

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Monthly Newspaper

May 2024 • Volume XX, Number 3



These wild bronco riders showed up at the American Legion's Saloon Dinner. More pictures on page 2.



Smiling chicken, farmer, cow, and pig in the Ag Reserve. Who and where exactly are answered in Business Briefs on page 5.



Father-daughter K9 team. Details in Pulse on page 12.



MES students participated in a twenty-year tradition. Check School News on page 16.

Town Commissioners Finalize New Budget and Tax Rates for the Next Fiscal Year

By Link Hoewing

In their two April meetings, April 8 and April 22, the commissioners of the Town of Poolesville heard public comment about the proposed FY2025 budget and tax rates, and later voted unanimously to approve the new budget. They also finished appointing all remaining open committee seats for various town bodies and voted to approve a revised "chicken ordinance" that will be the subject of a final public hearing on May 6. They approved as well final rules governing the location of any proposed cannabis stores in town and adopted new guidelines for the consideration and approval of grants to local groups.

Former Commissioners Eddie Kuhlman and Jerry Klobukowski raised a number of concerns about the budget. Their concerns were in part grounded in the fact that what they viewed as a large number of new or

long-term spending programs were being included in the budget while at the same time taxes and water and sewer fees would be raised. Klobukowski pointed out that a number of items, such as support for maintaining the Old Town Hall Bank Museum, now owned and managed by the Historic Medley District, appear to have "shifted from being grants to being line items" in the budget. He said he was not aware that the commissioners had voted to make these changes.

Kuhlman expressed concerns about expenditures proposed in the budget for such new projects as supporting the "Poolesville Pride Day" and said he felt it was a slippery slope to support such activities. While he did not oppose funding for the Fire Department's annual fireworks display or Poolesville Day, he said he thought the

budget for the fireworks was "a bit high" and added that the Poolesville Day Committee was supposed to do fundraising on its own so it could eventually be self-financed.

The commissioners promised to give detailed answers to the many points raised, but President Jim Brown noted that the line items for such things as future support of Historic Medley District are not guaranteed but subject to review as future budgets are considered. He also added that the town is adopting new, more detailed rules to govern future grants and said that while he is not on the Poolesville Day Committee, he knows the committee does raise substantial funding from sponsorships.

There were no further comments about the budget, and it was set for a vote at the April 22 meeting.

Continued on page 9.

PHS Opens First Phase of New High School

By Rande Davis

Poolesville High School Principal, Mark Carothers, led a group of local school advocates on a special tour of the new high school. The building opened for students on Tuesday, April 2. Parents, administrators, and local leaders, including town commissioners, personally greeted and welcomed the initial group of students beginning classes in the new facilities.

The new school expands the facility from 169,839 square feet to 243,000 square feet once completed. There is approximately another 70,000 square feet to be completed.

The new two-story facility has several unique features, including a unisex toilet space, that has the European water closet arrangement in two areas rather than the traditional boys'/girls' room. The space shares sink areas. In the science lab room,



Town leaders and school administrators greeted the students coming to their new school for the first time.

there is an emergency shower in the case of a hazardous spill on clothing or self, and a wall-mounted faucet that squirts upward two flows of water

designed to quickly wash out eyes that have a dangerous substance in them.

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Family Album



Milt Andrews, and Beth and Julien Singh with three-war veteran Gunny Remp. Gunny turns 98 in early May!



Eclipse gazers at Whalen Commons. Sitting at the table: Annie Sousa with her children, Samantha, Sofia, and Christian.



Wanda Brown and Joel Tjornehoj, both BOD members, at a tribute event for WUMCO volunteers.



Marty Sorcek, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Ag Fair, and Diane Geary had their own solution as to how to watch the eclipse.



Phil Brower (right) with visitors to his Gracefully Rustic Wood Works company vendor booth at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Deere Valley Farm Market.



Pam and Bob Hernandez won the best costume award at American Legion's annual Saloon Dinner.

Local News

Kuhns Offer to Donate White's Ferry to Montgomery County to Enhance the Odds of the Ferry Reopening and Serving the Community

By Rande Davis

White's Ferry owners, Chuck and Stacy Kuhn, have formally offered to donate the White's Ferry operation to Montgomery County. This most recent offer is part of their commitment to getting the ferry operational to preserve history, save jobs, and reduce traffic.

"We are happy to propose a resolution to Montgomery County. Our goal was always to get the ferry reopened. It's a special crossing that serves as a local economic engine and piece of history. Too many businesses and residents have had their livelihoods impacted by its closure. Despite many good faith efforts to work with the Virginia landowners to make ferry access available, donating the operation became the only solution that made sense to ensure the ferry has a chance to become a functioning part of our lives and local economy," explained Chuck Kuhn, CEO, JK Land Holdings.

Over the past three years, the Kuhns worked closely with the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, Montgomery and Loudoun Counties, including their economic development authorities and transportation departments, and previous ferry owner Herb Brown, to develop a proposal to gain access to the Virginia ferry landing side from Rockland Farm. Unfortunately, Rockland Farm owners rejected the offer to purchase an easement for access to the Virginia landing and a subsequent higher one for \$1.25 million—which were all well above the appraised land value. In addition, the Kuhns offered Rockland Farm the opportunity to buy the ferry operations along with an easement to the Maryland shoreline—with no success. This led to White's Ferry owners offering to donate the White's Ferry operation to Montgomery County. The donation to Montgomery County would be contingent on Montgomery and Loudoun Counties working together to find a solution to gain access to the Virginia shoreline and reopen the ferry in a timely manner.

"Our donation will be the best way forward. This is not what we had originally envisioned, but we recognize the importance of White's Ferry to our region. With this donation, we believe that Montgomery County will be able to work with Virginia to get the ferry moving again," Kuhn added.

Chuck and Stacy Kuhn bought the ferry in February 2021 to help protect this important Potomac River crossing with a long history. The purchase included the ferry, the store, and the Maryland shoreline that supports the ferry operation. Established in 1786, the ferry ceased operation in December 2020 after the previous owner Herb Brown could not come to terms with Virginia's Rockland Farm, which proposed a price of 50 cents a car each way. The toll would have resulted in a fifty percent reduction in operating income, making the ferry business unviable. In addition, Rockland Farm's contract terms and conditions made it too risky a business to pursue. Since purchasing it, the Kuhns also worked diligently and yet unsuccessfully with Rockland Farm to find a good faith resolution.

The ferry remains important. The economic impact of resuming ferry operations (based on travel time savings, travel cost savings, safety savings, the value of emissions avoided, and the value of trips not taken) will be over \$9 million this year alone and will result in a travel time savings that equates to up to \$1.7 million a year, according to a Montgomery County Department of Transportation study. While working through the efforts to regain landing rights, the Kuhns invested in needed upgrades and repairs, which will help make the transition easier for Montgomery County.

The donation of White's Ferry to Montgomery County fits with the Kuhns' interest in conserving land and history. Through JK Land Holdings, the Kuhn family seeks land acquisitions that can be sold, leased, developed, placed into conservation easement, or utilized by sister companies JK Moving Services and CapRelo. Over the past decade, they have placed more than twenty-two thousand acres of its purchases into conservation easement, ensuring vulnerable vistas and habitats are preserved and protected for future generations.

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Rande(m) Thoughts

White's Ferry: The Sound of Silence

By Rande Davis

With the press release issued early in April by Chuck Kuhn on his offer to donate the White's Ferry landing and operation to Montgomery County, I had hopes we might have some promising news to report by this May issue. Instead, we only have the sound of silence.

I understand that discussions are in the process, but I do not have any hard information to report. Mr. Kuhn is to be applauded for his offer. From the beginning, he has made it clear that his motive for buying the ferry was for the purpose of having the historic operation restored to service. It was just one more of many historical preservation projects he has entered into over the years. He has very succinctly noted that if profits were his primary reason for buying the ferry, he could think of a multitude of endeavors where he could have made much more money for the investment.

Now, our county council must decide whether to accept ownership of the ferry or not. Once again, everything hinges on a decision by Libby Devlin, a family partner and manager of Rockland Farm, LLC in Virginia. Before the decision by Kuhn to donate the ferry, Devlin had an offer of \$1.25 million on the table for the purchase of the ferry landing rights. It was not enough. The single obstacle was her demand for a per-car share of the operation. She suggested fifty cents a car, but the amount is not the issue; it is the process. Two previous owners determined that no per-car payment process could work without having the possibility of another legal dispute closing the ferry again sometime in the future. Without the certainty of a

complete and perpetual agreement for use of the Virginia landing, private sector parties could not and would not agree to her terms. If what we heard from the council during a public forum on the matter earlier this year, that the county cannot accept a per car payment process either, then unless Devlin accepts an agreed upon amount, the gift to the county will go for nothing.

Should the county not be able to come to terms with Rockland Farm, I think the county would be wise to still accept the Kuhns' offer. Ownership of the ferry operation and the land offers the county an opportunity to develop it into a Maryland Ferry Museum, to honor the over 130 ferry boats that once operated throughout the state. With the C&O Canal Association developing campgrounds along the Potomac at White's Ferry, the notion of a historic natural park begins to emerge as an exciting future for White's Ferry, with or without the boat operation.

What will happen now is very uncertain. Clearly, Libby Devlin will not be getting anywhere near the full \$1.25 million proposed by Loudon County, Montgomery County, and monies from both the Kuhn and Brown families.

Now that the dispute between two private sector parties is no longer in play, Loudon County should not have any difficulty in making the only decision that is in the public's common good. They need to restate the original governmental decision made in 1878 to make the landing public. The Rockland Farm ancestors were paid for that right 146 years ago. They should declare the land public, proclaim eminent domain in quick court, and pay the fair market value of the land. Of course, land in a flood zone is not suitable for building or farming, so the amount should be much less than the \$1.25 million proposed when the landing was being held hostage.

Garden

Pollinators, All Stripes, All Colors

By Maureen O'Connell

What is a pollinator? It is anything that helps carry pollen from the male part of the flower (stamen) to the female part of the same or another flower (stigma). This movement of pollen must occur for the plant to become fertilized and produce fruits, seeds, and young plants. Most pollinators include all families of bees and flies, birds, butterflies, moths, beetles, wasps, and small mammals. Monkeys, lemurs, possums, some rodents, and lizards pollinate certain plants. The number one pollinator is native honeybees. They are America's primary commercial pollinator, and more than one hundred U.S.-grown crops rely on honeybees.

Nearly ninety percent of flowering plants rely on approximately two hundred thousand species of animal pollinators. Plants and pollinators have evolved side by side over millions of years. The bee families appeared around sixty-five million years ago, when dinosaurs were extinct. In the last twenty to thirty years, there has been increased interest in plants for



Adult swallowtail butterfly on author's butterfly bush.

pollinators. You see this in garden centers and garden catalogues. An important promoter of the study of butterflies is the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History Butterfly Habitat Garden located outside of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History located on 9th Street between Constitution Avenue and the National Mall. There is also a butterfly pavilion located inside the museum on the second floor.

Pollinators have existed on planet Earth for a very long time (see history of the bee families above), way before gardeners focused on their existence. In the recent past, with the rapid growth of insecticides and other "icides" like

Continued on page 7.

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Published and Edited by
John Clayton and Rande Davis

John Clayton
Production
Financial
301.461.8840
jclayton@monocacymonocle.com

Rande Davis
Advertising
Circulation
301.509.9232
rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

Dominique Agnew
Copyediting
dqagnew@gmail.com

editor@monocacymonocle.com
advertising@monocacymonocle.com
www.monocacymonocle.com

Monocacy Press, LLC
John Clayton, President
Rande Davis, Vice President
P.O. Box 372
Barnesville, MD 20838-0372
301.461.8840

Contributing Writers

Link Hoewing
linkhoe@aol.com

Maureen O'Connell
mafoconnell@msn.com

Jeffrey S. Stuart
sark10@juno.com

Jon Wolz
wolzjon@hotmail.com

Joy Zucker-Tiemann

Contributing Photographer

Terri Pitts
terri.pitts@gmail.com

Layout and Graphics

AnyArt Solutions LLC
sales@AnyArtSolutions.com

Fun Facts Contributor

Laura Muncy
laura@AnyArtSolutions.com

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Business Briefs

Fine Earth Landscape Wins Another Award from the Landscape Contractors Association and Home and Design Magazine



Award-winning landscape by Fine Earth Landscape.

When the owners of Willow Mist Riding Center in Poolesville wanted a swimming pool installed, they called on Fine Earth Landscape to design and manage the project. The largest engineering challenge of the project was a ten-foot drop from their back porch to the existing grade.

While Fine Earth was constructing the swimming pool, the owners asked that a small natural waterfall be added. The little waterfall was set into the natural hillside and added natural boulder steps as a second access from the first floor. The children certainly enjoy the fish and the frogs that have made the little pond their home. Fine Earth added loads of colorful plantings, including hibiscus, butterfly bush, knockout roses, and purple coneflower.

Soft Ice Cream Now at Deere Valley Market



PACC president Tom Kettler assisted Samantha Baker in cutting the ribbon for the opening of the new soft ice cream service at Deere Valley Farm Market.

The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored an official ribbon cutting ceremony to welcome the new soft ice cream service at Deere Valley Farm Market. Joining in the festivities were Gracefully Rustic Wood Works and Rustic Route Local Coffee.

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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Presents Virtual and In-Person Programs

Are you looking for activities that stretch your mind, renew your body, and lift your spirits? Then visit the website for Poolesville Seniors, poolesvilleseniors.org, or call 301-875-7701 to register for a wide variety of virtual and in-person events. Most in-person events take place at *Poolesville Presbyterian Church's Speer Hall at 17800 Elgin Road (Rte. 109)*. **Registration is required.**

May 3

Movie Matinee: *Being There*

Enjoy *Being There*, a 1979 American satirical comedy-drama film starring Peter Sellers, Shirley MacLaine, and Melvyn Douglas. *Speer Hall*. 1:30 p.m.

May 4

Glenstone Museum Self Tour

Meet at the Glenstone Museum Arrival Hall before the noon entry time and explore the largest private contemporary art museum in the U.S. Explore the main gallery and the grounds. Registration is limited. *Glenstone Museum*. 12:00 p.m.

May 9

Trail Hike: Seneca Bluffs

Hike the five-to-six-mile, 2½-hour roundtrip trail along Seneca Creek known as Seneca Bluffs. Registration is limited. Meet at the trailhead. 9:30 am.

Warrior Canine Connection

Learn about the WCC's mission, how it serves not only our veterans and honors veterans through their naming of dogs, but also provides these highly-skilled service dogs to veterans at no cost. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 pm.

May 16

Historic Ag Reserve Properties with Kenny Sholes

Explore historic Ag Reserve properties with local historian Kenny Sholes. *Virtual*. 7:00 p.m.

May 17

Your Story as a Gift

This five-class series, led by Noa Baum, explores how a memory can be shaped into a story that becomes an inspiration for others. *Speer Hall*. 1:00 p.m.

Movie Night: *The Boys in the Boat*

Featuring *The Boys in the Boat*, the true

story of the nine-man rowing team from the University of Washington who overcame their own hardships as well as the challenge by more experienced crews in the 1936 Olympics. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 p.m.

May 20

PS Book Club: *Music in the Halls*

We'll discuss *Music in the Halls* by Poolesville poet, author, and educator, Bernie Jankowski. Through vignettes, essays, snapshots, portraits, and poems, *Music in the Halls* reveals the inner workings of a high-poverty District of Columbia Public School. *Virtual*. 7:00 p.m.

May 21

Sugarloaf Studio: Print Demo

Join artist Susan Due Percy of Sugarloaf Studio for an introduction to various printmaking techniques and a demonstration by the artist. *Sugarloaf Studio*. 1:00 p.m.

Building WWII Memorial

Get the inside story from Brian Peper, one of the architects of the National World War II Memorial. *Poolesville Presbyterian Church Sanctuary*. 7:00 p.m.

May 30

Floral Arrangement Demo

Join Stephanie Egly of Stephanie's Secret Garden and her son Sid Egly of Gypsy Flower Farm as they demonstrate the design of two different styles of floral arrangements, one vase and one compote arrangement, using seasonal flowers and greenery. *Speer Hall*. 2:00 p.m.

Author Bernie Jankowski

Join local educator, poet, and author Bernie Jankowski as he explores his powerful new book, *Music in the Halls*, which recounts, through vignettes, essays, snapshots, portraits, and poems, his years of teaching in a low-income D.C. school. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 p.m.

May 31

Line Dancing with Ashley Kelch

Enjoy an evening of line dancing with basic instruction. *St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Poolesville*. 5:45 p.m.

Weekly Events

Mondays

Ping Pong Afternoon. *Speer Hall*. 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Walking Club. Meet at *Whalen Commons Flagpole*. 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

Pickleball. *Stevens Park*. 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tuesdays

Tai-Chi with Maureen Ivusic. *Speer Hall* and virtual. 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Bridge. Snacks provided. Registration required. *Speer Hall*. 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesdays

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

Trivia Game Night

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

Thursdays

Mahjong with Joyce Kral. Beginner and seasoned players are welcome. *Speer Hall*. 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Fridays

Walking Club. Meet at *Whalen Commons Flagpole*. 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

You can join Zoom presentations without a computer by using your smartphone or just listen in using a local telephone number from Zoom with the Poolesville Seniors meeting ID and password. Call or text 301-875-7701 or email info@poolesvilleseniors.org to learn how.



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Pollinators, All Stripes, All Colors

herbicides and fungicides, more people saw up close what they were doing to the many birds, bees, and butterflies who often visited their gardens; they were killing them. I have been guilty of that. Years ago, when I had eighty-five beautiful rosebushes (thanks to chemistry), every Saturday morning I would drive my Gator around my garden plots for my “drive-by spraying” of all kinds of “icides.” They did their job wonderfully, but soon there were fewer and fewer bees and butterflies; I was gradually killing them! I stopped spraying completely; the roses would have to thrive without my help. In our climate, they could not adapt, so they eventually stopped producing roses, and they died.

Successful pollination requires year-round efforts in spring, summer, fall, and winter. All seasons are important in the lives of plants and pollinators. Human activities, such as farming, housing developments, and road constructions can fragment a pollinator’s habitat. It cuts the links between where the pollinators live and where they forage for food. Unlike humans, they cannot object with NIMB, “not in my backyard.”

How can you help pollinators? It is not enough to every spring think that you are being very responsible gardeners by planting “plants for pollinators.” They need food for themselves and their young, safe shelter, and a place to reproduce and raise the next generation. The photo accompanying this article is a Swallowtail Butterfly. The caterpillar feeds on the leaves of dill, milkweed, parsley, carrots, and fennel for three to four weeks. The butterfly’s life cycle goes from the egg stage to the caterpillar (larval) stage to the chrysalis (pupal) stage to the adult butterfly stage.

Plant flowers with a variety of shapes and a mixture of different colors, textures, and sizes of flowers to attract the largest diversity of pollinators. Practice good gardening techniques. Native plants are a wonderful addition to your pollinator garden, as they are well-adapted as they evolved with the native pollinators of their region. Support beneficial insects and predators like ladybugs, lacewings, parasitic wasps, toads, and birds to control pests naturally.

Regardless of the size of your garden, there are many ways that you can attract and support pollinators in your garden. You may not be able to provide everything, but every positive change can make a difference.

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Local News

BOE Candidates Share Their Vision of Service

By Rande Davis

The Fair Access Committee (FAC) and the Poolesville PTAs sponsored a Montgomery County Board of Education (BOE) Board of Directors candidate forum on April 24 at the Memorial United Methodist Church (MUMC). In moderating the public gathering, Link Hoewing, chairman of FAC, explained that the purpose of the event was to provide the candidates with an opportunity to provide information about their backgrounds and reasons for their candidacies and to answer questions on specific issues about area MCPS schools. Rather than the standard debate format, each candidate provided a time-limited response (one and a half minutes) to the various questions presented. Of the fourteen BOE candidates, ten attended the Poolesville program.

MUMC showcased a new video/audio system that greatly enhanced the public's ability to follow the proceedings in person, and live or post-event on YouTube (search "Poolesville BOE candidate forum"). The entire event lasted an hour and half. The Monocle has provided the starting points in the video for each category of discussion and for each question asked so that readers may choose to watch specific parts of the video rather than the entire video all at once.

There were four at-large candidates and three District 2 and District 4 candidates in attendance. Opening statements begin at the seven-minute mark in the video. The following recaps opening remarks for every candidate. If the candidate has a website, we have provided it for further details.

Lynne Harris—At-Large

Harris is currently an at-large BOE member from 2020. Her background includes being a mother, education advocate, and becoming president of local PTA, then joining the Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA) as an eight-year delegate. She identifies with Poolesville as she comes from a small town in Kansas and well understands rural community needs since she lived it.

Sharif Hidayat—At-Large (votesharif.com)

Father of two kids in elementary school and PTA member and delegate to MCCPTA. He was a Montgomery County police officer, serving as a community service officer, sharing offices with Security Resource Officers (SRO), and wants to restore them to our schools. He gains his insight from teachers and parents. Would love for PHS to become the model for education in the rest of the county.

Fitzgerald Mofor—At-Large (fitzmofor4mcpsboe.com)

First generation Cameroon-American, witnessed from his parents the challenges of building a new life in a foreign land, they instilled in him the importance of education as a tool for economic prosperity, self-determination, and social mobility. After earning his BA, he has worked as a para-educator at MCPS impoverished communities. He has a master's in law, explored various career paths as a teacher in a Montessori school, and working as a liaison in the Maryland General Assembly. Emphasized the need for post-pandemic improvements in education. He will push for wage parity for para-educators, expansion of PE programs, administrative oversight, and improving extra-curricular activities for students in disenfranchised communities. Wants to be a source of hope for disadvantaged students.

Rita Montoya—At-Large (Montoya4mcps.com)

Her background includes being a mom of two kids, ages 8 and 9, PTA president, and former Juvenile Public Defender, representing kids from ten to eighteen. She is running to provide an elementary school perspective to the BOE. She understands Poolesville's shortage of resources in the schools and in medical services as a small community and would be well positioned to represent the area.

Natalie Zimmerman—District 4 (NZimmermanforBOE.com)

Currently an elementary school teacher who has seen how proper resources are not trickling down to our students and educators, particularly the most vulnerable students. Believes that the BOE needs members who have been in the classroom, someone who is connected to students and teachers. She also identifies with the needs of Poolesville as she comes from a small town in Michigan. She wants to strengthen the concept of building community schools. (This concept seeks to make schools much more a whole-community resource beyond just the standard educational options.)



BOE candidates: Front row: Lynne Harris, Sharif Hidayat, Fitzgerald Mofor, and Rita Montoya; back row: Natalie Zimmerman, Laura Stuart, Shebra Evans, Aby Thioye, Ricky Fai Mui, and Brenda M. Diaz.


Laura Stuart—District 4 (Laurastewart.org)

She is a twenty-seven-year resident of the county, both her children recently graduated from MCPS. Capital Improvement Chair for the MCCPTA and the vice president for advocacy, also advocated for all Montgomery County at the Maryland State PTA level. When environmental issues arose during the PHS construction, she helped with improvements to the construction process, even by picking up air quality monitors from the University of Maryland and personally delivering them to the school's science department. While PHS educational rankings are high, she is concerned about the lack of resources in the area.

Shebra Evans—District 4 (voteshebraevans.com)

Twenty-three-year resident of Montgomery County currently serves on BOE, children are in college, and child is a senior at Kennedy High School. She has been a PTA advocate at the local and county levels focusing on inequities in Title 1 schools. Still advocates for resource equity. As a member of the BOE, she

Continued on page 15.



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Continued from page 1.

Town Commissioners Finalize New Budget and Tax Rates for the Next Fiscal Year

The commissioners moved on to the appointment of candidates to fill seats on the Parks and Streets Board and the Planning Commission. Christina Carr was appointed unanimously to the Parks and Streets Board and Kevin Maroney to the Planning Commission.

Regarding the regulation of cannabis dispensaries, the commissioners adopted unanimously the proposed rules they considered during their March meeting. In a nutshell, the new rules prohibit such dispensaries anywhere but in the commercial zone, and they require that any stores be located more than five hundred feet from a school, library, public park, daycare facility, or church or religious establishment. The new zoning does not allow a cannabis dispensary to locate in town except by "Special Exception," meaning each application would have to go through a public hearing which is not the case with other business establishments.

The commissioners adopted the new rules unanimously.

Finally, the commissioners unanimously adopted new guidelines for approving grants to local groups. All grants to local nonprofit organizations must further the goals of the town to "create and maintain a more fiscally and environmentally sustainable community and improve the quality of life for all residents." Sports organizations "are encouraged to rely on fundraising" and not apply for grants. All grants must serve a "public benefit," meaning "that all residents of the town may derive a benefit from the grant awards in the form of environmental projects, safety, community activities, economic development, and benefit the public at large rather than an individual, small groups, or private enterprises." The guidelines also state that in most cases, only projects based within the Poolesville corporate limits will be considered.

At their April 22 meeting, the commissioners considered and approved the final seats open on two town committees, the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Fair Access Committee. Cavita James was appointed to the BZA, and Derek Longbrake and Chuck Copeland were appointed to the FAC. Town President Jim Brown noted that all open seats on town bodies have now been filled and thanked all who had submitted their names for consideration.

The commissioners then turned to final approval of the FY2025 budget. There was little discussion except with regard to PFAS mitigation work that Town Manager Wade Yost said not only includes installing filtration systems but also enclosures for each well that is outfitted with filters. He said that there are federal and state grants to help pay for the costs of mitigation and said, in addition, the town is a participant in lawsuits against PFAS makers and settlements just recently announced with Dow, DuPont, and 3M which may result in payments to the town.

The budget was approved unanimously.

The next business item was considering the Planning Commission's recommendations about the so-called "chicken ordinance" which regulates but allows the raising of chickens in residential areas. The commission had feedback from several citizens that the rules, adopted almost a year ago, were too restrictive. The Planning Commission recommended that the property setback for a chicken coop be reduced from one hundred feet to fifty feet. It also recommended that the area required for each chicken in a coop be reduced from four square feet to two. Finally, it recommended that up to ten chickens could be kept on residences of more than one acre. A May 6 hearing will be held to finalize the amended rules.

In his report, Town Manager Wade Yost said that a new design and logo with much larger letters has been developed in consultation with the contractor who is painting the water tower. This will make the words and Falcon logo more visible and readable. The new work should be completed in about three weeks.

He also said that the school system had in its plans work to complete a sidewalk along Wootton Avenue in the area where the bus stop is and all the way to the intersection with West Willard Road. Once this work is completed, a temporary board walkway will be built from there to the bus loading area where a sidewalk leads up to the school. The town will install a flashing light crosswalk system on that corner once the sidewalks and temporary walk are completed which should be relatively soon.

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Focus on Business

The Crossvines Introduces Springtime Enhancements

By Rande Davis

The Crossvines aims to boost economic opportunities in Montgomery County's agricultural tourism, events, and winemaking industries. They strive to offer a delightful dining and entertainment experience to everyone. The venue comprises several businesses, such as Golf at the Crossvines, the Crossvines Winery, and Events at the Crossvines. All these businesses seamlessly blend with the agricultural landscape of the region and the Ag Reserve.

The Farmhouse Bistro at the Crossvines is so much more than just a place to eat. It offers a special peaceful respite for guests to relax and enjoy seasonally-sourced cuisine with their unique selections of wine produced at its own winery. Overlooking the 380 acres of picturesque countryside landscape and a golf course, guests can enjoy indoor or outdoor dining that includes wood and gas firepits.

For general manager, Tim Jones, his personal mission is to develop a restaurant venue that people come to for all their special celebrations as well as to "simply hang for good times." As spring and warmer weather emerges, his plans for Music on the Patio on Friday nights, as well as for Sunday brunch will continue to unfold. As summer arrives, look for concerts on the grass and live stage. His message to area residents? "Come relax, bring a lawn chair, and join with us for a great evening of music." They offer their own sparkling wines, red, rosé, and white.

He literally brings a wealth of fine dining experience and entertainment to the table. A graduate of the world-renowned Culinary Institute of America (he attended on scholarship), Tim started his career working in the highly competitive New York City restaurant industry, even becoming the youngest chef ever at the Waldorf Astoria. Before coming to our area, his wide-ranging career



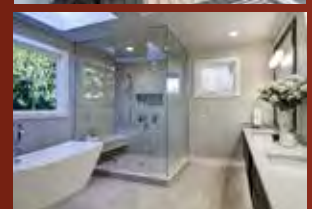
General manager at Crossvines, Tim Jones.

development included time at casinos out west. Locally, he has also been the executive chef for the Washington Nationals, as well as campus chef for George Washington University.

The spectacular Mother's Day brunch at Crossvines (check out the offerings at the Bistro on their crossvines.com website) is selling out quickly, so be sure to make reservations early.

Jones's wife Jennifer teaches fourth grade in Frederick County, and the couple has three adult children.

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Pulse

Third Annual Iron Dog Competition Raises Funds to Help Protect K9 Dogs

By Rande Davis

Corporal Phil Brower of the Montgomery County Police Department's K9 unit has been a man with a vision and a mission. A county police officer for over twenty years, he has been in the K9 unit for the last six years and, naturally, like all K9 handlers, has formed a close and binding relationship with his dog, Monty. It was through this special relationship, along with his intense personal passion for outdoor activities, that he envisioned a friendly, yet competitive event. K9 teams work their way through an obstacle course of fourteen challenges designed to highlight those talents and skills for which each dog is trained.

He realized not only how much fun the event would be for each service dog team but that it also could be created to raise important funds for a worthy cause. The cause he decided on is Spike's K9 Fund, an organization that provides custom-fit vests, protective equipment, medical cost assistance, and access to top-of-the-line training programs for police and military service dogs. These brave and dedicated animals undergo rigorous training for special tasks like tracking, apprehending, and disarming suspected criminals, sniffing out narcotics and explosives, and more.

The dream became reality three years ago, with a more basic obstacle course and only twenty K9 units participating. Now, with the third annual Iron Dog Competition held on a farm in Dickerson, it has grown to over fifty teams from diverse city, county, state, and federal police departments, and even included participants from the CIA and the Secret Service.

The obstacle course stretches three miles, through thick brush, across muddy creeks, climbing slippery steep hills, and traversing billowing smoke. Some obstacles emphasized the need to track, capture, and even shoot a criminal. Each of the fourteen obstacles is created to emphasize many of the specific activities for which each dog is trained. Along the way, Phil also placed educational tribute banners highlighting the names of dogs who have paid the ultimate price in their heroic service.

During the Iron Dog event, dogs and handlers had to wade through a creek to apprehend a "criminal" in a bite-suit on the other side. Another was a smoke-obscured challenge, demonstrating the ability of dogs to maneuver through low-visibility environments. In another event, the handler had to carry his dog uphill for a hundred yards. Keep in mind that most dogs weigh seventy or more pounds and, quite frankly, don't like being carried. Dogs and handlers had to belly crawl under logs, in mud, and through a creek to reach their target. There were multiple water crossings, an uphill trek, bomb sniffing challenges, target shooting, simulation of first aid for the dog, and even a hostage situation.

Germantown's Mission BBQ donated meals for the competitors. United Gun Shop donated a Glock 43x for raffle to help raise additional funds. All in all, the competition raised \$14,000 for the Spike K9 Fund. Montgomery County Police pays for the protective vests that their K9 units use, but many other police departments do not. The vests cost \$3,000.00, and Spike's has a waiting list of seventy-five to a hundred dogs. This event plays a critical role in helping to keep the dogs safe. Brower, who also has an avocation as a woodwork specialist, builds beautiful cabinets, tables, cutting boards, and other pieces through his Gracefully Rustic Wood Works company. Phil donated a beautiful coffee table with a resin river with bullet inlay running through the center to help raise funds.

Officer Brower has an even greater vision for the future, with the event growing each year—something that can happen with more corporate sponsors and donors. If your company would like to help this program, you can reach Phil directly at phil.brower@gmail.com.



Center Stage

Experience Magic with Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre's Free Spring Performances

By Brian McNally

Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre (HGCBT) is hosting a delightful day of dance and storytelling at Whalen Commons in Poolesville. On June 2, join HGCBT for "Fairy Tales in the Park featuring Cinderella," a captivating event perfect for family and friends. With two free performances scheduled at 12:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., it's an opportunity you won't want to miss!

Kicking off with Act I, audiences will be treated to a series of enchanting dances inspired by beloved fairy tales. From the elegance of ballet to the energy of hip-hop, these performances feature a variety of styles including jazz/contemporary and tap. The talented dancers, choreographed by the skilled teachers at Essence Studios, promise to bring eleven different fairy tales to life on stage.

Act II promises an unforgettable experience with a condensed version of the timeless ballet "Cinderella." Showcasing advanced dancers from Essence Studios along with community members from JPMS and PHS, this performance is choreographed by Essence faculty member Justin Rustle. Mr. Rustle, with help from the Fairy Godmother, played by PHS sophomore Elizabeth Tchorni, bring together Cinderella, played by JPMS eighth grader Kate Borman, and her prince, played by PHS sophomore Sava Brizhik. The trio successfully thwart attempts at disrupting this iconic courtship led by Cinderella's stepmother and stepsisters, played by Cecilia Zeranski, Kendall Zimmerman, and Alarica DeLongchamp. It's a fresh and lively take on the classic story, sure to captivate audiences of all ages.

Artistic director Claire Jones expresses her enthusiasm: "It's truly exciting to see children and young performers bring their favorite fairy tales to life through dance. Each performance not only showcases their talent but also their passion for storytelling. We are thrilled to offer this experience to the community and hope everyone will join us for these beautiful and humorous renditions."

Located in the heart of Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve, HGCBT is a cornerstone of the growing arts hub in the region. Now in its sixteenth season,



Upcoming performance in June of HGCBT's Fairy Tales in the Park.

HGCBT remains committed to providing the artistically underserved northwest corner of Montgomery County with access to high-quality dance performances.

Don't forget to bring a blanket, some chairs, and pack a picnic with treats from one of Poolesville's local eateries. This free event is the perfect way to enjoy the outdoors and experience the magic of live dance.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 2 (rain date Sunday, June 9) and head to Whalen Commons for an unforgettable day with Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre. Remember, admission is free, picnics are welcome, and the magic of dance awaits you!

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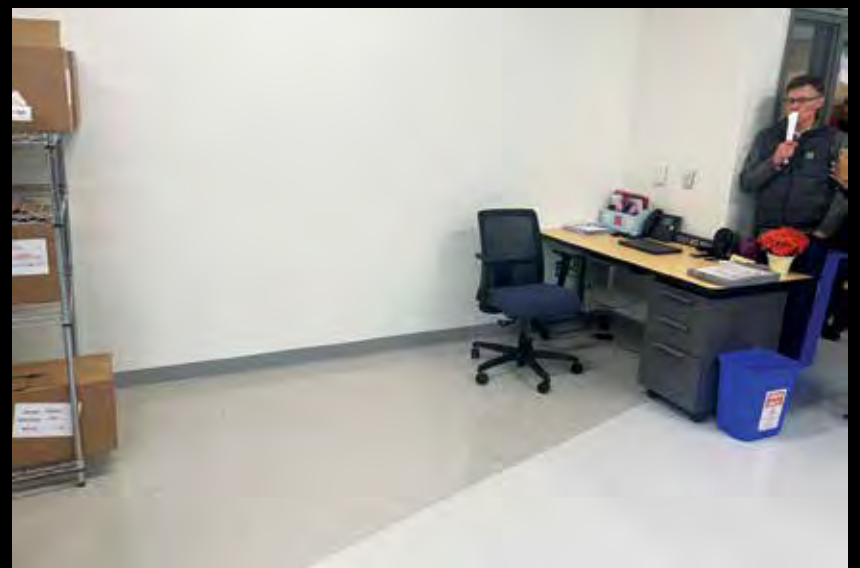
Principal Mark Carothers in his new office.



The new lockers are shorter and wide to better hold backpacks.



View from above the Humanities Hub social area. Students can eat and socialize here, and it can also be used as a classroom.



Shaded floor area in classroom is a safety area in which students can stand in the event of a shooter. Students standing there are not visible from outside the room.



Emergency eyewash fountain in science lab.

A Look Inside the New Poolersville High School



Inclusive water-closet-style toilet in all-gender restroom.



Length of new classroom hallway.



PHS music room.

Continued from page 8.

BOE Candidates Share Their Vision of Service

was an early supporter of a new PHS school, advocating for our needs to county councilpersons.

Aby Thioye—District 2

A mother of five, a twenty-one-year resident of the U.S., she immigrated from Senegal, West Africa from a culture of achievers, who do their best to study, a place where personal achievement was a highly promoted part in the culture. She became concerned when she did not see this same level of competition here. She is running to bring a positive impact from her experience to the BOE.

Ricky Fai Mui—District 2 (RickyFMui.com)

He has two kids in elementary school. He is worried and angry and wants to do something about the high level of waste and inefficiency within the MCPS system. He brings his navy veteran experience to help streamline the process, having large scale leadership, budget, and finance management experience. His community service includes being a cub scout leader and considers himself to be a positive collaborator who can benefit the BOE.

Brenda M. Diaz—District 2

She has been and is a current schoolteacher for over twenty years in public and private education. She has taught from pre-K to high school, as an ESOL social studies honors teacher, she was a union representative at Gaithersburg High School, and as such she believes she has an inside track into understanding MCPS. She eventually left public school teaching due to what she saw as a massive decline in support for teachers. She started her own elementary home school support program called “farm and forest” in Darnestown and teaches online. She is knowledgeable about Poolesville area needs as her daughter is a 2022 graduate of PHS. Wants to bring her insight into MCPS and experience as a teacher to the BOE.

The following are the questions asked after opening statements. For those who want to review just specific questions rather than viewing the entire video, the start time for each question is provided.

Question 1: Starts at 26:00

What is your understanding of the Western County and its needs regarding education? How would you define equity when it comes to the Western County?

Question 2: Starts at 39:50.

Schools are more than just education. They are about emotional support, meals, mental health, protection. How do we support the whole student? Are wellness centers the answers or only part of it? How does BOE partner with MCPS on these issues?

Question 3: Starts at 53:00.

In a small community like ours, schools play an especially vital role. Our teachers and staff are a large part of the community, and we are worried to see so many leave the system. What would you do to improve morale in the county?

Question 4: Starts at 1:06.36.

How would you protect our existing magnet programs which are an invaluable part of the high school curriculum and success? While the new school is greatly appreciated, nothing has been done about the condition of our sports fields. Do you think that is fair?

Question 5: Starts at 1:20.

What are the most significant problems MCPS faces?

Closing Statements: Starts at 1:22.

Fun Fact...

travelandleisure.com

The stars have aligned for 2024's Eta Aquariid meteor shower. With a nearly new moon, stargazers have increased odds of catching shooting stars. The Eta Aquariid meteor shower is caused by space debris from fan-favorite space rock Halley's Comet. The shower is most visible in the southern hemisphere, but northern hemisphere stargazers can catch the show, too. It is visible from April 19 to about May 28. At its peak on May 5, northern hemisphere stargazers could see up to 10-30 meteors per hour. Look to the Aquarius constellation from around 2:00 a.m. local time until dawn to catch it.



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School News

PHS Students Share Their Book with PES Kindergarteners



Mrs. Clair Ketchum, PES Media Specialist; Tony Yoon; Chrisitan Yoon; Mrs. Janie Earle, PES Kindergarten teacher; and Mrs. Holly Henderson, PES Kindergarten teacher

To help celebrate Earth Day, Christian and Tony Yoon, brothers who attend Poolesville High School, came to Poolesville Elementary students to read their self-published book to Poolesville Elementary's kindergarten students. After reading their book, they gave the students a chance to identify ways they could help the environment by making an Earth Day hat!

The students were amazed at the sweet story and inviting illustrations included in the picture book entitled *A Better Home* which can be found on Amazon! This book was written by the Yoon brothers as a passion-project to help encourage youngsters to do their part to keep our Earth healthy.

MES Earth Day Twenty-Plus-Year Tradition

Monocacy Elementary School celebrated Earth Day by cleaning up its butterfly garden and flower beds, raking, mulching, planting, and more. The cleanup project also had a no-trash lunch outside in the butterfly garden. This tradition has been going on for over twenty years thanks to Monocacy's SGA, LAND, parent volunteers, students, and staff.

PHS Student Named Outstanding Athlete

On Friday, April 19, at the Kayley Milor Twilight Meet at Urbana High School, Poolesville High School track and field junior, Roma Diak, took first place in the mile racewalk, placed second in the 5,000m run, and twelfth in the 4x400 relay, earning her the Outstanding Athlete of the Meet honors.



Monocacy Elementary students celebrated Earth Day with a twenty-year tradition.



PHS track and field junior, Roma Diak, named Outstanding Athlete of the Meet.

Continued on page 30.

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LENDER

Rural Women's Republican Club (RWRC) to offer \$3,500 scholarship for a vocational, trade school, or certification program, including a certification from a community college during the 2023-2024 academic year.

This scholarship is intended for students attending Poolesville High School, Damascus High School, Clarksburg High School, Quince Orchard High School, Seneca Valley High School, and Northwest High School. Students 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 complete 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: ESJNSCHMIDT@aol.com.

For more information, call/text (240) 421-1814. Applications and essays must be received by Friday, May 17, 2023.





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In Your Own Backyard

A Story That Has Been Lost to Time

By Jon Wolz

It has been written many times that Col. Elijah V. White bought Conrad's Ferry in 1871 and changed the name to White's Ferry. In the January 13, 1871 edition of the *Montgomery County Sentinel*, under the column "Letter from Poolesville," it said, in part, "I understand Col. E. V. White, from Virginia, has negotiated for the purchase of the property at White's Ferry, with the intention of engaging in the business of shipping grain from that point." When Elijah White bought the ferry, it was already known as "White's Ferry," so who was the White who changed the name? There was a White family related to Elijah Viers White who owned the ferry and changed the name of Conrad's Ferry to White's Ferry several years before Elijah White bought the ferry. White's Ferry began appearing in newspapers in the 1850s; however, Conrad's Ferry was mentioned as well in papers. Well into the 1870s, the ferry was mentioned at times as White's or Conrad's in newspapers.

In the late eighteenth century, Conrod Myers operated a ferry across the Potomac River between Maryland and Virginia. He appears in both the 1790 and 1800 Federal census. In 1790, his first name written was Conrod, and in 1800 it appeared as Coonrod. By the early nineteenth century, George Bowling was granted a license to operate a ferry known as Conrod's Ferry.

In the late eighteenth century and into the early nineteenth century, Leonard Deakins of Prince George's County bought land in western Montgomery County that included lands along the Potomac River which included lands of ferryman's Conrod Myers ferry.

Conrod's Ferry became known as Conrad's Ferry over the years. Maybe it was because Conrad was a familiar name and Conrod was not. Leonard Deakins died in 1824, leaving his lands in western Montgomery County to his wife Deborah Deakins. In 1840, Stephen Newton Chiswell White bought land owned by Deborah Deakins which included land along the Potomac River including



White's Ferry granary and warehouse.

Conrad's Ferry. Both Leonard and Deborah Deakins are buried in the Deakins Cemetery at the Deakins home, "Bloomfield" which is now located in University Park, near the University of Maryland. Bloomfield today is a private residence.

Stephen N. C. White lived at Annington up the road from Conrad's Ferry. He had inherited Annington from his first wife Ann Belt Trundle White. Ann died at age 30 in 1835. Ann had inherited Annington from her father Samuel Daniel Trundle. Stephen and Ann had three children that survived childhood together: Daniel Trundle White, Sr., Benjamin Rush White, and Margaret Ann White Smoot. In 1837, Stephen White married a second time to Elizabeth Gott Chiswell White. Together they had six children.

In the 1850 Federal census, son Daniel T. White was living with his wife Virginia by the ferry. Also living with them was ferryman James R. Walker.

In 1854, father Stephen N. C. White gave the land he had purchased from Deborah Deakins to be divided between his three oldest children, Daniel, Benjamin, and daughter Margaret. Daniel was given land between the ferry and

Continued on page 25.

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Continued from page 1.

PHS Opens First Phase of New High School

In a new floor design, disturbingly appropriate for our times, classrooms have a two-colored floor space that, when students gather in the shaded area, hides students from sight of a possible school shooter, making the classroom appear empty.

Several community areas are designed to be used for multiple purposes, including community gathering space for socialization or even having lunch. The new school has much higher ceilings, wider hallways, brighter classrooms, and multiple conference areas for small groups using a mutual table or the large table comes apart to be used as smaller tables. The lockers are a shorter, wider version more amenable to placing a backpack, used so prevalently by students today.

Outside of the entrance to the new auditorium, a wall that was once the exterior of the auditorium has been painted white and is saved as a reminder of its old location.

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Things to Do

May 4

12th Annual Poolesville SpringFest

Featuring 20 beer and wine vendors in tasting tent; music by Jackass Flats; kids' activities, artisan vendors; and food trucks. *Whalen Commons*. 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; music starts at 3:00 p.m.

May 4 and 5

Aix-la-Chapelle Farm Old Line Market

Come to shop in our Farm Village! Vintage and artisan market featuring over 75 vendors of handmade goods, home décor, vintage clothing, art glass, ceramics, furniture, garden décor, flowers, and plants. See oldlinemarket.net. *Aix-la-Chapelle Farm, 19120 Jerusalem Road, Poolesville*. Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Game

Baseball vs. Springbrook. 2:30 p.m.

May 6

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:00 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Game

Softball vs. Kennedy. 5:15 p.m.

May 8

Library Event

Tweens make Mother's Day cards. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:00 p.m.

May 10

Library Event

Storytime: music, crafts, and more. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

May 15

Poolesville Planning Commission

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:00 p.m.

May 18

Library Event

Science Saturday, presented by Science Connections: Volcanos! *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

May 20

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:00 p.m.

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Continued on page 24

Adults Getting Together



EVERY FIRST SATURDAY 9 a.m.–Noon

When: First Saturday each month from 9 a.m. – Noon

Where: Vail Christian Education Bldg.

19821 White Ground Road, Boyds, MD 20841

The Boyds Presbyterian Church (BPC) is hosting a monthly 'Adults Getting Together' for those interested in meeting, socializing, and sharing like interests.

Bring your favorite morning non-alcoholic beverage, needlework, puzzles, cards, coloring/drawing medium, books, etc. to reacquaint with long-time friends and make some new ones.

If you have any questions, please contact Marie Allnutt at mallnutt@hotmail.com or call 301-385-3503.

Please join us and nurture your personal faith journey on Sunday mornings at 10am, in-person or on Zoom at: <https://bit.ly/3h8917D>.

All are welcome. Fellowship immediately follows the service.



Notice is hereby given that the following vessel has apparently been abandoned for over 60 days on the property of: Ray T. Douglas Jr., 19816 Spurrier Avenue, Poolesville, MD 20837 (301-407-9111). The vessel is described as: boat registration number: DL 1275 T; hull identification number: GDYP1349J495; manufacturer: Godfrey Hurricane; length: 22' 6"; color: white w/red stripe. Application for title will be made in accordance with Section 8-722 of the Annotated Code of Maryland, Natural Resources Article if this vessel is not claimed and removed from the above property within 30 days of this notice.



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 Lets' Have Some Fun Together!
 Music starts at 7:00 p.m.

Check out our Nachos, Fajitas, Tacos, Quesadillas, and Mexican Specialties!
 Start your festivities with: Margarita on the Rocks, Piña Colada, Paloma, Mojito, Casa Amigos, Corona, Modelo, Dos Equus, or your drink of choice!

Cinco De Mayo Food Specials

Appetizers: Jalapeño poppers, Buffalo chicken taquitos, Chips and salsa, or Chips and guacamole
Entrées: Torta Mexicana, Shrimp Sopes, Birrias tacos

Mother's Day Brunch Specials

Avocado Toast: Tomatoes, avocado, and eggs, topped with garlic aioli.
Crab Quiche: Served with home fries and fruit.
Smoked Salmon Eggs Benedict: Served with home fries & fruit.
Bottomless Brunch Mimosas
Bottomless Brunch Bloody Marys



♥ Come Celebrate Mom at Bassett's!
Mother's Day Weekend Specials

Mother's Day Weekend Specials!

Appetizer: Coconut shrimp with sweet chili sauce, spinach, and artichoke dip with chips.

Entrées:

Steak Diane: sirloin steak covered in a creamy, peppery sauce served with baked potato and vegetables.
Chicken cordon Bleu: topped with mornay sauce served with asparagus and scalloped potato.
Crab and avocado salad: Mixed greens, oranges, avocado, cherry tomatoes, jumbo lump crab, toasted almonds, and red onion served with a side of citrus vinegar.
Crusted pistachio Mahi Mahi: Topped with key lime beurre blanc served with rice and vegetables.

Dessert:
 Strawberry Short Cake or Tiramisu

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6-8 pm - Ages 3 years to rising 6th graders

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Tidbits

John Poole House Added to Multi-State Tourism Program

On Monday, the John Poole House, which is owned and maintained by the Historic Medley District (HMD), was added to the Civil War Trails (CWT) program, a tourism initiative offering over 1,500 sites across six states for travelers. The project was made possible thanks to a partnership between HMD, CWT, and the Maryland Office of Tourism Development. The project is expected to help drive visitation and tourism revenue to Poolesville.

Maureen O'Connell, president of HMD, connected with the CWT staff late last year inquiring about the old signage in the historic district, the perks of the CWT program, among other things. Shortly after speaking with CWT's assistant director Christopher D. Brown, the HMD offered to become the primary partner, sponsoring the John Poole House. Their sponsorship enables the CWT team to update and maintain the Civil War signage system in Poolesville as well as to assist in the marketing and promotion of the John Poole House, including its programs, events, and more. "We are thrilled to be part of this multi-state program," said Maureen. "It's an easy and inexpensive way to promote the historic district to visitors and to help promote local businesses, too."

The John Poole House project is one of several exciting and notable moments for the CWT program. That same week, the CWT staff completed thirty-two other site installations, repairs, or updates across Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. "This is one of more than two hundred Civil War Trails sites undergoing updates, needing maintenance, or being added to the program," said Brown. Beyond the sign projects, the number of brochures being requested by visitors has already eclipsed the number distributed last calendar year.



New Civil War Trail sign outside of the John Poole House.



Fifth grade girls: Back Row: Caroline Stowers, Piper Franklin, Ciera Lane, Maddy Sherrill, and Grace Mays. Front Row: Abby Stump, Lorelei Hofmann, Lily Schmidt, and Mia Stewart. Coaches Matt Mays and Kara Sherrill are not pictured.



Fourth grade girls: Back Row: Alex Davies, Madeleine Afshar, Ellie Hitchcock, Julia Lasheski, assistant coach Jill Lasheski, Kaylee Johnson, Cecilia VanCise, head coach Katie Van Cise, and Everly Baker. Front Row: Isabella DeVriendt, Savannah Boehm, Lydia Henderson, Cameron Oristian, and Olivia Curran.

PAA Girls' Basketball Shines in Montgomery Recreation Play

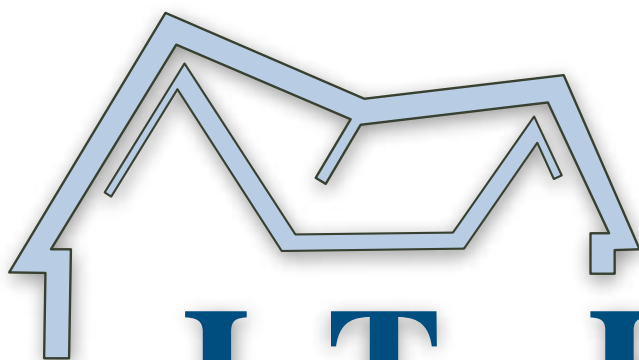
Two Poolesville Athletic Association (PAA) basketball teams finished first in their respective divisions this winter.

The fifth grade girls' team, representing PAA in the Montgomery County Recreation Department 2024 Winter Basketball North Division, finished first with an 8-0 record. Games were played every Saturday from January 6 to March 9 at various venues in Bethesda.

The fourth grade girls' team, representing PAA, also finished first with a perfect 8-0 mark in the West Division. Games were also played at Bethesda locations.

Have an event you'd like to list in the *Monocle*?
Email it to: editor@monocacymonocle.com

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Local Arts

Riverworks Events

Local arts events take place at: **Riverworks Studio at Alden Farms, 19215 Beallsville Rd., Beallsville; Locals Farm Market, 19929 Fisher Ave., Poolesville; and Riverworks Outdoor Stage at the Old Methodist Church, 17617 West Willard Rd, Poolesville.**

Learn more at www.riverworksart.org.

Ongoing and Free:

Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays

Open Studio

Need studio space, a change of scenery, or the company of other artists to nurture your creativity? Work on your project with fellow creatives during open studio time. *Riverworks Studio at Alden Farms.* Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Fridays 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and Sundays, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Wednesdays

The Reserve Wind Ensemble

If you've ever played a wind instrument at least at a high-school level, join our community band! This program is led by Michelle Palmer of Yunique Music School. *Riverworks Studio at Alden Farms.* 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Jam Sessions

Bring your instrument and voice and join Brian Jamison as he leads these jam sessions. Jam sessions are held outside, depending on the weather. *Locals Farm Market.* 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Made-in-Studio

Made-in-Studio workshops require no experience. Sponsored by the Butz Foundation. \$20. *Riverworks Studio at Alden Farms.* Friday, May 3, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Saturday, May 11, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Jam Sessions, Every Friday

Bring your instrument and voice and join Brian Jamison as he leads these jam sessions. Jam sessions are back and are held outside, weather permitting. Free. *Locals Farm Market.* 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

June 1

Taste of Riverworks

Tour plein air sites in the area to meet artists at work outdoors in natural settings while learning about programs and classes to come. 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Festivities at the new *Riverworks site on West Willard Road* will include live

music, dance performances, art sales and auctions, a beer and wine tent, children's activities—and, of course, Locals food. 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Monthly Concert Series

The Riverworks 2024 Monthly Concert Series is held at the *Riverworks Outdoor Stage* at the *Old Methodist Church on West Willard Road in Poolesville.*

May 11

Fields & Forest Band

Hailing from Northern Virginia, Fields & Forests consists of musicians Travis Hare, Glenn Boysko, John McRae, and Gio Hernandez. The band, which formed in the summer of 2023, draws from a wide array of influences, from folk and indie rock, to shoegaze, slow-core, and low-fi, to form a unique and cohesive sound that is all their own. \$10. 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

May Artist-in-the-House Gallery

Exhibits are held in the upstairs gallery at *Locals Farm Market* (accessible only by stairs). Sponsored by Walter Matia, Curlew Castings.

Wib Middleton, "Momentary Meditations"

Middleton's images evoke a reverence for nature's quiet splendor in moments of observation, inspiration and gratitude. *Locals Farm Market.* Through June 9.



Continued from page 20.

Things to Do

May 22

PACC Network Event

Windridge Winery, chamber members and guests only. Light snacks with cash bar. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

May 24

Library Event

Storytime: Music, crafts, and more. *Maggie Nightingale Library.* 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Of Poetry and Prose

May

"Moon of Green Leaves," so
They called you long ago,
So the Indian child at play
Spoke your name, dear Month
of May.

—Annette Wynne

discoverpoetry.org

Continued from page 18.

A Story That Has Been Lost to Time

the canal, including lands directly across from the canal where he started farming. That farm today is the Frozen Level Farm.

The name "White's Ferry" appeared in an *Evening Star* March 22, 1856 advertisement for a passenger packet boat "Argo" that left Georgetown every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 6:00 a.m. and arriving at Harper's Ferry at 6:00 p.m. One of the stops mentioned was at White's Ferry arriving there at 1½ p.m. The fare to White's Ferry was \$1.30. The boat returned from Harper's Ferry beginning at 6:00 a.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, making the same stops as on the way up the Canal, arriving in Georgetown at 6:00 p.m. The same advertisement appeared in different newspapers along the route of the packet boat throughout 1856.

In an *Evening Star* article from April 29, 1863, it mentioned in Civil War news, "The river is now too high to be forded anywhere except at White's and Edwards Ferry which are in the neighborhood of Leesburg. At both of these Ferries, there are strong earthworks, well mounted and garrisoned."

In an *Evening Star* article from July 7, 1864, it mentions, "Later, Mr. D. White of White's Ferry arrived in town and reports that on Tuesday a party of rebels crossed at Monocacy six miles below Point of Rocks and after robbing the store there returned to the south side of the Potomac to divide the spoils."

In an *Evening Star* article from October 15, 1864, it was reported that "We learn the following particulars of the Rebel crossing into Maryland yesterday. As heretofore stated, they crossed at White's Ferry and camped for a while on the farm of Mr. Daniel White who lives on this side of the Ferry. Mr. White saw them approaching and in order to save his stock ran it off. These guerillas numbered three hundred. Before dark, the Rebels moved in the direction of Poolesville."

On December 9, 1864, the Canal Company issued this directive: "The directors granted permission to Dan White to occupy and use the warehouse that he constructed at Conrad's Ferry prior to the summer of Confederate raids for the receipt, storage, and transportation of coal on the waterway." Daniel White built the grain warehouse and not Elijah White.

On July 13, 1865, there was another article in the *Evening Star* advertising a passenger packet boat going from Georgetown to Williamsport, and one of the stops was White's Ferry.

Local historian Jim Poole shared a map with me from 1865 that a friend of his found in the National Archives. On this 1865 map it is titled, "Potomac River From Mason Island No. 2 to Whitesville." Beneath this it says, "Surveyed under the direction of Maj. C. S. Stewart, U.S. Engrs." Whitesville is shown on the opposite side of White's Ferry which is shown on the map going across the Potomac River.

In the *Alexandria Gazette* on April 26, 1866, it is mentioned that "Mr. Daniel White died very suddenly on Monday last at his residence in Maryland, near White's Ferry, of spotted fever. Mr. W. was in Leesburg on Saturday." Daniel was buried at Union Cemetery in Leesburg, Virginia. Daniel's wife Virginia was the administratrix of his estate which included the farm, livestock, farm equipment, and two canal boats. Together, Daniel and Virginia had twelve children. After Daniel's death, Virginia ended up moving westward and is buried at the Mount Washington Cemetery, Independence, Missouri. Stephen N. C. White died in 1860 and is buried at the Monocacy Cemetery between his two wives. We do not know for certain as to who changed the name of Conrad's Ferry to White's, but I think it was most likely changed by Daniel Trundle White.



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Youth Sports

It's a New Era for PHS Boys' Lacrosse

By Jeff Stuart

"We lost a lot of seniors last year," said assistant varsity coach and JV coach Niko Sofelkanik at practice just before the Poolesville High School boys' lacrosse season's start. "We had a graduating class of seventeen, and head coach Stuart Orns stepped down. Those are big shoes to fill. We got to bring the program back together. We have a lot of good talent on the team, we just have to utilize it. We have Vinnie Volpe, a junior, and Levi Roe, a sophomore. They are two good offensive players. Our defense is very solid with Tyler Schefter, Sean Radimer, and sophomore Ethan Schlosburg returning. I think it is one of the best in the county. We had three scrimmages. We beat Kennedy, 9-0, lost to Whitman, 13-3, and tied Tuscarora, 8-8. We learned a lot from those."

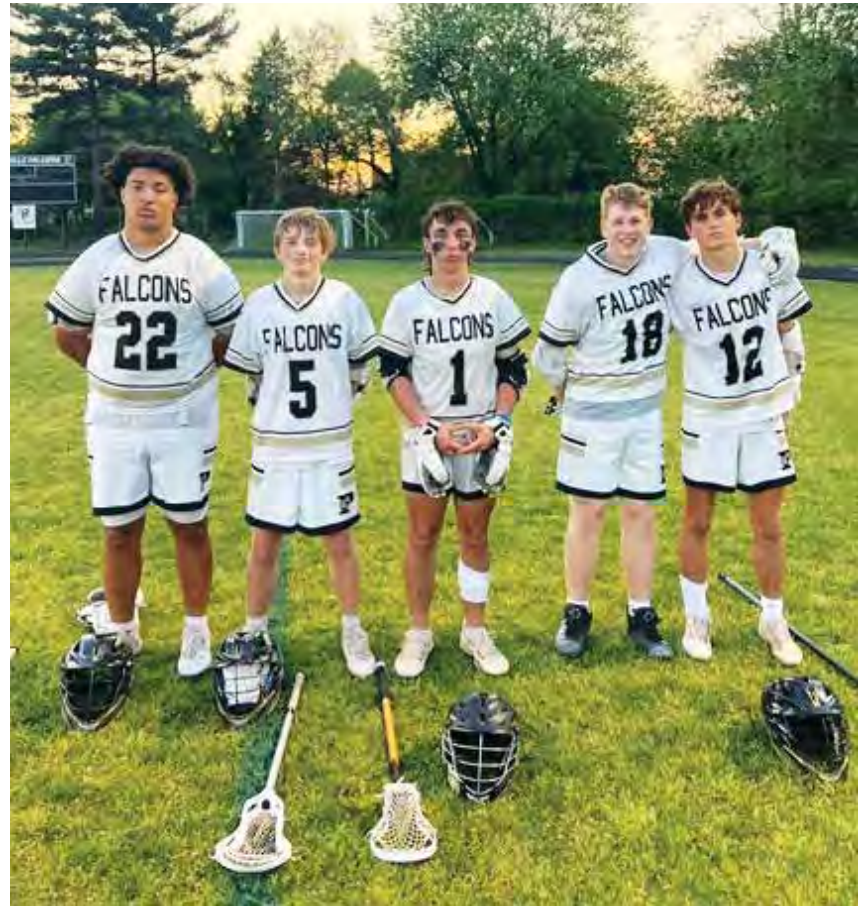
Dave Fisher, an assistant football coach last fall, has moved over to lacrosse to take the reins of the program.

"I expect us to have a good season," said senior captain Schefter. "We have a good squad with a lot of talent. There are a lot of familiar faces. We have seen our schedule. We think we can beat most of the teams. We will have to step it up in a few instances. The scrimmages were good. They helped us get up to game speed."

"I expect to win a lot of games," said junior captain, Racer Anderson. "I want us to work hard and to not give up on anything. I look forward to playing the tough teams, the hard games, like Churchill and Wootton. I like the competition."

"I think some of our younger players had played pretty well in the scrimmages," said senior captain Radimer. "I want us to work very hard and improve. I am looking forward to the game against Quince Orchard because that has become a rivalry."

Continued on page 27.



Tyler Schefter, Racer Anderson, Maverick Trone, Sean Radimer, and Vinnie Volpe.



Business & Community Directory 2024-2025

Barnesville ★ Beallsville ★ Boyds ★ Comus ★ Dawsonville
Dickerson ★ Jerusalem ★ Martinsburg ★ Poolesville ★ Seneca



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ADVERTISING DEADLINE MAY 20, 2024

Continued from page 26.

It's a New Era for PHS Boys' Lacrosse


"I saw a lot of good things in the scrimmages," said junior captain Vinnie Volpe. "We have a lot of work to do, but the guys played with a lot of heart. I am looking forward to playing with all the other captains and watching the younger players develop. In a couple of years, they will be players to watch."


"I am looking forward to building a team chemistry out on the field and playing with my teammates and making some memories out on the field," said senior captain Maverick Trone. "I am looking forward to the Quince Orchard, Northwest, and Damascus games. We always play well against those teams. They are always close games. They are rivalries. As a senior, I feel like I have been a part of the culture here for the last four years. It's been great."


The Falcons won three of their first four games. Those wins included a 10-9 win at Clarksburg in their opener on March 21 and a 12-11 win at Rockville on April 13. They defeated Watkins Mill and Kennedy easily in between. On April 11, they rallied from a 4-2 deficit at home against Magruder to grab a 6-4 lead at the half, but in a drenching rain, they fell to the Colonels, 11-7. On April 20, they lost to Damascus, 18-4. They beat Seneca Valley, 10-5, on April 25 and Wheaton, 13-1, on April 27.

Aatish Valaparia, Ryan Peck, Landon Tetlow, and Dylan Weaver are seniors. Other juniors include Dashawn Stantpn, Noah Taborg, Carter Rice, Hayden Myers, Nicholas Feys, Cory Gatons, Nathaniel Gilli, and Jonah Kim. Behr Schickler is a sophomore. Other players are Nathaniel Kim and Jacob Nagel.

Fun Fact... almanac.com

May 4: Star Wars Day 

May 8 (second Wednesday in May): Root Canal Appreciation Day 

May 23: National Drinking with Chickens Day 

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Remembrances

Thomas Grafton Lee

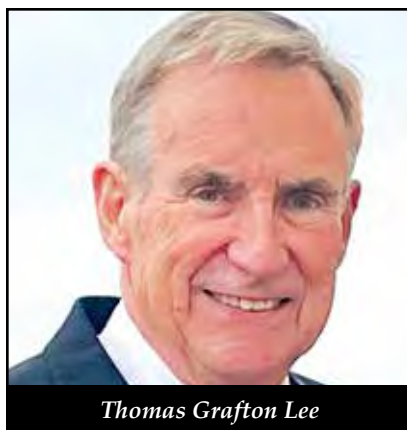
Thomas Grafton Lee, 71, of Poolesville, passed away on April 15, 2024. He was born on November 15, 1952, in Washington, D.C.

Tom was the loving husband of Gail Lindsay Lee for over forty-four years, a devoted father to Lindsay (Tim), Thomas, II (Anthony), and Lauren (favorite); and a cherished Pops to Reagan, Lincoln, and McKinley. He is also survived by his siblings, John (Wendy), Jim (Ruth), Mary Ann (John), Teresa (Chris), Dan (Cindy), and Greg; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, James H. and Lorraine S. Lee; and siblings Ken (Maggie) and Sue. Tom graduated from the University of Maryland with a Business Degree, spending his career as a CPA in Finance and Accounting.

Tom so deeply loved his wife Gail, and they created a partnership together supporting their family, friends, and community. He enjoyed spending time with his children and grandchildren, always being present and involved, building his life around his family. Tom and Gail enjoyed traveling anywhere in the world, creating different adventures. Tom loved working on his home and in the yard, reading, old movies, the beach, and walking his community.

Tom appreciated the simple pleasures of having a cold beer on a warm day, sitting by his pool, playing euchre, and dinner with best friends. Most recently, Tom enjoyed serving on the Board of Directors for the Monocacy Lions Club.

Any donations in Tom's honor can be made to the Monocacy Lions Club, C/O Milton Andrews; Treasurer, 18420 White's Ferry Rd, Poolesville, MD 20837.



Thomas Grafton Lee

William "Bill" Donald Blinkhorn, Jr.

Willima Blinkhorn, Jr., 75, of Dickerson, passed away on April 7. Born on August 13, 1948, in Washington, D.C., he was the son of the late William Donald Blinkhorn, Sr. and Edith Marie Blinkhorn.

He is survived by his wife, Judy A. Fling; his sons, Russell W. Blinkhorn, Kenneth B. Blinkhorn; daughter-in-law, Kelly Blinkhorn; and his four grandchildren, Kole, Wyatt, Kenley, and Cassidy Blinkhorn. Additionally, Bill is survived by his sister, Patricia Lynn Netter (Christopher), and was predeceased by his brothers, Timothy Joseph Blinkhorn and Michael Raymond Blinkhorn.

Bill attended both Wheaton and Good Counsel High Schools. Professionally, he worked as a Master Electrician for Dyna Electric for over thirty years as a member of the IBEW Local 26 and later worked for the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission for the last ten years of his career before retiring.

A navy veteran, Bill will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, friend, and mentor. He was always passionate about his pursuits and interests throughout his life, but he was happiest with his family and grandchildren. Among the many activities he enjoyed in his spare time, he loved working on his hot rods, attending antique car shows, and participating in Civil War reenactments as a bass drummer. He was a member of the 2nd Maryland Fifes and Drums and was also a proud member and bagpiper with the Montgomery County Firefighters Pipes and Drums.

Bill was loved dearly by all that knew him and will be deeply missed and remembered by those that he left behind.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in his name to Lewy Body Dementia Association: www.lbda.org/donate.



William "Bill" Donald Blinkhorn, Jr.



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Daniel Anthony Santucci

Daniel Anthony Santucci, 82, of Beallsville, passed away on March 23.

Born on February 4, 1942 in Maryland, he was the son of the late Anthony Sisto Santucci and Genevieve Ursula Demeza.

He attended Wheaton High School where he was the first pole vaulter in Montgomery County. His business career included Printing Manager for the *Washington Post*, owner of his own printing company, co-owner of the West Diamond Grill restaurant in Gaithersburg, Mortgage Loan Officer for Sunset Mortgage Company, and a Vice President and Mortgage Loan Officer for F&M Bank. He held many sales positions which he enjoyed. Throughout his life, he was a handyman and would help anyone who had a building project.

Dan was very talented. He enjoyed dancing and singing, but he will be remembered most for all the friends he made over the years.

Dan was survived by his two children, Douglas P. Santucci and Danielle L. Santucci; three sisters, Joyce A. McCartin, Arlene D. Leonard, and Mary Jennine Cornell; and one brother, Bryan J. Santucci. He was preceded in death by another brother, Gary F. Santucci; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; his first wife, Jean F. Santucci; his second wife, Linda M. Santucci; and his significant other, Carolyn Birely.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in his memory to the American Cancer Society and/or hospice.



Daniel Anthony Santucci



Remembrances

Frances Kay Winings

Frances Kay Winings, 66, of Boyds, passed away on April 20, 2024.

She was the loving wife of Charles Winings.

Born on April 21, 1957 in Cobleskill, New York, she was the daughter of the late Millard Francis and Mildred Genette Sperbeck.

Kay was a deeply caring person who was always ready to help someone else, whether it was a kind word or note, or often jumping in and doing whatever needed to be done.

Extended family was important to Kay, and she planned family events months in advance for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and for the famous annual "Turkey Treat" event. The food was always delicious, and her family especially looked forward to the apple pie, homemade noodles, pumpkin log, and black bottoms.

Kay loved the outdoors, feeding and watching the birds on the porch, and dancing. More than anything, Kay loved her husband, children, and grandchildren. She took every opportunity to be with her grandchildren: babysitting, watching ball games, baking cookies and brownies, and just being together.

Kay is survived by her husband, Charles Winings; her children, Chris Winings (fiancée, Katie), Jason Winings (Kelli), and Samantha Miller (Brooks); five grandchildren, Emma, Milo, Carly, Amaya, and Theo; two sisters, Claran Lundgren and Lona Bartlett; and one brother, Joel Sperbeck.

The family will be receiving friends on Saturday, May 4 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Hilton Funeral Home, 22111 Beallsville Road, Barnesville. Inurnment to follow at Monocacy Cemetery, 19801 W. Hunter Road, Beallsville.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made in her memory to Lemons of Love or the Alzheimer's Foundation.



Frances Kay Winings

David Ward Wilson

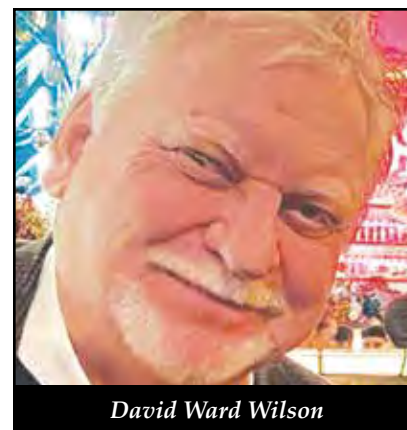
David Ward Wilson, age 70, of New Church, Virginia, formerly of Poolesville, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Thursday, April 11. David was born December 7, 1953, in Brockton, Massachusetts, to the late Harry Ward Wilson, Jr. and the late Elinor Pauline Wilson Bullard. He was preceded in death by his stepfather, Richard Bullard, with whom he shared a special bond. David was the cherished husband of Linda Ellen Wilson (née Rommel) for thirty-two years and a devoted father to Lauren Glenn Wilson (Kam Francois-Ashbrook) and Gregory Ward Wilson. In addition, he leaves behind his beloved sister, Christine Wilson Showalter (Sam Showalter), four stepsisters, two nephews, four nieces, three great-nieces, and one great-nephew.

Known by most as "Dave" and to some as "Willy," he will mostly be remembered for his love of sixties music, sense of humor, and Rodney impersonations! He received a BS in Business Administration in 1976 from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Dave recently retired after a long, successful sales career in the point-of-sale industry for such companies as Hayman, Aloha, Radiant, NCR, and Toast.

In his retirement, Dave enjoyed golfing, boating, and swimming in just about any body of water he stumbled upon. He became an active member of his church and particularly enjoyed playing his guitar with friends. Dave's fun-loving personality left a lasting impression on everyone he met. Some of his biggest fans were the dialysis techs who cared for him recently as he dealt with Polycystic Kidney Disease. Seldom at a loss for a flirtatious joke, he kept them laughing to the end, all the while never complaining. Dave refused to let the disease rule his life.

A memorial service will be held at Neelsville Presbyterian Church in Germantown, on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. The Rev. Jeffrey Rickett will officiate.

Contributions in lieu of flowers to Dave's memory may be made to the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation. Mail to: PKD Foundation, P.O. Box 871847, Kansas City, MO 64187, or donate online at <https://pkdcure.org>.



David Ward Wilson

Charles Shawver

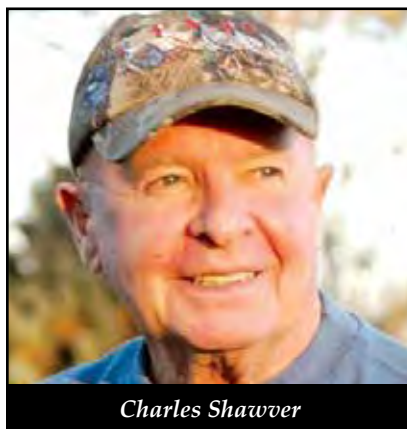
Charles Fogleman "Charlie" Shawver, 84, of Frederick, passed from this life March 27 at Kline Hospice House in Mount Airy. He was the loving husband of Carol Shawver. They were married nearly sixty-two years.

Born on August 13, 1939, in Dickerson, on the family farm, he was the son of the late Audry J. Shawver and Carrie (Steele) Shawver.

After attending Poolesville High School, he entered military service with the United States Army. He jumped out of planes many times before ever landing in one. After his military service, he began a career with the federal government, first working at NIH, then Ft. Detrick, and wrapping up his career at NIST, retiring at age 55 in 1994 after thirty-two years of service.

He enjoyed being outdoors, his yard and garden were legendary works of perfection. He was a lifelong hunter and traveled the United States and Canada, chasing elk, bear, and mule deer with his good friends. His favorite was wild turkey hunting. He once held the Maryland State record for a wild turkey and was so proud, he had a full mount created; his beloved black Labrador "Bear" decided to eat the mount one night, shredding it to pieces. Whether he was mowing the yard, hunting, playing golf, or bowling, Charlie was always on the move and the life of any party.

He is survived by his wife, Carol Shawver; his daughter, Wendy Addington (Mike) of Frederick; son, Charles Robert "Bob" Shawver (Renee) of Woodboro; three grandchildren, Ryan Addington, Kasey Shawver, and Danielle Shawver; his brother, Audry Jackson "Jack" Shawver, Jr.; and his nieces and nephews.



Charles Shawver

George Louis Toman

George Louis Toman, 65, passed away unexpectedly on April 26, 2024. He is survived by his beloved wife of 43 years, Maggie; his devoted daughters, Katherine Toman Brinkley and Erin Toman Fagan; and his adoring sister and her husband, Helen and Steve Ware. George is also survived by his sons-in-law, Scott Brinkley and Jack Fagan; his grandson, Wesley Brinkley, as well as John and Mary Lansing, and Stephen and Leslie Ware; and many more nieces, nephews, and cousins. George loved his family and friends deeply without reservation.

George attended Good Counsel High School and Towson University where he studied Mass Communications and built a successful career as an audio engineer for ABC, MSNBC, and several D.C.-based news channels. His love for music, theater, and the arts came through in all that he did professionally and personally, including eight years of working with the PHS Midnight Players, designing and building their sound systems. Any time spent around a table with a good meal, great company, and wonderful stories made George's heart full. His presence in all our lives will be greatly missed.

The funeral service to celebrate George's life will be held on Saturday, May 4, at 4:00 p.m. at the Hilton Funeral Home, 22111 Beallsville Rd., Barnesville. The family's home will be open to visitors from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.



George Louis Toman

Continued from page 16.

School News

Corrections:

PTA Fundraising

Regarding an article in the April Monocle issue, we were recently informed that MCPS is going to start covering the cost of the water filters at Poolesville Elementary School which

is great news. The article had indicated that the PTA is currently fundraising for water issues; however, they are not fundraising for filters at this time, as they have funds from previous events that the community has supported and that they are using. The PTA board hopes that MCPS will correct the pipe issues at PES, and we will do our best to share any updates we may receive.

Art Display at Library Not Part of County Project

The report in the April issue stating that an art display at the Maggie Nightingale Library was part of a county MoCoCom event was in error. It was a separate art project where elected students in grades K-5 had the opportunity to have art displayed at our local Maggie Nightingale Library.

The library kindly hosted a gallery evening for families of students with art displayed to enjoy. Snacks and refreshments were also provided. The artwork stayed up for approximately three weeks. Nikki Johnson, art teacher at PES, reported, "We hope to collaborate with the library again next year."



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Billions of Cicadas Are Coming amid Rare Double Brood: They Will Not Be a Danger to Humans or Their Furry Friends.

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

Brood XIII and Brood XIX are set to emerge during the same spring for the first time in 221 years.

The cicadas emerging are Brood XIII, a group of 17-year periodical cicadas, and Brood XIX, a group of 13-year periodical cicadas. This is the first time in 221 years that the two broods will be above ground at the same time, and the groups of bugs are set to overlap geographically, too.

Some are calling the upcoming double emergence a “cicada apocalypse,” conjuring up visions of a world clogged with insects in every nook and cranny. The result of the double emergence won’t be a scene straight out of a science fiction film. In fact, the double emergence could become a fond “generational memory,” many experts indicate.

Where will the two cicada broods emerge?

Brood XIX, also known as the “Great Southern Brood,” is a “really big brood,” that covers much of the southeastern U.S.

Brood XIII “is called the Northern Illinois brood, which, not surprisingly, is in northern Illinois and nearby areas and is a much smaller brood.”

When will the cicada broods emerge?

It is expected that the periodical cicadas will start emerging in the last week of April at the southern end of their distribution, which is across Northern Louisiana, Northern Mississippi, Northern Alabama, and Georgia. That could happen as early as the last week of April into the first week of May.

Soil temperature determines when cicadas emerge. Once soil temperatures reach 64° F, the bugs begin to emerge from the ground. This means the two broods of cicadas will not emerge all at once.

As spring progressively moves north and warms the soil, cicadas in those areas will start to emerge.

Do cicadas pose any dangers to humans or their furry friends?

The short answer is NO. Cicadas do not spread disease. They don’t bite humans or pets. They’re not a sign of filth. They have no toxicity

component. They don’t have chewing mouth parts; they’re not going to chew up your plants or your four-legged friends. The only damage they can do is when the female lays her eggs in the branches of trees; sometimes, those branches will break, and the leaves will turn brown, but for a mature tree, that’s not a problem. It’s like a natural pruning.

Cicadas are often boons, especially for other animals. When cicadas start flying around, they become food for all sorts of opportunistic predators like your dogs, cats. Other species like birds, all sorts of birds, turtles, snakes, chipmunks, mice, foxes, raccoons, skunks, coyotes, etc. also find them tasty treats. That’s part of the cicada’s survival mechanism. They basically overwhelm their potential predators with so much food that the predators get tired of eating them, and there are still millions left. There is nothing toxic about the cicada. That being said, please do not let your canine and feline friends gorge on the cicadas. If they fill their stomachs with too many, they can get pretty uncomfortable. If your furry friend suddenly passes up dinner or breakfast, it could be that their stomach is full of cicadas. This is the time to keep your pets on their leash when outside, so you have control over their cicada-eating plans.

When the billions of bugs start to die and leave their carcasses behind, the accumulations can rot and stink in the rising spring temperatures, but even then, the cicadas are doing good.

You will never forget that smell. It’s a scent memory. As these stinking carcasses start to decay, those nutrients go into the soil around trees, creating a nutrient cache for the tree and the next generation of cicadas, so they do a lot of good for the ecosystem.

Our canine pals especially may like to roll or smear cicada on themselves. While fun for them, you may not like the way they smell once back in the house. Using a 2% Chlorhexidine shampoo is all you need to get off the odor and any cicada debris.

Do not fear the cicadas or to kill them with pesticides since they are not effective against the bugs. Please embrace the opportunity to see an amazing natural event.



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