



Old trails have been freshly marked for hikers in a newly-dedicated park. More details on page 12.

## Commissioners Discuss Their Roles and Improvements in Management

By Link Hoewing

With Commissioner Kerri Cook absent, the remaining four Town of Poolesville commissioners had a robust discussion concerning their roles in town government and improvements in the management of the town at their April 18 meeting.

Commissioner Jeff Eck, without naming anyone, said that he was “quite dismayed by recent emails from a commissioner to an employee.” While not detailing the contents of the notes to the staffer from the commissioner, he said that he considered their content and tone to be “bullying, and I view silence in such matters to be an enabler” that could lead to continued inappropriate emails. The victim of the bullying “is an employee,” and the commissioner should have discussed the matter in question “with the town manager but instead broadcast it to all other commissioners, the town attorney, and the town manager” while

also copying the staffer. Mr. Eck said he was putting all commissioners on notice: “If I see another email that is bullying, I will send it to Rande Davis (the publisher of the *Monocle*).”

These comments flowed into a discussion about staff morale and what the commissioners should do, if anything, to help improve it. Eck said that he appreciates the work of the staff but pointed out that, in a recent survey of staff attitudes, it was mentioned that staff do not believe commissioners are supportive and have contributed to a less than ideal work environment in the town government. He does not know how to “show my trust and appreciation.”

Commissioner Ed Reed said that he believes that a number of actions the commissioners have already taken, such as improving benefits and pay and surveying staff about their concerns, have begun to improve morale.

He believes staff is feeling “much more satisfied and listened” to than has been the case previously. In his opinion, the best thing the commissioners can do is to work with the town manager on needed improvements in town government and in staff policies. He concluded that it is appropriate for commissioners to praise staff performance, but “we need to stay in our wheelhouse.” The implication of his comment is that direct commissioner interaction with staff regarding ongoing work activities and projects is almost never appropriate. Instead, on such issues, commissioners should work with the town manager to resolve any concerns.

Commission President Jim Brown said, “We show our leadership by not being overbearing or doing things that are hurtful or confusing” to staff. He

Continued on page 16.

## The Mysterious Town of Boyds: History of Respite

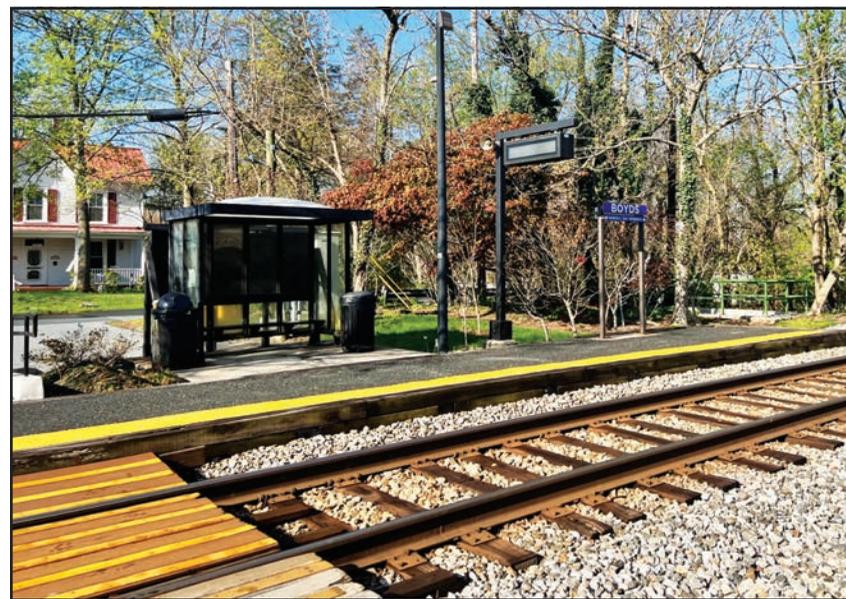
By Rande Davis

Stifled by the heat? Need a break from your daily travails? Take the train to the countryside of Boyds! Stay in one of many clean and gentle inns! View the world-renowned Trestle Bridge!

Although a figment of the imagination today, these statements would have been very real and accurate in the late 1800s. Our gentle town of Boyds came to be when a railroad line was extended from Washington, D.C. to Point of Rocks. Like many towns in the United States, Boyds was created because it was along a route of travel.

There were three inns in Boyds at that time, providing lodging for city folk wanting a leisurely break from the hustle and bustle of the city. One of these, the Staley Boarding House, lies in a watery grave beneath Little Seneca

Continued on page 4.



Boyds, Maryland, a resort town of old.

# Family Album



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## Garden

### March into Spring 2022

By Maureen O'Connell

It was approximately two years ago last month that the world and its peoples were turned upside down with the arrival of the coronavirus pandemic and its ensuing effects on our health and the world economy. There now seems to be a glimmer of hope on the horizon with mass vaccinations against this deadly virus. Time will tell.

During these past years, I have spent more time taking care of my home, including my houseplants. At the risk of anthropomorphizing them, their continued vigorous signs of good health have brightened my days inside the house. It was as if they knew I needed that extra boost. My two moth orchids (*Phalaenopsis*) that I bought in December of 2019 are still in glorious bloom; the two Thanksgiving Cacti are soldiering on in a blaze of pinkish-red blossoms; my twenty-year old *Clivia miniata* is right on schedule and is producing several clusters of orange trumpet-shaped flowers nestled within its long, bright green, strap-like leaves. He demands patience as it can take from two to five years for a clivia to bloom for the first time. Mine took four years. Pretty soon, though, we will be welcoming the flowers of spring.

This past March, the spring equinox heralded the astronomical first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. I watched the meteorological spring slowly march into my garden plots, beginning with snowdrops and the golden daffodils, their jubilation really beginning to brighten up the garden.

Every year, I like to add some new and unusual plants to my garden. With the arrival of garden catalogues in early January, there is usually much to tempt me. The challenge is to curtail my appetite (I try by reminding myself that I will have to plant them when they arrive). My favorite catalogues are from White Flower Farm and Wayside Gardens.

I usually only recommend to my readers plants that I have already grown in my Barnesville backyard. That way I can predict their behavior in our climate and soil conditions. The following plants are new to my gardens in an experimental run.

*Philadelphus* is a genus of about sixty species of shrubs from three to twenty feet tall, native to North America, Central America, Asia, and southeast Europe. It shares the common name mock orange. It is beautiful, extremely fragrant with double white flowers, and very hardy, blooming in late spring to early summer. While this strong-growing old favorite is magnificent in bloom, it tends to fade into the background the rest of the year. It can also grow to an enormous size, making it a poor choice for an average backyard space. This changed in 2019 with the introduction of the variety 'Illuminati Tower.' It breathed new life into this classic favorite, combining a landscape-friendly size with a totally unique space-saving habit. It naturally grows in a very narrow upright way, each sturdy stem a stack of rugged, deep green leaves that look like a four-sided tower. It grows three to four feet tall with a spread of eighteen to twenty-four inches. It is drought tolerant and pest, disease, and deer resistant and grows best in sun to part sun. In this category is its cousin 'Illuminati Arch.' It is larger than the Tower, topping off at both four feet tall and in spread. Its fragrant white flowers cascade over-arching branches. To save on garden space, I ordered three of the Tower variety.

*Astrantia* is a genus of herbaceous plants in the family Apiaceae, endemic to Central Europe, Eastern and Southern Europe, and the Caucasus. There are eight to nine species which have aromatic roots, palmate leaves, and decorative flowers. They are commonly known as great masterwort. Its flowers are unusual looking as they are a group of petal-like bracts. The leaves look a little like Italian parsley or carrots, which is not surprising as it is in the same family as the carrot. It grows to about twenty-four inches tall with a sixteen-inch spread. Plant in sun to part shade. It grows best in moist soil with plenty of organic material. This is not a low-maintenance plant; it needs to be watered frequently in dry weather. To me, *Astrantia* is worth the effort for its intricate detail of this unique flower. It is also attractive to a host of pollinators. I bought the variety 'Sparkling Stars Pink' with strawberry pink and cream flower clusters bursting from the center like mini fireworks.

Gardening in the shade can be a challenge for many gardeners. For years, hostas have been the go-to plant for shady areas. There are many other perennial options. Let me introduce you to the last new plant I just bought: *Bergenia Dragonfly* 'Sakura.' This hardy spring-blooming perennial groundcover has dense clusters of rose-pink flowers above thick rosettes of heart-shaped, glossy-leathery

Continued on page 7.



## Update!

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## Rande(m) Thoughts A Nearly Forgotten Tune Revived with a New Sense of Love

By Rande Davis

In the world of magazine publishing, editors are forewarned against making their major cover story feature about a change of season. Covers that blurt out things like "Spring Is Here!" are considered akin to having nothing important to say at all: too bland, too non-descript, and simply way too boring to attract a buyer. While I know it can be tempting—like starting a sentence with but or and—journalistic purists will never allow it.

What is important to us, though, are the actual new things coming all around us—and most of them are not connected to whether its springtime or not. I recently heralded all the positive economic signs for Poolesville like the openings of Locals and Landmade Brewery, and the new owner at Bassett's. There is, however, simply no more important new visible change coming to Poolesville than the building of our new school. If you haven't gone by PHS recently, make a special detour, it is quick, but it is thrilling. There it is for all to see, the first construction (deconstruction?) taking place to make room for our new, beautiful school.

While the class of 2025 may most likely be its first graduates, they will have to bear the sacrifice of three years of high school experience in portable classrooms and construction all around them to earn that honor.

Newspapers have always played a key role in covering current events, but providing a vision as to what is coming may be its more important role. For example, the most significant change to come forward before this summer will be the announcement concerning the development of the Willard property in the field next to town hall. After replacing the previous developer with their own in-house vision, the Willards are only weeks away from fully launching their new plan—a plan painstakingly derived after they did their due diligence by hearing from nearly every group in town—and out of town, as well. They succeeded in crafting a plan that reflects much more what residents said they wanted. Their new plan will feature scaled-down homesites suitable for families starting out and

seniors downsizing. We can't present everything at the moment, but it won't be long before it will be officially announced, and we will be pleased to keep you apprised on all of it.

The many new restaurants, new businesses, and old ones moving to new locations continue to mark a direction of progress for us without endangering that which is most important to us: our smalltown essence. Nearly to all, keeping Poolesville small is the one thing we want the most. Small towns are much more than population numbers, though. A small town is marked more by its culture than size. It's the neighborliness, caring, sharing, and demonstrative actions to help one another prosper always and in all ways.

Something, although small, happened on Palm Sunday at St. Peter's Church that can best illustrate this important cultural strength of Poolesville and our area. In the middle of the service, a beloved member of the congregation, upon standing abruptly, fainted, hitting her head on the fall so severely that it caused some rather serious bleeding and momentarily caused her to black out. With the loud bang of her head, the church fell still, as a member, a nurse, immediately moved to her side. The choir director, in position to have witnessed it all, immediately called 911, and various members took up positions to guide the emergency personnel to her side. As they waited for the ambulance to arrive, parishioners knelt to silently pray for her full recovery.

As the EMTs arrived and evaluated her situation, she was able to stand and mount the gurney to take her by ambulance to the emergency room. It was then that something fully unexpected but very moving happened: As they slowly rolled her out of the sanctuary, the congregation broke into a hymn not heard in the church since 1982 when it was removed from the hymnal. Just like a wounded soldier being removed from the battlefield, they showed their concern and love as they broke into song: "Onward Christian soldiers marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus going on before. Christ the royal master, leads against the foe, forward into battle see his banners go." It was as if to say to her, "You got this, girl."

Funny, even after forty years of being gone from the official lexicon, everyone seemed to still know the words and, most importantly, it was then, perhaps as never before, that we knew how much we all cared.

Continued from page 1.

### The Mysterious Town of Boyds: History of Respite

Lake. Imagine what an attraction Boyds would have been if the lake had been built one hundred years earlier. The two other inns remain standing and are now private residences.

Sadly, the World-Renowned Trestle Bridge exists no longer. Indeed, if not for the bridge, Boyds would have perhaps been a different town. The bridge was constructed as part of the single rail line traversing Seneca Creek and was designed and implemented by Colonel James A. Boyd, an immigrant from Scotland, a surveyor and engineer. Not surprisingly, the founding year of Boyds and the year of completion of the trestle bridge coincide: 1873. In its day, Boyds proudly boasted the longest wooden trestle bridge in the world.

Unfortunately, in the 1920s, the railroad line required expansion and a less exciting bridge was constructed across the creek in a different location bringing with it, not unfortunately, electricity. Now, all that remain of the trestle bridge are several foundation piles near the dam for Little Seneca Lake; however, as Arthur Virts, local Boyds historian and lifelong Boyds resident, said, "The train was king," and whether crossing a single bridge or a larger one, it brought prosperity to a

rural area. Farmers were more easily able to earn a living with reliable transport of goods to and from Boyds. The mail and other important packages and goods destined for surrounding railroadless towns like Clarksburg came through the station at Boyds. Of course, Boyds was an attraction for those seeking a leisurely sojourn and a respite from stress—something that can be said for the town and its outlying areas even today, by residents and visitors alike.

The train still runs through Boyds daily. Commuters have replaced solace seekers, but not completely. Instead of taking the train to escape the city for a week or two, passengers escape the city daily and have chosen Boyds and its environs as home. They can find peace every evening.

Now, people visit Boyds by car for an outing. There is the attraction of Black Hills Regional Park entailing Little Seneca Lake. For history buffs, there is the old Boyds Negro School, a one-room schoolhouse, among other sites. For sports enthusiasts, the expanding Soccerplex features numerous activities with more in store in the future. Of course, bicycle riding and hiking are enjoyed by many, as well as the fishing. What would the colonel think of his town now?

So take the train to the Boyds countryside! Take in the fresh country air! Look upon lovely little Seneca Lake!

## The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

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## Local News

### The Upcoming Elections—Important for All of Us in the Upcounty

By Link Hoewing

Working in partnership with the Poolesville Chamber of Commerce, the Fair Access Committee is sponsoring three candidate debates for county leadership positions. The first is between District 2 candidates for County Council on April 28 at Poolesville Town Hall from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The second will occur on May 22 between the three main candidates for County Executive on Whalen Commons from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The third will be in Poolesville Town Hall on June 23, again from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. between at-large candidates for the County Council.

The Upcounty has made a lot of progress in getting county leaders to begin to pay attention to the needs of the area and to invest essential resources into programs, services, and facilities that other areas of the county already enjoy. The Town of Poolesville commissioners, the Fair Access Committee, the PTSAs, the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce, Montgomery Agricultural Producers, and hundreds of our local citizens have helped make the case that our area has—for too long!—been treated inequitably. Part of our success is that we have raised our voices and kept them raised. We have participated actively and intensively in the county's policy and budget processes. We have offered solid proposals and well-thought-out ideas that have sparked interest and support.

A significant part of success in advocating for change in the political process is showing up, being part of the process and not letting go. Having these debates on our home turf, in our back yard, so to speak, is significant. It shows we have the attention of the candidates, and it helps keep them aware of what is happening out here; it forces them to confront our citizens where they live.

These elections carry even more weight than they have in the past. Several years ago, a proposal was passed, creating two new council seats. This means the county will have seven district councilmembers instead of the current five, and four at-large members for a total of eleven councilmembers rather than the current nine. The boundaries of the new districts have also been redrawn.

Many local groups worked hard on the new boundary lines. Instead of our old District 1, which went all the way from the Frederick-Montgomery County line down to Bethesda and split the Ag Reserve basically in two, we now are in District 2 with most of the Ag Reserve intact and including Germantown and part of Clarksburg. While not all of these residents understand the impact of the many issues facing us in the Upcounty, a large population center or centers had to be included in the new district because only about fifteen thousand people live in our area. Each of the nine council districts has to have an equal fraction of the total population of the county, and that turns out to be 160,000 people. Germantown and Clarksburg are contiguous to the Ag Reserve and much closer to our area and our interests than voters in the denser areas south of us such as Bethesda and Silver Spring.

Unfortunately, this means we will lose our current councilmember Andrew Friedson, who has been a superb leader and did a tremendous amount of work to help us both get funding for the new PHS and the money to begin designing a new community center, but knowing Andrew, we will almost certainly be able to

Continued on page 7.

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## Senior News

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

Are you ready for new activities that stretch your mind, renew your body, and lift your spirits? Then visit the website for Poolesville Seniors, [www.poolesvilleseniors.org](http://www.poolesvilleseniors.org), or call 301-875-7701 to register for a wide variety of Zoom virtual events which are open to the community.

#### Weekly Events

##### Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

**Indoor Pickle Ball.** Fully-vaccinated players are welcome, and masks are recommended. *Family Life Center, Poolesville Baptist Church.* Beginning May 2, pickle ball will be outside, weather permitting, at the courts at Steven's Park. 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

##### Mondays

**Tai-Chi** with Maureen Ivusic. 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Virtual.

##### Wednesdays

**Chair Yoga with Twyla Insalaco.** 11:00 a.m. Virtual. Will resume May 4 to June 15 with no class on May 25.

**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 with Joyce Kral.** Fully-vaccinated beginner and seasoned players are welcome in person. Masks are recommended. *Poolesville Presbyterian Church's Speer Hall.* 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

#### Fridays

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

#### April 21

##### Celebrate the Earth with Poolesville Green

For Earth Day, Joyce Breiner, Executive Director of Poolesville Green, Inc., will help us to understand one of the most important challenges of this century, the evidence and impact of climate change, and strategies for solutions. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

#### April 28

##### Glenstone

Join us for a visit to the world-class Glenstone Museum in nearby Potomac. With 59,000 square feet of gallery space and 300 landscaped acres, Glenstone is the largest contemporary art gallery in the U.S. Check-in is at 3:00 p.m.; visitors must be 12 years of age and older, and minors need to be accompanied by an adult. Participants must provide their own transportation. 3:00 p.m. until closing before 7:00 p.m. In Person.

##### No Poolesville Seniors Evening Event

Due to the District 2 Montgomery County Council Candidate Forum, Poolesville is now in the County Council District 2. Hear what the candidates have to say at the forum sponsored by the Fair Access Committee. *Poolesville Town Hall.* 6:00 p.m.

#### May 5

##### Meet WUMCO

Katie Longbrake, executive director of WUMCO, will enlighten us about this multi-services entity that has been providing a diversity of emergency assistance needs in the Poolesville area

Continued on page 7.

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SCAN ME

Continued from page 3.

**March into Spring 2022**

leaves that turn shades of red and purple in fall and winter; it is ever-green in warmer climates. Introduced to garden cultivation from Siberia in 1779, they are tough and robust, and they will grow virtually anywhere, coping well with exposed sites or dry conditions. Its nickname is pig squeak, as its thick leaves squeak when rubbed together. Another name is Elephant Ears for its large, rounded leaves. 'Sakura' is just one of the cultivars in the Proven Winners Dragonfly Series. 'Sakura' means cherry blossom in Japanese, and the rosy pink clusters of semi-double blooms in spring are as welcome as the blossoming cherry trees.

I have some challenging work ahead of me, but it is something very good to look forward to. Look to your garden catalogues now and find something new and unusual for you and your garden.

Continued from page 6.

**Senior News**

for over fifty years. Learn about the vision for its expanded services and new location. 7:00 p.m. Virtual.

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 5.

**The Upcoming Elections—Important for All of Us in the Upcounty**

count on him to remain a friend and remain interested in our issues.

With eleven councilmembers to deal with after the election instead of nine, continuing advocacy will be important. We will need more councilmembers to get to a majority on key issues, and our voice will need to be louder and more insistent than ever. Coming out to the debates to show the candidates that we care and that they need to pay attention to our needs is a good way to help.



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## Youth Sports

### Big Win over Damascus Highlights Falcon Boys' Lacrosse Season

By Jeff Stuart

All Poolesville High School field teams opened strong this spring, and none stronger than the boys' lacrosse team. Going into spring break, the unbeaten team had won six in a row. The average margin of victory was twelve goals. Of those wins, the biggest was the April 4 victory at Damascus.

"Our win over Damascus was especially satisfying," said Coach Stuart Orns. "We had not beaten them in a few years, so it's a high point of the season so far."

It was the biggest win of spring in all of Falcon athletics because Damascus is always a rival, but the lacrosse rivalry is perhaps more intense because both teams are perennially strong. They have played some great games.



Austin Little, Logan Marsh, Michael Sofelkanik, Mayson Hofbauer, Aiden Dacanay, Nick Brown, Jeremiah Oyer, and Adam Barkdoll.

"Our season is going pretty good so far," said senior defenseman Michael Sofelkanik. "We are 6-0, but we have some challenges ahead. We are playing Churchill right away after spring break on April 20. (Churchill's only loss was to private school St. Alban's.) It is going to be a big game for us, a big test.

"One thing I really like about this team is that we have good chemistry. We have grown up playing with each other. We know people's strengths and weaknesses. We have been playing as a team and playing some good lacrosse. We had been playing great coming into the game at Damascus. In that game, we did a great job of controlling and moving the ball on offense. We tired out their defense and took our shots when we needed to. The defense held up pretty good. We could tell their defense was starting to get gassed because we had the ball about eighty percent of the time on offense. We were up by two at halftime. After the half, we just hit them hard. I picked up a ground ball and took it coast to coast and scored a behind-the-back goal. That was the personal highlight of my career so far.

"They only scored on some fast breaks. Other than that, we just played a solid game. We were the more dominant team. It has been a while since we have beaten Damascus.

I think we did great against Northwest. I think that was the first time we played up to our potential. We won, 13-3, at home against a good team on March 30. That was a great game for us. Our goalie Luckas Bocek, a junior, has shown up when we needed him to with some really big saves, and junior Jack Feys on defense has some phenomenal stick skills. He is a really strong defender."

"I think we are doing pretty good. Like Mike said, we have a lot of chemistry," said senior midfielder Austin Little. "We are getting way more comfortable as a team. Going into the season, I thought we were going to be okay, but I didn't think we would be doing as good as we are doing right now. I thought the Damascus game was definitely a close game. I am very happy that we won the game. I think we did pretty good. Winning some faceoffs was one of my parts of that game, and running across the field when the ref called the game over and time ran out. I thought our Clarksburg game (a 13-1 win away on April 1) was a good game for us. Jack Roe has been very good for us in the past. He got hurt right at the beginning of the year. He would probably have done amazing things

Continued on page 13.

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## School News

### New School: It Begins!

Perhaps you saw the large fence surrounding PHS as the process for building a new high school began. Now, for those who still can't believe it is coming, we have added proof. The entrance to the high school is no more, and buildings are being torn down, so we can feel confident there is no turning back now. This is all so exciting for all of us!



*The building of a new school starts with the removal of the old.*

### Two Area Swimmers Qualify for National Competition

Two of Poolesville's own, Ethan Lee, age 14, who attends JPMS, and William Rook, age 14, who attends the Landon School in Bethesda, qualified for, and recently competed in, a national swim meet, which brings together the fastest swimmers from all over our nation to compete in one meet. The National Club Swimming Association (NCSA) Age Group Championship swim meet was recently held over four days in Orlando, Florida. The NCSA Age Group Championship is the fastest and highest-level championship swim meet in our nation that a swimmer can qualify for in Ethan and William's age group. Congratulations to Ethan and William on this incredible achievement!



*Fast swimmers, Ethan Lee and William Rook.*

### Worth Mentioning Again

In the last issue of the *Monocle*, we told you about Katya Kiryutin, a senior at Poolesville High School who was recently awarded a \$40,000 scholarship from the College Board. This award came through their BigFuture program and was awarded to just twenty-nine high school seniors from across the nation, each earning a \$40,000 scholarship.

We didn't have her picture in time for the last issue but thought her achievement was worth mentioning again just to give a chance to publish her picture along with her well-deserved achievement. Congrats, Katya!



*Katya Kiryutin*

Continued on page 18.



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Rural Women's Republican Club (RWRC) to offer a \$3,500 scholarship for a vocational, trade school, or certification program, including a certification from a community college during the 2022-2023 academic year.

This scholarship is intended for students attending Poolesville High School, Damascus High School, Clarksburg High School, Quince Orchard High School, Seneca High School, and Northwest High School. Students from these schools who are about to complete their senior year of high school, students already enrolled in a trade school, and non-traditional students under the age of 21 are eligible to apply. The student will need to answer an essay question as part of the application process. All inquiries, as well as any questions regarding the application or essay, may be directed to the following e-mail: ruralwrc@gmail.com; or for more information, may call/text (301) 655-4711. Applications and essays must be received by **Friday, April 29, 2022.**

## Things to Do

### April 22

#### PHS Varsity Home Sports

Boys' Tennis vs. Damascus. 3:30 p.m.  
Baseball vs. Kennedy. 3:45 p.m.  
Boys' Lacrosse vs. Magruder. 7:15 p.m.

### April 23

#### Annual SCA Meeting

Featured speaker is Marc Elrich. Election of SCA Board of Directors. *Linden Barn, 20900 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson.* Coffee hour: 9:00 a.m. Meeting: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

#### PHS Varsity Home Sports

Softball vs. Springbrook. 11:00 a.m.

### April 25

#### PHS Varsity Home Sports

Softball vs. Northwest. 3:45 p.m.  
Girls' Lacrosse vs. Blair. 7:00 p.m.

### April 26

#### Poolesville Green's Carbon Footprint Challenge Monthly Meeting

All welcome. Zoom meeting. Visit *Poolesville Green website* for more details. 7:00 p.m.

#### PHS Varsity Home Sports

Girls' Tennis vs. Quince Orchard. 3:45 p.m.  
Baseball vs. Northwest. 3:45 p.m.

### April 27

#### PACC Spring Network Gathering

The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce invites its members and members of the Gaithersburg/Germantown Chamber for a Happy Hour and Networking Event. Registration is required. Visit website to register. *Landmade Brewery, 19124 Jerusalem Road, Poolesville.* 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

#### PHS Varsity Home Sports

Girls' Tennis vs. Whitman. 3:30 p.m.  
Boys' Volleyball vs. Quince Orchard. 5:30 p.m.  
Coed Volleyball vs. Quince Orchard. 7:00 p.m.

### April 28

#### Council Candidate Forum

District 2 Montgomery County Council Candidate Forum. Poolesville is now in County Council District 2. Hear what the candidates have to say at the forum sponsored by the Poolesville Chamber and the Fair Access Committee. *Poolesville Town Hall.* 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

#### Joint Memorial Service for Steven Curtis Gibson and Virginia Anne Gibson

Saturday, April 30

In memory of Steven Curtis Gibson and Virginia Anne Gibson. *Boys Presbyterian Church, 19901 White Ground Road, Boyds.* Reception to follow. 2:00 p.m.

#### PHS Varsity Home Sports

Girls' Tennis vs. Sherwood. 3:30 p.m.  
Boys' Volleyball vs. Quince Orchard. 5:30 p.m.  
Coed Volleyball vs. Quince Orchard. 7:00 p.m.

### April 29

#### PHS Varsity Home Sports

Girls' Tennis vs. B-CC. 3:30 p.m.  
Boys' Volleyball vs. Seneca Valley. 5:30 p.m.  
Coed Volleyball vs. Seneca Valley. 7:00 p.m.  
Softball vs. Gaithersburg. 3:45 p.m.  
Boys' Lacrosse vs. Wootton. 5:30 p.m.  
Girls' Lacrosse vs. Wootton. 7:00 p.m.

### April 30

#### Annual SCA Plant Swap

Buy, sell, swap, or give away seeds, seedlings, plants, divisions, flowers, shrubs, veggies, pots, or garden gear. Come even without goods and help us make sure there are no homeless plants! Trade garden wisdom with your neighbors. Learn what grows best locally. Will be held even if somewhat rainy. *Linden Barn, 20900 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson.* 9:00 a.m.

#### PHS Varsity Home Sports

Baseball vs. Gaithersburg. 2:00 p.m.

### May 2

#### Commissioners' Meeting

*Poolesville Town Hall.* 7:00 p.m.

#### PHS Varsity Home Sports

Girls' Tennis vs. Quince Orchard. 3:30 p.m.  
Softball vs. Wootton. 5:15 p.m.  
Baseball vs. Wootton. 5:15 p.m.

### May 3

#### PHS Varsity Home Sports

Boys' Tennis vs. Winston Churchill. 5:15 p.m.

### May 5

#### PACC Helping Businesses Grow

Monthly Breakfast network event. *Poolesville Town Hall.* 8:00 a.m.

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Continued on page 13.

# Tidbits

## Neighbors in Celebration!

You may have noticed a celebratory festival on Whalen Commons on April 10 which was filled with smiles, dancing, joy, and prayers. Photos are in Family Album on page 2. It was a Hindu Hare Krishna birthday celebration entitled Rama Navami.

The festival celebrates the descent of Vishnu as the Rama avatar, through his birth to King Dasharatha and Queen Kausalya in Ayodhya, Kosala. Devotees honor Vishnu with gifts of flowers, food, prayers, and devotion upon his descent. A decorated wagon or chariot, pulled by adherents around the park, stopped periodically for prayers and devotions. This event typically occurs in the months of March or April of the Gregorian calendar.

The festival is an occasion for moral reflection for many Hindus marking this day, and while some mark this day by vrata (fasting), our local neighbors in celebration held a luncheon open to all, featuring typical Hindu vegetarian fare.

## Clean Roads Mean Clean Town

Our local roadways get hit with as much trash and garbage as in any area, but for the most part we seem to

remain litter-free. This is for a very good reason; many groups and individuals organize to put together road cleanup efforts. Recently, the Monocacy Lions put a team together as part of its Adopt-A-Road Clean initiative to clean the roads in the Poolesville and Barnesville areas. Lions, Gary Burdette, his wife Jan, Tom Lee, Milton Andrews, Tom Conlon, and William and Cherry Price, worked the Barnesville roads while another team consisting of Herb and Joyce Brown, Roger Brenholtz, Tom Conlon, Milt Andrews, Hiedi Rosvold-Brenholtz, and Poolesville



Monocacy Lions Club's Adopt-A-Road commitment (White's Ferry Road from the town boundary to Partnership Road). Herb and Joyce Brown, Roger Brenholtz, Tom Conlon, Milt Andrews, and Poolesville High School Leo Club member Aidan Dacanay.

Photo by Lion Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz.

High School Leo Club member Aidan Dacanay worked the Poolesville roadways.

Thank you, Lions, for all that you do!

## Now That's an American Flag

After a long-fought campaign, Poolesville's American Legion Post 247 held its leadership election. Here are the officers for 2023: Post Commander, Julien Singh; Adjutant, Annette Howard; Treasurer, Sean Ivusic; 1st Vice, Chief Markoff; and 2nd Vice, Jim Cappuccilli. The group also gave special thanks to David Wilson who has served as adjutant and 2nd vice for the past five years.

Not a group to sit on its laurels, the post will be busy on April 23 as World T.E.A.M. Sports, a nonprofit

that provides athletic opportunities for people with disabilities, rides into our area. Every year, they do a bicycle ride called Face of America which honors our veterans and first responders, disabled and able-bodied.

This year, they are stopping at Lewis Orchards Farm Market for lunch. They will be eating lunch inside the market. They have seating for 350 people! American Legion Post 247 will be on hand to assist the group.

The group recently unfolded a huge American garrison flag, thirty-eight feet by twenty feet, which will be used in a future event for the whole town to share. The details will be announced later. Eat your heart out, Francis Scott Key.

Continued on page 16.



The patriotism of veterans is as big as this flag.

# 10th Annual SpringFest

## Saturday, May 21 2:00-7:00pm Rain or Shine

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## In Your Own Backyard

### A Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony and Spring

By Jon Wolz

If you've driven on Route 28 across the Monocacy River bridge recently, you may have noticed a new sign erected by Maryland State Parks for the Monocacy Natural Resources Management Area between the parking lot and the road. On April 16, there was a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the entrance to the Monocacy Natural Resources Management Area (MNRMA) park at the parking lot on Route 28 by the Monocacy River and Furnace Branch to recognize the opening of the trail networking system within the park.

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), in partnership with Maryland State Parks, cleared and marked old trails through some of the 1,800-acre park. The PATC has spent the last three and a half years clearing and marking trails. Before the trails were marked, I got lost on one of my walks in the woods, and the marked trails are a welcome improvement.



*John Stacy Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC), Nita Settina Superintendent Maryland Park Service, Michael Hough Maryland State Senator, Daniel Cox Maryland State Delegate, and Anstr Davidson PATC.*

At the ceremony were Maryland State Park Rangers Shea Nieman and Erik Ledbetter, who manage three parks, including the NMRMA, the Seneca Creek State Park, and the Patuxent River State Park. Two dignitaries in attendance included Maryland State Senator Michael Cox and Maryland State Delegate Daniel Cox. Also in attendance from the Maryland Park Service were Superintendent Nita Settina and Steve McCoy, Central Regional Manager. Various members from PATC were in attendance, including Anstr Davidson, vice president for volunteerism, and John Stacy who is the supervisor of trails. Other members from PATC in attendance who are responsible for trail maintenance within the MNRMA were also there.

After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Rangers Nieman and Ledbetter led a short walk along the Furnace Branch Trail to the bridge over Furnace Branch. Along our walk, we viewed spring flowers, slag from the iron furnace that operated in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and the beautiful waters of Furnace Branch.

Within the park, there are four marked trails, including the Furnace Branch Trail (blue, 1.75 miles), Ridgeline Trail (yellow, 1.5 miles), Dr. Belt Trail (red, 1.75 miles), and the Connector Trail (orange, 0.4 miles). If you visit this park, parts of the trails may be wet and muddy, and you will need to ford streams if you hike any distance on the trails. This park is open at various times of the year for hunting. It is currently turkey hunting season which runs through May 23. There is no hunting allowed on Sundays.

My favorite trail is the Furnace Branch Trail which goes by an old stone lime kiln, the Johnson quarries, two large sections of skunk cabbages, and a grove of hemlock trees. The area was once the home of native Americans, and near the mouth of the Furnace Branch was Furnace Ford where travelers crossed the Monocacy River before the bridge was built. The Johnson brothers (Thomas, first Maryland governor, Baker, and Roger) also operated several businesses including an iron furnace next to Furnace Branch that no longer exists. The stones have

been removed and used for other purposes. Joseph Johnson, a son of Roger Johnson, let the C&O Canal Company quarry stones from this property that were used in the construction of the Monocacy Aqueduct. John Belt bought the lands from the estate of Joseph Johnson in 1839, and the property stayed in the Belt family well into the twentieth century. Eventually there will be historic wayside signs erected throughout the park.

With spring arriving along the C&O Canal, the number of visitors to the park, both walkers and cyclists, is increasing. I saw one gentleman pushing his bike with a trailer attached with what appeared to be all of his possessions heading down the towpath. We spoke briefly, and he said he was okay. Once again, familiar sights begin to appear. Early spring wildflowers emerge from their wintering beneath the ground. I know the names of a lot of the wildflowers but not all of them. Leading the list of notable flowers include the robust and plentiful Virginia bluebells. The bluebells are a magnificent sight to behold. They are plentiful in the park as well as the Potomac River islands that can be seen across the water from the towpath. Snowdrops, Dutchman breeches, grape hyacinths, spring beauties, toad shade, phlox, bloodroot, and mayapples have also burst forth. There were crocuses in bloom and daffodils. Those two flowers were planted over one hundred years ago during the canal's operating days. Paw paw blossoms are budding on the paw paw trees. The paw paw fruit will be ripe sometime next September. Less desirable plants are emerging, including stinging nettles. I have already accidentally placed my hand on one of these plants while picking up trash. My fingers stung for about six hours. A couple of prominent invasive plants are sprouting and are in bloom, including garlic mustard and lesser celandine/fig buttercup. These invasive plants spread along the forest floor, eliminating our native plants. Garlic mustard is edible, and pesto can be made from the leaves of the plant. Another invasive plant I avoid are multiflora roses and their piercing thorns. These plants do have pretty and fragrant blossoms when in bloom. Other signs of spring include the large variety of birds along with their majestic sounds, the loud pounding on trees by the male pileated woodpeckers hoping to attract a mate, wood frogs croaking and spring peepers calling out, bull frogs and turtles sunning themselves on logs, and snapping turtles floating in the canal hoping to catch a meal. Other wildlife emerging include snakes and ticks. I have not encountered either of these yet in the woods; however, I did come across a long garter snake in our front yard.

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Continued from page 8.

**Big Win over Damascus Highlights Falcon Boys' Lacrosse Season**

for us, and Mason Bean, a junior midfielder, has been really good at faceoffs for us."

Austin's role in getting faceoffs was a big part of the win at Damascus.

Poolesville has beaten all six of its west division opponents, thus clinching the division. Senior Adam Barkdoll had three first-half goals against Northwest and scored four against Damascus. He is the team leader in goals with seventeen.

"I was excited about the season and the opportunity for the boys to get back out on the field," said Coach Orns. "The last two years have been challenging, so it's great to be just playing lacrosse again. The team has a good blend of seniors providing experience and leadership along with juniors who have all taken the next step in rounding out their skills. We've added two new assistant coaches this season, both former players at Poolesville. They are Reid Patton and Michael Chilla. It's great to have them on board to bring added insight to our team."

Senior Night is April 29 against Wootton. Other seniors are midfielders Jeremiah Oyer, and Nick Brown, and defensemen Logan Marsh, Mayson Hofbauer, Aidan Dacanay, and Ian Rodriguez.

Other juniors are midfielders Mason Hopkins and Cole Johnson, attackmen Jacob Jenkins, Mason Hillegas, Jack Roe, and Ashton Gaddis, and defensemen Zach Ransom and Alex Incao. Defenseman Sean Radimer is a sophomore. Midfielder Vincenzo Volpe is a freshman.

Continued from page 10.

**Things to Do**

**American Legion Post 247 Meeting**  
*Calleva Poolesville Offices*, next to Anytime Fitness. 7:00 p.m.

**May 7**

**30th Annual Youth Fishing Tournament**

Join us for a fun-filled morning of trying to catch the largest fish. Prizes for each age category. Registration available at Poolesville Town Hall and [www.poolesvillemd.gov](http://www.poolesvillemd.gov). For kids ages 6 to 16! Cost: \$1.00. *Stevens Park pond*. 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**May 16**

**Commissioners' Meeting**

*Poolesville Town Hall*. 7:00 p.m.



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Potomac Hunt Races Website



## Youth Sports

### Falcon Girls' Lacrosse: A Spring Surprise

By Jeff Stuart

Keeping up with the opening season success of the other Poolesville High School field teams this spring, the girls' lacrosse team opened up the 2022 season with two surprisingly strong wins. On March 23 they posted an 18-1 win at Paint Branch, and on March 28 at home they followed that up with an 11-4 win over Seneca Valley.

"We had two wins and then we hit a bit of a rocky stretch," said new coach Sean Foster, "but we have had some really close games. The girls have been playing hard. I am super proud of the way they have stayed focused and dedicated in the last few games even though we lost. I am looking for the girls to grow stronger in the game, to gain a better understanding of the game, and to improve their skills. I would like for everybody to feel like they have grown and enjoyed their season. I know we are definitely getting more than two wins. We have already done better than last year, so every win along the way is a bonus for us. I have three freshmen on the varsity this year, no sophomores. The majority are juniors, and we have four seniors. I played lacrosse in high school. I coached lacrosse at Clarksburg for a year before I came to Poolesville. I coached the JV boys here and was assistant coach for the varsity boys' team before taking over as the girls' lax varsity.

"It's been a fun season so far," said senior defender Ana Grimsby. "It's been exciting. The games have been worthwhile to watch. I think we are really putting our best foot forward, and I think it is going to get even better the rest of the season. The first two games were a lot of fun. I don't remember much about the games themselves, but the defense held up, and the offense went crazy. Since I mostly play defense, the goal I scored last night against Damascus was a real highlight for me. That was pretty exciting."

"Our first win was the best feeling because we didn't win a game last year," said senior captain Jessie Rothenberg. "It was a good team win. Everyone got a goal. It just felt good. We won our first two, and the games we lost against

Northwest and Clarksburg were really good games. We were competitive against both of them. It was really fun. Everyone got some good touches. We came together as a team. We couldn't pull out the win in either game, but I am proud of what we did. I had my first hat trick against Clarksburg. We led the game against Damascus for the first five minutes after a goal by junior Phoebe Snelson. She has had a really good year. I knew Phoebe was going to play really well. She has helped our team a lot with draw control because she is super tall and can just lift it up out of reach of her opponent. I am looking forward to our senior night game against Wootton. I think we can beat them."

"We really started out the season strong which was exciting," said senior captain Brooke Rendzio. "The first-game win really did boost the morale of the team because we had a really hard season last year. The two wins were super exciting. My best game so far was against Northwest. It was definitely a nailbiter, and we did lose in double overtime, but overall, it was a really good game for the team and for me, too. I had a hat trick that game. Kristen Lang is a freshman attacker. She has been killing it this year. She came out this year, and it has been really cool to watch her play. I think there has been a lot of improvement over last year, one hundred percent. Our skills have gotten better. Our team has gotten closer and gotten to know each other better. Coach Foster decided he was going to switch to the girls' program and try to build it up. I think he is doing that pretty well."

"The first game was a great morale boost for us, especially with the rough last season," said senior Emily Bupp. "It was nice to see a lot of girls get goals. We



Seniors, Jessie Rothenberg, Emily Bupp, Brooke Rendzio, and Ana Grimsby.

Continued on page 15.



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Continued from page 14.

**Falcon Girls' Lacrosse:  
A Spring Surprise**

had pretty tough games and then we faced Damascus. They have always been tough rivals. As a defender, it is hard to pinpoint one best game for me, but I think I had a pretty good game against Clarksburg. I have been on varsity for four years, so it is nice to finish this last chapter on a high note. Throughout my career, I would say my highlight has to be playing with my sister Rachel my freshman year. She was a senior, and I was a freshman. We played together in the Seneca Valley game. I had an assist on one of

her goals, and she had an assist to my goal that game. That was really special. This year, Phoebe Snelson and Kristen Lang have really stepped up. Kristen is pretty quiet, but she has really contributed in a big way as a freshman, and Phoebe has been a huge part of this team this season."

Other juniors are Jenna Rothenberg, Gabi Tuwiner, Lauren Anderson, Laynie Sofelkanik, Annie Yontef, Sydney Rorke, Cienna Stowers, and Makenna Heller. Kate Dacanay is a freshman.

On April 7, the girls rolled over Watkins Mill, 16-5, in a game at Gaithersburg. Senior Night is April 29 against Wootton.

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Continued from page 1.

**Commissioners Discuss Their Roles and Improvements in Management**

made it clear he thinks that progress has been made on staff morale, but continued attention needs to be paid to the matter. For example, the staff survey that recently took place will be repeated every six months to provide a gauge regarding morale and management issues.

The commissioners also discussed an internal memo prepared by former Town Manager Tony Tomasello regarding “blind spots” in town management, shorthand for potential problem areas in structure, management, or staffing that, if not remedied, could lead to issues in terms of town services or shortcomings in management. While the memo has not been made public, many of the items Tomasello identified that were discussed at the meeting have been discussed in general terms previously or have been identified by consulting studies such as the one recently completed on the town’s management of its finances.

Brown had asked current Town Manager Wade Yost to comment on Tomasello’s points. Yost said that in a number of areas, such as getting all town staff on the email system, work was underway. In some areas, such as a comment that the town’s website is “not a reliable source of information,” he disagreed with Tomasello. At the time Tomasello was commenting, the website had not been updated regularly and did not include the most current information. Yost said he was working hard to ensure that all information is as up to date as possible. He also noted that the town is now responding to comments from citizens at meetings or questions sent in to the town online about various matters.

Commissioner Martin Radigan said he valued Tomasello’s input, especially comments made about physical security in town hall. He mused it might be a good idea to have monitoring cameras in place to enhance security. He also iterated that Tomasello had made a point about the lack of diversity in town employment.

Yost said that it can be tricky to address the diversity issue. For example, while pay and benefits have been increased, many who apply for labor jobs may need to use public transport to get to town. Current public transport to Poolesville is inadequate at best. One of the best things the town can do is to work hard to make sure the workplace is “welcoming” to all.

In the business segment of the meeting, the commissioners passed unanimously (with Cook absent) both the FY 23 budget and property tax rate (the rate will remain unchanged) and the new water and sewer rates (which will increase and the categories for usage will change).

The commissioners also discussed once again the issue of how the farmers’ market (which has been held on Whalen Commons in past years) can be held. Yost said he and Town Events Coordinator Cathy Bupp had met with the leaders of the farmers’ market and discussed various models for getting the project going. The town has always required permits for moneymaking ventures held on town property. Along with the permits, proof of insurance is also required. Town Attorney Jay Gullo said the town cannot pay for insurance for a group or company wanting to schedule an event on town property. They must do so themselves. In the end, it appears that the project’s status is still unresolved.

Continued from page 11.

**Tidbits**

**No Butts about It, It Was a Happy Day**

Congratulations to Joe Butts who recently celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday! Over seventy family and friends joined him and his wife Linda in celebrating his grand day.



Joe Butts (tall man in center), with family and friends, celebrated his 85th birthday.

Have an event you’d like to list in the *Monocle*?

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## Remembrances

### Raymond T. Hughes

Raymond T. Hughes, 58, of Poolesville, passed away on April 16, 2022.

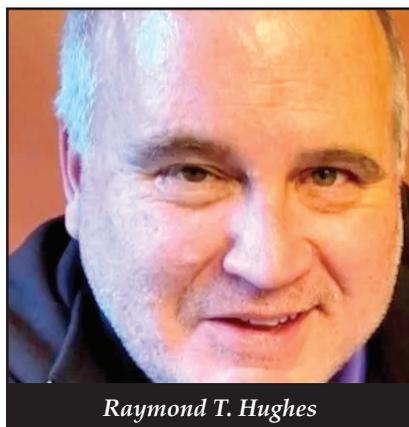
He was the loving husband of Ruth Ann Hughes.

Born on December 27, 1963 in Washington, D.C., he was the son of Thomas Raymond and the late Patricia Ann Hughes.

Ray "Grandpoppy" Hughes was a family man through and through—a strong, devoted, loving, and goofy husband, father, poppy, son, brother, uncle, friend, and golf buddy. If you needed help, Ray was there. If you needed a big hug, Ray was there, arms outstretched, with the best hugs to chase away the pain. Ray will be sorely missed, and we will all keep him alive in our thoughts and hearts with the great memories made together.

Along with his wife, Ruth Ann, and father, Thomas, Ray is survived by his son, Thomas Albert Joseph Hughes; wife, Maida Lynn Hughes of Olney; daughter, Kelly Ann Hughes of Columbia; one grandson, Peter Thomas Hughes; and two sisters, Katherine Ann Hughes of Summerville, South Carolina and Linda (husband Bobby) Beavers of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, May 7, at 11:00 a.m. at Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church, 17821 Elgin Road, Poolesville, MD 20837. Reception to follow.



Raymond T. Hughes

### Steven Neil Seger

Steven Neil Seger, 60, of Poolesville, passed away on April 1, 2022, at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville.

He was the loving husband of Julie Seger.

Born on September 29, 1961, in Bethesda, he was the son of the late Benson Edward and Henrietta Mae (Hall) Seger.

Steve proudly served his country in the Army's 82nd Airborne with combat in Grenada.

He was an avid outdoorsman and loved both hunting and fishing. He enjoyed woodworking and was a professional cabinetmaker. Steve loved time on his boat and loved the water, whether it was a lake, a river, or the ocean. He loved his family and especially enjoyed his grandchildren.

Surviving besides his wife are two children, Hayley Doane and Chase Seger; three stepchildren, Joy Moore, and Bri and Tyler Giarratano; two sisters, Sherry Seger of Hagerstown and Anna Ellis of Inwood, West Virginia; one brother-in-law, John Wishard of Hagerstown; and four grandchildren, Donovan and Carson Seger, and Alexander and Theo Moore.

Steve was preceded in death by two brothers, Hank and Gary Seger.

A Memorial Service celebrating Steve's life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 30, at the Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church, 17821 Elgin Road, Poolesville, MD 20837. Pastor Tim Dowell will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Lung Association (lung.org).

Arrangements handled by Hilton Funeral Home.



Steven Neil Seger

### Nan Alexander Ransom

Nan Alexander Ransom, 93, of Rockville, died on Tuesday April 5, 2022.

She was the wife of the late Edwin A. Ransom. They were married for 51 years.

Born on December 6, 1928, in Houston, Texas, she was the daughter of the late George M. and Elizabeth K. (Gordon) Alexander.

As a child, she remembered helping her grandmother, Mary Gordon, hand out food from their kitchen door to those in need during the Great Depression.

Nan received her undergraduate and graduate degrees in education from the University of Houston. She taught for several years in Texas and was known for beautiful flowing cursive writing.

Nan later moved with her husband Edwin to Wilmington, Delaware after their marriage in 1954.

A dedicated community volunteer and advocate, especially for Delaware public schools, she traveled several times to meet with her senators in Washington, D.C. Nan volunteered many years in the office of Brandywine High School. She loved helping people in need through Grace United Methodist Church in Wilmington, Delaware.

She was an avid bridge club member, playing regularly with friends for many years. "Sometimes the cards are in your favor."

Nan was a talented cook and competitive flower arranger.

She enjoyed living at Ingleside at King Farm Retirement Community in Rockville for the last several years to be close to family and made many wonderful new friends there.

Nan is survived by her three children, Robert Ransom of Cold Spring, New York, Margaret Ogden and husband Eddie of North Canton, Ohio, and David Ransom and wife Tracy of Poolesville; and six grandchildren, April Ransom of Cold Spring, New York, Taylor Ogden and partner Sarah of North Canton, Ohio, Sydney Ogden and partner Nick of Lansing, Michigan, and Farrar, Connor, and Zachary Ransom of Poolesville.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Upper Montgomery Volunteer Fire Department (umcvfd.org/donations). The family will hold a celebration of Nan's life at a later date.

Arrangements handled by Hilton Funeral Home, Barnesville.



Nan Alexander Ransom

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## Youth Sports

### PHS Softball and Baseball Teams Swing into Spring

By Jeff Stuart

On Monday, March 22, on a comfortably warm spring day, the Poolesville High School Falcon softball team posted a 9-8 win at Quince Orchard, and the following day, the Falcon baseball team defeated the Cougars, 13-12, in extra innings, also at Quince Orchard, for an equally successful opening day. That game was played under overcast skies, but it was still comfortably warm for an early spring day in late March.

"Here is how our game went," said softball coach Laurie Wohnhas. "In the top of the first, we scored two runs. Erin Dower walked; Cara Porch hit a bunt single. Emma Orders hit a sac fly, scoring. Dower scores from second. Kacey Raines hit a double and scoring Porch. In the bottom half of the inning, QO answered with three runs to take the lead, but in the top of the second, we scored three more runs. Samantha Carter singled and Dower singled, and Porch hit a double scoring both. Orders hit a sac fly to bring Porch home.

"The Cougars scored five times in the bottom of the third to take an 8-6 lead, but we held them from scoring the rest of the game. We did not score again until the top of the sixth. Dower reached first base on a walk and stole second. Lindsay Chu then hits a single to drive her in. Kasey Raines singled to bring in Orders. We still trailed by a run.

"In the top of seventh, Paige Soskin reached on first with a drop third strike. Carter and Dower walked with a walk. Erin Dower is walked, so we had the bases loaded with two outs. Orders came through with a single to score Soskin, and Carter scored on a wild pitch to put PHS up, 9-8. Emma Orders held QO scoreless in the bottom half of the inning. She finished with thirteen strikeouts and four walks as a pitcher. She also had three runs batted in.

"The win was a total team effort with timely hitting and defense."

Baseball coach Scott Davis watched his team go into extra innings on their opening day.

"In the top of the ninth, Luke Pearre walked, Andrew Brill bunted him to second and reached on an error. After two strikeouts, we had runners on first and second and two outs. Chuck Roe hit a soft line drive single to right center to drive in Pearre with what proved to be the winning run.



*Batter up! The 2022 PHS baseball season has begun!*

"Pearre had a two-RBI triple in the top of the seventh when we were down four to bring us within a run. Then Matthew Griffith drove him in with a single to tie the game.

Van Rosenbaum was 2-4 with two RBIs and a triple.

"It was a very competitive back and forth game. Some nerves for the opener on both sides were evident, so the defense was a little sloppy. We went nine innings with both teams recording twelve hits. Pearre started the game and provided us with a solid four innings. Sophomore, Andrew Brill, closed the game out for us.

"It was a good start; glad we got the 'Dub' (as kids say) but still things to work on."

Continued from page 9.

#### School News

#### MCA Ag Outreach

The Montgomery Countryside Alliance (MCA) has been reaching out to students in the PHS Global Ecology Studies Program for several years to underscore the importance of the Ag Reserve and the diversity in agricultural activity in the area. This includes several walking tours of local farms. On April 19, Global students joined Gene Kingsbury in a tour that included his orchard, Shepherd's Hey Farm, and Rocklands Farm Winery. This is the first such outreach tour since in 2020 due to the pandemic.

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### Canines That Follow a Vegan Diet Might Be a Bit Healthier, New Survey Suggests

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

British and Australian researchers found that dogs on vegan diets (a diet without animal products or byproducts) tended to have fewer health problems, based on their guardians' reports, than those who ate "conventional" meat-based products. Owners in the vegan group reported lower rates of obesity, digestive troubles, arthritis, and issues with eye and ear health.

Overall, 70% rated their vegan canine companion as "healthy," versus 55% of owners whose dogs ate conventional dog food; however, veterinary nutritionists who reviewed the diets indicated that this does not prove vegan diets are healthier for dogs. It is more aligned with the owners' perception of the diet's effects.

It is reasonable to think that "pet parents" who give their dogs a vegan diet are themselves vegan. That complicates the survey results, for a number of reasons, because those individuals believe veganism is the healthiest diet choice. This may be true, so they may see their dogs as healthier.

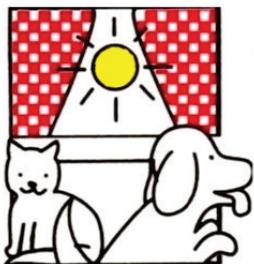
It is very likely that vegan humans probably have generally healthier lifestyles, including more physical activity and closer monitoring of the foods they eat for themselves and their dogs.

In general, evidence is lacking that vegan dog foods actually help dogs live longer, healthier lives, but their humans are paying closer attention to their diet and lifestyle.

That being said, researchers think it's possible for dogs to get the nutrition they need on a vegan diet. What's critical is that dogs eat high-quality food sources that are formulated to meet their nutrient requirements, and this may be able to be accomplished with vegan ingredients.

Since dogs do need a lot of protein, vegan diets need to be more carefully crafted to meet that goal. Pet owners who want to provide a vegan diet for their dog friends should do their homework. A website program called [balanceit.com](http://balanceit.com) can help dog owners to get a balanced, safe, and complete homemade diet incorporating vegan products.

In any case, the old saying goes, "You are what you eat"—and so is your pet.



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