

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

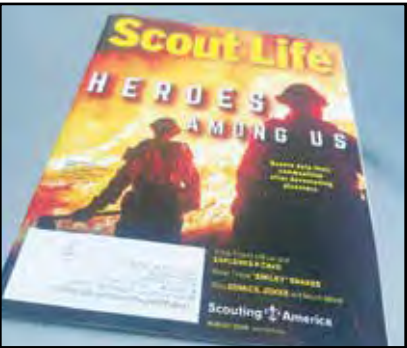
Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Monthly Newspaper

August 2025 • Volume XXI, Number 6



Why was a famous Kingsbury peach thrown as the first pitch of a baseball game? Answer in Local News on page 8.



A local hero gets national attention! Find out who and why in Tidbits on page 9.



Would you ride a zipline for pizza? Yeah, I know, you would ride most anything for pizza. Find out what ziplines and pizza have in common (besides the letter Z) on page 12.



The UMCVFD may just have outdone themselves with the 2025 fireworks. Check out page 21 for more pics.

## How One Backyard Became the Beating Heart of Poolesville—for One Unforgettable Afternoon

By Joy Zucker-Tiemann

It started with a Facebook post. NBC4 Chief Meteorologist Doug Kammerer was looking for the perfect spot to kick off his *Backyard Weather Summer Series*—a live broadcast highlighting real people and real places across the region. All you had to do was submit a photo and explain why your backyard deserved the spotlight.

Cathy Bupp didn't hesitate. "I told them Poolesville is a 'mighty small town'—and if given the chance, I was sure I could fill our backyard with neighbors, friends, and a whole lot of heart," she said.

Two weeks passed with no word. Then, on Friday, July 11, Cathy got the call: Doug Kammerer had chosen her backyard to launch the series—live and on-air the following Wednesday. That left just four days to pull off a full-scale production that would be broadcast live repeatedly over the



NBC4 Chief Meteorologist Doug Kammerer broadcasting from Poolesville.

course of three hours, but in true Poolesville fashion, all it took was a few phone calls for the plan to take off. What unfolded next wasn't just a weather segment, it was a showcase of everything that makes Poolesville special. With the goal of celebrating Poolesville in mind, Cathy and her

husband Dave Mowatt didn't stop at inviting friends and family; they opened their yard to local businesses, civic leaders, farmers, creatives, and longtime residents who represent the spirit of this closeknit community.

Continued on page 7.

## The Montgomery County Ag Fair: The Heart and Soul of the County

By Rande Davis

The history of the Upcountry in general—and in Poolesville, specifically, with our past agrarian lifestyle—is intertwined with the history of one of our greatest cultural traditions, the county fair. In the July issue of the Monocle, we presented a collage of pictures of the community fair at Poolesville High School that predates and formed the roots of the current Montgomery County Agricultural Fair (MCAF). That community fair focused on livestock, produce, and baked goods with friendly but intense competition among the farmers and residents of the county who participated.

Continued on page 13.



The 2025 Montgomery County Ag Fair has it all: Food, games, carnival, 4-H exhibits, crafts, fun novelty entertainment, and spectacular grandstand events!



Family Album



Above: The Christopher Boughton family enjoyed the music at Friday on the Commons.



Left: Phemeon Lyles enjoyed some ice cream while celebrating in remembrance of her father's birthday.



Children enjoyed the games at July's Friday on the Commons event.



Members of HMD's Board of Directors, student docents, and good ol' John Poole, Jr. himself were on hand to greet tourists during this year's Heritage Day Weekend.



Bernie Mihm, Pat Hanscom, Kathy Mihm, Laurie Keese, and a Friday on the Commons volunteer.



Riverworks Performing Arts sponsored lectures on local history at its amphitheater during the Heritage Days weekend.



## Local News

### Solar Development Continues As State, Federal Laws Change

By David Givens

Local farmers are alarmed that solar field development is likely to accelerate, following a new state law aiding the solar industry, along with the end to federal tax credits for renewable energy projects not placed in service over the next two years.

The Maryland Renewable Energy Certainty Act, signed by Maryland Gov. Wes Moore (D) in May, went into effect July 1. The state Public Service Commission will no longer have to consider local planning and zoning results when evaluating an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity from a solar developer. Five percent of local preservation areas will be available for solar development.

An effort by Farmers for Rural Maryland for a citizen referendum to overturn the act failed when the required number of signatures could not be obtained by May 31.

Under the U.S. One Big Beautiful Bill Act, or H. Res. 1, signed July 4 by President Donald Trump, solar projects eligible for the production tax credit or investment tax credit must either begin construction before July 5, 2026, or be placed in service by December 31, 2027.

An executive order issued by Trump on July 7 directs the U.S. Treasury Department to issue guidance by August 18 "to ensure that policies concerning the beginning of construction are not circumvented."

Rockville-based Chaberton has five regional projects planned. "While we don't anticipate impacts to these projects' timelines due to H. Res. 1, we are carefully evaluating the legislation, especially in light of the yet-to-be-determined outcomes of the Executive Order of July 7," said Lia Morrison, vice president of communications.

Solar developers are offering ten to twenty times the going lease rate of \$200 per acre per year in the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve, according to the Montgomery Countryside Alliance (MCA), along with flat rate bonuses.

"Established farmers in the Ag Reserve are already losing leases to solar developments," the group said recently.

"We get letters and calls weekly—big offers not tied to the federal incentives but to the state law," said David Burrier of Burrier Farms Red, which grows row crops in Frederick County. "We have 110 acres and 42 of them are prime land, and they want the prime land and would leave the rest. Any farm in Frederick County is susceptible."

In Montgomery County, Chaberton is building the four-acre Santa Rosa project and continues to develop the Ramiere, Sugarloaf, and Victoria projects, which will range in size from 25 to 188 acres.

In Frederick County, Chaberton is pursuing the fifty-three-acre Wild Turkey project. Massachusetts-based New Leaf Energy has concluded lease negotiations with the landowner for the Clyde Young Road project and will place it in service on or before the end of 2027.

Nitzan Goldberger, director of business development for New Leaf, said recent state and federal laws do not affect the project. The Clyde Young Road proposed solar farm covers about forty acres. She added the firm is "excited ... to be continuing to develop homegrown energy resources in Maryland."

Diego Calderon, a resident whose property is adjacent to the 1.75MW, four-acre Santa Rosa project, told the *Monocle* that wildlife is being driven away by the construction, and runoff following storms is massive.

Chaberton's Victoria project abuts Santa Rosa, and neither project is on farmland, but on residential land in Potomac.

Calderon said Maryland State Senator Brian Feldman, one of the primary sponsors of the new state law, and Montgomery County planners have "buttoned up language regarding the Agricultural Reserve."

The law "was never intended for industrial use solar panels in residential areas," Calderon said. "Why are county officials looking the other way? Because the public service commission will win anyhow." Residents of the area say they will continue to fight the Victoria project at the county level.

Burrier, president of the Frederick County Farm Bureau, said it is not opposed to solar power, but wants it sited on lower classes of soils. "We want the county to stand firm on that," he said. The new state law says local decision-making

Continued on page 17.



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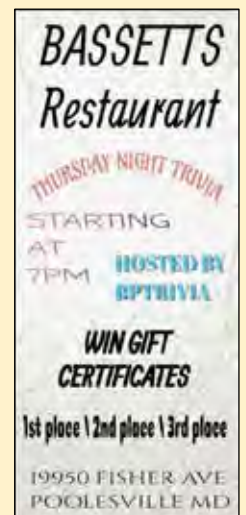
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## Rande(m) Thoughts Tell It to Me with A Straight Face!

By Rande Davis

The county has banned gas-powered leaf blowers—not for themselves, mostly just for people who support their families by taking care of other people's lawns. Gas-powered leaf blowers—good for the county, bad for the businesses. Really? Can you say that again with a straight face.

The Montgomery County Council held a hearing on July 15 to receive discussion about possibly making exemptions to its recent ordinance to ban gas-powered leaf blowers. Commercial landscapers asked that the ban be lifted in the fall wet season for three more years to at least give the gas-powered landscape companies more time to adjust.

The prohibition on gas-powered leaf blowers that took effect on July 1 was originally discussed to reduce noise and health and environmental concerns. Must be they have no concern with gas-powered lawn mowers, since they chose not to ban them—for now.

The ban does not apply to individual homeowners. Perhaps residential gas-powered mowers don't make as much noise—or maybe they do, but we have learned to compromise by accepting their usage as a neighborly kind of sacrifice. You put up with my noise, and I will put up with yours. If it's music, just make sure it's the kind I like. I suspect most homeowners have switched to electric already but not for noise or environmental reasons—mostly because trying to start a gas-powered blower pops our shoulders out. Oh, how I hate that darn pull-cord starter!

After the hearing, the council went into private meetings and emerged with no change being made. No vote, no explanation, just a "that's the way is, thank you very much." It appears that they think the county's size of expenditure to retrofit the county is too excessive. They're too big, and homeowners are too numerous, so they won't require them to switch to electric—just commercial landscapers.

In the Upcounty, the noise issue is significantly different than in more crowded areas. I, too, have heard the gas-powered leaf blowers in Whalen Commons or on a neighbor's lawn. Each time, the disturbance, if my windows are open, can indeed be very loud, but it lasts just a few minutes. I don't think my few minutes of inconvenience is worth severely hurting our local landscape companies.

Landscapers at the hearing urged the county council to give private landscapers more time for the technology to improve, so electric-powered leaf blowers can match the effectiveness of the current gas-powered blowers.

Town Commission President Jim Brown noted, regarding Poolesville at the hearing, that "it's really expensive" to change to electric equipment in a time when it is already hard to stay financially afloat. Poolesville needs to spend \$50,000 to convert, and that is "\$50,000 we don't have." You heard that right, one thing for the town government, another for the county.

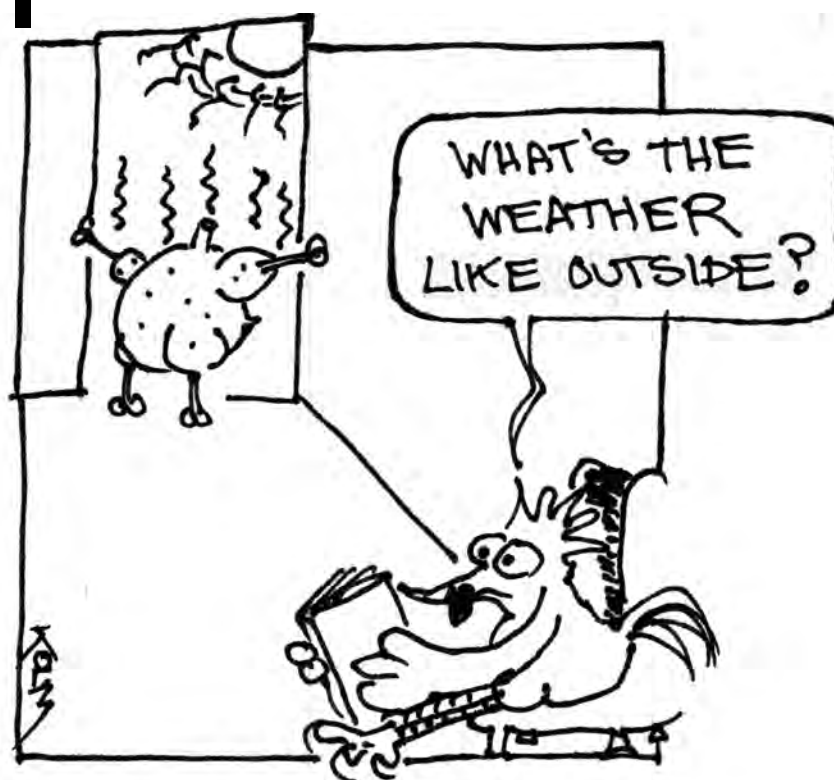
One landscaper said his company has spent more than \$62,000 "simply to be compliant with the law."

Living in the more crowded environment comes with an additional cost of comfort. Noise being one of them. Perhaps they should ban car horns, too. After all, they can disturb one's peace at any time, day or night.

The cost of the transition will rightfully be passed on to the consumer. Some landscapers will go out of business, creating higher demand on those who remain, raising the cost even higher. Even in our affluence, there are limits. As technology improves in the future, the landscapers may want to improve, but before they do, they will need to amortize the cost of the change made now.

I do have concern about the heavy burden on our landscapers. After all, in our area, the local landscape companies are leaders in civic duty and community contributions. They give back to us through donations in dollars and in-kind services. We can give back to them by supporting their need to keep their cost of unnecessary regulations down. We need them healthy and prosperous. After all, it's the neighborly thing to do.

## Kolm's Corner



Place your ad in the next issue of the *Monocle*.

Call Rande Davis at 301-509-9232

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Keeping an Eye on Local News

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### August

August days are hot and still,  
Not a breath on house or hill,  
Not a breath on height or plain,  
Weary travelers cry for rain;  
But the children quickly find

A shady place quite to their mind;  
And there all quietly they stay,  
Until the sun has gone away,—  
August is too hot for play!

—Annette Wynne

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## Letter to the Editor

I have never been one to read newspapers—with the exception of the local one where I live. This morning, I sat down to page through the Monocle. Two articles caught my interest: Front page on the closing of the Islamic Saudi Academy written by Rande, and the other coauthored by Rande and Link about town government and conflict of interest. Both interested me because I was a member of the Planning Commission at the time that the Saudis wanted to build the academy on land south of Poolesville, which they wanted the town to annex. When I presented the recommendation of the Planning Commission to annex the land at a public information meeting, I was publicly accused of taking bribes from the Saudis.

As background, I am a professional ecologist with a background in aquatics/wetlands, hydrology, and planning. At the time that I was on the Poolesville Planning Commission, I worked for the Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters in D.C. in the Regulatory Program. Besides me, we had two other Ph.D.s on the Planning Commission, Dr. William Moore and Dr. Thomas Dillingham, all volunteers and with combined academic credentials that exceeded any others in the county. As with the current commissioners, we all had our own lives to lead with professional and familial responsibilities. As with the current commissioners, we still volunteered our time and expertise to make Poolesville a better place.

On my own time as a commissioner, we drafted two Master Plans; presented to county officials a proposal to provide lands that the Planning Commission had worked with local developers to donate to convince them to build the John Poole Middle School; drafted the first forest conservation regulation for the town; prepared the first hydrology study for ground water/well resources included in a Master Plan; drafted the conceptual plan for the multi-use trail that encircles the town as well as attended to the regular business of the Planning Commission. It hurt to be accused of taking a bribe.

Everyone is entitled to their opinion on public policy, land resources, development, etc.; however, unless you have factual information on wrongdoing, which should be provided to the Ethics Committee (not spread on the internet or through gossip) either put up and volunteer to do the work or shut up! We owe a debt of gratitude to all those who volunteer their time for the town government.

— Bob Pierce, 5 July 2025

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## Senior News

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

Visit the Poolesville Seniors' website, [poolesvilleseniors.org](http://poolesvilleseniors.org), to register for these and a wide variety of virtual and in-person events. Sign up at [poolesvilleseniors.org/email-list](mailto:poolesvilleseniors.org/email-list) to receive our weekly PS Postscript newsletter or call 301-875-7701. Most in-person events take place at *Poolesville Presbyterian Church's Speer Hall* at 17800 Elgin Road (Rte. 109).

**Registration is required, but all events are open to the entire community and free unless otherwise noted.**

**August 7, 13, 21, 27**

#### Chair One Fitness with Deirdre

A certified Chair One Fitness Instructor for a chair-based dance program that delivers a musically driven, 45-minute, interactive workout that uplifts people through dance and fitness movements. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**August 14**

#### Frederick Keys: Mahoning Valley Scrappers

Enjoy an evening game in seats with backs to cheer on the Frederick Keys against the Mahoning Valley Scrappers. 21 *Stadium Dr, Frederick*. 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

**August 15**

#### Movie Night: *Sight*

*Sight* follows the life of Dr. Ming Wang, an immigrant to the United States who escaped Communist China to become a world-renowned eye surgeon. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 pm.

**August 18**

#### PS Book Club: *28 Summers*

*28 Summers*, Elin Hilderbrand's novel, explores the agony and romance of a one-weekend-per-year affair and the dramatic ways this relationship complicates and enriches their lives, and the lives of the people they love. *Virtual*. 7:00 p.m.

**August 20**

#### Trail Hike: Monocacy Natural Resources Management Area

This 5.6-mile, two-plus-hour hike

begins at Furnace Branch Trail. The trail is packed with dirt, roots, some rocks, and can be muddy. Most of the trail is in the shade. 221 *Dickerson Rd, Dickerson*. 8:50 a.m.

**August 22**

#### Line Dancing w/Ashley Kelch

Enjoy a free evening of line dancing with basic instruction that builds up to more complicated moves. *St. Peter's Episcopal Church*. 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**August 28**

#### Commission on Aging Ambassador's Presentation

Meet Commissioner Kathleen McGuinness of the MoCo Commission on Aging Ambassador Program, who will inform us about the county's many services available to seniors along with Poolesville Resident and COA Chair, Linda Bergofsky. *Speer Hall*. 2:00 p.m.

Would you like to announce a meeting or upcoming event in Senior News?

Then let us know! Send it along to [editor@monocacymonocle.com](mailto:editor@monocacymonocle.com)



## A Monocacy Moment *Lost in Time*



#### Poolesville Grammar School, 1910

The name was officially changed to Poolesville High School in 1911.

State Board of Education records indicate the enrollment for the 1905-1906 school year was eighty-nine students in grades one through seven. The school population increased slowly, along with the growth of Poolesville, and in 1910, the eighth and ninth grades were added. In 1911, the first school bus in the State of Maryland, horse drawn and driven by Lloyd Grubb, began to serve the school. That year, the name Poolesville Grammar School was officially changed to Poolesville High School.

The tenth grade was added in 1914, and the building was beginning to reach the saturation point. In 1920, the eleventh grade, as well as vocational agriculture, were added.

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Continued from page 1.

**How One Backyard Became the Beating Heart of Poolesville—for One Unforgettable Afternoon**



*Meteorologist Doug Kammerer made a new friend when visiting us.*

Among those who stepped up: The Poolesville Grill Team, who made sure no one went hungry; the SLER Book Club, who brought desserts and sass; Ballooney Bin's colorful creations quietly framed every camera angle; local businesses like Deere Valley Farms had everyone salivating for soft-serve ice cream; Calleva delivered their signature spirit of adventure; Stephanie's Secret Garden and Gypsy Flower Farm turned stems into statements; and Honey Effects offered buzzworthy honey and a new beeswax creation; the Sweet Lemon, the SLER Bookclub and Deere Valley Farms surprised Doug with thoughtful treats for him and his crew; and Metzger Winery poured local flavor to toast the occasion!

Also on hand to show just how unique Poolesville can be were Potomac Valley Surveys, DJ EZ, Bupp Contracting, and, of course, some of the town commissioners and the Poolesville Chamber of Commerce. Additional shoutouts go to Faith and Skip Etheridge, and Larry Neal, Sr. for serving up a Maryland seafood feast (complete with a bushel of crabs and spiced shrimp and a guest who even brought the caviar Eun Yang joked about on the air the day before!), and of course Leslie and Abe Curran, who, as Cathy puts it, "can throw a party at the drop of a hat." Quietly behind the scenes was Joy Zucker-Tiemann whose production know-how and community connections helped everything run smoothly from setup to sign-off.

Storms threatened the broadcast all afternoon, but somehow the skies held out—just long enough to let Poolesville shine.

"We've always said it takes a village," Cathy said. "Ours sure came through."

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## Local News

### MCA Award Charity Hero Award

By Knight Kiplinger

It was "Down on the Farm Night" at the July 17 baseball game at Shirley Povich Field in Cabin John Park, at which the Montgomery Countryside Alliance (MCA) and Ag Reserve farmers were the featured honorees, with MCA's Caroline Taylor receiving a Community Hero award (and T-shirt) for her leadership. A fast-pitch softball player in her girlhood (she once hurled a no-hitter!), Caroline threw the opening pitch with authority, putting it right over the plate.

MCA had an information table at the game, and Butler Farm, whose family members turned out in force, displayed their wonderful produce at a table. (Insert names of other attendees, provided by Caroline.)

After the third inning, Caroline was interviewed by Bruce Adams, the former county councilmember (and onetime council president in the 1990s), who founded the Bethesda Big Train program in 1998, and led the effort to build Shirley Povich Field (named after the legendary *Washington Post* sports columnist) and invigorate youth baseball in the county. The team, part of the Cal Ripken, Jr. League of summertime baseball, featuring college stars from around the nation, is named after Montgomery County's own Walter (the Big Train) Johnson, considered by many to be the greatest pitcher of all time.

"If this ninety-five-degree day felt hot to you," Caroline quipped on a very sultry night, "think about our farmers working in the fields in this heat!" She gave a great two-minute pitch on the importance of the 93,000-acre Ag Reserve to the economy and environment of our county.

Soon after the MCA honoring, the game was called on account of distant thunder and lightning—the standard (but sometime overly cautious) precaution at baseball games. At the time, the Big Train was leading by several runs over the visiting Southern Maryland Senators. Big Train summer players—who play baseball at such universities as Maryland, Alabama, Princeton, Tulane, George Mason, Central Florida, and Mississippi—often go on to major league careers, some with distinction.



*At a Bethesda Big Train baseball game at Shirley Povich Field in Cabin John Park, the Montgomery Countryside Alliance was the featured charity, with Caroline Taylor receiving the Community Hero award. Bruce Adams, the former Montgomery County councilmember and president, presented her with the award.*

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## Tidbits

## You Can Call Her Doctor Now



Congratulations to Jocelyn Bodmer, the daughter of proud parents, Tad and Lynne Bodmer, for recently obtaining a Ph.D. from Virginia Tech. Her thesis theme was entitled "Postmortem Energy, Metabolism's Role in Calpain, Activation, Inhibition, and Subsequent Function." Don't ask us to explain it, just know that the impressive part is that she can. Mom Lynne said, "Our daughter spent years pouring her heart, mind, and countless hours into earning her doctorate. Her dedication, perseverance, and faith in herself inspire us every day." Congrats, Jocelyn, we are all proud of you!

## Local Eagle Scout Featured in National Scouting Magazine

Jason Woodman, an Eagle Scout from Darnestown's Troop 1094, is featured in the current issue of *Scouting Life*, scouting's national magazine. He was recognized for his lifesaving efforts in helping a teammate on his ice hockey team after she had collapsed while having a seizure. His immediate actions prevented further damage to her life. The feature article, entitled *Hero on Ice*, also reported Jason had recently earned an award from the General William Smallwood



Chapter of the Maryland Society of the Sons of the American Revolution. The *Monocle's* writer, Jon Wolz, president of the SAR chapter and a fellow Eagle Scout recipient, was pictured giving Jason the award in the article.

## Local DAR Chapter Sends Items of Comfort to Sailors

Hungerford's Tavern Chapter, DAR, collected an unprecedented amount of wish-list items for the *USS Carl Vinson*, an aircraft carrier currently on an extended deployment. Chapter member Sarah Geiger Tester asked the chapter to send items at the request of her brother Mark who has been at sea since last November. Sixteen boxes were packed and prepared for mailing by Meg Woodman (Poolesville resident and DAR member). When she called on Poolesville residents to assist with postage, the outpouring was most generous. Many thanks to everyone who participated in this monumental effort!



*The Hungerford Chapter of the MD DAR answered the call from those at serving at sea!*

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*Local Builder of the Bodmer Home on Elgin Road and  
the new Koeser home on Whalen Commons!*

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## Local News

### Barnesville: A Brief History

By Rande Davis

With the 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Barnesville just last year, we wanted to share an encapsulation of its history which was presented then, and again, this past June at the Poolesville Old Town Hall and Bank Museum on Heritage Days Weekend.

Its founding was aided by its geographic location with its proximity to the Monocacy and Potomac Rivers, which allowed it to trade and sell farm products to Georgetown and Alexandria. The area was populated by Native Americans, primarily the Piscataway tribe, which settled for a while near the mouth of the Monocacy. Originally from southern Maryland, the Piscataway tribe migrated to the region to escape attacks from Pennsylvania's Susquehannock tribe.

The Barnesville area was originally settled by Swiss, German, and English colonists in the 1720s to 1730s. At the time of its founding in 1747, it was designated as a part of the Sugarloaf Hundred. The term hundred referred to a geographical area which was large enough to support potentially one hundred people. Barnesville is named after William Barnes, who is believed to be the first settler in the area. He either built the first house or was the earliest settler, depending on the source. The town was officially named in his honor when it was chartered in 1811. When he left Barnesville, a town in another state is reported to also have been named after him. We can't say much about his overall importance to the town other than having it named after him.

The story of Barnesville as a town began in 1747, when Jerimiah Hays resurveyed 475 acres of land which first became known as Jerimiah's Park. Originally part of Prince George's County, it was resurveyed into Frederick County, then it finally became part of Montgomery County. Barnesville was officially named in 1812 after the residents petitioned the state legislation to do so.



Voters in Barnesville still cast their paper ballots for town commission in this historic cigar box used since bygone days.

#### Barnesville's Founding Families

Towns are created by the families that resided there. These are some of the most prominent.

The Hays Family were leaders in local and state government. They founded Barnesville with Jerimiah Hays's resurvey. Other important descendants were Leonard Hays, born in 1759; Samuel Hays; and, of course, the renowned and legendary Mayor Lib Tolbert. The Hays family was, in the early days, active in the Whig Party.

The Hilton Family heralds back to the beginning as a witness to Jerimiah Hays's will. William Hilton began the lineage of undertakers, cabinet builders, and home builders. He was born in 1829. William built many of the buildings still standing in the town, including St. Mary's Catholic Church.

The third key Barnesville family was the Price Family. Alexandria's George Thomas Price married Jesse Virginia Hilton, William's sister, in 1888. From 1952 to 1991, the Lawrence Hilton Price Home served as the town post office. Several members of the Price family, including William and Cherie Price, still carry on the family's Barnesville heritage.

Charles E. Claggett (1854-1928) and family were Barnesville residents born into slavery. Their home was on eleven acres of land off of Old Hundred Road.

#### Strong Religious Roots

There is a strong history of religion in Barnesville. As early as 1741, the Jesuit Order of Priests had established a Catholic mission chapel in Barnesville. This

was the foundation of St. Mary's Church, built in 1807 by Fr. John Dubois. After the original wooden structure burned, William T. Hilton built the current building in 1900. The famous St. Mary's Chicken Dinners began in 1875.

The Barnesville Baptist Church was founded in 1871 by the Rev. Joseph Hawkins Jones, starting with twenty-two charter members. The building is an excellent example of nineteenth century rural architecture with its steep gabled roof and clapboard exterior. There was a Methodist-Protestant Church in town, and in 1878, on land donated by the Hays family, an Episcopal Church was built. After World War II, its parishioners attended St. Peter's Church in Poolesville. The old church stood across from Hilton's Funeral Home until it was torn down a few years ago.

#### Barnesville during the Civil War

Barnesville played an important role as a garrison town protecting the nation's capital. General Robert E. Lee crossed at White's Ford and came through

Continued on page 25.

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## Garden

### Where Have All the Flowers Gone?

By Maureen O'Connell

In 2010, I planted twelve *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Endless Summer' shrubs. They were highly recommended as one of the best hydrangeas on the market throughout the country. They were introduced in 2004 and revolutionized the market. This plant was discovered during a tour through Bailey Nurseries in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1998. During this tour, Dr. Michael Dirr, a well-known professor of horticulture at the University of Georgia, noticed a unique hydrangea that produced flowers on both the old wood (as most varieties do) and on new shoots. He had never seen this trait before, and so 'Endless Summer' came to be. He introduced them to garden centers all over the country, and they became instantly popular.



Lots of leaves and brown dead flower stalks.

They carry a plethora of round, Nantucket blue flowers from June to September and October. They were perfect: low maintenance, no pests, and no diseases. They grow three to five feet tall. The more acidic the soil, the bluer the flowers; the more alkaline, the pinker the flowers. For years, I carefully watched their growth during the year, especially during the late spring months of April and May. About five or six years ago, I noticed that my hydrangeas were not exhibiting new leafy growth on established canes. The new growth on the plants could only be seen on the base of the plant closest to the grounds despite the presence of prior bud growth on the canes. The buds on the canes produced in the fall months were black and dead. I knew then that there would not be many, if any, bright blue flowers all summer. The many old stems were now ugly, and most were dead. What happened? The frosts that our area frequently gets in late April and May.

'Endless Summer' is hyped as having excellent winter hardiness and can withstand winter temperatures well below freezing. They claimed that this meant that flowering is quite reliable regardless of winter weather, but what about the vagaries of late spring frosts. Orchards in our area periodically suffer extensive losses to fruit crops. 'Endless Summer' can tolerate low winter temperatures. They do so by protecting their growth inside the woody stems that grow inside the stems that grow out from the plant base. As temperatures rise in the spring, a plant is signaled to begin growth on the new buds, set in the fall, on the stems. When this progress is initiated, the plant can no longer be tolerant of temperatures below freezing, but, in the past five to six years, the faster the warm weather arrived, it departed just as fast, and damaging heavy frosts appeared. This weather phenomenon is responsible for my loss of 'Endless Summer' flowers. Where have all the flowers gone? I will no longer plant this variety of hydrangea in my garden.

My twelve plants spend the summer covered with many green leaves but no flowers.

Let me recommend some alternative hydrangeas that have done very well in my garden for many years. There are five different types of hydrangeas: *H. arborescence*, *H. paniculata*, *H. macrophylla*, *H. serrata*, and *H. quercifolia*. In the variety *H. arborescence*, 'Incredible' is a reliable and hardy with lime green to white and back to green flowers. *H. paniculata*, I have in my garden, 'Limelight,' 'Little Limelight,' and 'Limelight Prime'; they are all excellent. The best of the *Hydrangea quercifolia*, the Oakleaf hydrangea, is 'Snow Queen.' I have two that have done extremely well for about ten years, despite all kinds of weather. Fall is a very good time to plant hydrangeas. They have the winter to lay down good root systems.

Besides the loss of my 'Endless Summer' flowers, this summer has not been one of my best garden years. The spring flowers did well, but come June and July, many plants went downhill: bindweed smothered many of them; the deer,

Continued on page 28.



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Focus on Business

A Slice of Summer at Calleva

By Sklyar Mullin

Saturday nights are for one thing: pizza—but not just any pizza. At Calleva Farm, guests are treated to wood-fired pizza, an amazing atmosphere, and outdoor fun during Calleva’s weekly Saturday pizza nights. This summer event is just another experience the Markoff family offers, along with Calleva summer camps and Markoff’s Haunted Forest in the fall.

Once you’ve reserved your table online, you and your group head to an outdoor dining area, right between the dormant haunted forest and a handful of

farm animal enclosures. You check in at the Farm Café and are assigned a table that can seat up to ten to begin your evening. Over thirty tables are arranged beneath glowing fairy lights, and country music drifts from the speakers overhead. The menu is not exclusively pizza; there’s also local beer and wines, salads, and other entrées and appetizers. There’s even ice cream to top off the hot summer night, all delivered to your table by attentive staff.

The rest of your evening can be spent exploring the farm. The enclosures have a range of farm animals to meet. Muscular horses graze the fields in the background, while two donkeys and some goats have a smaller pen closer to the action. A baby goat may even wander around the dining area, much to the children’s delight, accompanied by the friendly farm dog who makes rounds for pets from all.

Other activities are set up around the farm. Near the entrance, an old tractor is the perfect photo op, and a nearby flower garden provides a lovely place to stroll; however, the real star of the show is the zipline. Suspended above the farm, it stretches from the treetops to a landing zone near the parking lot. Tickets can be purchased at the kitchen, and kids line up, harness and helmet at the ready, to experience the adrenaline of soaring over the crowd.

As your evening comes to a close, with the sun setting behind the trees, you exit the farm with full bellies and smiling faces.



Kids (and children) love exploring the Calleva farm after eating pizza!

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Continued from page 1.

### The Montgomery County Ag Fair: The Heart and Soul of the County

It was in 1946 that the MCAF was born out of the desire of 4-H leaders to provide a county show for 4-H and FFA (Future Farmers of America) members in Montgomery County. Their mission was to provide a showcase for the hard work and dedication of the county's farming youth to present exhibits of their prized livestock, garden, and home economics projects to the community. The initial meeting occurred on a cold, March night in Rockville in 1945 with the intent to start a fair. Fast forward over seventy-five years, and the county ag fair of today is all that and so much more. The MCAF has become one of the largest county fairs in the State of Maryland.

The Montgomery County Agricultural Center, Inc. (MCAC) was officially formed as a privately operated 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization on January 7, 1949, when a group of local farmers were elected as the first board of directors by the volunteer membership of the organization. The MCAC had recently purchased sixty-four acres of land adjacent to the railroad tracks from Herman Rabbitt, a successful farmer and landowner in Gaithersburg. On June 4, 1949, hundreds of volunteers participated in an old-fashioned barn raising, and twelve outbuildings were constructed in one day. The site of the new Montgomery County Agricultural Center was created. Dedicated volunteers donated time, materials, and talent to construct and continue operation of the Montgomery County Agricultural Fairgrounds. The fairgrounds would not be what they are today if it were not for those visionary pioneers who were committed to agricultural education and family entertainment.

As is true today for the agricultural center, the volunteers were, and still are, necessary for the successful operation of the fairgrounds, through continued contributions of materials and free labor for the construction of the new facilities, as well as upgrading the old. A network of more than one thousand volunteers continues to provide time and talent, making the agricultural center a vital part of the business community in Montgomery County. The nine-day MCAF that is held in August requires support from over eight hundred volunteers who assume the responsibility for organizing and producing the single largest annual event in Montgomery County.

The positive relationships and friendly atmosphere at the fairgrounds make the MCAC a unique organization that continues to provide service to the agricultural and non-agricultural segments of our population while educating the public. Aside from its primary objective of being a showcase for 4-H and FFA members exhibiting livestock, garden, and home economic projects, the MCAF promotes agriculture through education of the community regarding agricultural issues and providing a meeting place for those interested in agriculture to encourage growth for future generations. The center is also committed to educating members of urban communities, helping them to acquire an appreciation for the role that agriculture plays in our daily lives.

This year's fair opens on Friday, August 8 with special events planned for each day through Saturday August 16. Most popular days start with 4-H Day (August 10), featuring a parade and coronation of the fair's king and queen. A most popular tradition is the cake auction. This is followed by Family Day on the twelfth which offers discounted ride wristbands from noon until 11:00 p.m.

August 12 is Seniors Day and August 14 is Military Day, honoring two of our most beloved and appreciated members of the community. One of the many favorites is Renegade Monster Trucks on August 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Of course, the big event, the Demolition Derby on August 16 at 7:30 p.m. has fair drivers competing against each other by ramming their vehicles into one another. The last driver whose vehicle is still operational is awarded the victory. Come watch as these cars get demolished in front of your very eyes!

You won't want to miss the excitement of Redeye Rodeo at the fairgrounds, featuring bull riding, barrel racing, mutton busting, and much more! Watch skilled cowboys and cowgirls take center stage, showing off their incredible talents in the Grandstand on August 15. The energy is contagious as it promises a evening full of fun and excitement for the whole family.

General free entertainment includes Brad Matchett, comedy hypnotist, who provides a family-friendly Vegas-style hypnosis show with volunteers that want to experience a great time.

A great fair tradition has been the hilarious swine races. Get ready to be entertained by the comedy of this world racing little piggies' team as they race to the finish line for a treat!

To make sure you don't miss out on anything, you can download the fair's catalog of events at their website at MCagfair.com along with a complete and detailed daily calendar of events and discount ride pricing.

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**FRIDAY ON COMMONS**

August 22: 6-10 p.m.

**Sunset & Sips**

Waterslides, Foam Dance Party,  
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Crafts & Games  
Beer: Checker Spot, Smoketown,  
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Wine: Metzger Winery

**Music:**  
**Sean Chyun: 6-8 pm**  
**Back to the Beach**  
**Beach Boys Tribute Band 8-10**

September 5: 6-10 p.m.

**Barrels of Fun**

Inflatables, Food Trucks,  
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Beer: Checker Spot, Smoketown,  
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Wine: Metzger Winery

**Music:**  
**Kiti Gartner & Her Drifting**  
**Valentines: 6-8**  
**Highway Legends: 8-10**



# Jim Poole's Tidbits of Poolesville History

## Century Hotel: Where the Old Town Hall and Bank Museum now stand

During the Civil War, escaping Confederate soldiers along with their horses, hid in the Century Hotel basement while trying to get back to



Virginia. Sometimes with Federal soldiers looking for them on the floor above enjoying a libation.

## Original land tract of the Century Hotel, part of Poole's Right in 1769

1817 ~ 1822

Belonged to Dennis Lackland who also was running John Poole's Store.

1822 ~ 1826

Belonged to Ignatius Davis of Frederick County.

1826 ~ 1861

Belonged to Richard P. Spates and Jane C., his wife.

1826

Began building hotel. The tavern was kept by Wm. O. West. Richard ran the Inn.

1861 ~ 1869

Belonged to Richard W. Jones.

From the time of Richard Spates, the plot was made up of a triangular part and the adjoining meadow.



Jim Poole

1879

Mrs. Smith was running a store out of it.

1907

Sold by Richard and Ann Owens to the Poolesville National Bank and torn down.



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Things to Do

Saturday nights

House of Poolesville (HOP)

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August 2

Frozen Sing-Along

Sing along to the movie Frozen while you watch! *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

August 2 and 3

Sip & Savor: Exclusive Winery Tour & Tasting Experience

Join us for an unforgettable journey through our scenic vineyards and state-of-the-art winery. This exclusive experience includes a guided tour where you'll learn about our wine-making process—from vine to bottle—followed by a curated tasting of our wines. \$40. *The Crossvines*. 2:00 p.m.

August 3

D.C. Polo Society Polo Games

Bring the whole family for an exciting day of polo. Enjoy watching two action-packed rounds of polo and grab a bite from our onsite bar and food trucks or bring your picnic lunch with

our tailgate package. This fun, family-friendly event is the perfect excuse to get dressed up and spend the afternoon with friends and family. Ages 13 and up: \$45; Children 12 and under: Free. *Congressional Polo Club, 14660 Hughes Road, Poolesville*. Doors open at 2:00 p.m.; matches start at 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

August 4

Library Science Camp

Squishy Science: Ultimate Slime Lab. Dive into chemical engineering by creating fluffy, stretchy, and glittery slimes while experimenting to find the strongest and stretchiest mixture! Ages 6 to 10. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

August 5

Library Science Camp

Catapult Craze: Launch Like an Engineer. Build mini catapults with popsicle sticks and rubber bands, then test force, angles, and energy transfer to hit targets with precision and power. Ages 6 to 10. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

August 7

PACC Businesses

Helping Businesses Grow

Featured speaker, Douglas and Son

Services. Networking and free breakfast, compliments of the PACC. *Locals Restaurant*. 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Library Science Camp

Slingshot Speedsters: Car Engineering Challenge. Engineer rubber band-powered slingshot cars and explore energy storage, release, and design optimization as you race them for maximum distance. Ages 6 to 10. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunflower and Sips at Gypsy Flower Farm

PACC Networking Event: Pick your own sunflower, bring your own chair. Wine and water provided. Hors d'oeuvres by Boar's Head. *15115 Mt. Nebo Road, Poolesville*. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

August 8

Library Family Storytime

This program is designed to delight children of all ages and is filled with diverse stories and activities that promote and develop language skills and imagination. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.



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Continued on page 17.



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J.D. Kuhlman



Continued from page 16.

### Things to Do

August 8 to 16

#### 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Montgomery County Agricultural Fair

Spectacular carnival with over forty rides, farm animal exhibits and competitions, excit-ing grandstand entertainment, and many free entertainments. *County fairgrounds in Gaithersburg*. Visit [mcagfair.com](http://mcagfair.com) for specials and various events.

August 9

#### Library Play Date

Play with puppets, puzzles, musical instruments, play tools, and many other learning toys. These toys are chosen for social emotional learning, motor skills development, and building imagination. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

#### UMCVFD Pork and Beef Fundraiser

Offering slow-smoked BBQ pork and beef, classic coleslaw, and hearty baked beans. Enjoy your meal at our covered tables or grab carryout. All proceeds benefit our new Training and Activity Center. Come hungry and bring your friends; once it's gone, it's gone! Visit [umcvfd.org/bbq](http://umcvfd.org/bbq) or call

301-972-8719 for more information. *Beallsville firehouse*. 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

August 12

#### Library Pajama Storytime

An evening storytime where pajamas are encouraged but not required. This program is designed to delight children of all ages and is filled with diverse stories and activities that promote and develop language skills and imagination. *Maggie Nightingale Li-brary*. 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

August 14

#### Library Dog Man Day

Want to see the new 2025 *Dog Man* movie? Join us for a party celebrating all things *Dog Man* with a scavenger hunt, a craft, and then watch the movie! For children in kindergarten through fifth grade with their families. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

August 16

#### Library Play Date

Play with puppets, puzzles, musical instruments, play tools, and many other learning toys. These toys are chosen for social emotional learning, motor skills development, and building imagination. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

#### Riverworks Performing Arts Event

Featuring Mindy Miller at the *Riverworks Outdoor Stage*, 17617 West Willard Road. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

September 6

#### PACC 1st Annual Crab and Cluck Family Fun Festival

Steamed crab, chicken dinners, and kids' meals. Pre-order only! Open to the public. Free kids' games and activities with local PACC vendors. *St. Mary's Pavilion, Barnesville*. 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Continued from page 3.

#### Solar Development Continues as State, Federal Laws Change

would return to counties after five percent of lands in the preservation areas were converted to solar.

The state's renewable energy law could possibly be reopened in the session of the General Assembly which begins in January, said Tyler Hough, director of government relations for the Maryland Farm Bureau.

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Pulse

Poolesville Cats:  
Caring for Unwanted  
And Abandoned Felines

By Rande Davis

Feral or stray cats have long been a significant problem in Poolesville. Our Upcounty location often becomes a dumping ground for cat owners looking for a place to rid themselves of their cat.

Quite a number of years ago, the feral population was actually estimated to be as high as around eighty. Today, due to an increasing coyote population, the number of stray cats is significantly reduced.

Still, there does remain a feral population, and a group of concerned citizens has banded together and organized Poolesville Cats. Their mission is to support the remaining feline population in Poolesville and its surrounding areas. They sponsor a Facebook page for the community to report missing cats, sightings of cats in distress, reports of roaming or feral cats that need support, and other feline-related situations that need attention. They operate twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Poolesville Cats volunteers work to reunite lost-and-found cats, trap animals in need of medical attention, arrange for fostering and adoption of abandoned cats, and provide owner advice and support in times of need.

As an example of their work, Poolesville Cats is currently providing foster care and extensive medical treatment for K.C., an eight-year-old male tabby. K.C. was reported to Poolesville Cats by a resident in the townhome development behind



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Continued on page 19.

A Monocacy Moment



Rendering of Ferry Crossing, the new development next to Whalen Commons in Poolesville.



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Continued from page 18.

**Poolesville Cats: Caring for Unwanted and Abandoned Felines**

the elementary school. He was suffering from wounds all over his body. His elderly feeder/carer had moved from her townhouse, and K.C. was without shelter or oversight by a human. Poolesville Cats deployed traps to capture K.C., arranged veterinary care, and found a long-term foster. K.C. continues to receive veterinary care and daily medications as he fights a bacterial infection caused by an unknown situation.

Other concerned citizens may visit their Facebook page if they want to donate time or money. The Town of Poolesville is currently considering a \$2,500 grant requested by them to continue to provide lifesaving support for the area's less fortunate feline population. These funds would be used to purchase food, pay veterinary bills, and the like.

*The founder of Poolesville Cats, Inc., Richard Garner, reported that the nonprofit organization received its 501(c)(3) designation in October 2023.*



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- Sunday, September 14th

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- 2nd Match Starts – 4:00pm

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Contacts:

- Julie Kuhlman at [kuhlmanlawnservice@gmail.com](mailto:kuhlmanlawnservice@gmail.com)
- PACC Secretary at [info@poolevillechamber.com](mailto:info@poolevillechamber.com)

v11





Above: UMCVFD volunteers.



The Durrants waving their American flags.



A great night sky, comfortable lawn chairs, and a fantastic view. There's nothing better than this on July 4 in the U.S.



Left: Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce.



The Vily family dressed in Fourth of July spirit.



The Swar family enjoying their picnic dinner.



The Dehullus showing Maryland pride with their umbrella.



UMCVFD EMTs.





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## Local History

### The Plane Crash at Dickerson

By Jack Toomey

During late September of 1931, weather conditions were uncharacteristically hot and humid in the Washington, D.C. area. Temperatures in Rockville and Washington reached over ninety degrees for several days. People of upper Montgomery County sought relief from the heat in farm ponds, creeks, and in the Potomac River. In Washington, schools were let out early for several days as buildings became overheated. On September 23, the temperature reached ninety-six degrees in Washington. As often is the case in our area, periods of high heat are sometimes broken by severe thunderstorms which form to our northwest and sweep over the area. The same was true on that day in 1931.

Lieutenant William D. Clements, 31, a member of the Army Air Corps, was undergoing training at Bolling Field in Washington, D.C. He was a native of Georgia and had joined the army in 1930. He had been assigned to a Boeing pursuit plane which had been developed after WWI. It was equipped with a machine gun, had a top speed of 166 miles per hour, could attain an altitude of almost five miles, and had a cruising range of 540 miles. Most recently, Lieutenant Clements had participated in mass maneuvers of the Army Air Corps in which 640 planes were assembled, and in the National Air Races at Columbus, Ohio.

Lieutenant Clements took off from Bolling Field at about 2:10 p.m. He had been temporarily stationed there while undergoing anti-aircraft evasion training. His destination was Middletown, Pennsylvania with the intention of having mechanical problems on the plane repaired by mechanics at that field. At the same time that Lieutenant Clements was preparing for his journey, a line of thunderstorms was developing across West Virginia and western Maryland. Lieutenant Clements had no way of knowing about the storms and headed northwest after taking off. As Clements entered Frederick County, he could see the developing line of storms and apparently turned back towards Washington.

Continued on page 29.

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# Poolesville Green

## Three More Environmental Rs in Poolesville: Repair, Revive, and Retro

By Doug Boucher

A motto that has guided Americans’ environmental action for several decades is the “Three Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.” It tells us how to be better consumers: don’t buy things we don’t need; if we buy something keep using it until it’s worn out; and when we’re through with it, put it in the recycling so that its material—glass, metal, paper, or plastic—can be converted into something else useful.

Here in Poolesville, people have started to add more Rs to the slogan. The idea is that when our possessions are worn out or broken, it’s better for the environment if we fix them rather than just chucking them in the blue bin.

This approach was featured in the essay of the winner of the 2025 Poolesville Green scholarship, Zachary Antonishek. He proposed that Poolesville High School students could collect donations of broken things and repair them so that they could be resold, in a program he called “Revive.” (Lots of Rs showing up here!) All kinds of objects could be repaired—clothes, lights, desks, curtains, and more—including many things made of materials that can’t currently be recycled.

An example of this kind of innovative thinking that is already being done locally is the work of high schoolers from PHS and other schools in the club called “Crochet4Change.” These students (and a few helpful adults!) collect used plastic bags, cut them up, and tie the pieces into long strips. They then use large crochet hooks to make the plastic strips into sleeping mats which are given away to the homeless. While plastic bags could be recycled, the Crochet4Change approach takes advantage of their strength and flexibility and avoids the need to break their plastic down into a low-value mush before re-forming them into something useful.

Recently, I carried some plastic bags that had been donated by Poolesville’s Friendly Thrift Store to a Crochet4Change meeting, and it occurred to me that

the Thrift Store is another great example of environmentalism in action. Yes, it does offer clothes, books, flowerpots, and car seats for sale at incredibly low prices, but besides exemplifying Thrift it’s also a key link in Reuse. In fact, lots of the town’s most fashionable young people now use it as a source of vintage clothing—Retro style in action.

The Town of Poolesville is well known for its environmental leadership, and through volunteer activities like these, it’s demonstrating the kinds of small steps that help to green the ways that our society processes its stuff. They show how to create an economy that is circular rather than disposable, in which we challenge the association of “new” with “good” and “old” with “useless” that we’ve come to take for granted. Right here in our little town, the environmental future is taking shape today.

Doug Boucher is President of Poolesville Green. He and his wife Charlotte have also volunteered with Crochet4Change and the Friendly Thrift Store.



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☒ Squash-Eight Ball

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### Coming Later in September:

### APPLES, APPLES, APPLES

### Most current list of produce available on Instagram

Dairy Products & Eggs: Butter; McCutcheon’s jams, jellies, preserves, sauces, and salad dressings; Poolesville Pickers BBQ sauces; and Boar’s Head Cheeses and Cold Cuts.















## Remembrances

### Dorothy Anne King

Dorothy Anne King, 87, of Dickerson, died peacefully on Friday, July 11, 2025. Born on August 28, 1937, she was the beloved daughter of the late Clarence and Mary Steele. She was the cherished wife for sixty-five years of the late Larry Andrew King. She joins her late sister and brothers, Patsy Lawrence, Mitchell Nealon, and John Sudduth.

Dorothy worked proudly as a cafeteria worker for Montgomery County Public Schools for thirty-three years, where her kindness and generosity touched the lives of her colleagues and thousands of students.

Left to treasure her memory are her two daughters, Linda Dean (Bill) and Laurie McKinley (Richard); two grandsons, Christopher Lewis and Aaron Dean; and one great-granddaughter, Lucy Lewis. Dorothy is also survived by her sister, Judy Cavell, and brother, David Overholtz.



Dorothy Anne King

### James R. O'Connell

James R. O'Connell, 82, of Barnesville, passed away on Sunday, July 6 at Brooke Grove Nursing Center in Olney. The cause of death was cancer.

He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Maureen F. O'Connell, and his daughter Christine E. O'Connell of London, United Kingdom. He was born on May 8, 1943, in Washington, D.C., the son of Genevieve and Daniel O'Connell.

He graduated from John Carroll High School in Washington, D.C., the University of Maryland, and Georgetown University Law Center. Upon graduation from law school, he joined the United States Marine Corps. He served for three years as a Judge Advocate. In 1971, he joined the Washington, D.C. O'Donoghue & O'Donoghue law firm. He continued to practice law there for forty-seven years, many as its senior partner. He covered the full range of labor, employee benefits, and employment law issues. He served as counsel to several international and local unions. Jim retired in June 2018 to his farm in Barnesville where he cared for his horses and farmed the land. He was well known for making good quality hay. He was also an ardent supporter of land conservation. He served as the President of the Maryland Environmental Trust, the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Izaak Walton League, and the Sugarloaf Countryside Conservancy. He was also a board member of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance.

He is survived by five brothers and one sister, Daniel O'Connell (Kate), Robert O'Connell (June), Kenneth O'Connell (Susan), William O'Connell (Patricia), Lawrence O'Connell (Beth), and Maureen Doyle (Kevin); and many nieces and nephews.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 13 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 18230 Barnesville Rd., Barnesville, with an inurnment to follow in the church cemetery. The family welcomes everyone back to a reception in the church pavilion.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to One More City, a charity campaign founded by James's daughter Christine to fund research into secondary breast cancer. [www.justgiving.com/page/christine-oconnell](http://www.justgiving.com/page/christine-oconnell).



James R. O'Connell

Continued from page 10.

### Barnesville: A Brief History

Barnesville toward Frederick. General Jeb Stuart came in early September 1862 with the objective of slowing a Union advance. On September 9, 1862, battles to control the summit and town of Barnesville ensued with troops attacking repeatedly, and control of the town swinging back and forth between the two sides; finally, the Union troops emerged victorious. On the eve of the battle, General McClellan sent a letter to Lincoln, informing the president that they were in pursuit in Barnesville and that they had "killed some of the Rebels." On September 10, McClellan also reported that they had successfully occupied Sugarloaf Mountain "from which a large part of the country can be seen in all directions."

There are, of course, other families like the Lillards and Menkes, with impressive contributions to the town, its history, and its vitality. For now, we leave our report appreciating the cultural and societal benefits of having such a wonderful, pastoral village as part of our life.

## Of Poetry and Prose

[discoverpoetry.org](http://discoverpoetry.org)

### VII. Dawn

Not knowing when the dawn  
will come  
I open every door;  
Or has it feathers like a bird,  
Or billows like a shore?

—Emily Dickinson

### Sunset

To sunset water quivering in a blush  
Appeals the glory of the sunset sky  
Down gazing—an imploring  
conqueror—  
With eyes that love to eyes awakening.

—Ruby Archer



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## Local History

### An Accident at Dickerson

By Jack Toomey

Fog blanketed the farms of Dickerson on the morning of September 24, 1942. As often happens in the fall, the warm waters of the nearby Potomac and Monocacy Rivers clashed with the cool morning air to form a fog that would burn off by 9:00 a.m. All night long, wartime freight traffic had rushed through the town on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad mainline which connected Washington to the cities in the west. As morning came, so came the passenger trains from the west, scheduled to arrive in Washington for the start of the business day. Citizens of Dickerson would read in their morning paper that the German army had surrounded Stalingrad, American marines were fighting for control of Guadalcanal, and that one Dewey Brown, while walking on the streets of Frederick, had lost nine hundred dollars through a hole in his pants pocket.

The Cleveland Night Express, Train 18, rushed through Point of Rocks at 7:18 a.m., two minutes ahead of schedule. The passenger train consisted of a steam locomotive, a baggage car, a baggage and mail car, two coaches, four Pullman sleeping cars, and a dining car. Its passengers included soldiers and sailors returning from leave, businessmen traveling to Washington, and schoolboys returning to their private schools for the fall semester. At about 7:25 a.m., the train from Cleveland stalled on the eastbound grade just west of the Dickerson Train Station. The problem was determined to be a failure of an air compressor. J. M. Gilbert, a flagman, was sent to the rear of the train, through fog, to warn any other eastbound trains. Of course, there were no radios on trains in those days, and all signaling was done by human or mechanical means.

In the meantime, the Ambassador, Train 20, from Detroit, passed through Point of Rocks at 7:28 a.m. The Detroit train consisted of a diesel locomotive, one baggage car, three coaches, and six Pullman sleeping cars. The engineer of the train from Detroit was Raymond E. McClelland.

While the Cleveland Night Express lay stalled west of Dickerson and the Ambassador began its climb out of the Potomac Valley, a freight train with a steam locomotive and forty-three loaded cars topped the hill at Barnesville.

At 7:32 a.m., the mechanical problem on the stalled train was fixed, the flagman was recalled, and a signal was given to start the train. A few seconds later, the Cleveland train was struck in the rear by the Ambassador which was traveling approximately fifty-five miles per hour. The fuel tanks on the diesel locomotives ruptured, and fire soon engulfed the last car of the Cleveland train. At the same time, the passing freight train was derailed by falling cars, and heavy pipes from several of the cars fell on top of the passenger trains.

The first rescue unit to reach the scene was a fire engine from nearby Frederick County. The fireman in charge, Joel Willard, found that the accident had happened in what the railroad called Smith's Cut. Local people called it the Orangestone Cut, presumably because of the orange tint of the rock wall. Fire was quickly spreading to the rear car of the Cleveland train which was filled with passengers. Calls went out for assistance. The governor of Maryland ordered the Office of Civil Defense, the Maryland State Police, and all state police ambulances to respond to the scene. In addition, the Montgomery County Fire Department, the Frederick County Fire Department, and the Montgomery County Police sent all available members to the scene. A hospital train and powerful spotlights were sent to the scene from Washington. Of course, the main line to Washington was blocked, and wartime traffic had to be diverted to other rail lines.

Eventually, fourteen bodies were recovered. All had been passengers or crewmen in the last car of the Cleveland train. The dead included flagman Gilbert, a Pullman porter, a fifteen-year-old boy returning to military school, and the rest were residents of Cleveland and Pittsburgh. Among the injured was James M. Straub, the president of the Fort Pitt Bridge Company of Pittsburgh. Mr. Straub was saved by another passenger who dragged him away from the flaming wreckage. The Rev. James Bifield, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Barnesville, came to the scene and administered the last rites of the Catholic Church to a fatally injured man who was trapped under the wreckage.

While Father Bifield prayed over the man, flames crept towards both of them. Photos taken at the time show large crowds of local residents gathered on the hills overlooking the accident site and also assisting in clearing the wreckage.

By Friday, September 25, States Attorney Ben G. Wilkinson had convened hearings into the matter at Rockville. The majority of the questioning was directed



Workers remove cargo from a box car as a passenger car continues to smolder.

at the actions of the engineer of the Ambassador, Raymond McClelland. McClelland testified that he had passed a green signal (a signal on the railroad that gave him permission to proceed) two miles from the accident scene. He then stated that he came upon a yellow signal (a signal that urges caution). He applied the brakes and saw the flares that had been placed on the track. He then saw a red signal (stop signal) just as the train passed it because the smoke from the flares had previously obscured it. He also testified that he followed the Cleveland train "every other day" under the same conditions.

Investigators determined that the accident occurred 3,177 feet west of the Dickerson station. They also determined that the Ambassador had passed over the Monocacy River bridge at sixty-six miles per hour and at the point of impact was traveling fifty-five miles per hour. The maximum speed limit in that area was seventy miles per hour for passenger trains. Investigators also tested the signals and found them to be in good working order. Further interviews with Engineer McClelland revealed his admission that he had neglected to see the yellow signal and had proceeded at normal speeds until he saw the burning flares, and then he had attempted to brake, but his speed had been too great to avoid a collision.

On November 4, 1942, the Interstate Commerce Commission released its report. They ruled that the accident was caused by the failure of the stalled train to give adequate flag protection to the rear and the failure of Engineer McClelland to operate his train in accordance with signal indications. In other words, they ruled that McClelland had passed both yellow and red signals without using due care.

At the conclusion of the inquiry, conducted by States Attorney Wilkinson, evidence was presented to the grand jury sitting at Rockville. McClelland was indicted on thirteen counts of manslaughter (apparently because one body was never identified). He stood trial in Rockville and was convicted on all counts. On December 4, 1942, he was sentenced to two and half years in prison by Judges Stedman Prescott and Charles Woodward. At the time of sentencing, Judge Woodward said, "If a man violates the rules of a railroad and kills someone, he is guilty of manslaughter...You have killed a number of people and destroyed millions of dollars of property...This sentence can only be a warning to engineers all over the country. Yours is a sad case, but you have brought a lot of sadness to others."

Today, several MARC commuter trains, Amtrak trains, and countless freight trains rush through this section of track every day. Few, if any, passengers notice that the walls of Smith's Cut still show the scars of the tragedy that happened there eighty-three years ago.

*This article originally appeared in the April 1989 edition of the Baltimore and Ohio Historical Society magazine. It has been edited for publication in The Monocle.*



## Remembrance

### Betty Hauck

Betty Hauck passed away gently on June 20, 2025 at age 99. In her later years, she liked to say, "I've had a wonderful life, and it's too late for me to tragically die young!" She was right about that—she did enjoy a long and fulfilling life with a loving family and lots of laughter along the way. While she was by nature a bit shy and reserved, generally avoiding the spotlight, we'd like to take a moment to share a few memories of Betty.



Betty Hauck

Betty Ruth Ilene Bogue was born on May 12, 1926 in Missouri into a family that was mostly Norwegian immigrants. For anyone who has enjoyed Garrison Keillor's *Prairie Home Companion* on the radio, his descriptions of those Scandinavian Lutheran farmers offer funny insights into Betty's relatives. Betty's childhood was not easy. She grew up during the Great Depression, and her mother, Anna Tonette Pederson, had to raise Betty and her two brothers mostly on her own after her husband, James Lacey Bogue, was killed in an industrial accident.

Yet Betty always said that she enjoyed her childhood. Her mother had made sure that they always had a safe home (first in the country, later in town), enough food (basic Midwestern fare), and good clothes (often homemade). As she grew up, Betty worked hard to put herself through school and earned a bachelor's degree in Sociology. Later, she also earned a teaching degree. Those early years shaped many of Betty's down-to-earth attitudes about what is important. For the rest of her days, she worked to build a good life, and she appreciated nice things, but Betty was never interested in acquiring trendy luxuries or symbols of prestige. She was more likely to shop at Goodwill thrift stores than Macy's or Neiman Marcus.

In 1975, Betty wed Paul E. Hauck, and they were happily married for over forty years. When they met, Paul had recently retired from a successful career at Defense Intelligence Agency as a senior intelligence analyst, and Betty was working as a preschool teacher. Soon after they married, they bought a home in Poolesville and then established the Montessori School of Frederick. Together, they operated the school until 1984 when they sold it and bought a second home in Naples, Florida. After that they enjoyed snow-birding back and forth between Florida and Maryland as well as traveling across America and abroad.

Betty always said that she enjoyed seeing the world with Paul and avoiding winter weather by following the sun to Florida, but the one thing that gave her the most pleasure in life was undoubtedly little children. She taught preschool for all of those years because she loved kids. If she were here right now, she would probably chime in to say that the kids she taught were a joy, but the parents were a mixed bag! Even at home, she was a terrific teacher, showing her own daughter and son how to read before they started kindergarten. Most importantly, of course, she was also a wonderful mother and grandmother. Betty loved all of those kids, and they loved her right back.

Paul passed away in 2019 (also at age 99) and Betty eventually returned to Maryland. Betty is survived by two children from her first marriage, son Kevin Chartrand (Jennifer) and daughter Leslie Chartrand (Mark Selman); stepson James Hauck (Jamison); and six grandchildren, Jason Selman, Lauren Hauck, Matthew Hauck, Jayne Chartrand, Kelly Chartrand, and Amber Hauck. Another stepson, Wayne Hauck, passed away in 2022.

Betty will be laid to rest with her husband Paul in Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in Betty's memory to Feed the Children.

## Monocacy Critters



Our Poolesville Eagle left her favorite tree in the field on Route 109 just before the big curve as one leaves town. She settled at eye-level on a fence directly across from the Mulligan Farm pastures (home of soccer games) and just a little up from Jerusalem Road. She is so used to humans, she didn't move a muscle when I just stopped the car, exchanged pleasantries, and snapped the pictures. It didn't take a lot a lot to coax that smile out of her. How do I know she's female? I swear she was flirting with me the whole time. Photo by Rande Davis.



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## Of Poetry and Prose

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### A Noon Scene

The quiet August noon has come;  
A slumberous silence fills the sky;

The winds are still, the trees are dumb,  
In glassy sleep the waters lie.

—William Cullen Bryant





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Continued from page 11.

Where Have All the Flowers Gone?

that I normally keep away by spraying smelly deer repellent, were not deterred. My biggest loss to them were my exquisite and highly-fragrant Oriental lilies, ‘Casa Blanca’ and ‘Stargazer.’ I have many squirrels in my backyard. They usually eat well from the dropped bird seed from my feeders. This year, they decided to invade the patio and the flowers in many containers. As soon as I planted there, in the night, they would dig up the dirt, throw out the plants, and bury their tasty nuts.

The success or failure of our gardens is completely dependent upon nature, weather, and climate change. Even the best weather forecasters can struggle with predicting the weather.

Enjoy what you have this year. Next year may or may not be better or worse.

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Continued from page 23.

The Plane Crash at Dickerson

Norman Wolfe of Dickerson was out on his property watching the approaching storm when he saw an airplane appear out of a towering cloud from the general direction of the Monocacy River. He then saw a blinding flash of lightning and noticed the plane circling over Dickerson at a height of only one hundred feet. Lloyd Jones, the proprietor of the feed and grain store near the train station, heard a loud noise and saw the plane pass over his store, nearly hitting it. Pliny Day and his son, Douglas, were repairing a barn when they saw the plane having trouble maintaining altitude. They stopped their work and saw the plane suddenly drop from the sky and nearly land on top of a train passing through Dickerson. The plane tried to climb but suddenly nosedived behind the feed and grain store, crashing onto a field on the James Runkles farm. The farmhouse still stands at the corner of Nicholson Farm Road and Mouth of Monocacy Road. Jones, Day, and his son ran to the scene of the crash and dragged the body of Clements out of the airplane. He was dead. A few minutes later, a crowd started to gather, and apparently someone threw away a cigarette, causing gasoline that had saturated the wreck scene to ignite. Mr. Day and his son pulled the body of Clements away from the fire, and Mr. Day suffered burns on his hands.

When authorities reached the scene, they found documents in the pockets of Clements which indicated that the airplane had a series of mechanical problems, especially in the oil line, and that he had been directed to travel to Pennsylvania to have it repaired. A board of inquiry was empaneled at Bolling Field, and the cause of the accident was determined to be a malfunction of the airplane motor.

The body of Lieutenant Clements was taken to the Hilton Funeral Home in Barnesville and then sent to his hometown of Durand, Georgia where he was buried.

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### Sometimes It Is Not Good to Be the “Fat Cat”

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

Pet obesity is a huge problem in the United States, with nearly 60% of all U. S. dogs and cats classified as overweight or obese in 2018. It is interesting that this correlates with the percentage of humans in the U.S. that are overweight to obese.

As the complexity of feeding our pets grows, with the increasing amount of online information available to pet owners, it becomes harder for pet owners to understand if, when, and what foods should be considered when a determination that their pet is overweight to obese is made by their veterinarian.

It is unfortunate that in the U. S. there are so many weight loss, weight change, and weight management programs. Each has a different rationale for how the weight is to be removed and how that is to take place. Pet owners further have a wide spectrum of beliefs when it comes to their own pets and that pets' weight. Many think that a little extra weight is good or “healthy” for their pets. Others believe trying to lose weight for your pet never gives permanent results.

The evidence is clear: The only current proven treatment for pet obesity is a therapeutic diet plan combined with life-style changes. Typically, when a human member of the family decides to lose weight, the pet benefits from being given less treats and getting increased exercise.

New weight loss and management diets are highly researched and trial-tested for effectiveness and safety. Amazing research, weight-loss formulations, and nutritional technology have been placed in a convenient bag or can of therapeutic pet food for easy use by the owner for the pet.

Weight control and weight loss are as much art as science in the 21st century. Attempting weight control for your pet is not often a “one and done” event. It takes a great deal of interaction between you and your veterinarian along with a truthful review about what you are or are not feeding your pet outside of the recommended therapeutic diet.

If you adjust your pets' diet, exercise, and/or lifestyle, there should be positive changes to their weight within 90 days. It is highly recommended to weigh your pet at your veterinarian's office and not at home. There is a greater chance you will maintain your weight loss plan if weight is reviewed by someone other than yourself.

Owners that place themselves on a weight management program along with their pets have a much greater chance of being successful with their pets' weight control and their own.

Weight loss, simply put, requires fewer calories per cup, higher protein, lower carbohydrates, and more soluble fibers. This along with getting repeat weigh-ins for your pet will give you the best chance to help your pets lose weight and maintain a new leaner form.



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