

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Monthly Newspaper

June 2024 • Volume XX, Number 4



Ride 'em, cowgirl! More SpringFest photos on page 2.



Local historians, Susan Soderburg and Jim Poole. See what brought them together on page 12.



It's a sibling thing. Find out what they have in common besides their last name on page 18.



Why is the Mayor of Sharpsburg waving the Monocle at a meeting? Answer on page 30.

Commissioners Adopt Final Revised Chicken Ordinance and Consider New Ordinance Governing Commemorative Flag Displays

By Link Hoewing

At their two regular May meetings, the Town of Poolesville commissioners considered and adopted revisions recommended by the Planning Commission to the year-old so-called "chicken ordinance." The ordinance regulates the raising of chickens at private homes in town. They also discussed a proposal for a new ordinance offered by Commissioner Sarah Paksima regarding the display of non-governmental commemorative flags on town property. In addition, they gave final approval to the new Master Plan that has been under development for many months.

At their May 6 meeting, the commissioners held a public hearing on proposed revisions to the chicken ordinance. The Planning Commission recommended that the ordinance be

revised to allow for up to ten chickens (up from six) on properties larger than an acre; to decrease the size of space required for each chicken in a coop (allowing for easier siting of coops); and to lower setbacks from one hundred feet to fifty feet, again making it easier to locate coops on some properties.

Only two witnesses appeared regarding the revised ordinance. First was Matthew Johnson. He had concerns about the ordinance because "the old version put the town in sync with the county's rules for enforcement, but the new rules require town enforcement." He said he did not see any evidence that the town had budgeted for enforcement of the ordinance.

In response, town staff explained that the county will still enforce rules regarding health and related nuisance

laws. The town's enforcement involves permitting which means that when a person applies to raise chickens, they must prove their new coop is located appropriately, is the right size, and that the resident will only be raising the number of chickens allowed by the rules. This involves relatively little staff time. To date, nine permits have been granted, and there have been no complaints.

Rebecca Mikua testified in support of the revised ordinance because it will allow more people to raise chickens. It may also allow for more chickens to be raised on some properties.

The commissioners agreed to vote on the final ordinance at the May 20 meeting.

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Poolesville's Three-War Veteran Passes Away

By Rande Davis

"Well, we stick together. That's the main thing. You stick together, you'll come out a winner. You can't win without the other." This was the dying statement of marine vet, Richard "Gunny" Remp, in explaining what the marine slogan, Semper Paratus, meant to him.

The three-war warrior passed away only two days later, at his home in Poolesville with family and friends at his side. Just days after his ninety-eighth birthday, he received region-wide media attention when he was given a long-delayed high school diploma he had never received as a teenager since he had dropped out of school to enlist in the marines in 1944. Channel 9 TV came to Poolesville to video the presentation of the diploma by Sharon High School Superintendent Justi Glaros. When learning that his

last remaining days were very near, Glaros remarkably went into action and got approval from the board of education to issue the diploma and then traveled over four hours to personally present the document. When Gunny told her Mother Nature was calling and his end was near, she calmly replied, "Well, not just yet, we have a few more things to do first."

In accepting the certificate with teary eyes, Gunny said, "Thank you very, very much. You people just don't know what it means to me. I got so many plaques I don't know what I'm going to do with them all. On behalf of myself and the marine corps, I thank you very much for what you have done for me. I'll never forget this. How can I with all you good people around me?"

Gunny, who lived in Poolesville for fifty years, was born in Sharon,



Local hero, Richard "Gunny" Remp.

Pennsylvania on May 10, 1926. He enjoyed golfing, bowling, working in his yard, watching his favorite

Continued on page 11.

Family Album



The PACC held its networking event at Windridge Vineyards.



Pam Mattes and Bill MacDonald at Poolesville Presbyterian's plant sale.



Tom McMartin (with tennis racket) along with other members of St. Mary's at their yard sale.

The Town of Poolesville's SpringFest 2024 made it through a rainy day!



Local News

Poolesville Seniors See Great Success In Maryland Senior Olympic Games

Pickleball drills and practice have paid off: Thirty-three members of the Poolesville Seniors pickleball group readied themselves for participation in the Maryland Senior Olympic Games Pickleball competition on May 16 to 19. Winners of these games would qualify for the opportunity to represent Maryland in the national games in Iowa, in July 2025.

Poolesville Seniors Olympians participated in about fifty pickleball qualifier events and brought home thirty-two medals and ribbons from their wins in the tournament, with twenty players qualifying for participation in the national games.

The Poolesville Seniors Pickleball group had players entered in all categories: singles, men's doubles, mixed doubles, and women's doubles, in age categories from fifty to eighty-plus. The results were nothing less than outstanding. The Poolesville Seniors team had a terrific showing, winning five gold, eleven silver, and two bronze medals, as well as two fourth place, four fifth place, and four sixth place ribbons. Our Poolesville Seniors pickleball team and supporters were the largest fan group at these Olympics Games held at the Finksburg and Columbia Dill Dinkers facilities.

Pickleball is not only an activity that assists social, physical, and mental health, it is just plain fun. With over

one hundred players, the Poolesville Seniors Pickleball group has grown into a successful sporting and social activity. Pickleball play continues to increase in Poolesville, with additional facilities upgrades being made by the Town of Poolesville to accommodate the expanding popularity of the sport. Stevens Park, with six courts, is the primary facility used by the Poolesville Seniors Pickleball group. In the warm weather, sponsored play normally occurs five days a week from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at Stevens Park, with general play on weekends. During the Monday-through-Friday sponsored-play sessions, players can come at any time and rotate into the ongoing play. Interested players are welcome to sign up through Poolesville Seniors and join the group, no prior experience necessary.

The Poolesville Commissioners and Montgomery County Parks are supporting increased play in the Poolesville area. The town is looking into resurfacing and lighting in the future for Stevens Park, and Halmos Park now has two pickleball courts and rollaway nets to accommodate both pickleball and tennis. The County Parks Service plans to paint four pickleball courts on the existing tennis courts at Owens Park and upgrade to LED lighting for evening play.

The pickleball Senior Olympics effort was made possible by the sponsorship of Poolesville Seniors and the support of the Town of Poolesville commissioners. The Poolesville Seniors pickleball players want to thank the town for providing the pickleball courts at Stevens Park.

Listed below are the Senior Olympics results for 2024:

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Poolesville Seniors' Olympic pickleball team.

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Rande(m) Thoughts Happy Memorial Day! Really?

By Rande Davis

If nothing else, Americans share something in common: We love to party! With all our glorious diversity, there is nothing more glorious than our being united—even if it is only in our affinity to party.

To prove my point, take our recent observance of Memorial Day. How many of us prior to Memorial Day say to others, “Happy Memorial Day!” Really? Talk about an oxymoron. Don’t get me wrong, I am no better than others. I, too, enjoy a good party, with friends, food, and drinks at the end of the day. Maybe I am being too harsh. Perhaps the party is more akin to an Irish wake, once the somber part is over, recover from the mourning like it’s a new morning.

I continue to hear even important political officials confuse Memorial Day with Veterans Day. The old Armistice Day which is held in November is to honor all who served honorably—not just those who did not make it home. Memorial Day honors all who gave their all. They were the ones referenced in Christ’s words, “Greater love hath no one than this: to lay down one’s life for their friends (others).” If Thanksgiving is a day to be grateful for sustenance, Memorial Day is a day to be grateful for those who died so we can live our life of freedom.

This year, in Poolesville, we had a very special Memorial Day. It was so special even Steve Hartman, CBS national correspondent who took up

the baton from Charles Kuralt, brought his feature beat “On the Road” to our roads. He came because the Poolesville Daniel-Jeffers American Legion Post 247 chose to give special honor on the recent passing of local hero, Richard “Gunny” Remp. Although he did not die in battle, his service in three wars (World War II, Korea, and Vietnam) qualifies him for a bit of exception in mentioning his recent passing this Memorial Day.

You can read more about this ninety-eight-year-old in our front-page story. Gunny once fired thousands of rounds of ammunition so long against an advancing contingent of Viet Cong that surrounded a helpless squad of U.S. troops that his hands bled. In the end, they lived while he humbly observed, “Yeah, I did good.”

Those who came to know this old warrior soon learned his secret to a long life. From the very young to full grown adults, all came to realize his special impact was on learning to be grateful for the simple joys of life and not to let worries destroy your life. He loved to pass his time in his garage with the door open wide, sitting in a lawn chair with a cold beer in one hand and a good cigar in the other, sharing stories and jokes with friends. As neighbors drove or passed by, he waved to all. With his chair now empty, there will be many I am sure who still will wave as they go by.

Like the old man on the mountaintop, this man in the garage held a very wise secret to a long life. Although scarred by decades of military service for his beloved country, he was happy through the satisfaction of doing his best in difficult times and always remembering not to let things upset him and remembering always to stay positive.

With him in my thoughts, while grateful for his service, I give honor to the following neighbors from our area who died in the past in military service to all of us:

Cpl. Kirk J. Bosselmann, USMC, Dickerson, 11/27/04, Iraq
Spec. 5 Robert D. Donaldson, Army, Dickerson, 01/31/66, Vietnam
Cpl. Claude H. Belcher, Army, Dickerson, 02/12/51, Korea
PFC Robert E. Fink, Army, Boyds, 08/06/50, Korea
2nd Lt. Frederick S. Hays, Jr., Army, Barnesville, 09/22/52, Korea
Cpl. Kermit Q. Prather, Army, Poolesville, 04/21/51, POW, Korea
PFC John J. Brown, Army, Dickerson, 01/23/43, WWII
PFC Edward L. Doggett, Army, Poolesville, 04/13/44, WWII
PFC William F. Grossard, Army, Barnesville, 03/30/45, WWII
F.O. Harold B. Jeffers, Army Air Corps, Dickerson, 12/21/42, WWII
Seaman 2nd Class Mahlon J. Kelbaugh, Navy, Barnesville, 05/07/44, MIA, WWII
Pvt. William J. Comphert, Army, Poolesville, 09/28/18, WWI
Pvt. Adolphus M. Graham, Army, Poolesville, 10/21/18, WWI
Pvt. Basil R. Graham, Army, Poolesville, 10/11/18, WWI
Pvt. John W. Nicholson, Army, Barnesville, 07/19/18, WWI

Letter to The Editor The Beauty of the Community Dinner

For way longer than the six years I’ve been in town, Poolesville Memorial and St. Peter’s have been providing a monthly Community Dinner. I’ve been pondering the Community Dinner lately. What is the Community Dinner? Is it just another dinner? A free meal? An evening without having to prepare a meal at home? My reflection has led me to conclude that the Community Dinner is much more than any of those things.

To make my point, I’ll take a look at the two words we’ve joined together to describe this special event. Let’s look at the second word first: Dinner.

In its most basic sense, dinner is simply a chance to satisfy one’s hunger, but in the Christian tradition, meals were a nexus—a hub around which connections were made. Consider Jesus’ experiences, for instance. Dining was a crucial element in Jesus’ ministry as he demonstrated his love of all by dining with sinners and tax collectors.

The Early Church made a practice of dining together (my paraphrase of

Acts 2:46-47): “Day by day, spending much time together in the temple, and breaking bread at home and eating their food together with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. As they did, day by day, the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.”

Dining is, and always has been, a key part of our communal life.

Speaking of communal, let’s now turn to the first word in Community Dinner.

Community sounds like an obvious choice of a word to describe the monthly meal served at Poolesville Memorial and St. Peter’s. After all, that’s who it’s for: The Community—any and all who wish to come.

Community represents more than the scope of invitees. Community is what we create as we gather. When we gather around the table, regardless of who we are, or whatever communities we come from, we become a unique new community, gathered around the common table, sharing a meal (and our lives) together.

When we gather in and around the kitchen to prepare, serve, and clean up the meal, we become a unique community, gathered around a common goal

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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
mafocconnell@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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Local News

Montgomery Council Approves Funding for New Town Community Recreation Center

By Rande Davis

The Town of Poolesville’s Fair Access Committee (FAC) has praised the Montgomery County Council for the preliminary approval of funding for a new Community Recreation Center. The center is expected to begin construction in 2028.

The committee also applauded the county’s approval of a new line item in the budget to support medical and dental clinics that the area’s charitable services organization, WUMCO, began operating a few years ago. This ongoing funding will help ensure that these vital programs providing needed healthcare services will continue in the future.

The new community recreation center will be unique in Montgomery County because it will not only provide space for seniors, families, and teens to exercise, socialize, and access recreational and educational programs, it will include space for a clinic to serve the unmet healthcare needs of many Upcounty residents. Work done by WUMCO, the local charitable services organization, and supported by the community and FAC has shown that many in the Upcounty are too far from needed healthcare services.

“We started Fair Access to call attention to real inequities in county policies and programs affecting the Western Montgomery County area and its citizens,” said Link Hoewing, FAC’s chairman. “We are proud that, through our community’s efforts, we have made progress in addressing key inequities over the years. We applaud County Executive Marc Elrich for including the community recreation center in his budget proposal and acknowledging the inequities facing Western County residents. We are also grateful for the leadership of our former district Councilmember Andrew Friedson, and the tireless advocacy of our District 2 Councilmember Marilyn Balcombe in championing this project. Her guidance and unwavering commitment to the Western County made the difference.”

“For decades, Western Montgomery County residents suffered from a lack of county services, facilities, and programs that other parts of the populated areas in the county have due to closer proximity,” said Jim Brown, president of the Town of Poolesville Commission. “We look forward to seeing the new programs and services the new community recreation center will bring to residents. This funding comes as a result of FAC’s tireless efforts in educating and working with county leaders to invest in Western Montgomery County.”

Continued from page 4.

The Beauty of the Community Dinner

of feeding all God’s people, in both body and spirit, and serving up an example of a community united in love to serve others.

Please know that all are invited to the dinner. Dinners are held at Memorial the first Wednesday of February, April, June, August, October, and December from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Dinners are served at

St. Peter’s the first Wednesday of January, March, May, July, September, and November, also from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Please also know that you are invited to be a part of the community that prepares, serves, and cleans up! Visit www.pmumc.org/dinner for details.

—Pastor Tim Dowell, Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church

Editor’s Note: The Monocle will remind you of the community dinner each issue in our Things to Do column.

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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.**

June 4

Book Club for Bridge Players

Hone your knowledge of bridge at this book club that will meet just prior to bridge play. *Speer Hall*.

June 5

MOOseum Tour

Enjoy a free guided tour of the dairy heritage King Barn Dairy MOOseum. Discover the barn; explore the methods for milking cows; "milk" a faux cow; churn butter; make a cow-themed craft; and learn about the history of the MOOseum's farm family. *South Germantown Recreational Park, 18028 Central Park Circle, Boyds*. 10:00 a.m.

June 7

Red Door Escape Room

Rally your friends for a team to enjoy a great escape room experience. Test your powers of deduction during one of several 60-minute adventures at the group rate of \$30 per person. *Red Door Escape Rooms in the Rio, 125 Boardwalk Place*. 5:45 p.m.

June 13

Trail Hike Little Bennett Kingsley Trail

This free 5.2-mile trail hike will start at the Kingsley Trailhead on Clarksburg Road. The trail is mainly wooded and packed dirt with some roots and rocks. It has 360 feet of elevation gain. We should complete the hike in under 2.5 hours at a moderate pace. Directions provided at registration. 9:00 a.m.

June 13

The Evolution of Broadway: A musical trip through time in song

Enjoy this fabulous free evening of Broadway music with Jennifer Ansara, a trained professional singer and familiar face in Poolesville, as she sings Broadway's best. Linda Benoit will accompany Jennifer on piano.

Poolesville Presbyterian Sanctuary, 17800 Elgin Rd. (Rte. 109). 7:00 p.m.

June 14

UMCVFD Firehouse Ballgame

Come out to a free Friday ballgame under the lights. See great local softball games played by some of your favorite people and enjoy a fun evening of socializing and sport! Food and drink are available for purchase, and alcoholic beverages may be brought in if in coolers. *UMCVFD Ballfield, 19801 Beallsville Road*. 6:00 p.m.

June 22

Sounds & Savories

Enjoy a free evening of live music, charcuterie, beverages, and fun. Windon & Ricker have been playing original tunes and covers of James Taylor, the Beatles, and Elvis Costello since 1984. They are popular entertainers in pubs, festivals, listening rooms, and singer/songwriter events in the D.C. area. Registration is required, and space is limited. Must be aged 21 or over. *St. Peter's Church, 20100 Fisher Avenue*. 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

June 27

Fighting for Our Lives: UFW Historic Documentary

Join Susan Percy for a free presentation of *Fighting for our Lives*, an Oscar-nominated documentary film produced and directed by Glen Percy. The film depicts the non-violent struggle of United Farm Workers during the 1970s' California grape strike in the face of threats. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 p.m.

June 28

Line Dancing w/Ashley Kelch

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

June 29

Sip & Paint

Free Sip & Paint with the Z-Hope Committee sisters of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. *Speer Hall*. 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Weekly Events

Monday through Friday

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

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.

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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Poolesville Seniors See Great Success in Maryland Senior Olympic Games

Singles

Gold: George Coakley, Division II (age 80-84)

Silver: Norman Spencer, Division III (age 80-84)

Silver: Jerry Greaney, Division III (age 70-74)

Silver: Elizabeth Ohmen, Division III (age 64-69)

Silver: Tom Chang, Division III (age 60-64)

Silver: Jeff McIntyre, Division III (age 55-59)

Doubles

Gold: Samantha Baker/Lisa Fouche, Division III (age 50-54)

Silver: John Dansby/Norman Spencer, Division II (age 80-84)

Silver: Brian Pepper/Jerry Greaney, Division III (age 70-74)

Silver: Patty Walker/Becky Sisson, Division I (age 70-74)

Silver: Dave Newcomer/Frank Tedeschi, Division III (age 60-64)

Silver: Tom Chang/Tom Hassett, Division III (age 50-54)

Bronze: George Coakley/John Cotton, Division II (age 80-84)

Top 4: Maggie Newcomer/Deb Loftus, Division III (age 60-64)

Top 5: Patty Civetti/Terri Bodnar, Division III (age 60-64)

Top 5: Way Ng/Arlene Smith, Division II (age 75-79)

Top 6: Terry Clark/Joe McIntyre, Division III (age 80-84)

Top 6: Roger Brenholtz/Frank Howard, Division III (age 70-74)

Mixed Doubles

Gold: Brian Peper/Gwen Haney, Division III (age 65-69)

Silver: Patty Walker/Mario D'Ambrosio, Division I (age 70-74)

Silver: Maggie and Dave Newcomer, Division III (age 60-64)

Other participating Poolesville Seniors team members: Lee Bristol, Martha Mason, Ross Ohmen, and Jeff Stempler.

Fun Fact...

Pickleball was invented in 1965 on Bainbridge Island, near Seattle, Washington. There are two theories about how pickleball got its name. One is that it was named after Pickles, the dog of one of the game's co-founders, who would chase after the ball. The other is that it was named after the term "pickle boat," referring to the last boat to return with its catch.

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Commissioners Adopt Final Revised Chicken Ordinance and Consider New Ordinance Governing Commemorative Flag Displays

Commissioner Sarah Paksima next raised the issue of developing a policy covering the display of commemorative flags representing events or groups on town property. In introducing the idea, Paksima said, "Our goal should be to send a message to all that you are honored and valued in our community." She further remarked that the town can also help by adopting a policy that provides reassurance to those who are bullied or are the targets of discrimination. She characterized the policy as a way to "set a welcoming tone in town." She said she was hoping the town could move forward with a way to acknowledge Pride Month which begins June 1.

Commission President Jim Brown said that flying commemorative flags from various groups on the town's main flagpoles on Whalen Commons should be a discussion for all of the commissioners. He definitely agreed in the long term that we should be able to come up with a policy that achieves the goals outlined by Commissioner Paksima.

Commissioner Martin Radigan said he also agreed that the town needed a policy and should try to get it ready by June 1.

Commissioner Jeff Eck said he would support a policy to allow the flying of commemorative flags like for Pride Month. He said he was not sure what the policy ought to be at this stage, but he added that, when he lived in Belgium, they actually colored the crosswalks in the pride colors.

Commissioner Ed Reed said that we need to move ahead but to do so with caution and ensure we protect against potential slippery slopes. We need a consistent policy that is based on recognized and widely-accepted criteria.

In the end, the commissioners decided to schedule a further discussion on the policy at an upcoming town meeting.

On May 20, the commissioners discussed a set of policy guidelines on the commemorative flag issue that had been tabled at their May 6 meeting. Before getting into the discussion, however, they also took a final vote to adopt the town's new Master Plan. Town staff noted that they had sent out the revised and near final Master Plan to state and county agencies for their comments ninety days ago. All comments that were received were considered, and staff said the plan was in final form and could be adopted.

In adopting the new plan, Commission President Jim Brown said he was very pleased with the work of the Planning Commission and the diligent fashion in which they had pursued their charge. He felt confident the new plan would be an important and vital guide to the town's future. The plan was adopted unanimously by all five commissioners.

The commissioners also considered a new forest conservation plan that has been under consideration. The plan includes updated language, including the fact that solar arrays do not require a forest conservation plan. It reduces the amount of square footage subject to forest conservation plans from 40,000 square feet to 20,000 square feet. It also removes the "fees in lieu" policy that, at one time, guided forest conservation policy and allowed applicants to simply pay a fee instead of actually implementing a plan to preserve forest lands. The commissioners agreed to put the plan out for public comment at their June 3 meeting.

In a final vote, the commissioners unanimously approved the chicken ordinance which had been revised as proposed by the planning commission and subject to a public hearing at the May 6 meeting.

The commissioners then moved on to a discussion about the commemorative flag policy that had been raised at the previous meeting. Commissioner Sarah Paksima said she thinks the new policy will provide the town with the opportunity to show how welcoming it is, especially for our youth. Commission President Jim Brown said that we do want an inclusive policy, and we want to show the public "we welcome all people in our town."

Commissioner Jeff Eck said the three flagpoles out in front of Poolesville Town Hall are reserved for "government flags." He thinks the American flag is inclusive. He would like to find another place on the public grounds where commemorative flags representing groups we respect can be flown.

Brown thought the bandshell might be a good place to either erect a pole or hang flags because it is a "community space." He said, "We want the policy to be inclusive, but we also don't want to create avenues for divisiveness." He also suggested that a committee be convened to take a look at the town's own flag and suggest revisions and updates.

Commissioner Paksima wondered about the feasibility of erecting a flag pole next to the new electric sign that will be placed in front of Whalen Commons. The

new flagpole would not be a government-reserved pole but at the same time would be near the electric sign which could also display backgrounds, if needed, about the particular flag being displayed.

In the end, the commissioners asked staff to look at the flag policy and come back with some revisions. In particular, one issue they wanted addressed is how to come up with a list of commemorative flags and events that will be celebrated on a regular basis. This would help ensure everyone knows what is coming up and what is going to be displayed.

Commissioner Ed Reed said that he would like a presentation about Pride Day at the June 3 commissioner meeting and one about Juneteenth at the June 17 commissioner meeting. All commissioners agreed this was a good idea.



Pitt Quips



Harry has always been on the fence about his political beliefs.

Photo by Terri Pitts

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Local News

Poolesville Officials Reach Out to Loudoun County Leaders to Resolve Ferry Impasse

By Rande Davis

The Fair Access Committee and the Town of Poolesville recently wrote a letter to Phyllis J. Randall, Chair-at Large of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, to express their view that the recent announcement by White's Ferry owner Chuck Kuhn that he would donate the ferry to Montgomery County may finally offer a means to resolve this longstanding impasse.

"We recognize Mr. Kuhn made the donation proposal 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. While Mr. Kuhn's contingency might seem constraining, we believe this announcement offers the potential of finding a permanent solution to the impasse.

"By removing himself from the process, Mr. Kuhn is simply acknowledging the reality that a long-since-failed process needs to be dramatically altered. He has, in effect, put the two counties involved in a position to work even more closely together, using any and all means they have available to get the boat running again."

In thanking Chairperson Randall for Loudoun County's continuing partnership with Montgomery County for many years to bring a resolution to the impasse, they emphasized the ag tourism potential from an open White's Ferry by drawing a connection to the shared history of both counties as well as the role in commuting between the two jurisdictions.

They expressed their hope that they can "seize this potential opportunity and turn it into a new chapter of cooperation and success between our two counties."




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Continued from page 1.

Poolesville's Three-War Veteran Passes Away

women's college softball team, and playing his luck with the Maryland scratch-off lottery tickets. Gunny, also referred to as Sarge, enjoyed watching and rooting for his beloved Dallas Cowboys. He could be found sitting in his garage, feeding the squirrels in the driveway, working in his yard, and visiting neighbors. He enjoyed smoking his favorite cigar, sipping his coffee or a cold beer, and chewing his favorite tobacco. He was very generous with his time and knowledge and always quick to help his family and friends. He had a great sense of humor, told interesting stories, and everyone who knew Gunny (or Sarge) loved him. He was a very proud and patriotic retired U.S. Marine Corps veteran, who loved the USMC and his country.

This past Memorial Day, CBS National News added to his acclaim by filming Poolesville's American Legion Post 247's tribute to him and his remarkable story.

Gunny entered the United States Marine Corps and completed his basic training at the 8th Recruit Battalion in San Diego, California, in March 1944. His first assignment was with the Wing Support Squadron 4 in El Toro, California, during WWII. Although Gunny requested to be transferred to the front lines to support the war effort, his commanding officer had other duties for him which kept him stateside.

After World War II, Gunny served in various capacities around the corps, including a mounted patrol at the Naval Weapons Station in Yorktown, Virginia. Gunny was most proud of this duty, as he was able to patrol on horseback and take care of the horses under his command. During the Korean War, Gunny was stationed at U.S. Marine Corps Base Iwakuni, Japan, where he worked to service jets returning from their bomb runs over the Korean Peninsula.

At the beginning of the Vietnam War, Gunny served as a crewman and door gunner on a UH-1 Huey helicopter. During one sortie, Gunny heroically laid down heavy suppressive machine gun fire of over 1,500 rounds to protect a reconnaissance team that had been surrounded by Viet Cong. His hands had

become bloodied just from holding and firing the weapon so intensely for so long. Gunny saved nine lives that day. His only comment about the incident? "Yeah, I did good."

During his marine corps service, Gunny was awarded the following: Presidential Unit Citation with one star; Navy Commendation Medal with Combat V Device; Air Medal (5th Award); Combat Aircrew Insignia with three stars; Good Conduct Medal with five stars; American Campaign Medal; Victory Medal (World War II); National Defense Service Medal with one star; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Dominican Republic); Korean Service Medal with three stars; United Nations Service Medal for Korea; Vietnam Service Medal with one star; and Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device.

After retiring from military service, Gunny worked as a meat cutter in Montgomery County for over twenty years.

Gunny is survived by his only son, Richard R. Remp (Carol); two grandchildren Richard R. "Rick" Remp, Jr. (Jennifer) and Donna Remp Hopkins (Chris); great-grandchildren, Justin Kersey, Alexandra Kersey, Katelyn Remp, and Sarah Remp. He is preceded in death by his loving and devoted wife, Dorothy "Dot" Remp, parents, Vincent Remp and Anna Mularski; and siblings.

Gunny's last words explained why he joined and reupped continuously, ultimately fighting in three wars. "Because I wanted to help my country out. That's it. The main thing. If you don't help your country, you ain't got a country."

Perhaps it was the words from the youngest generation in giving tribute to our oldest generation that seemed to encapsulate Gunny's purpose in life. Ten-year-old Matteo Santizo, a neighbor who had come to befriend Gunny, eulogized the old warrior by saying, "I don't have any funny story to tell like everybody else, but I do have something that for me represented Mr. Gunny, and it was how he never let anything make him upset. He was always in a good mood, and he made an impact on everybody's life, and the impact he had on mine was incredible, and I was very blessed to know him."

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Legion Post 247 in Poolesville.

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 Wine: Featuring Metzger Winery
 Music: Michael Heister (under the tent) 6-8pm
 19th Street Band 8-10pm

JUNE 21 – BARK IN THE PARK
 Inflatables * Food Trucks * Artisan Vendors * Dog Rescue Groups
 DJ * Pet Photo Booth * Paint With Your Pup (registration required)
 Dog Pageant - 7pm (several categories)

JULY 12 – WET, WACKY & WILD
 Waterslides * DJ * Food Trucks * Artisan Vendors
 Foam Dance Party * Jenn's Uncommon Critters

JULY 26 – MARGARITAVILLE
 Inflatables * Food Trucks * Artisan Vendors * Kids Crafts
 Margarita/Beer/Wine Tent Featuring Manor Hill Brewery & Metzger Winery
 Music: Sean Chyun (under the tent) 6-7pm
 Mark and Da Sharks (Jimmy Buffett cover band) 7-10pm

AUGUST 9 – FAMILY GAME NIGHT
 Inflatable Obstacle Course * DJ * Food Trucks * Artisan Vendors
 Bingo * Giant Tricycle Track * Yard Games * Board Games

AUGUST 23 – BARRELS OF FUN
 Inflatables * Food Trucks * Artisan Vendors * Kids Craft and games
 Local Distilleries, Breweries & Featuring Metzger Winery
 Music: New Saloon Review (under the tent) 6-8pm
 Kiti Gartner & Her Drifting Valentines 8-10pm

SEPTEMBER 13 – TIGERFEST
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 Trackless Train * Carnival Games * Dunk Tank
 Movie: Wish - 8pm

Pulse

Golden Anniversary for HMD

By Rande Davis

May 19 was a joyous gala celebrating fifty years of service to our community by the Historic Medley District, LLC (HMD). Its mission is summarized in its proclamation to be the "Guardians of Our Past, Advocates for Our Future."

The master of ceremony for the night was Chairman Knight Kiplinger who had the challenging task of giving honor to so many individuals and groups who have been part of HMD's auspicious journey.

Of course, the founding leaders from 1974, Mary Ann Kephart and Winsome Brown, although no longer with us, were roundly applauded for their vision and dedication. The mission of HMD was founded with the call to preserve our remaining historic structures in the area. The result of their efforts is visible in the remarkable John Poole House and Trading Post (JPH), the Seneca Schoolhouse, and the Old Town Hall Bank Museum. Along the way, they played a major role in preserving other buildings for posterity, such as the Thomas Poole Home (at the corner of West Willard and Fisher Avenue) and the Old Chiswell Estate. The original members were made up of the first twenty-seven cofounders, such as historian Fritz Gutheim, horticulturist Ed Stock and wife Mary. Ed designed the Stock Arboretum behind the JPH which focused on the plants, trees, and other vegetation naturally grown during Colonial days.

Mr. Kiplinger commended the only two living co-founders: Art historian Law Watkins of Dickerson and Judy Stone.

Maureen O'Connell, president of HMD, in her remarks, said, "The mission of HMD was the preservation and maintenance of important landmarks and history. The founders worked diligently, but today, fifty years later, the journey

is not over. We must pass on this goal to residents now and to future generations. We must not forget our past."

In recent times, HMD has transitioned from the preservation of structures to more emphasis on our history. In that role, Mr. Kiplinger noted that its name, considered somewhat awkward for general use, still better reflects its more current mission. He informed the attendees that the name was taken from the Colonial voting site called Medley Election District No. 3, established in 1800, which was named after the actual polling place at the time: a saloon! It was called Medley's Tavern, on a rise at the center of Beallsville called Medley's Hill. "Let's bring back bars as polling places," he proclaimed, tongue in cheek. "Maybe Cugini's or Bassett's and AHOP? Hey, it might improve voter turnout."

County officials were well in attendance led by County Councilperson Marilyn Balcombe who presented the group with a county council proclamation of appreciation for the organization's work over the decades. Dale Tibbitts was present, representing Marc Elrich.

Special honor and acknowledgement were given to the family members of cofounders who were present: Herb Brown and wife, Kephart's daughters, Perry Kapsch and Ann Brown, and son and granddaughters of Ed and Mary Stock. Also in attendance were key co-founder Barbara Griffith's daughter Mary Pat Wilson and granddaughter Katie Longbrake of WUMCO, who attended with her husband Derek.

Both Perry Kephart Kapsch and Steve Goldberg, and former executive director Rande Davis, who attended in costume (and character) as John Poole, Jr., were acknowledged for their many years of guardianship. Perry, with great diligence, care, and love carried the torch that her mother had so proudly first raised.

Mr. Kiplinger also gave strong tribute to Jim Poole whose decades of support can be seen through the many valuable contributions to the group and our history. He is a self-taught artist, historian, and archeologist who donated much of his amazing collection of Civil War artifacts and archeology records to HMD.

Continued on page 15.

THE HISTORIC MEDLEY DISTRICT'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA



Garden

Summer Gardens 2024

By Maureen O'Connell

As many days in late April and May experienced below-normal temperatures and above-average precipitation, I waited until the last week of May to buy plants for outdoor containers and garden beds. I visited several area garden centers to see what tempted me, as usual, to buy too many flowering plants and herbs. I was quite surprised by the increased cost for plants and garden supplies, but it was not unexpected. Many factors created this situation; inflation affects all sectors of the economy. Many garden centers produce very few of the plants that they sell to home gardeners. Seedlings are grown in greenhouses throughout the country, and they have seen an increased cost for everything from gas to heat the expansive growing areas to additional charges on items delivered to the store and the rising cost of gasoline and diesel fuel. Winter storms affected many areas, especially in the west. There are supply chain issues. There are shortages of trucks and truck drivers to deliver the goods, nursery workers, and plastic pots to contain the plants. Labor costs have also increased. The cost of fertilizer has almost doubled. This will especially affect farmers. They need to fertilize their fields for increased yield and better quality. In our area, this will affect the cost of hay for horses. A portion of fertilizer used throughout the world comes from Ukraine and Russia. Farmers need diesel to run their tractors. I foresee a rise in the cost of a bale of hay very soon. Some estimates from horticulturists say we could see increases across the board by an average of thirty percent, with nursery input costs up twelve to fourteen percent.

To revitalize your garden this year and add some new plants, gardeners will have to find alternative ways to save money to keep their garden oasis a place of peaceful refuge. Let's look at some simple cost savers.

Choose plants smartly. The key to a garden's success is the right plant for the right spot. Assess a garden's exposure to sun, shade, and wind, especially in the winter. Each plant has a level of acceptance that can kill it or make it flourish. With our summer Monocacy weather extremes, choose plants that are hardy and heat and drought resistant.

Better design plans. You don't have to cover every inch of soil with plants lined up like little tin soldiers. A well-designed bird bath, sun dial, or armillary can add a lot of interest to a corner or middle of a bed.


Take care of your plants all seasons. Don't put them in the ground and walk away. They need your help. One of my favorite parts of summer days is my morning and evening walks with my two labs, Spencer and Winston, in the garden to check how everyone is doing.


Annuals versus perennials. Annuals live only for one growing season and then they die. They can be a bit showier with bright, colorful flowers in an amazing number of types and varieties. They are often less expensive than perennials. Perennials regrow every spring and can last for many years. It is common for gardeners to use a combination of the two to add a variety of plant height, growing habits, and unusual colors. They will give you the most value for your money. You can also divide them each spring to increase your beds.

Older varieties versus new varieties. Every new growing season brings a boatload of new plant introductions, trumpeting all sorts of new improvement. Can they all be that better off? Well, it depends on what is important to you in a plant. Do the "new kids on the block" bloom better with new and exotic looks? Do they bloom longer and are more disease resistant? They can be, but it is worth it? New varieties usually cost more than older ones, and higher prices don't always mean superior performance. Many of my garden plants are tried and true. Phlox 'David' was the Perennial Plant Association's Perennial Plant of the Year 2002. It is probably the best white phlox and is still the most mildew resistant of all phlox plants. I have many in several of my garden beds. The photo accompanying this article is of my wonderful pastel pink peony 'Sarah Bernhardt.' Introduced in 1906, this longtime favorite blooms dependably year after year. I have five of them in my Upper Garden, and they are over twelve years old, hardy, and totally maintenance free.

It is going to take more than a green thumb to spruce up and maintain your garden this summer. You will need persistence, patience, and likely more money.

Do you have a garden-related topic you would like to read about? We welcome your suggestions. Send to editor@monocacymonocle.com





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Continued from page 12.

Golden Anniversary for HMD

Thanks were given to two men who volunteered their professional expertise to HMD on restoration projects, architect Tom Taltavull and restoration contractor Dan Seamans.

HMD enjoys amazing public support, starting with the Town of Poolesville's commissioners. Commission president Jim Brown praised the group and their work throughout its entire history. Shoutouts were given to leaders of other local civic groups there in support, such as Poolesville Seniors, WUMCO, and others.

Special mention was also made of many historic lectures at the Old Town Hall Bank Museum, with an emphasis in recent years on the rich African American heritage of the Upcounty, thanks to attendees, Skip Etheridge, Tony Cohen, and Tina Clarke.

Praise was given to Joey Geehring, a PHS graduate now at Virginia Tech, for his remarkable documentary, *Ten Days in September*, about the tumultuous 1956 desegregation of Poolesville Junior and Senior High School, which was aired in a community showing several months ago sponsored by HMD and Fair Access.

Finally, a huge acknowledgement to Julie Shapiro, the schoolmarm of Seneca Schoolhouse, the historic single-room living history museum on River Road. The Seneca Schoolhouse program, one of the most acclaimed living history school field trips in the region, started forty years ago and has been run for the past fifteen years by Julie's remarkable leadership and talent.

The event was attended by a sold-out capacity crowd of 140 guests at Bally Cliff Farm. The benefit netted thousands of dollars for HMD's work, and numerous guests enrolled to be new HMD members on their website, prompted by a brochure on each table.

Special thanks to major donors of the event: Jim Clifford; Robert Butz family (wine from their Windridge Vineyards); friends from the Potomac Hunt Club, Mr. and Mrs. Tim Hansen and Mr. and Mrs. Skip Crawford; Mr. and Mrs. Herb Brown; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jamison; and Mr. and Mrs. Billy Willard, Jr.

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In Your Own Backyard

The Cliff Swallows of the Monocacy Aqueduct

By Jon Wolz

April is a time when life returns along the Chesapeake and Ohio (C&O) Canal National Historical Park. Trees sprout their leaves, and wildflowers bloom. A variety of wildlife begins to emerge from their winter inactivity. Birds once again reappear after their long migration from southern lands, flying north with some turning up the Potomac River valley on their way to their warm weather breeding locations.

I am in my tenth year of volunteering with the C&O Canal National Historical Park, and I have noticed swallows flying above the Monocacy Aqueduct and the waters of the Monocacy River. I am familiar with barn swallows, but these Monocacy Aqueduct swallows were different. From the stone towpath, I saw what appeared to be swallows flying through the arches. One day a few years ago, I noticed groups of swallows digging at mud with their beaks on the riverbank and flying back towards the aqueduct. As I walked down to the riverbank, I saw they were flying to the stone ledge running alongside the aqueduct, building their gourd-shaped nests beneath the ledge. These nests are tightly adjoined on either side of them. Each nest had a small opening where the swallow would enter and then fly out. After researching these birds, I learned that these swallows are cliff swallows. Cliff swallows' wintering grounds are in southern South America, including southern Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina.

In April 1833, the construction of the Monocacy Aqueduct was completed. The construction began in 1829, and the stones used are white and pink quartzite quarried from the Johnson quarries located about three miles away. When completed, this was the longest "bridge" over a body of water at its time in the United States, spanning 516 feet and using seven arches that measure 54 feet each.

In October 1833, water was let into the canal at the river lock at Harper's Ferry that flowed all the way to Georgetown. There is a white quartzite stone dedication monument midway across the aqueduct on the berm side wall (opposite the towpath). That stone says in part, "Monocacy Aqueduct," "Finished 1833." It contains the name of the Canal Company's president, C. F. Mercer, along with fourteen other names of directors, engineers, contractors, the clerk, and the treasurer. Those men, as well as the laborers, had a profound sense of accomplishment for what had been constructed. They had envisioned the aqueduct full of water with canal boats crossing the Monocacy River on the aqueduct with the boat crews, mules, and pedestrians crossing either by foot or on horseback. Unknown to these men, eventually using the aqueduct when it was safe to cross were escaping enslaved people of the Medley District in their quest to reach safer lands north of Maryland. The aqueduct saw many soldiers from both the North and South use it as a bridge to cross the Monocacy River in the late nineteenth century. It continues today, cyclists use the aqueduct as a bridge to cross the Monocacy River.

Just above each of the aqueduct's keystones of the arches facing outwards towards the water there is a narrow stone ledge spanning the length of the aqueduct on both the upriver and downriver sides of the structure. This narrow ledge is about ten feet down from the top of the towpath and berm side walls. What people did not know in 1833 was that, beneath these two long narrow ledges, cliff swallows would build their mud nests.

These swallows are small, with broad pointed wings, a small head, and a squared tail. Adults have metallic dark blue backs and pale cinnamon rumps. Their faces are rusty with white foreheads, and their underparts are white.

Cliff swallows build their nests in colonies on cliff ledges. As modern construction began to appear in North America, they adapted to building nests under bridges, eaves, and culverts. The Monocacy Aqueduct cliff swallows found an ideal place to have their colony by using the stone ledges. These birds feed on insects that fly above the water of both the Monocacy and Potomac Rivers or in nearby farm fields. The birds fly both high and low, preying on insects. When they are digging in the mud, they are digging out small pellets of mud to either repair or build new nests. Each gourd nest contains nine hundred to twelve hundred mud pellets.

These birds live in groups to increase their food-finding ability. They are the most colonial swallows in the world, forming colonies of two hundred to one thousand nests. I do not plan to count the nests at the Monocacy Aqueduct, but if you do, take a pair of binoculars with you and please let me know how many you find. The lifespan of cliff swallows is up to twelve years; however,



The cliff swallows of the Monocacy Aqueduct.

their average life span is four to six years. Cliff swallows choose a mate to raise nestlings, but both males and females will mate with other birds.

Each bird pair will have about three to six nestlings per brood. The incubation period is ten to nineteen days. Young cliff swallows are ready to fly about twenty days after hatching and spend the summer feeding and gaining strength for their migration.

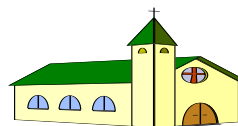
Cliff swallow predators include hawks, falcons, owls, common grackles, and rat snakes, to name a few. There appears to be no nests above the first and seventh arches at the Monocacy Aqueduct, and most of the nests are concentrated above the middle arches. Maybe the birds have found they are safer farther away from land or over the water.

Cliff swallows begin their migration south in late September in flocks of thousands of birds, traveling during the day and foraging as they move south.

Continued on page 23.

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To our Valued Customers,

After 43 years of providing quality landscape products to Montgomery and Frederick counties, we are eager to share some exciting news about changes happening at Colony Supply Center.

After careful consideration and in response to evolving customer needs and market trends, we are transitioning to a delivery-only business model. Starting in June, we will no longer operate our traditional storefront in Beallsville. Instead, we will focus exclusively on delivering our quality products directly to you. Our relocation to Clarksburg, in collaboration with Metro Ground Covers and Grant County Mulch, Inc. (the largest mulch and soil provider in the country) will allow us to streamline operations and continue to provide our customers with a great product at a **lower price!**

What does this mean for our customers—besides lower prices? Our phone number and web page will not change. Online ordering remains the most efficient way to place an order for delivery (ordering by phone remains an option). Bulk mulch, topsoil and compost for delivery will be our focus. You will be able to browse our offerings online (colonysupplycenter.com), place orders conveniently through the website, and have your purchases delivered to your home, farm or business.

In the meantime, our entire inventory of tools and supplies are on sale at our Beallsville store—UP TO 50% off! (while supplies last)!

We understand that change can be unexpected, but we are committed to ensuring a smooth transition and maintaining the exceptional service you've come to expect from us over the years.

We value your continued support and loyalty throughout this transition period. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team at 301.972.7666. Thank you for being part of our journey. We look forward to serving you as we move forward.

The Colony Supply Center Team

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Tidbits

Another April, Another Helping Hands Poolesville/Rebuilding Together Project

It was wonderful to see our community join with area churches to fix up and repair a home owned by one of our neighbors. The project was led by energetic local hero Lance Wolin of Donohoe Construction. Lance managed a huge effort even before rebuilding day, finding numerous contractors to complete work ranging from landscaping to windows.

This house was hit by a falling tree in December 2022. The initial damage was repaired, but Helping Hands Poolesville and Rebuilding Together helped the homeowners with new windows.

Here is an impressive list of contractors who donated goods and services, including siding, drainage, and numerous other tasks: ACM Services (HazMat), Caffes Front Porch Screening, Capital Fence Dumpsters, Carpentry & Hardware Services (windows and doors), Central Exteriors Siding, Complete Building Services (HVAC), DiGregorio (drywall), Donohoe Construction, 84 Lumber, Fine Earth Landscape, GB Shades, Metro Painters, Sandy Spring National Bank, and TNT Services Windows.

The supporting churches were St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Poolesville Baptist, Hosanna Worship Center, Poolesville Presbyterian, Our Lady of the Presentation, and Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church.

WUMCO Help Receives Award

WUMCO Help was recently awarded the 2024 Sewell Access to Care Award sponsored by Montgomery County Medical Society and the National Capital Physicians Foundation. The committee voted unanimously to give WUMCO this honor and expressed how impressed they are by WUMCO Help's commitment to the county's underserved, especially our focus on social determinants of health. WUMCO administrators are honored to receive this award and thank Marilyn Balcombe for recommending them for it!

Surely, She Can't Be Serious!

She is, and don't call her Shirley! Call her Doctor. Dr. Shirley Wolz, a 2016 graduate of Poolesville High School, was recently hooded by her brother Dr. Thomas Wolz, signifying her graduation from medical school and professional assignment. She will begin working a Transitional Program year at the Doylestown Hospital in Pennsylvania. Both medical doctors are children of Patricia and Jon Wolz. Doctor Shirley Wolz is a 2020 graduate of the University of Maryland Baltimore County and a 2024 graduate of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Continued on page 30.



Helping Hands volunteers once again hard at work to help a person in need.



WUMCO won the 2024 Sewell Access to Care Award.



Sibling medical doctors, Shirley and Thomas Wolz.



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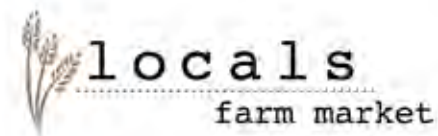
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School News

PHS Teacher of the Year Candidate

The National History Day organization is a nonprofit whose mission is to improve the teaching and learning of history, and one of their key programs each year is the Patricia Behring Teacher of the Year Award. This prestigious award honors one middle school and one high school teacher per year for outstanding history education and classroom engagement and is accompanied by a \$10,000 cash prize.

We are proud to announce that Ms. Stephanie Gomer from Poolesville High School has been nominated for the 2024 Behring Teacher of the Year award. Congrats to Stephanie on the honor.

Students Receive Athlete-Scholar Awards

Winning the Achievement Award were Carson Smith and Allie Webster. Winning the Jake Perkins Poolesville Athletic award were Lydia Wong and Ben Savino.



Stephanie Gomer



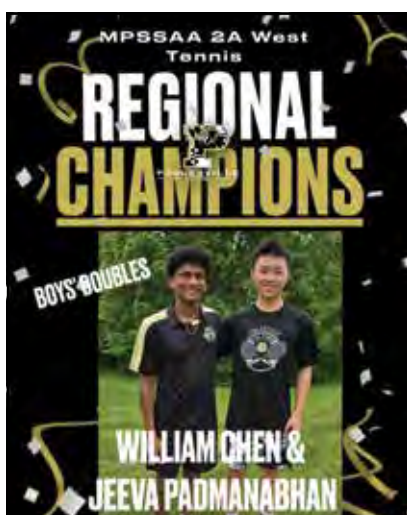
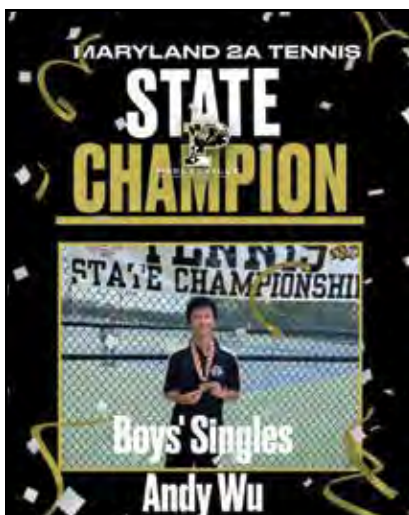
PHS senior athletes' signing ceremony for athletic scholarship awards.

Congratulations to Our Scholar Athletes

On Wednesday, May 15, in a ceremony held in the old gymnasium, eight Poolesville athletes signed letters of intent to play at the college level.

- Olivia Cong, Golf, Dartmouth University
- Ava Millisits, Soccer, University of Richmond
- Gabby Orns, Soccer, Rhode Island University
- Luke Pearre, Baseball, Rhode Island University
- Audrey Pioli, Rowing, Rutgers University
- Isabella Sabett, Dance, University of Maryland
- Morgen Smith, Soccer, Radford University
- Ava Wagner, Cross Country, Track and Field, Salisbury University

Continued on page 27.



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Things to Do

June 1

Second Annual PACC WUMCO Spring Food Drive

Co-sponsored by Pike and Valega, DDS. Help restock the WUMCO shelves for summer with non-perishable food items and cleaning and hygiene products. Items to be dropped off at the *Pike and Valega parking lot, 19601 Fisher Ave.*

June 2

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association 50th Anniversary Celebration

Live music, food, and games. Free. RSVP at sugarloadcitizens.org. 20900 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson. 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

June 4

Library Special Event: Read to a Dog

Drop in and read to a certified therapy dog! Bring your own book or choose one from our collection. Sign up at the Service Desk starting 10 minutes before the program. Sponsored by People Animals Love (PAL). Free. Ages 5+. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

June 5

Shared Community Dinner

Free. All are welcome. Vegetarian and gluten-free available. *PMUMC*. 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

June 6

Businesses Helping Business Grow

Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce Network Event's featured speaker is Blake Kelch of CBS Construction. 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

June 7

Friday on the Commons: Red, White, and Brews

Family event with inflatables, music featuring Michael Hiester (under the tent), 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and 19th Street Band from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Featuring Manor Hill brewery and other local brews, plus Metzger Winery. *Whalen Commons*. 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Shine On Together Beach Dance Party

Please join us for an inclusive dance event. This gathering invites all individuals with disabilities, and their families and friends. Please register for this free event at shineontgether.org. *Bohrer Park, Gaithersburg*. 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

June 8

Library Event: Science Saturday

Join Science Connections to learn

all about how sounds are made. Use recycled material to make your own instruments. Ages 6 to 10; Registration required on website. Free. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

June 11

Library Special Event: Jump into Juneteenth!

Learn through crafting; teens and tweens create history. Students will learn the time-line between African enslavement, the Emancipation Proclamation, the Civil War, the United States Colored Troops regiments that served, and the first official celebration of Juneteenth. Students will then have a chance to read primary source documents of USCT service, read letters from soldiers from the USCT, and participate in a short craft that highlights the history of this holiday. Ages 12 to 19. Free. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

June 14

Library Special Event: Radical Reptiles

Reptile Smiles introduces and educates about a variety of exotic animals! It's an exciting adventure for kids to learn and interact with exotic animals. Sponsored by Friends of the Library, Montgomery County. All ages. Free. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

June 15

Poolesville Pride Fest

Welcome to Poolesville Pride Fest 2024! Celebrate a historic community gathering filled with fun, music, art, and food. Sign up for the performing arts talent show and let your light shine bright! They are open to all kinds of talents: singing, dancing, drag, standup comedy, drama, juggling, baton-twirling—you name it, and we'll showcase it!

Enjoy and support local LGBTQIA+ artists and vendors, dig into some delicious locally-sourced food and drink, and meet up with friends and family. End the evening with an all-ages DJ dance party! Don't miss out on this opportunity to come together and celebrate, Agricultural Reserve style. Let's make our first-ever annual Pride Fest an event to remember. See you there! *Locals Farm Market*. 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

June 21

Library Special Event: Family Storytime

This program is designed to delight children of all ages and is filled with diverse stories and activities that

Continued on page 21.





Faru Events

- **Tastes of Calleva**
A unique farm-to-table experience July 27
- **Pizza Night**
Every Saturday, June-August
- **Farm Store**
On Fisher Avenue: bread, cookies, honey, milk, eggs & more!

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Continued from page 20.

Things to Do

promote and develop language skills and imagination. Ages up to 5. Free. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 10:30 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.

Friday on the Commons: Bark in the Park

Inflatables, food truck, artisan vendors, dog rescue groups, music by DJ, pet photo booth, paint with your pet (registration required), dog contest program starts at 7:00 p.m. (several categories). *Whalen Commons*. 6:00 p.m.

June 22

Odd Fellows Annual Summer Picnic for Seniors

For ages 55+: Meal, dessert, drinks, and favors. RSVP to Grace Shepherd at 301-639-3638. *PMUMC*. 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

June 23 to June 27

VBS

Theme: Camp Firelight. Ages three to sixth graders. *PMUMC*. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

June 25

Library Special Event: Pajama Storytime

An evening storytime where pajamas are encouraged but not required. This program encourages children to develop a lifelong love of reading and learning and to introduce them to the culture of reading. Ages 0-5. Free. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 6:30 p.m. to 7:10 p.m.

Of Poetry and Prose

The Breezes of June

Oh! sweet and soft,
Returning oft,
As oft they pass benignly,
The warm June breezes come
and go,
Through golden rounds of
murmurous flow,
At length to sigh,
Wax faint and die,
Far down the panting primrose sky,
Divinely!

—Paul Hamilton Hayne

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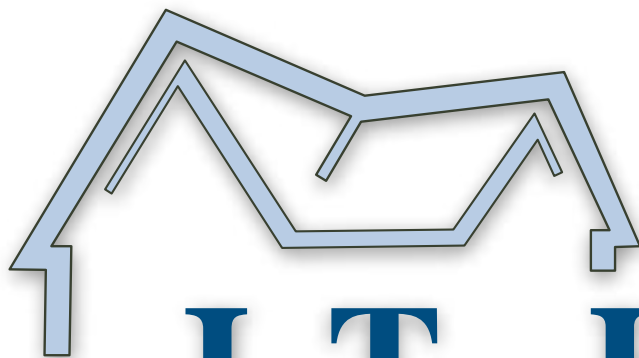
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Local History

The 160th Anniversary of the Battle Of Monocacy: The Union 'Defeat' that Helped Save the Union

By Brad Stone

It is a crucial election year with the fate of the nation hanging in the balance. Many in the nation's capital are nervous—some panicked. I am not referencing the present, but the summer of 1864, when the nation faced the real existential crisis of the Civil War and an invading Confederate Army poised to capture the Union capital of Washington, D.C.

This July 9 marks the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Monocacy in Frederick, one of the most important, yet least-known battles of the Civil War.

According to Lynn Bristol, president of the Monocacy National Battlefield Foundation, "The Battle of Monocacy not only saved the nation's capital from an invading Confederate Army but probably saved the Lincoln Administration and the Union cause in the 1864 election."

Events surrounding the battle also hastened the emancipation of enslaved people in Maryland and restored the prominence of a union general who became one of America's greatest authors.

Throughout our area, many historical and civic groups are sponsoring events, paying homage to the battle and the significant impact it had on our nation.

The Battle

In a bold move to change the declining fortunes of the Confederacy, Gen. Robert E. Lee, in the summer of 1864, dispatched an army under Gen. Jubal A. Early to invade Maryland. After entering northern Maryland, Early's army marched to try and capture Washington, D.C.

Early knew that Washington's fortifications had been stripped of many of their soldiers, who had been reassigned to General Grant's army. If attacked, these undermanned forts would easily fall, and the Union capital could be quickly captured.

The plan initially worked, and the Confederate force marched largely unopposed toward a panicked Washington, D.C. The path seemed clear for victory, but on the morning of July 9, 1864, just a few miles south of Frederick at the Monocacy River, a cobbled-together Union force made up of hardened veteran soldiers and green troops stood ready to block the Confederates. Despite being outnumbered nearly three to one, the Union troops, under the command of Gen. Lew Wallace, successfully beat back wave after wave of Confederate assaults. The Union defense was so fierce and tenacious that, despite Early's army's overwhelming advantage, it took the Confederates an entire day to drive the Union defenders from the field.

The courageous stand at Monocacy bought the Union the time needed to fully reinforce Washington's defenses. Early's army renewed its advance in the days that followed, marching through southern Frederick County and Montgomery County, but by the time the Confederates arrived near the outskirts of Washington, D.C. on July 11, they confronted an overwhelming Union force at Fort Stevens. Early's Army was forced to retreat back to Virginia—which it did across the Potomac River near Poolesville.

Impact on the 1864 Presidential Election

Prior to the battle, Lincoln's reelection hopes were dim as the Union War effort seemed stymied, and casualties rose. Washington, D.C.'s capture by Confederates would have devastated Union prestige and morale. It would probably have doomed Lincoln's reelection and the Union's prospects for total victory. The successful Union delaying action at the Battle of Monocacy prevented this calamity and helped put an end to any further major Confederate invasions of the North.

Ending Slavery in Maryland

The destruction wrought by the Confederate invasion of Maryland in the summer of 1864 hardened Maryland's anger toward the Confederacy and heightened growing antipathy toward the institution of slavery. In a statewide referendum in October 1864, this sentiment, along with the vote of Union soldiers in the state, led to the end of slavery in Maryland in November 1864—well before emancipation was nationally adopted through the 13th Amendment in December 1865.

General Lew Wallace's Literary Legacy

Earlier in the Civil War, Gen. Lew Wallace's reputation had suffered due to



Artist's rendition of the Battle of Monocacy.

some (largely unfair) criticisms of his actions at the Battle of Shiloh. Wallace's standing improved dramatically in the aftermath of the Battle of Monocacy.

Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, in his memoirs, wrote:

"General Wallace contributed on this occasion, by the defeat of the troops under him, a greater benefit to the cause than often falls to the lot of a commander of an equal force to render by means of a victory."

After the battle, Wallace's stock rose in the Union Army. He became a member of the military commission that investigated the Lincoln assassination conspirators. After the war, he became Territorial Governor of New Mexico, and a U.S. Minister to Turkey; however, Wallace's greatest achievement was writing one of America's most popular and influential religious novels, the biblically-themed *Ben Hur*. From its first publication in 1880, *Ben Hur* was America's top selling

Continued on page 23.



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Continued from page 22.

**The 160th Anniversary of the Battle of Monocacy:
The Union 'Defeat' that Helped Save the Union**

novel until *Gone with the Wind* debuted in 1936. *Ben Hur* was also adapted into three major motion pictures—the 1959 version was a box office smash, earning eleven Academy Awards.

Commemorations

The National Park Service will host a larger observance of the battle this year, running from July 5 to July 7 at the Monocacy National Battlefield Park (5201 Urbana Pike, Frederick). Events will include guided battlefield tours, live-fire infantry and artillery demonstrations, and public presentations.

“We hope that this event and other observances of the battle’s 160th anniversary spread greater public appreciation of the battle’s importance and its enduring contribution to our freedom,” said Monocacy National Battlefield Park Ranger, Tracy Evans.

Continued from page 16.

The Cliff Swallows of the Monocacy Aqueduct

Their migration is leisurely and will take several months as they travel through Mexico, Central America, and eastern South America to reach their wintering grounds in southern South America.

The cliff swallow is famous for its regular migration to San Juan Capistrano, California. They nest at the church of Mission San Juan Capistrano, where their annual migration is culturally celebrated. A 1940 song by Leon Rene, “Where the Swallows Come Back to Capistrano,” celebrates this event. Maybe a *Monocacy Monocle* reader could author a poem titled, “When the Swallows Come Back to the Monocacy Aqueduct.”

These birds put on quite a show at the Monocacy Aqueduct, so the next time you visit the aqueduct, take a few minutes to enjoy the antics of these wonderful annual visitors before they leave for their migration south.

Adults Getting Together



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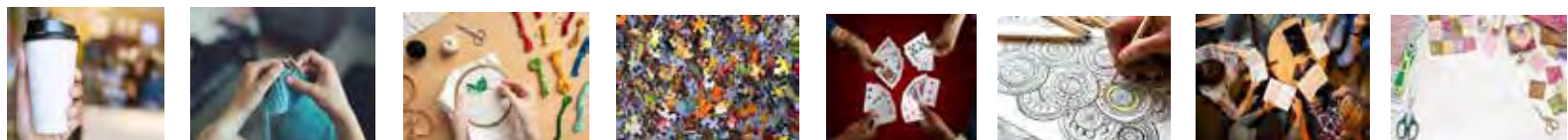
The Boyds Presbyterian Church (BPC) is hosting a monthly ‘Adults Getting Together’ for those interested in meeting, socializing, and sharing like interests.

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.



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.

Classes Multiple Offerings

A variety of classes are offered through Riverworks, and most are held at Riverworks Studio at Alden Farms (unless otherwise noted). Details at RiverworksArt.org/book-online.

Ongoing and Free:

Tuesdays 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. \$5.00. *Riverworks Studio at Alden Farms.* 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.

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.

June 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.

Pauline Rakis, "Bottles & Bouquets"

Elegance or exuberance, stability or change, structure or chaos—in a new exhibition, artist Pauline Rakis invites us to find meaning in contrasts through her vivid paintings of wine bottles and flowers. *Locals Farm Market.* Opens June 12.

June 23

"Bottles and Bouquets" Opening Reception

Come enjoy the newest Artist-in-the-House gallery show, with complimentary food and drinks. These receptions are a great opportunity to meet the exhibiting artist, to better understand their work, and to show your support. *Locals Farm Market.* 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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Poolesville Green

EVs Taking Over in The Frozen North

By Doug Boucher,
President, Poolesville Green

Spring is in full swing in Maryland, and I think we're all celebrating the blooming of the wildflowers, the greening of the trees, and the chance to walk the dog without even putting on a sweater, but it wasn't that long ago that we were bundling up in parkas against the winter wind. On our televisions, we were seeing that parts of the country seemed to be having it a lot worse, with subzero temperatures in the Midwest and interstate highways shut down by snowdrifts.

One aspect of those blizzard-in-the-heartland stories that caught my attention was the plight of electric vehicle owners, particularly those in Chicago who were having trouble charging their cars as the temperatures dropped. They needed to recharge more often; that is, their car's range was reduced, and when they got to a public charger, they often had to wait in line before they could even connect. Understandably, they weren't happy about it.

Since I knew that electrifying our transportation system is one of the key steps in avoiding dangerous climate change, the problems in Chicago worried me quite a bit. Was it true that EVs were only dependable in fair weather? As more and more of us go electric, are we risking cold-weather breakdowns of the whole system that we depend on to get to work, school, stores, and back home?

As it happened, I had a chance to find the answer just a few weeks later. My wife and I took a long-planned vacation to Norway and Finland—two countries that have both long cold winters and lots of electric vehicles—and we didn't just go to the southern parts of those countries. In each one, we travelled north of the Arctic Circle, and in Norway, we went around the very northern tip of the country, to within a few miles of the Russian border. There was lots of snow and ice, as you'd expect in mid-March at the 71st parallel north (seventy-one degrees north of the equatorial plane), the same as the northernmost coast of Alaska. In Finland, we stayed in Rovaniemi, which Finns consider the traditional home of Santa Claus. It's right on the Arctic Circle, which means that it gets one day each year with twenty-four hours of daylight (the summer solstice), and another day with twenty-four hours of night (the winter solstice).

Yes, there were plenty of EVs, and they were working fine. Talking to their owners, I learned that, most of the time, they charge at home, and sometimes at work. Although they would like to have more public charging available, it's a matter of convenience rather than necessity. Ranges (how far you can go on a full charge) are somewhat less in winter than in summer, but again, not so much of a difference that you can't accommodate to it.

After returning home, I looked up some of the figures on EVs in Norway and Finland, and they confirmed my first-hand impressions. Norway, in particular, is rapidly electrifying its vehicle fleet—already a third of cars on the road are EVs, and eighty percent of the new cars sold last year were electric. The public buses are now all EVs.

As a result, both air and noise pollution have been reduced substantially. Since most charging is done at night, at home, the power grid has been able to handle the additional load fairly easily because it comes mostly at times when offices, schools, and stores are closed and there is little demand for lighting, computers, etc. Circle K, a company founded in Texas, has bought up Norwegian gas stations and converted them to combined electric charging stations and fast-food restaurants.

Finland isn't as far along as Norway but is moving in the same direction, with EVs making up a third of new car sales. Santa's reindeer aren't yet out of a job, but I suspect that an electric sleigh is just over the horizon.

This proves that it can be done. It didn't just happen though. In both countries, public policies have been put into place that incentivize people to buy EVs, such as tax breaks, reduced tolls on highways and ferries, access to special lanes on roads, and implementation of a "right-to-charge" for people living in apartment buildings. There's certainly more to be done. Drivers want more public chargers and better maintenance of the ones that already exist. As tailpipe emissions



Belgian EV charging stations.

County to Consider Overnight Stays on Farms

The Montgomery County Council this summer will debate two competing proposals to allow farmers and landowners in the Ag Reserve and other rural areas to host overnight campers and RVs. Landowners would also be permitted to create non-permanent sleeping structures such as yurts and tiny homes on wheels.

The details of both proposals are still evolving. Among the many issues at stake:

- The maximum number of camping, RV sites and sleeping units allowed
- The minimum size of property permitted to host overnight visitors
- The maximum size of constructed units
- The maximum length of stay
- Whether landowners would have to be engaged in active farming and/or agricultural education
- What kind of bathroom and shower facilities, if any, landowners should be required to provide

We favor a version of this zoning proposal that would allow limited short-term camping and RV parking on properties 25 acres or larger only. We oppose a version that would permit longer stays by more guests on properties as small as three acres. See our website for the latest on this issue.

ONGOING SCA INITIATIVES

- ✓ Promoting regenerative agriculture and table crop farming
- ✓ Tracking proposals for data center construction in the county
- ✓ Monitoring the county's planned overhaul of waste disposal and recycling
- ✓ Preventing commercial development near Sugarloaf Mountain
- ✓ Supporting the judicious expansion of solar energy
- ✓ Fostering community dialogue on key Ag Reserve issues

Help us advocate on behalf of the Ag Reserve. Consider becoming an SCA member and supporter. For more information on our issues and events, visit sugarloafcitizens.org or email us at info@sugarloafcitizens.org



SUGARLOAF CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
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Continued on page 28.

Youth Sports

Young Falcon Softball Team Learning to Fly

By Jeff Stuart

Some seasons you compete for titles. In others, coaches do more teaching. This year, Poolesville High School softball coach Laurie Wohnhas has had to teach. She enjoyed it.

"It has been a rebuilding year," said Wohnhas, "after losing six seniors from last year. This is a young team. They are still learning the game but getting better each game." The girls' varsity roster has fourteen players; eleven will return next year.

"This season hasn't gone as well as we wanted it to," said senior captain and second baseman Gabby Montemurro at practice on April 22. "We have a lot of new players, so there is a lot of learning going on. I think we have improved a lot as the season went on. I think our best game was our second game of the season at Wootton. We won, 10-8. We lost our most recent game at Quince Orchard, 8-7, but we played really well. We did a lot of good things. We did not make many errors. We hit pretty well. We are getting better. Rayleen Woods at third base and outfielder Alina Vicinelly are freshmen this year, and they have done really well."

"It has definitely been a rebuilding season," said junior Cara Porch, a pitcher. "We had a rough start. We played a lot of really tough teams early. We have been playing a lot better against teams we can compete with. I am looking forward to the rest of the season. It has been fun. We are bonding with each other. I think our best game was at Quince Orchard. We had a lot of timely hits. We just couldn't come up with one more at the end of the game. I would like to give a shoutout to Gabby. She is really focused on every game. Seriously, she is a great role model, and we will miss her next year. I am really looking forward to the Magruder game. It is going to be competitive."

On April 23, at home, Porch shut out Magruder, 7-0.

Other seniors are outfielders, Lauren Doring and Allie Bender. Other juniors are Kacey Raines at first base, Paige Soskin on third, and Sophie Dinderman-Kao in the outfield.

Shortstop Hadley Miller, catchers Oz Buchet and Ashley Kim, and outfielders Lauren Borman and Bella Duncan are sophomores.


Four of their first five opponents, Clarksburg, Northwest, Rockville, and Seneca Valley, won thirty-two games combined. When Poolesville won, they sometimes dominated, beating Blake, 15-0, and Watkins Mill, 22-2. They lost by a single run to Gaithersburg, 2-1, and Rockville, 5-4. They rallied late against the Rams to take a one-run lead but fell short. They won the Class 2A West Region II Quarterfinal against Hammond High School, 12-0, but fell to Damascus, 14-0, in the region semifinal.





Gabby Montemurro, Lauren Doring, Allie Bender, and Coach Laurie Wohnhas.

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Youth Sports

PHS Girls' Lacrosse: A Solid Team on The Rebound

By Jeff Stuart

Poolesville High School girls' lacrosse coach, Sean Foster, has seen his team steadily improve in his three years at the helm. He stresses fundamentals, and that approach has been successful. The 2024 Falcons finished second in the 3A/2A division, just behind Magruder.

"We have played really well this season," said senior captain Dani Polson, at practice on April 30. She plays defense. "We have won most of our games. We are better than we were last year. I think the game at Magruder was our best game. We lost, 10-9. We tried hard. They were undefeated at the time and had dominated their opponents. We cared. We played our best. Senior Allie Webster, [and] juniors, Laynie Sofelkanik and Krisitin Lang, were our strongest players. I enjoyed playing with Allie and with junior Olivia Kwon. Lila Snelson, a sophomore, has played well for us on defense."

"It was a quick season," said senior captain Allie Webster. "We started off fast and then struggled a bit. Overall, we had a lot of fun playing as a team. We got a lot closer together as a group this year. I also think the game at Magruder was our best game. It was a close game. Nobody gave up. We gave it our best shot. It came down to the end. It was not the outcome we wanted, but I was proud of our effort. I cannot point to one outstanding win. We won a lot of games by a landslide. They were fun to play, but none stand out. Our captains, Dani and Allie, did a pretty good job of leading our defense. We came a long way this year. As Dani said, Lila played well this year. She improved a lot. Junior Neema Adolwa played well also. I am looking forward to the Northwest game because they beat us at the buzzer last year, so I want to win that one as a payback."

"I think we have come a long way this season," said junior captain Layne Sofelkanik. "It has been pretty good. We all get along. There is a lot of positive energy. Even if we are losing, we still try our hardest. I think the game at Quince Orchard last night was one of our best games. They have always been a hard team to compete against. We lost, but we scored a lot more goals against them than in past years. I want to give a shoutout to Carson Hartke. Coming in as a freshman is not always easy, but she has really contributed, and Ainsley Walton, a sophomore, has worked hard. She has really stepped up on defense. I am looking forward to the Northwest game. We lost to them by just a single goal the last couple of years, so this year we want to get back at them."

"I think this has been a great year," said junior captain Krisitin Lang. "We came back after a losing season last year. I think we all just wanted a reset. Everyone has been getting along. The energy has been really good. I have seen a lot of improvement. I also think our best game was at Quince Orchard. They have always been a really strong team. We came in and scored a lot of goals on them. I was really proud of the way we communicated in that game because we struggled a bit at the beginning, but we came back and fixed our mistakes in the middle of the game. We were competitive. That was good to see. My shoutouts go to junior Kate Dacanay and freshman Stella Volpe. They have been leading the attack and doing well with the scoring. They come out every day and work very hard."

The Falcons defeated Northwest at home on May 1, 11-9, as the girls had hoped to do. Northwest (8-3) finished atop the 4A West standings. Against Quince



Dani Polson and Allie Webster.

Continued from page 19.

School News

PHS Boys' Basketball Team Wins First Region Championship Since 1990

The Poolesville High School boys' basketball team won against the Hammond Golden Bears in March. The game was completely sold out, bringing in lots of momentum for the team. The large crowd was very reactive to big plays such as senior Jackson Hartke hitting a buzzer-beater three-pointer at the end of the first quarter to extend the lead to 22-13. The boys carried this momentum throughout all four quarters and brought home the region championship, beating Hammond High School, 71-49. Starting point guard junior Alexavier Saunders scored eighteen points as the lead scorer for the team.



Boys' basketball 2024 region champions.

Continued on page 28.

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Remembrances

Margie Tubbe Stream

Margie Tubbe Stream, 101, of Frederick, went home to be with the Lord on May 5, 2024. She was the loving wife of the late Tom H. Stream whom she married in Barksdale, Louisiana on June 1, 1941. They later moved to the Dickerson area in 1945.

Margie was born November 27, 1922, in Nacogdoches, Texas. She was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jack Tubbe.

Margie started working as a cashier in Shreveport, Louisiana. After moving to the Dickerson area, she was employed with Bowen Electronics in Rockville as an inspector and later retired from the Montgomery County Public Schools.

Margie lived the command Jesus gave us: "To love your neighbor as yourself." She loved cooking, baking pies and cookies, decorating cakes, and making chocolate fudge. It was not uncommon for a tired mother in the neighborhood to come home and find a warm pot of soup Margie had prepared, waiting for their family. Margie also purchased beautiful dresses for young women in need. She drove senior women grocery shopping, to the doctor, and to purchase a dress for a soon-to-be wedding.

At the Montgomery County Senior Center in Beallsville, Margie taught quilting, crafts, and served lunch. She made forty-five quilts as gifts for her daughter, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, pastors, neighbors, and military veterans. Margie crocheted many afghans, potholders, and booties.

Margie is survived by one daughter, Darlene Umberger (Randy Folkema) of Frederick; two grandsons, David F. Stream (Debbie) of Florida, and their children Michael, Curtis, and Kali; and Michael Umberger (Tracy) of Virginia; two granddaughters, Angela M. Cooling (Gary) of Bishopville, and their children Brady, Brennan, and Olivia, and Stacey Umberger of Urbana, and her daughter Madison who had a very special relationship with her great-grandmother.

She is also survived by her very special niece Margie Marie Naugle, who was always there for her, numerous special nieces, nephews, and many dear friends.

She was preceded by her son, David F. Stream, Sr., great granddaughter Andi, and nine brothers and sisters.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Barnesville Baptist Church, PO Box 69, Barnesville, MD 20838 or St. Jude Children's Hospital. Funeral services are being streamed by the church on their FaceBook page.



Margie Tubbe Stream

Rose Cardenas

Rose Cardenas, age 71, passed away unexpectedly at her home in Germantown on May 11, 2024.

Miss Rose was loved by thousands of children and their parents during her tenure as the director of the Bar-T before- and after-school program at Poolsville Elementary, where she served for more than fifteen years. After retiring to Naples, Florida, she returned to the area three years ago to be closer to her beloved son James and his wife Shayna. She continued her passion for Bar-T at Ronald E. McNair Elementary in Germantown.

She was the loving mother to James Cardenas, a PHS graduate, Class of 2007. Known for her generosity, sense of humor, and impeccable style, she had a flair for creating beautiful, fashionable items with her own hands. Her boundless energy and optimism touched everyone around her, leaving many friends and family broken-hearted at her passing. Her beautiful smile, vivacious laugh, and physical beauty will be remembered and missed forever.



Rose Cardenas

Bruce Edward Selby

Bruce Edward Selby, 57, of Adamstown, passed away on May 23, 2024 surrounded by family. He was born on November 4, 1966.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Amy Selby; son, Sean Selby; mother Betty Jean Selby; brothers, Lin (Leslie) Selby and Mike (Corrine) Selby; sister, Lisa Selby; five nieces and one nephew, Darcy Matacio, Courtney Mora, and Dru, Charlotte, Addison, and Aubrey Selby; his aunts and uncle, Frances Noffsinger, and Eddie and Dinah Wynne; and many close cousins and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Roy L. Selby, Jr.

Bruce attended Poolesville Junior Senior High School, then furthered his education at East Carolina University where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Communications.

He was a proud member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity where he made lifelong friends in the brotherhood.

He worked for most of his life in his family's business at Selby's Market. He also spent time as a stay-at-home dad during Sean's early life, and he loved it! During that time, he also worked with Apartment Restorers. Bruce eventually found his place as a home inspector with ProTec Inspection Services.

Bruce had a love for golf, playing whenever he had the chance, especially with his family and his "golf crew." He had a thirst for knowledge and was an avid reader. He loved Jeopardy and always wanted to be a contestant! He stayed abreast of current events and political affairs, and was always ready for a healthy debate.

He helped coach his son's soccer and baseball teams. He loved spending time with Sean, as he was his proudest accomplishment. His love for his family was what drove him.

A memorial service in honor of Bruce will be held on June 8, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church, 17821 Elgin Rd, Poolesville. A celebration of his life will continue in the Fellowship Hall from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. where a light lunch will be served.



Bruce Edward Selby

Continued from page 25.

EVs Taking Over in the Frozen North

become a thing of the past, concerns have switched to the pollution created due to the friction between tires and the roadway.

I came back from the frozen north reassured that the transition to vehicles powered by clean energy is going to happen, despite winter. There'll be bumps along the road, but we can get there.

Continued from page 27.

PHS Girls' Lacrosse: A Solid Team on the Rebound

Orchard (8-4), a 4A South Division school, the Falcons allowed two quick goals in the opening minutes, but they regrouped and showed some offense of their own before losing, 19-8.

They beat Watkins Mill, 15-3, Kennedy, 19-1, Rockville, 13-5, Seneca Valley, 14-1, and Wheaton, 14-6. The postseason started strong with a win against Wilde Lake High School in the 2A West Region II Quarterfinal, 14-5, before falling in the semifinal to Glenelg High School, 21-0.

Other juniors are Abby Heitzmann, Valeria Castro, and Lou Lou Alcorta. Zoe Hornyak, Mehek Patnaik, Camden Sosna, and Ashley Obodo are sophomores.

Of Poetry and Prose

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Happiness? The color of it must be spring green. —Frances Mayes

Don't wait for someone to bring you flowers. Plant your own garden and decorate your own soul. —Luther Burbank

In the spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours. —Mark Twain



Remembrances

Anita Patricia Pryor

Anita Patricia (Hiponia) Pryor, 87, of Poolesville, formerly of Ocean View, Delaware, passed away on May 8, 2024, surrounded by her loving family. Born on March 17, 1937, in Annapolis, she was the cherished daughter of the late Salvador and Violet (Francisco) Hiponia.

Anita was the epitome of warmth and joy, her presence akin to a gentle breeze on a summer's day. She reveled in the simple pleasures of life, whether strolling along the sandy shores of the beach or trying her luck at the casino, but nothing brought her greater happiness than being surrounded by her beloved family.

She was the devoted wife of the late Harvey Pryor and is survived by her three adoring sons, Tom (Kathy) Pryor of Wilmington, North Carolina, John (Robin) Pryor of Mount Airy, and Rick (Donna) Pryor of Centreville, Virginia; and her loving daughter, Michelle (Jody) Pearre of Poolesville. Anita's legacy of love extends to her three sisters, Dolores Sheckells, Maria Pettit, and Verna Radcliffe, and her brother, Joseph Hiponia. Her spirit lives on through her seven grandchildren, Melanie, Lauren, Joey, Sydney, Hunter, Brady, and Luke; as well as her three great-grandchildren, Madison, Brooks, and Jayden.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations in memory of Anita to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, a cause close to her heart. Anita's kindness, laughter, and unwavering love will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her.



Anita Patricia Pryor

Leonard "Lenny" Ralph DeMino

Leonard "Lenny" Ralph DeMino, 86, of Poolesville, passed away at home on April 29, 2024. He was born on June 18, 1937 in Washington, D.C. Lenny is survived by his wife Maureen; children, Vincent (Rachael) and Mary (Jared); grandchildren, Evan and Sadie; and sister, Nancy. He also leaves behind his nieces and nephews, brother-in-law and sisters-in-law, and many cousins. He is predeceased by his brother, Frederick, and parents Nancy (Sciortino) and Frederick DeMino.



Leonard "Lenny" Ralph DeMino

Lenny will forever be the devoted soulmate of his wife, Maureen. Their winding paths led to their fateful relationship of nearly forty years. Their children, Vince and Mary, have found their own happiness with their spouses because of the love they witnessed in their parents. He provided unwavering guidance and support to his children and took on every role in their lives with ease. After becoming a stay-at-home dad, he was the highlight of every PTA luncheon, concession stand, and school event. He remains their hero and best friend. His recent title of Poppy to his adored grandchildren, Evan and Sadie, was one that brought great joy and laughter, and he showered them with affection and small tokens of his immense love.

Lenny loved to reminisce of his time spent in Connecticut with his grandparents, who immigrated from Italy, and his extended family. After the challenges he experienced in early life, he wished for nothing more than to have a family of his own and to provide them with the best life possible. Of course, he did just that. Lenny thrived on taking care of those around him, and his willingness to lend a hand, his truck, a tool, or simply words of encouragement made him an invaluable resource for all.

Lenny worked in the window and blind installation business and had his own company for decades. It was his way of helping others provide a comfortable home for their families. He was exceptionally proud of his home and cherished the community of Poolesville.

His kind soul and genuine interest in others meant there were no strangers, just future friends. Those who knew him were treated like family, and he was a father figure to many. It was especially important to Lenny to provide food for those he loved, and many of our memories involve sharing a meal. As much as he provided to others, we are equally as grateful for the abundant friendship and love he received in return. He truly enjoyed his daily conversations with everyone.

His absence is palpable, the impact of his life profound. We are not ready to say goodbye, but rather, "Too-da-loo," until we are together again.

In lieu of flowers, please send a donation to help cancer patients to the Johns Hopkins Sydney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at 750 East Pratt Street, Suite 1700, Baltimore, MD 21202. Please send in honor of Lenny DeMino and in loving memory of his nephew to benefit the Pediatric Oncology Department: kimmelgiving@jhu.edu.



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Continued from page 18.

Tidbits

Monocacy Monocle Receives Acclaim

The *Monocacy Monocle* was recently very pleased to receive recognition and honor from outside of our circulation footprint.

On behalf of the paper, Rande Davis was especially honored to receive the annual community service award from the esteemed Daughters of the American Revolution (DEAR) at their statewide conference held on May 16 at the Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City. The theme this year focused on journalism, and along with Davis, eleven other statewide journalists were also honored.

The local Hungerford Tavern chapter sponsored the award on behalf of Davis. "Not only am I very grateful professionally for the recognition from the DAR, but personally as well as my grandmother and mother, along with sisters and nieces, are also members. It took me until 2023 to finally visit Fort Ticonderoga in upstate New York where two of my relatives were posted and fought."

Additionally, at a recent C&O Canal Town Partnership meeting, the Mayor of Sharpsburg, Russ Weaver, held up a copy of the *Monocacy Monocle* in praising the mission of local newspapers that document local news and history. Thanks, Mayor Russ!



Leslie Gruis and Peggy McGowan, representatives from Rockville's Hungerford Tavern Chapter of the DAR, with the Monocle's Rande Davis. The Hungerford Tavern Chapter sponsored a community journalism award for Mr. Davis at the DAR's recent Maryland state conference.

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Summertime List of Things NOT to Feed Your Pets

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

As we run headlong into our summertime fun, it is important to keep note of the foods that you can eat but that your furry friends should not. When we are at festive get togethers, and you have brought your four-legged family member (always better to leave them in the safety of their own home), please keep track of what other folks around you may be trying to give to your pets as treats.

Here is a pretty good list of things your furry kids should not eat:

Alcohol	Grapes	Rhubarb
Avocado	Macadamia nuts	Salty foods
Caffeine	Milk	<i>(in large amounts)</i>
Chocolate	Mushrooms	Tea
Coffee bean treats	Pits and seeds from fruit	Walnuts
Fat trimmings	Potato skins and	Xylitol (sweetener found in
Garlic	raw potatoes	<i>many sugarless treats)</i>
Gum	Raisins	Yeast and dough

You may have your own list of things your particular four-legged pal cannot eat for fear of Gastric Upset, so feel free to add those items to this list also. Have a happy, safe, and fun filled Summer with your furry kids.



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