



Logan Monarch and Hannah Williams were crowned into royalty. King Charles, eat your heart out! Learn more in Family Album on page 2.



Our library and students from PHS teamed up to help PES students. Find out what they did in Tidbits on page 9.



A farming family was inducted into the Ag Fair Hall of Fame. Dig into the details in AgNews on page 11.



Grand Marshal 2025: Decades of Community Service. Find out who on page 19.

Poolesville Day: Your Guide to a Great Day

By Rande Davis

Poolesville Day 2025 promises to continue over three decades of annual celebration and reunion for neighbors and friends. It is our own special event that fulfills its time-honored reputation as a day for all—young and old—as much for new people in the town and all our longtime residents. For visitors and tourists, there is no better day to get a “feel” for our community—and we know that some of you will choose to move here because of Poolesville Day.

The *Monocle* is proud to be the official program guide for the day, providing the best way to plan the day for yourself, seeing all that is going on, and making sure you don’t miss anything important to you.

With more vendors than ever, it is going to be the perfect day of fun, food, music, and community revelry. It is a perfect time to get ahead of the upcoming holiday gift-giving season with so many crafters, artisans, home décor professionals, and personal care vendors offering great gift ideas. Will you have a need in the coming year for a home improvement, repair, or other home interior/exterior service? Candidates for your need are all here. You get to meet the owners up-close and personal.

For those of you on a mission to improve your health, many of the vendors offer insight and information to help you reach your health goals. If spiritual growth is a mission for you, there are representatives from our local faith/spiritual groups. Don’t forget educational opportunities. So many of our local educational folks (public and private) are here to talk to



Poolesville Day 2024 drew a record crowd.

about anything that concerns you. Every such institution serving our area will be here for you to “take a look” and ask questions.

We are lucky to have an amazing number of civic groups serving our community. Are you new to the community? Poolesville Day is a perfect time to explore your potential space

Continued on page 32.

Cavalry Cut Off! How the Union Garrison at Poolesville Derailed Lee’s Gamble

By Maj. Gen. Sean Paul Davis, PHS 1989 graduate

In the summer of 1863, as Robert E. Lee led an offensive with the Army of Northern Virginia into Maryland and Pennsylvania, Union forces maintained strongholds along the Potomac River to defend Washington, D.C. One of the most important was the Union garrison at Poolesville. Poolesville’s proximity to the river and to the ferry crossings at Conrad’s (White’s) and Edwards Ferry made it a natural choke point, and in June 1863, it became a linchpin in the effort to counter Confederate cavalry movements.

Confederate cavalry commander J.E.B. Stuart had been ordered to screen Lee’s advance and scout out Union movements. Yet when Stuart

attempted to cross the Potomac to ride into Maryland, he found his traditional crossing sites blocked. Union troops in and around Poolesville had fortified positions near Edwards Ferry Road (today’s MD 109, running toward the river) and maintained patrols along the C&O Canal. These forces made it impossible for Stuart to simply dash across the river as he had in earlier campaigns.

The Poolesville garrison was not large, but it was well placed. It covered the approaches between Conrad’s (White’s) Ferry, Edwards Ferry, and Seneca Landing Park (south, near today’s Seneca Creek State Park). By holding these key crossings, the Union denied Stuart the opportunity to

Continued on page 17.



Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart arrived at Gettysburg two days too late, contributing to the South’s defeat. Union troops garrisoned in Poolesville played a significant role in hindering Stuart’s advance.



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Rande(m) Thoughts

Rural Roots: We Get it Right in Poolesville

By Rande Davis

Our annual Poolesville Day is a great holiday festival with its greatness not so much in its standard fare of a parade, vendors, food, and music, but from its historical roots of our very rural legacy. Many may not know it, but this town has deep celebratory roots. We've always been a party town. Community dinners and dances go all the way back to pre-Civil War times. As a community, we were either dancing together or eating together, almost constantly. The "big daddy" of our celebrations was a huge three-day event held where our Poolesville Baptist Church is now. In the first part of the 1900s, a traveling variety show would come to town like a circus, with big tents and lots of thrilling things to do. It was called a Chautauqua. It featured everything from very serious professorial lectures to musical performances by singers, instrumentalists, comedians, dancers, and even actors performing one-act plays!

Around the time of the Civil War, it was not unusual for the townsfolks to gather on a Saturday night in the center of town and be entertained by spontaneous music of violin and banjo. There are even stories about being led by a very popular slave, Watty Owens. The man sure could sing and dance and motivate the young at heart. He was renowned for his exuberant singing from the balcony at St. Peter's. My favorite Mystery History of all time is how he was helped by a white friend from church in getting the great man himself, Abe Lincoln, to give him a horse to replace one taken from him by the Union Army. He had nursed the swayback back to health after it had been abandoned by the Yankees, only to have them later take it back when they saw such a healthy horse with a U.S. brand.

How anxious are Poolesvillians to party? Well, we even celebrated our 150th (sesquicentennial) town anniversary sixty-three years early! How's that, you say? Yeah, in 1954, town leader and postmaster, Charles Elgin, brought it to everyone's attention that our postal service began (in the John Poole House) in 1804. The town's response? Let's party! The parade alone was amazing! I have many great pictures from that day. Since we were

chartered in 1867 our 2017 celebration got it right. Poolesville sesquicentennials need not end there though. I have a newspaper report that talks of the Town of Poolesville beginning in 1888. It was wrong, of course, but heck, in the spirit of the town, let's party again—in 2038. If I am not there, proceed without me. Did anyone remember to save the signs and banners from 2017?

City celebrations are fun, but there is nothing to compare to a rural community's personal intensity. Unlike Grand Marshals in other larger towns, we choose not from the elite and powerful among us but almost always from those of extraordinary voluntary service.

Boy, did we get it right this year. Brenda Murtha and her compatriot partner in service, the late Pat Ferris, served by mentoring and guiding the young women of our area for what must be at least five decades as local leaders in girl scouting. Brenda's leadership went beyond local to include region, state, and federal as well. I remember my daughter being taken to serve at the inauguration of George Herbert Walker Bush, something the scouts do no matter who is elected. That experience lit a spark of patriotism in her that she held onto her whole life.

While the way we choose those to be honored may be special, the fact remains that there are many among us just as deserving of the honor. We don't have time to recite the names of those of who walk among us with spiritual greatness. What I like best about spiritual greatness is that it's not tied to big things done but rather deep things that bring immense meaning to life. I had the highest honor of befriending some of the most iconic local female legends of the past last century. I say that because Mary Chiswell was 104 when we made her Grand Marshal. I was so pleased to publish my tribute to nearly two dozen of these legends last fall in a special edition of the *Monocacy Monocle*: The Grande Dames of the Monocacy.

When you see Brenda riding in the parade this year, you will see a very special lady. I suppose her only regret is that her beloved husband is not here to make the ride with her. As she passes by, don't be shy of shouting out a proclamation of appreciation. She rides as a representative of many women from the past, present, and even tomorrow, who are the root cause of our oft-stated exclamation: Poolesville is a great place to live!

Kolm's Corner



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No Man Is an Island

No man is an island,
Entire of itself,
Every man is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main.
If a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less.

As well as if a promontory were.
As well as if a manor of thy friend's
Or of thine own were:
Any man's death diminishes me,
Because I am involved in mankind,
And therefore never send to know for
whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee.

—John Donne

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

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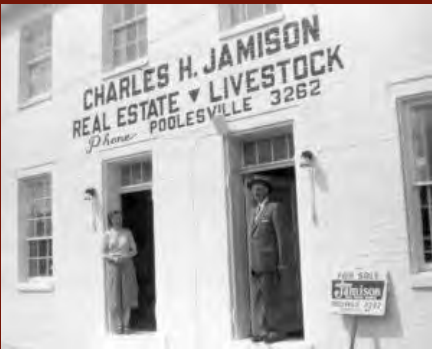
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From left, William H. Jamison, Robert P. Jamison and Franklin A. Jamison help run the family's business, Jamison Real Estate.



Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Present Virtual and In-Person Programs

Visit the Poolesville Seniors' website, poolesvilleseniors.org, to register for these and a wide variety of virtual and in-person events. Sign up at 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.

September 3

PS Birthday Card Club Crafting Event

Volunteers will create handmade birthday cards to mail to the Poolesville Seniors Birthday Club members throughout the year. *Speer Hall*. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

September 4, 10, 18, 24

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.

September 9

Poolesville Top to Bottom with Commissioner Jim Brown

Get an insider view of what's going on in town and in the region. Nothing is off limits; bring your questions and commentary. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

September 10

Golf Social at Crossvines

Share a bucket of balls provided by the Poolesville Seniors on the driving range and then hit the green with some putting games. A perfect introduction for golf novices, but all are welcome. *Poolesville Golf Course*. 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

September 11

Button Farm: Beyond the Big House Tour

Join us for a trip to the Button Farm Living History Center, depicting nineteenth century plantation life. Their Beyond the Big House Tour activities include plantation-era tasks, interactions with animals, artifacts, and tools,

and how Black Marylanders thrived, as well as a discussion of plantation life and the Underground Railroad in Maryland. *16820 Black Rock Rd, Germantown*. \$10. 10:00 a.m.

September 12

PS Friday Movie Night: *Thelma*

Join us for *Thelma*, a film inspired by the real-life experience of the director's own grandmother. When she realizes that she has fallen prey to the your-grandson-needs-money-now scam, she is determined to get her money back. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

September 15

Trail Hike: Seneca Creek Greenway Trail

Join Gwen and Karen for a continuing hike on the Seneca Creek Greenway Trail between Watkins Mill Road and Frederick Road (Rte. 355). It is an easy hike of 5.2 miles on a natural-surface, quiet trail through lush green woodlands and follows Seneca Creek; about 350 feet of elevation gain. 20201 *Watkins Mill Road, Germantown*. 9:00 a.m.

PS Book Club:

Sourdough by Rolan Sloan

What happens when Lois, a less-than-social software engineer, inherits a

Continued on page 7.






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Continued from page 6.

Poolesville Seniors

sourdough starter that she must keep alive: feed it daily, play it music, and learn to bake with it. Lois is no baker, but she could use a roommate, even if it is a needy colony of microorganisms. Virtual. 7:00 p.m.

September 17

Why Retirement Is a Dirty Word

Former Washington Post columnist Bob Levey, who has never retired and never will, shares with us why older Americans have more to offer than ever—and why they should continue to offer it. *Speer Hall*. 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

September 18

Historic Ag Reserve with Kenny Sholes

Join Kenny for this bi-monthly series, introducing some of the incredible historic homes in the Agricultural Reserve, using the history of the homes to better understand the people whose land we have inherited, and how their dreams, goals, and struggles were not all that different from ours today. Virtual. 7:00 p.m.

September 19

Popup Pawpaw Walk

Join Jon Wolz for a walk along the C&O towpath in search of pawpaws, the succulent fruit nicknamed the “poor man’s banana.” We’ll learn how to find and collect these treats and hear about some of the ways you can use them. 10:00 a.m.

September 23

What’s the Rush? Planting Native

Join us for a special video presentation, panel discussion, and Q&A session about the Homegrown National Park— Planting Native movement. Learn to create native habitat in your own yard to help sustain the planet. *Poolesville Town Hall Meeting Room*, 19721 Beall St. 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

September 26

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.

Weekly Events

Walking Club, Ping Pong, Pickleball, Tai Chi, Zumba Gold, Knitting and Crochet Club, Trivia Night, and Mahjong. Visit Poolesvilleseniors.org for details, days, times, and locations.



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Local News

Poolesville Seniors Helped Represent Maryland At the 2025 National Senior Games

By Rande Davis

From July 28 through August 1, Poolesville Seniors pickleball players helped to represent Maryland at the 2025 National Senior Games (Senior Olympics). Ten of the Poolesville Seniors players who qualified for the biannual National Games last year traveled to Des Moines, Iowa to compete.

Poolesville Seniors pickleball was represented by George Coakley, John Cotton, John Dansby, Jerry Greaney, Gwen Haney, Maggie and Dave Newcomer, Marge Martin, Brian Peper, and Norm Spencer, and a great cheering section of family and friends. Sixteen hundred pickleball players from around the nation were registered for the pickleball competition.

The players competed according to age groups and skill levels with the following results:

Gold Medalists: Brian Peper and Gwen Haney in Mixed Doubles 70-74/3.0

Silver Medalists: Norm Spencer in Singles 80-84/3.0

Bronze Medalists: Brian Peper and Jerry Greaney in Doubles 70-74/3.0

Fourth Place: George Coakley in Singles 80-84/3.5

Fifth Place: John Dansby and Norm Spencer in Doubles 80-84/3.5

Tenth Place: George Coakley and John Cotton in Doubles 80-84/3.5

Maggie and Dave Newcomer gave the competition their all but did not place this year in their events. Maggie also competed with Marge Martin from outside the Poolesville area, winning their first match and playing hard fought games.

Poolesville Seniors activities continue to draw participants from the surrounding area, with six of the players traveling to Des Moines living outside of the Poolesville town limits. This participation shows the viability for a future Recreational Center in Poolesville.



Senior Olympians John Cotton, Gwen Haney, George Coakley, Dave Newcomer, Jerry Greaney, John Dansby, Norm Spencer, Maggie Newcomer, and Brian Peper.

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Tidbits

Library and PHS Students Team Up to Promote STEM



Denis Motuzenko and Anish Mulukutla.

In February of 2025, Poolesville High School student Anish Mulukutla started the MAGNETS STEM Academy in Maggie Nightingale library as a monthly program intended to bring STEM activities to young kids in the area. His friend, Denis Motuzenko, another PHS student, joined Anish in teaching

these engineering-focused activities. With their experience in the SMCS Magnet program at Poolesville High School, they were able to teach these Poolesville youth about circuitry, robotics, and architectural engineering with various hands-on projects. After the successful monthly events Anish and Denis ran before the summer, they ran a four-day summer camp in August 2025 which was also a great success. The kids were able to explore catapults, slingshots, slime, and even did an egg drop design challenge experiment. They will continue to fuel Poolesville's STEM spirit and inspiring the next generation of scientists.

Girl Scouts Hold Annual Investiture and Rededication Event

Girl Scouts of the Poolesville area kicked off the new school year with a joint Investiture and Rededication for all local scouts and their families. The investiture welcomed new scouts into membership as they receive their Girl Scout pin, and promise to uphold the mission, ideals, and goals of Girl Scouts. There was also a rededication ceremony of the Girl Scout Promise and Girl Scout Law to recommit and reinvigorate both youth and adults as the year begins.

Poolesville area Girl Scout troops of all ages are involved in many different activities including service projects, camping, travelling, crafting, and exploring the world around them. Interested? Please reach out for more information at poolesvillegirlscouts@yahoo.com or look for them at Poolesville Day on where you can also find the 2025 Poolesville Day patch. This year there will also be a limited number of tote bags already decorated with past patches available for sale to support their various programs and activities. It promises to be a fun and exciting year ahead with lots of opportunities for discovery and adventure for both Scouts and adults!



The Girl Scouts from our area came together for an annual Investiture Event.

Photo by Molly McLendon

Town Government

Commissioners Approve Final Report on Last Year's Budget

By Link Hoewing

At their only meeting in August (August 18), the Town of Poolesville commissioners heard a report from the Town Manager regarding last year's budget, including total final revenues and expenditures. Called the "Close Out Report," it represents a final tally of how the projections approved in last year's fiscal year budget (starting on July 1 of 2024) actually played out in spending and revenues for FY25.

Before the Close Out presentation was made, the commissioners took up once again a request by the group, Poolesville Cats, for a grant of \$2,500 to help fund their operations. The president of the nonprofit group, Richard Garner, and several leaders of the organization appeared, telling the commissioners that, in 2024, they provided medical and homing aid to fifty cats. Since 2020, when they began their work, Garner claims they have managed to bring the cat population, which was "out of control," down to very small numbers. Commissioners Bryan Bupp and Ed Reed agreed that there was a serious cat overpopulation problem in town until the group began its work. The commissioners unanimously approved the grant.

Town Manager Wade Yost then began his budget Close Out presentation. Yost said the General Fund, which includes funding for general operations, all capital projects, debt service, and any grants made by the town from its General Fund to support Water and Wastewater operations, came in at just under \$6 million. Income taxes now comprise thirty-six percent of all funds received by the town, and property taxes are about thirty-four percent. Revenue sharing from the state still remains a very strong component of town funds at about ten percent. This is perhaps a bit surprising given the cuts in federal funds and the tight state budget.

Yost said the town projected a little over \$5.3 million in the General Fund, but the actual figure was almost \$6 million. Most of the difference was due to development fees paid by developers that have started work in town.

The town spent a little over \$4 million last fiscal year, and this was more than \$250,000 beyond what was projected. Yost said most of that was due to a grant from the General Fund to support Water and Wastewater operations. Most local governments treat sewer and water services as an "enterprise fund" and attempt to fund these services completely from the fees residents pay for services (other than capital spending which still comes from the General Fund). The town has been reconfiguring its fees for water and sewer services to try and come closer to fully funding them out of user fees; however, costs for things like sludge hauling have gone up substantially, and rental income from the water tower cell phone transponders paid by wireless companies was down because the tower was being painted and the transponders were moved.

Capital spending projects are a significant ongoing expense for the town. Everything from road maintenance to new projects such as the West Willard sidewalk and the skate park expansion that were built in the FY25 fiscal year. The town also spent about \$50,000 this last year to repave pickleball courts which have become heavily used. The town has also been spending large sums to install special filters to remove PFAS from certain wells, although grants have also helped support this work.

Yost said that the town is in very good financial shape and has been able to exceed the target of seventeen percent of annual spending in Unrestricted Funds sometimes called the "rainy day fund." These monies are set aside to provide a cushion should the town face a serious financial issue in the future.


Yost proposed that the commissioners approve the Close Out with an amendment to take \$100,000 out of the town's Unrestricted Funds and use it to repair the town's two lagoons, which he said he would discuss in his Town Manager's report. The commissioners unanimously approved the proposal.

During his Town Manager's report, Yost offered some thoughts about the condition of the town's lagoons that temporarily hold wastewater before it is forwarded to the sewer plant. He noted that the two lagoons are interconnected. The first lagoon receives wastewater, and it is aerated continuously to allow biodegradation to occur. The wastewater is then sent to the second lagoon which has numerous water plants that absorb waste which helps to further clean the water.

Yost explained that the two lagoons were originally the primary treatment system used by the town to treat its waste. Now they are used only during

periods of heavy rain when too much water comes into the sewer system at one time to allow it to be treated in the sewer plant. The water is temporarily stored in the lagoons until it can be safely sent to the sewer plant for treatment.

Yost said that the aeration system in the lagoons is not working adequately and needs repairs. He also said the pipe connecting the two lagoons is in poor shape and needs to be repaired. He said that in the not-too-distant future, the town will have to transition away from using the lagoons, but in the near term, fixes will be needed in the coming year to ensure that the lagoons are working as well as possible.



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Ag News

Lewis Orchards Inducted into the Montgomery County Agriculture Hall of Fame

By Kelly Nichols, Ag Agent; M.S., CCA, University of Maryland Extension

The Montgomery County Agriculture Hall of Fame Award is presented each year to a farmer or farm family who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to agriculture and their community. This year, the honor went to Robert and Linda Lewis and their family.

Over the past 137 years, while the farm has grown and evolved, the Lewis family’s dedication to the land, to producing quality food, to the agricultural community, to their employees, and to their customers has remained unwavering.

Lewis Orchards has been a part of the Lewis family since 1888, when Robert’s great-grandparents began farming hay and raising cattle. In the 1920s, when Robert’s grandmother Lottie married Guy, he introduced peach trees to the farm—drawing inspiration from his father, J. Hooker Lewis, an orchardist in Thurmont, Maryland.

In 1957, following Guy’s passing, MJ—Robert’s father—stepped in to manage the farm for his mother. During the late 1970s, Robert’s brother Jay encouraged their father to begin growing vegetables, diversifying the farm’s offerings. After a tragic accident involving MJ in 1988, Robert and Linda began renting the farm from his grandmother. Then, in 2001, with support from Montgomery County’s land preservation program, they officially purchased the farm from her estate.

Robert’s grandmother was also a member of the Montgomery Farm Women’s Cooperative Market in Bethesda, founded in 1932 during the Great Depression to help farm women sell their goods and support their families.

In 2003, Robert and Linda expanded their operation, doubling its size with the construction of the current farm market. The new space provided additional shelf room for fresh produce and value-added items.

Today, Lewis Orchards is operated by the fourth generation—Robert and Linda—and the fifth generation, Daniel and Kelsey; and we’re sure the sixth



The iconic Lewis family was inducted into the Montgomery County Ag Fair Agriculture Hall of Fame.

generation—Mason (Jay’s grandson), Beau, Bailey, and Lucy—are already getting their hands dirty.

A wide variety of fruits and vegetables is grown at Lewis Orchards: sweet corn, green beans, pumpkins, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, onions, watermelon, potatoes, cantaloupes, peaches, cherries, apricots, and apples. You’ll also find jams, jellies, pickles, cheeses, and more—there’s always something fresh and delicious to discover.

The Lewis family has preserved more than six hundred acres of farmland—an extraordinary contribution that protects a vital stretch of productive farmland in

Continued on page 15.

Additions — Kitchens — Baths — Decks — Porches



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Center Stage

Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre Appoints Justin Rustle as Associate Artistic Director

By Brian McNally

Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre (HGCBT), a nonprofit dance theater based in Poolesville, has named Justin Rustle as its new Associate Artistic Director, recognizing his continuing contributions to HGCBT productions and his decades of professional experience as a performer, educator, choreographer, and writer.

Rustle, a senior staff member at Essence Studios, has collaborated closely with HGCBT on multiple productions, including designing and choreographing last year's original *Cinderella* and staging selections for *Paquita* earlier this year. His extensive résumé spans engagements with nationally-recognized companies such as Ballet Arkansas, Bowen McCauley Dance, Wonderbound, and the Dana Tai Soon Burgess Dance Company, as well as teaching positions at prestigious institutions including Baltimore School for the Arts and Maryland Youth Ballet.

"I'm honored to step into this role with HGCBT," said Rustle. "This company has a rare ability to nurture artistry in young dancers while creating high-caliber productions for our community. I look forward to continuing that commitment to excellence."

Continued on page 35.



Justin Rustle is the new Associate Artistic Director at HGCBT.

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Continued from page 11.

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Montgomery County. They are dedicated stewards of the land and passionate advocates for farmland preservation. Their sustainable practices include crop rotation, integrated pest management, irrigation management, nutrient management, cover crops, and grassed waterways. Linda has also served our agricultural community through her involvement with the Montgomery Soil Conservation District Board of Supervisors, the Montgomery County Farm Bureau, and the Montgomery Agricultural Advisory Committee.

In a recent interview with the Montgomery County Office of Agriculture, Linda said, "I hope people realize we do what we do because we love to do it. We love growing food. We love feeding people. If you see something growing along the side of the road, whatever you do, don't take it, but if you're hungry, come to me. I will feed you every day of the week."

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Things to Do

Open every Saturday: Experience a guided tour of the John Poole, Jr. House and the Special Exhibit of over forty historical pictures of the center of Poolesville from 1864 through the 1970s. Great to share with visitors. Open from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Businesses Helping Businesses

PACC Network Breakfast. *Locals Restaurant*. 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

September 5

Helping Hands

Please join Shine on Together for an afternoon of fleece blanket making to be donated to the residents of the memory care unit at the Shores at United Methodist Communities. If you would like to participate, please register online at shineontogogether.org. *PMUMC, 17815 Elgin Rd.* 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

September 6

PACC Crab and Cluck Family Fun Festival

Join in for a fun-filled afternoon of steamed blue crabs and award-winning Dickerson Market Fried Chicken! *St. Mary's Pavilion, Barnesville.* 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

September 13

UMCVFD Pork and Beef Fundraiser

Join UMCVFD for a delicious BBQ pork and beef fundraiser lunch offering slow-smoked BBQ pork and beef, classic coleslaw, and hearty baked beans. Enjoy your meal at our covered tables or grab carryout to go! All proceeds benefit our new Training and Activity Center. *Beallsville Firehouse.* 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (or until we sell out)

September 13

CPR Class

Empower yourself with the skills to make a difference in an emergency. Our certified instructors will guide you through hands-on training in CPR techniques for adults, children, and infants. It could save a life! Seats are limited—sign up today to secure your spot. Registration required. Visit www.umcvfd.org for more information or call 301-972-8719. \$55 per person. *Beallsville Firehouse.* 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

September 14

DC Polo Games

Bring the whole family for an exciting day at the beautiful Congressional Polo Club! 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. Children under 12 attend free. For tickets, visit dcpolosociety@eventbrite.com. *Congressional Polo Field at 14660 Hughes Road, Poolesville.* Gates open at 2:00 p.m.; matches at 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

September 20

Annual Poolesville Day Parade and Festival

PACC/Lions 5k run/walk starts at 8:00 a.m. sharp. Register online or at Poolesville Baptist Church on Friday, September 19, starting at 5:00 p.m. Parade at 10:00 a.m.

Streets closed with over 140 vendors, and food vendors in Whalen Commons, all area restaurants open with specials offerings, live music. The day ends at 4:00 p.m.

Shine On Together at Poolesville Day

Please join us for a volunteer opportunity at Poolesville Day! We are

looking for volunteers to sign up for a 30-minute slot to support working at the booth between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Please register to volunteer online at shineontogogether.org.

September 26

Diamonds and Denim

A fabulous and fun fundraising dinner/dance to benefit Great and Small Ride, an equestrian nonprofit specializing in sharing the joy of horses for people with special needs. The dinner features Old Fireman's BBQ, with beer and wine. The dancing is to Karen Collins and the Backroads Band. Space is limited—go to Eventbrite to purchase tickets at GreatandSmallRide.org. 17320 *Moore Road, Boyds.* \$75 per person. 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

October 3 to 5

Countryside Artisans 2025 Fall Tour

Visit the studio and meet the crafters and artisans while enjoying the fall beauty of the Ag Reserve. Map available online. Studios open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.






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Continued from page 1.

Cavalry Cut Off! How the Union Garrison at Poolesville Derailed Lee’s Gamble

quickly rejoin Lee north of the river. Instead, he was forced to move far downstream, searching for an unguarded ford.

Eventually, Stuart crossed at Rowser’s Ford, a shallow crossing south of Great Falls, Virginia, near where Seneca Road and Riverbend Park sit today. To get there, he had to swing well east of Poolesville and bypass the defenses tied to Edwards Ferry and the C&O Canal aqueducts. This detour cost him time, and when he captured a Union supply train near Rockville, the wagons slowed his cavalry column even further.

While Stuart was delayed by these diversions, Lee advanced northward without cavalry support. Lacking the reconnaissance that normally came from Stuart, Lee blundered forward into Pennsylvania with little knowledge of Union troop positions. His army collided in a meeting engagement with Union cavalry outside the small crossroads town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania—an engagement neither side had desired. The battle that erupted on July 1, 1863 would become the turning point of the Civil War.

In his official report on the Gettysburg Campaign, Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck, the Union general-in-chief, credited the defenses along the Potomac River corridor with hampering Stuart’s mobility. From Poolesville through Edwards Ferry and up to Conrad’s (White’s) Ferry, these garrisons reported Confederate movements and guarded the roads leading toward Gaithersburg and Frederick. The fact that Stuart was forced east toward Rockville rather than joining Lee in central Pennsylvania in late June proved fatal.

By the time Stuart finally linked up with Lee on July 2 near Cumberland Township, just south of Gettysburg, the opportunity to provide crucial intelligence had long since passed. Lee had been operating in the blind, which led directly to the chaotic encounter that opened the battle. On July 3, Stuart tried to redeem his cavalry by attacking the Union rear east of Gettysburg, along what is now Rummel Farm on Cavalry Field, but was beaten back by Union cavalry.

In retrospect, the Union garrison at Poolesville was more consequential than most realize today. By defending the approaches along today’s C&O Canal Towpath, River Road (MD 190), and Edwards Ferry Road, the Union effectively cut Lee off from his cavalry. Modern travelers driving along White’s Ferry Road or walking the C&O Canal towpath near Edwards Ferry Boat Ramp are traversing through the very landscape where this overlooked decisive point arguably determined the Union victory at Gettysburg.



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Protect the Ag Reserve

Ongoing and new challenges to the environment, farmland, and open space in our area require persistent vigilance.

- **Agritourism.** Discussions are underway at the state and county level to possibly revisit policies pertaining to non-agricultural activities on farms. One emerging idea is to allow “tourism” that may be only weakly or not at all related to agriculture—such as upscale lodging facilities and music. SCA is deeply engaged in these discussions, with the priority of protecting farmland and enhancing actual agriculture.
- **Solar installations on farms.** A new state law—The Renewable Energy Certainty Act—aims to significantly expand solar energy generation in Maryland. It does that, in part, by giving solar companies easier access to farmland. The law went into effect July 1. Half a dozen Ag Reserve landowners have already inquired about putting ground-based solar arrays on their land. Federal tax changes will also impact the solar energy business. We’re watching closely.
- **Waste management.** Montgomery County’s plans to overhaul its waste disposal and recycling systems over the next decade are moving forward. The county is issuing a request for proposals this fall to truck most of its garbage to well-managed and environmentally sound landfills instead of burning it at the aging trash incinerator in Dickerson. The incinerator is the county’s single largest source of pollution and greenhouse gases. We continue to advocate for its closure as soon as possible.

You can read about these issues and more on SCA’s website.

OTHER SCA INITIATIVES

- ✓ Monitoring a proposal for a data center and battery storage facility in Dickerson
- ✓ Promoting regenerative agriculture to improve soil quality
- ✓ Preventing development near Sugarloaf Mountain
- ✓ Tracking energy infrastructure projects that threaten farmland

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



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POOLESVILLE DAY GUIDE 2025

Welcome to Poolesville Day 2025!

We're thrilled to welcome everyone to Poolesville Day 2025. Join us on Saturday, September 20, for a true celebration of community spirit. Poolesville Day thrives thanks to the collaborative efforts of passionate volunteers, the unwavering support of the Town of Poolesville commissioners and staff, and the enthusiastic participation of our residents.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all Town of Poolesville employees, especially Tara Scholz and Preston King, whose guidance and support have been instrumental in making this event a success.

Meet the Poolesville Day Committee—Our Dream Team

We're fortunate to have an incredible group of volunteers who dedicate their time and talents throughout the entire year to help plan this event:

Kathy Bassett, Vice President and local entertainment coordinator, brings energy and creativity to our lineup.

Melanie Sholes, our organized and detail-oriented Secretary, keeps us on track.

Krish Bala, now in his fourth year as Treasurer, expertly manages our budget and finances.

Leslie Curran, a true All-Star, works alongside Tara to coordinate our amazing vendors and artisans.

Crest Highfill, a junior at Poolesville High School, is building a powerful online database to streamline vendor logistics—her coding skills are truly impressive!

Amy Baker, in her fourth year, leads our social media efforts and keeps the community informed.

Chris Trader and **Sapna Hurd** serve as Lead Security and Traffic Manager. Working in coordination with Town Staff and Montgomery County Police, they organize and ensure our safety.

Carlos Cabrera, with help from his family, runs the parade with precision and care.

Bernie Mihm, a long-time member, coordinates sponsors and designs our iconic volunteer t-shirts.

Link Hoewing, our Grand Marshal and committee historian, brings wisdom and tradition.

Matthew Johnson, master of main stage entertainment and sound, is joined this year by Beth Wells, Stage Manager at Poolesville High School.

Bobbi Hammer and **Patricia Magnoni** manage all high school groups and activities on Falcon Lane.

Christina Nanoff and **Alex Markoff** have expanded the Agricultural Display to new heights.

Jeremy Hinds brings joy to kids with his fantastic rides.

Paul Harney focuses on upgrading signage to help everyone navigate the day.

JD Taylor and **Joyce Breiner** organize one of the East Coast's largest EV Car Shows.

Welcoming New Faces

We're excited to welcome **Jonathon Harris**, our new Volunteer Coordinator, who's organizing the many helping hands that make the day run smoothly. Special thanks to day-of volunteers like **Cindy Gilpin**, who has long managed vendor check-in with grace.

Also new this year is **Erin Gang**, who led the redesign of our logo and website. Be sure to visit the refreshed site at www.poolesvilleday.com.

Community Contributions

We deeply appreciate the many

Continued on page 19.

THANK YOU TO OUR VALUED SPONSORS

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Standing: Chris Trader, Paul Harney, Jeremy Hinds, Matthew Johnson, Krish Bala, Alex Markoff, Kathy Bassett, JD Taylor, Erin Gang, Sapna Hurd, Bernie Mihm, Tara Scholz, and Leslie Curran.
Kneeling: Kevin Schramm, Olivia Murphy, Bobbi Hammer, Melanie Sholes, and Amy Baker.
Not Pictured: Christina Nanof, Jonathan Harris, Joyce Breiner, Carlos Cabrera, and Link Hoewing.

Brenda Murtha Selected as Grand Marshal

By Link Hoewing

The Poolesville Day Committee has been naming a Grand Marshal to lead the annual parade since 2004. During that time, a wide range of deserving citizens who have gone “above and beyond” in service to the Poolesville area community have been named as Grand Marshal, receiving well-deserved recognition as selfless leaders. All nominations come from the community, and a final selection is made by a vote of the committee. This year, Brenda Murtha was named Grand Marshal for Poolesville Day.

Brenda and her husband Joe moved to Poolesville in 1974 and have been residents for over fifty years. Married for fifty-three years, the two raised five children and have eleven grandchildren. Both have been committed community leaders, involved in or leading many local organizations.

Brenda was especially involved with the Girl Scouts and was a leader in the Girl Scouts Council of the Nation’s Capital. She also had positions, not just as a troop leader in Poolesville, but also in the Service

Unit Registrar, Cookie Depot, and is still, most years, outside Poolesville Elementary signing up kids at back to school nights. She was also very active in leading region camps and influenced Girl Scout activities statewide. She led many girls to the highest levels of Girl Scouting through their bronze, silver, and gold awards.

Brenda was also a leader in establishing and running Camp Sunshine, a local Girl Scout Day Camp that provided opportunities for thousands of girls over the years.

Brenda (and her husband, who sadly recently passed away) were also very active in the community at St. Mary’s Church in Barnesville. Brenda even today participates in many aspects of life at St. Mary’s from the huge dinners to vacation Bible school to the Sodality Funeral Committee, the “Funeral Ladies” as some call them. They are a group of women who plan, organize, cook, clean, and serve funeral luncheons at St. Mary’s, purely on donations. It is a true labor of love and mercy. Brenda is tireless, humble, and unassuming in

her volunteer work, but it is not an exaggeration to say that many in the community know and appreciate her contributions to the vitality of St. Mary’s Parish.

As if all of this were not enough, Brenda is also on the board of the Friendly Thrift Shop in town and has been volunteering there for decades. She has also gotten her kids and grandkids involved in volunteering there, too. This is a true passion for her, and she loves the community aspect of the work and supporting the many local families that use the thrift shop.

Brenda also spent many years at Mary of Nazareth School in Darnestown, running the before- and after-care program for kids.

When asked how she reacted when she learned she was the choice for Grand Marshal, she responded, “I laughed and said, ‘Are you serious?’” After a moment, she added, “I am really humbled. There are so many people in town who do so much!” Brenda is certainly right about that. Our town and the surrounding areas have what could be called an “embarrassment of riches” with so many good



2025 Grand Marshal
Brenda Murtha

people giving of themselves each day to help others in the community.

Brenda’s impact on the youth of our community and beyond is evident, especially the many ways she has been involved in helping mentor, lead, and nurture young people. With so many young people facing difficulties in our society and, in many cases struggling, Brenda’s longstanding commitment to her community, especially to the youth, was a major reason she was selected to be Grand Marshal.

Continued from page 18.

Poolesville Day Guide 2025

community groups who spend countless hours planning and decorating Fisher Avenue with vibrant booths and displays. Your creativity and commitment make Poolesville Day truly special.

Thank You to Our
Generous Sponsors

Events like Poolesville Day wouldn’t be possible without financial support. We’re grateful to our sponsors for their generosity:

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Town of Poolesville, Gail Lee Homes, Poolesville Green, Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce, Fine Earth Landscape, Don Hoffacker’s AC & Heating Inc., Potomac Valley Surveys, Bretton Woods, Trippy Goat Distillery, Calleva, Monocacy Monocle.

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We can’t wait to see everyone on **Saturday, September 20 at 10:00 a.m.** for a day full of fun, community, and celebration!

Warm regards,

Kevin Schramm
President, Poolesville Day Committee

Poolesville Day Map



Detailed location and information

- vendors and exhibitors
- rides and amusements
- entertainment schedules
- EV car show information
- food and dining options
- agricultural display
- shuttle bus route
- parking locations

SCAN ME



Open camera app, point at the QR code above, click on yellow bar to open map

www.poolesvilleday.com



FOOD

ALONG FISHER AVENUE

House of Poolesville Restaurant: *Outdoor buffet selection*

Memorial United Methodist: *Booths 96-98 Walking tacos, hot dogs*

IN WHALEN COMMONS

Festival Concessions:

Sausage – Burgers – Funnel Cakes – Ice Cream

Sherrie’s Crab Cakes: *Crab Cakes*

The Pita King: *Sandwiches*

Cousin’s Maine Lobster: *Lobster*

Pop-up Poutine: *Poutine*

Origin BBQ

Kona Ice: *Shaved Ice*

Honey Delights: *Smoothies, mini donuts*

Trippy’s Tacos: *Tacos*

Bangin’ BBQ: *Barbeque sandwiches and plates*

Bruster’s: *Ice Cream*

Golden Rose Bakery: *Baked goods*

Nothing Bundt Cake: *Small Bundt Cakes*

Fresh Squeezed Please: *Lemonade*

Lameera Ice: *Ice Cream*

Scoreboard Beverages: *Drinks*

The Smoke & Ice Shack: *BBQ and shaved ice*

Ben and Jerry’s: *Ice Cream*

IN AGRICULTURAL DISPLAY

The Market at Deere Valley: *Hamburgers and Hot Dogs*

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Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic Church: *Booths 8 & 9
Baked Goods*

Flint Hill Methodist Church: *Booths 47 & 48
Baked goods*

Shine on Together: *Booth 55
Tea, Coffee, Pie, Cookies*

“DJ” The Baker –*Booth 119
Scones*

BEAT THE HEAT!

POOLESVILLE RESTAURANTS OPEN AS USUAL

House of Poolesville, Bassett’s Restaurant, Cugini’s,
Locals, Mexican Grill, Subway, McDonald’s, K-2 Cafe,
Kristopher’s, Healthy Hub, and Dunkin’ Donuts

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**Race Pre-Registration at Poolesville Baptist Church
September 19 at 5:00 p.m.**

PACC 5K RUN/WALK RACE 8:00 a.m.
Poolesville Baptist Church

PARADE

10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Starts at Poolesville Elementary, runs along Fisher Avenue

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*American Legion Poolesville Post 247
JPMS Music Department Band*

CHILDREN’S AND ADULT ACTIVITIES

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Field next to Whalen Commons

Ferris Wheel, Kiddie Carousel, Mind Winder, Mobile
Ninja Course, Zip Line, Trackless Train,
Wacky X Large, Pinball Super Slide, Calleva Rock
Climbing Wall, Boy Scout Rope Ladder, and More!

FALCON LANE

11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Student and Class Booths

Dollar General / Fisher Avenue

Enjoy great DJ music and more

JOHN POOLE HOUSE

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The oldest building in Poolesville. Log structure built
in 1793, served as a trading post and was the U.S. Post
Office. Meet John Poole, Jr. in person!

The Old Town Hall Bank Museum
Historic Pictures of Downtown Poolesville
PHS Art Exhibit

WUMCO HEALTH FAIR: TOWN HALL

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

POOLESVILLE GREEN ELECTRIC CAR SHOW

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Electric Car Test Drives and Rides
Corner of Elgin Rd & Fisher Ave near
Old Town Hall Bank Museum

| FISHER AVENUE (House of Poolesville Restaurant to Milford Mill Road) | | | FISHER AVENUE - (McDonald's Side) (M&T Bank to Poolesville Beer, Wine & Deli parking lot entrance) | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1A | OPEN | | | | |
| 1 | Kitchen Savers | Information | 64 | Montg. County Police Recruitment | Information |
| 2 | Poolesville Pride | Information | 65 | KPC Buddhist Relief | Information |
| 3 | Maid Brigade | Information | 66 | Red Carpet Remodeling | Information |
| 4 | OPEN | | 67 | Passanante's Home Food | Information |
| 5 | Douglas and Sons | Information | 68 | A Claire Vision | Photography, Artwork |
| 6 | McSisters' Foundation | Clothes | 69 | Norah Critzos | Cement Pots, Epoxy resin work |
| 7 | Emily Bolten / Emily's House of Clay | Polymer Clay | 70 | The Crystal Cabinet | Crystals, Semi Precious Stones |
| 8 | Our Lady of the Presentation | SWEETS: Baked goods | 71 | Artistic Expressions | Canvas, Totes, Digital Prints |
| 9 | Our Lady of the Presentation | SWEETS: Baked goods | 72 | Poolesville Cats | Information |
| 10 | White Caterpillar | Candles | 73 | Poolesville Cats | Information |
| 11 | Manisha Agisgekār | Home Renovations | 74 | Os Born to Make | Fabric Creations |
| 12 | Sugarloaf Citizens Assoc. | Information | 75 | Upcounty Prevention Net. | Information |
| 13 | Poolesville Vet Clinic | Information | 76 | Studio Rolls | Abstract Art |
| 14 | Community Farm Share | Information | 76A | M&T Bank | Information |
| 15 | Siren Studio | Photographer | 77 | Chesapeake Climate Action | Information |
| 16 | Butler School | Information | 78 | Afnan & Co. | Builder Information |
| 17 | Friends of the Library | Books | 79 | Poolesville Design | Handbags |
| 18 | South Side Sprinkles | Home Fragrance | 80 | Dist. 15 Democratic Caucus | Political information |
| 19 | Gail Brodrick | Doll Clothing | 81 | Sniddy's Gunworks | Information |
| 20 | DG Liu Contractor, Inc. | Information | 82 | The Christopher Companies | Information |
| 21 | Serve Pro | Information | 83 | Nawal Tahri-Joutey REMAX | Information |
| 21A | Little Learners | Information | 84 | Shear Elegance | Information |
| FISHER AVE. (COMMONS SIDE) - Milford Mill Rd to Monument | | | 85 | B-CC Isaak Walton League | Information |
| 22 | OPEN | | 86 | CS Family Guahn Products | Leather Handbags |
| 23 | Living Word Bible | Balloon Twisting | 87 | WebLime | Digital Business Cards |
| 23A | Moonlighting Pens | Hand Turned Pens, Pencils | 88 | O'Halloran Farms | Pottery, Candles |
| 24 | Bipity Bliss | Information | 88A | James Nie | Local kid artist |
| 25 | St. Peter's Episcopal Church | Information | 88B | Pike & Valega | Information |
| 26 | Mont. Co. Board of Elections | Voting Outreach | 89 | PHS Global Ecology | Recycling Booth |
| 27 | Monocacy Monocle | Newspapers | 90 | Montg. County EPA | Information |
| 28 | PACC | Information | 90A | Falm Dafa | Information |
| 29 | PACC | Chamber of Commerce | 91 | Commotion Dance | Games & Crafts |
| 30 | Don Hoffackers AC & Htg. | Information | 92 | Spirals and Such | Polymer Clay and Jewelry |
| 31 | WUMCO Help, Inc. | Information | 92A | VisionAiry Art | Art prints |
| | | | 93 | UMCVFD Ladies' Auxiliary | Raffle Tickets |
| | | | 93A | UMCVFD | |
| 32 | The Garden Patch | Annuals, Flowers | 94 | UMCVFD | Fire Safety Recruiting |
| 33 | Monocacy Lions Club | Raffle, Club Membership | 95 | UMCVFD | First Aid Tent |
| 34 | GAIL LEE Homes | Information | 96 | Mem. United Methodist | FOOD: Drinks |
| 35 | GAIL LEE Homes | Information | 97 | Mem. United Methodist | FOOD: Walking Tacos |
| 36 | PHS PTSA | Information | 98 | Mem. United Methodist | FOOD: Hot Dogs |
| 37 | PHS Athletic Booster Club | Spiritwear, Magnets | 99 | IOOF Lodge #97 | Raffle, Recruiting |
| 38 | PHS Athletic Booster Club | Spiritwear, Magnets | 100 | American Legion Post #247 | Information |
| 39 | Seneca Studio | Cutting Boards, Serving Trays | 101 | Friends of Ten Mile Creek | Information |
| | | | | | |
| 40 | Foundry Admissions | Information | 101A | Renewal by Andersen | Information |
| FOOD/SWEETS - WHALEN COMMONS PARK | | | 102 | Made in Maryland Board | Cutting Boards, Trays, Coasters |
| | | | 103 | Black Roots | African Prints |
| | | | 104 | Caroline Designs | Beach Bags, Wine Bags |
| A | Festival Concessions 1 | Ice Cream, drinks | 105 | Poolesville Baptist Church | Bead bracelets, sodas |
| B | Festival Concessions 2 | Sausage - Burgers | 106 | Poolesville Baptist Church | Rock Painting, Temp. Tattoos |
| C | Festival Concessions 3 | Funnel Cakes | 107 | Trippy Goat | Distillery |
| D | Origins BBQ | BBQ | 108 | Trippy Goat | Distillery |

| | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| F | Sherrie's Crab Cakes | Crab Cakes, Soup | 109 | Peruvian Collection | Handmade alpaca items |
| F | The Pita King | Pita Sandwiches | 110 | Infestation Control | Information |
| G | OPEN | | 111 | Pville Community Garden | Information |
| H | OPEN | | 112 | Pville Presbyterian Church | Information, water, games |
| I | Kona Ice | Shaved Ice | 113 | Pville Presbyterian Church | Information, water, games |
| J | Cousin's Maine Lobster | Lobster | 114 | Trisha's Treasures | Wreaths, Silk Arrangements |
| K | Honey Delights | Mini donuts, smoothies | 114A | Rural Women's Republican Club | Information |
| L | Pop-up Poutine | Poutine | 115 | DC National Rowing Club | Demonstrations |
| M | Trippy Tacos | Tacos | 116 | Sunny Ayre Crafts | Wood Cutting Boards, Wood Art |
| N | Bangin' BBQ | BBQ | 117 | Capital Remodeling | Information |
| O | Bruster's | Ice Cream | 118 | All Mapped Out | Home Decor |
| P | Golden Rose Bakery | Cakes, desserts | 119 | "DJ" The Baker | Seones |
| Q | Nothing Bundt Cakes | Cakes | 120 | Pampered Chef | Kitchen Items |
| R | Fresh Squeezed Please | Lemonade | 120A | Essence | Information |
| S | Too Sweet Popcorn | Flavored Popcorn | 121 | District Dance | Information |
| T | Lameera Ice Cream | Ice Cream | 122 | Office of Councilmember Evan Glass | Information |
| U | Scoreboard Beverages | Beverages | | | |
| Fisher Avenue – Monument to Jamison Real Estate | | | FISHER AVENUE - (McDonald's Side) (M&T Bank to Poolesville Beer, Wine & Deli parking lot entrance) | | |
| 41 | Rustic Route, LLC | Whole Bean Bagged Coffee | 123 | Maria Shekda | Shirts, bags, jewelry |
| 42 | Anastasia Sincevich | Artwork | 124 | Nancy Adams | License Plate Creations |
| 42A | Visit Montgomery | Information | 125 | Pest X | Information |
| 42B | CVS | Information | FISHER AVENUE – (McDonald's Side) (Poolesville Beer, Wine & Deli to Entrance to Jamison Real Estate) | | |
| 42C | Montgomery County 4-H | Information | | | |
| 43 | Suzie's Santucci | Candles, wax melts | | | |
| 44 | Sustainable Poolesville | Information | 125 A | Knights of Columbus | Car Raffle |
| 45 | Gigi's Treasures | Purses, Hair Accessories | 126 | Twin Valley Distilleries | Whiskey |
| 46 | Bretton Woods | Information | 127 | Larry Sprague | Wood Ducks |
| 47 | Flint Hill United Methodist | SWEETS: Baked Goods | 128 | Reworld Montgomery (FKACovanta) | Reusable bags, notebooks, battery recycle box |
| 48 | Flint Hill United Methodist | SWEETS: Baked Goods | 129 | Reach Every Voice | Information |
| 49 | The Crossvines | Information | 130 | Table 2 Mat | Personal Trainer/Nutrition Consulting |
| 50 | BI African Art | Art, drums, afrocenic wares | 131 | Uncharted Creations | Headbands, clay earrings |
| 51 | Hardie Sauce LLC | Hot Sauces | 132 | Mine By Design | Laser Cut Wood Art |
| 52 | Poolesville Seniors | Information | 133 | A Vegan Life | Vegan Recipes |
| 53 | Furry Friends | Dressed Bears, sports clothing | 134 | Green Papaya | Candles, tealight holders |
| 54 | Durango Dog Co | Dog Treats and accessories | 135 | Mont. Co. Police Dept. | Giveaways |
| 55 | Shine on Together | Tea, coffee, cookies, pies, t-shirts, bracelets, cards, pens | 136 | Mont. Co. Police Dept. | Recruiting |
| 56 | Fair Access Committee | Information | 137 | Cutco Cutlery | Cutco |
| 57 | Catoctin Mountain Cyclery | Information | 137A | Madison Fields | Information |
| 58 | Shelley's Beaded Bracelets | Jewelry | | | |
| 59 | Colibri Crafts | Crafts | 138 | Wild Lily Clay (Layne) | Jewelry |
| 60 | Seneca Academy | Information | 139 | Sweet Pea Designs | Hats, Scarves |
| 61 | Hosanna Church | Information | 140 | Unity of Gaithersburg | Information |
| 62 | OPEN | | 141 | Dlovley Designs | Totes, Purses, Travel Bags |
| FALCON LANE (Dollar General Parking Lot) | | | 142 | Montgomery County Fire Rescue Service (Recruiting Division) | Information |
| | | | 143 | Author's Corner | Books |
| F-1 | Student Class Booths and games | | 144 | Tara O'Connell | Health Coaching Services |
| F-2 | | | 145 | Efuru Creative Home Studio | Homemade Personal Care Products |
| F-3 | | | 146 | Love Inspired Jewelry | Jewelry |
| F-4 | | | 147 | Citizens Climate Education | Information |
| F-5 | | | 148 | Girl Scouts of Poolesville | Information |
| F-6 | | | 149 | Girl Scouts of Poolesville | Kids' activities, baked goods |
| F-7 | | | 150 | Enchanted Creations | Tutus, Fairy Wands/Wings |

| | | | | | |
|------|-----------------------|--|-----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| F-8 | | | 151 | Enchanted Creations | Tutus, Fairy Wands/Wings |
| F-9 | | | 152 | Farah's Boutique | Bracelets |
| F-10 | | | 153 | Tee Cee's Boutique | Backpacks, Bows |
| F-11 | | | 154 | HRN Designs | Children's Accessories |
| F-12 | | | 155 | HRN Designs | Children's Accessories |
| F-13 | | | 156 | Mont. Co. Lynching Memorial Project | Information |
| | Ben & Jerry's | | 157 | Gen. Smallwood Sons of AR | Information |
| | | | 158 | Hungerford Tavern DAR | Information |
| | | | 159 | Eramus Perry DAR | Information |
| | | | 160 | Bottony Cross DAR | Information |
| | | | 161 | Janet Montgomery Chapter NSDAR | Information |
| | | | 162 | Hungerford Resolves CAR | Information |
| | AG TENT | | 163 | Calleva | |
| A-1 | Deere Valley Farms | T-shirts, merchandise, hamburgers / hot dogs | 164 | Poolesville Green | |
| A-2 | | | | | |
| A-3 | | | | | |
| | The Smoke & Ice Shack | BBQ and Shaved Ice | | | |
| | | | | | |

ADDITIONAL VENDORS, EXHIBITORS, ATTRACTIONS, and INFORMATION:

Historic Medley District: 1793 John Poole, Jr. House: Living History Colonial Trading Post, Civil War Displays

Old Town Hall and Bank Museum: Exhibit of over 40 historical pictures of downtown Poolesville and PHS Student Art Show

Town Hall: WUMCO Health Fair

Poolesville Day Information Booth: Located in front of flagpoles of Whalen Commons

First Aid: Located at Total Automotive & Diesel

Mobile Health Clinic/WUMCO Health Fair: Located at Poolesville Tire & Auto

AG Area: Located at Fisher Avenue and Elgin (in front of Jamison Real Estate, parking lot behind Barber shop)

All Local Restaurants are Open: Bassett's, Crossvines, Cugini's, Dunkin' Donuts, K2 Café, House of Poolesville, Kristopher's, Locals, Mexican Grill, McDonald's, Subway, The Healthy Hub

POOLESVILLE DAY 2025 ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE



THE BOB BAND



BRAHMAN NOODLES



POOLESVILLE'S ESSENCE STUDIOS

WHALEN COMMONS MAIN STAGE

The Bob Band – 12:00 p.m.

CoMMotion Dance – 1:30 p.m.

Danceworx – 2:00 p.m.

The Brahman Noodles – 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

10:05 a.m. Presentation of Memorial Wreath
Poolesville's American Legion Daniel-Jeffers Post 247

10:10 a.m. National Anthem
JPMS music department

Variety

11:00 a.m. PHS Poms and Cheerleaders

11:10 a.m. PHS Honors Music

11:25 a.m. Essence Studios

11:55 a.m. Welcoming and Opening by Town Commissioners

Locals Restaurant



Touch of Grey: 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Funkhaus: 12:45 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.

ZUMBA: 2:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

No Stop Light: 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Falcon Lane- (Dollar General lot)

DJ Trainer: 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Youth Sports

What to Watch in PHS Athletics This Fall

By Jeff Stuart

Girls' Soccer

Poolesville's fall sports season has begun. Coach George Penn and assistant coach Sarah Mullikin are anxious to get started, as are their team captains.

"There is great positivity going into this year," said senior mid Camilo Henao. "We have young people on the team. I just hope that we win most of our games."

"I have high hopes for this season," said junior left back Addison Kain. "We have five freshmen coming in. It's a young team. Looking at our schedule, I think we can compete with everyone this year."

"My thoughts on the season," said senior center back and sometimes center mid, Jazmine Vanegas, "are that it's going to be great and that we are going to have a solid season. We have had really good chemistry practice this preseason. Winning some of our scrimmages has given us a head start, and we are going to go all out against all our opponents."

"This year's team is one of the youngest varsity squads in the county," said Coach Penn.

"Eleven of the eighteen active players are freshman or sophomores. There are only two seniors on the squad. Great chemistry is already showing on and off the field despite sixty percent of the roster turning over from last year. Pre-season optimism was generated by a 2-1 victory over Gaithersburg High School in an early preseason friendly match. We lost to Gaithersburg, 2-0, last year, and they were returning the majority of their starting lineup from last year when their record was eight wins and four losses.

We have a solid back line anchored by Captains Kain and Vanegas. Returning starters are juniors, Emma Weyrauch and Lily Welsh. Players to watch include three freshmen, Sia Reyes, Carina Lundgren, and Nia Kontos at central midfield."

The girls open up on September 8 at Kennedy. They have home games against Springbrook on September 10, Northwest on September 18, and Watkins Mill on September 29.

Girls' Volleyball

"We are excited to return our seniors, Jaylin Anderson, Emma Chettupuzha, and Scarlett Hunter," said girls' volleyball coach, Steve Lostoski. "In addition, we return second team all-county sophomore middle hitter, Megan Elder, along with honorable mention junior libero, Caroline Baltazar; however, this year, Caroline will be moving to outside hitter. We are also anxiously awaiting the completion of our new main gym, which should be ready for our first home game on Friday, September 5."

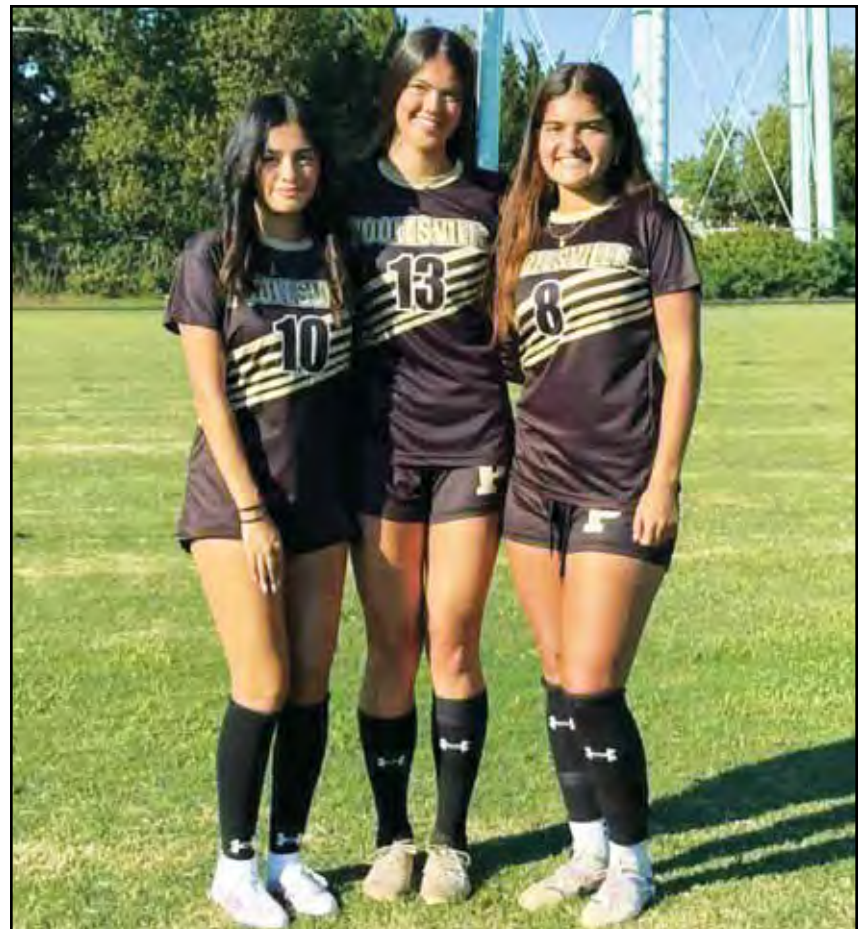
They start their season against Rockville. Home games are against Einstein on September 10, Damascus on September 18, and Watkins Mill on September 30.

Football

"We are excited for the 2025 season," said football coach, Brian Tupa. "We had seventy kids sign up for football this year. That's five more than last year and thirty more than we had in my first season in 2019. We are young, with only a handful of starters returning from last year's squad. A lot of juniors are going to have to step up this season for us to be successful.

"We return our leading rusher, Jerome Wotorson, this year. I expect him to have a big year. We have worked pretty hard over the off season on our run game. Two juniors are battling for the starting quarterback spot, Tom Blackstone and Cam Lasheski. Ethen Schlosberg, senior, has moved from the offensive line to fullback to help power the running game. Reid Kimball, Sam Lewis, and Bryan Smith will be called upon to jumpstart the passing game, as the heart of the receiving core. Defensively, we are young and inexperienced but have a good core of athletes to work with. I am looking at Will Loftis having a big year. He led the team in interceptions last year with three. Ethen Schlosberg will anchor the MLB position and be joined by Justin Pawlawski at the linebacker core.

"We have ten to twelve kids with some experience, but we will miss starter Dylan Hopkins on both sides of the ball this year. He suffered a knee injury in the final week in 2024 and has not been cleared to play. Dylan Hopkins, Sam Lewis, and Ethen Schlosberg have been named captains for the 2025 football season. All three have been three-year starters and multi-sport athletes."



Girls' soccer captains: Camila Henao Pina, Addison Kain, and Jazmine Vanegas.



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Continued on page 27.

33RD ANNUAL POOLESVILLE DAY 2025

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SATURDAY

SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

START TIME: 8:00 A.M.

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Crab & Cluck

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✓ Sat, Sept 6th from 3PM - 7PM

✓ St Mary's Pavilion in Barnesville

✓ Brewsters Ice Cream

✓ Kids Activities

• Face Painting

• Balloon Artist

• Dunk Tank

✓ Plenty of PACC Vendor Booths

Thanks to Our Sponsors

Dunk Tank Sponsor

✓ Sugar Pea Vintage



sugar pea vintage

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HEALTHY

Bounce House

✓ Morgan Stanley



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Sunday, September 14th

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- Doors Open – 2:00pm
- 1st Match Starts – 3:00pm
- 2nd Match Starts – 4:00pm

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Poolesville, MD 20837

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Continued from page 24.

What to Watch in PHS Athletics This Fall

The Falcons open at Winters Mill on September 5. Their first home game is September 12 against Rockville. They play Wheaton at home the following week. Homecoming is October 3 against Smithsburg.

Girls' Flag Football

"With the loss of a large senior class and a few key players that play other sports, this year maybe a little of a rebuilding year," said new coach Scott Davis. "With that said, we have a strong junior class, with Rayleen Woods, Liz Reed, and Alina Vicinelly leading the way for that class. Senior Mehek Patnaik will be a key two-way player at quarterback and safety.

"Sophomores, Anna May Straniero and Brynn Miller, will both be two-way players as well. Anna May was first team all-county player last year as a freshman at center, and we have very high expectations for her this year as well.

"Overall, we should have a strong defense, and our offense is more of the rebuild. I am looking forward to getting a lot of younger players experience and developing flag football skills."

Home games are on September 11 against Northwest and September 17 against Damascus.

Field Hockey

Head Coach: Brooke Hamm. The field hockey team's first home game is on September 9 against Rockville. The Damascus game on September 24 is at home.

Boys' Soccer

Head Coach: Komi Godo. The team opens up at home against Kennedy on September 8. Other home games are against Clarksburg on September 25 and September 27 against Seneca Valley.

Cross Country

Cross country coach Prasad Gerard looks to have a strong and balanced team this fall. The boys' team was a state finalist in 2023. They are home for a dual meet against Walter Johnson on September 17 and close out the month on September 27 at the Oatlands Invitational.





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J.D. Kuhlman

Poolesville Green Rewriting the ‘Three Little Pigs’

By Kerrie Kyde

In the classic English fairy tale, three little pigs build themselves houses, one of straw, one of sticks, and one of brick. The Big Bad Wolf comes along and, smelling dinner inside the houses, blows down the ones made of straw and sticks, but he can’t blow the brick house down. Attempting to reach dinner through the brick house chimney, he comes to a bad end, and the pigs escape. In these days of natural building, a wolf might still be able to blow down a house made of sticks, but he’d be no match for a properly-built straw house!

A modern straw house is built of strawbales, stacked on top of one another, the same way a dry-stacked stone wall is built, and pinned together vertically. The exterior of the bales is completely covered, generally with lime plaster. The interior is also plastered, often with clay, less often with a lime-based plaster. While strawbale walls can be weight-bearing, usually the bales function as insulation, stacked between wooden posts and beams which provide the structural support for the building. The bales and the plasters together form an air-tight, water-excluding sandwich with twice the ability to hold in heat compared to conventional stick-built buildings.

My husband and I got interested in strawbale building more than twenty years ago, when we took a class on how to build with straw and toured several bale houses in Colorado. We wanted to build a home and were exploring ways of reducing our carbon footprint. Natural building was a good way to limit our carbon production over the life of the home and its materials.

Natural building, sometimes called sustainable or ecological building, is a design and construction process that promotes the use of sustainable construction techniques and locally-available natural materials. The materials used in natural buildings are those people have used for centuries to build dwellings—stone, earth, and plant materials. The building process is designed to produce energy efficient, healthy living spaces, while using recycled or salvaged and, ultimately, biodegradable resources.

Strawbale walls are eighteen or more inches thick and create houses that are warm when you need them to be, cool when you need them to be, and wonderfully quiet. Strawbale walls “breathe”; they keep currents of air and water out but allow water vapor to pass through. This means that on humid days, the straw and clay absorb moisture from the air, making the building interior more comfortable, and then release it as the interior air dries. Because the walls resist rapid changes in temperature, energy costs for heating and cooling are generally lower than for wood-framed houses.

Two questions that we learned the answers to right away about building with straw are: What about insects and rodents? and Wouldn’t a strawbale house be a big fire risk? No worries. Straw is not hay. Hay is made from various grass species and includes the seeds of the grass, which certainly provide food for rodents and insects, as well as for mammals. Straw is what is left over after the grasses are harvested. What remains are the empty, dead, and dry grass stalks—not a big temptation for mice. When sandwiched together with appropriate plasters, strawbale walls are dense, tight, with very little air space inside them, and little to no food for critters of any kind.

These same characteristics—tight plaster and no air—are the reasons that bale walls meet international technical standards for fire resistance. Fire-tested bale sample walls resisted fire for two hours without failure, performing as well as or better than conventionally-built walls in fire conditions.

Although experiments are going on throughout the U.S. to produce modest, rapidly-erected strawbale housing; in general, strawbale houses are custom-built houses. They are about as expensive as conventionally-framed houses, but the input costs are reversed: You’ll pay less for materials and more for labor than for the same size stick-built house unless you build it yourself. If DIY is not for you, finding the right skilled professionals can be challenging.

Our strawbale house was built with a combination of professional and DIY labor. We hired a builder with strawbale construction experience to build the frame and put up the walls. We sourced all the materials ourselves. We used stone, wood, and clay from the building site, and local suppliers and recycled components for things like the strawbales, interior doors, and the mudroom sink. My husband built all the windowsills, the stair treads, and the kitchen

Continued on page 31.



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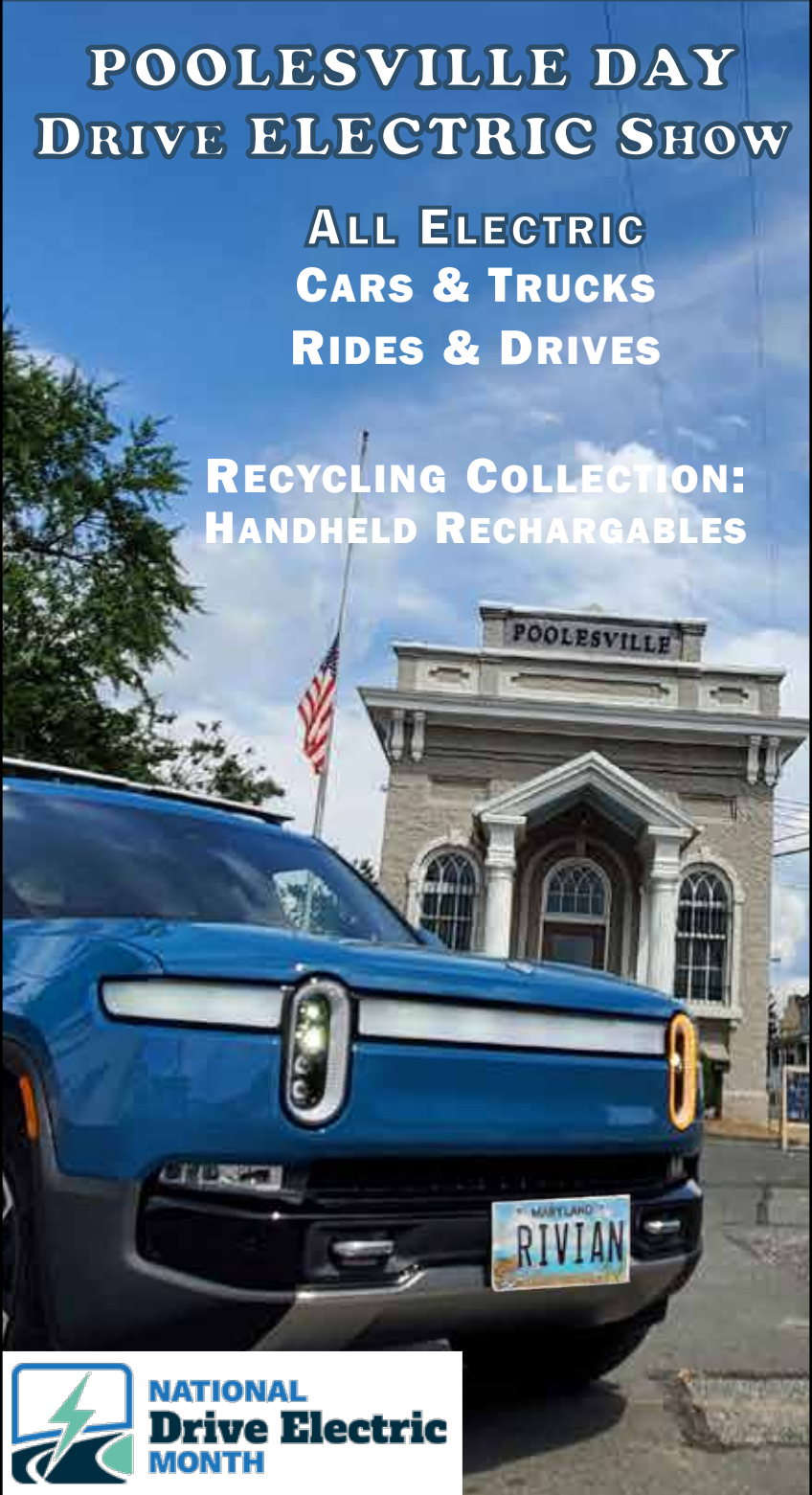





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Continued from page 28.

Rewriting the 'Three Little Pigs'

island countertop. I designed, mixed the pigments, and made sample boards for the various plasters. We hand-finished all the woodwork.

Happily, a resurgence in interest in this kind of construction is going on throughout the U.S., with a growing cadre of both owner-builders and professionals. You can now order bale wall panels for a building, which are factory designed and built and delivered to a site to be erected the same way factory-built conventional houses are.

Lest you think that these buildings might not hold up over time, consider this: The oldest strawbale buildings in the U.S. stand in the Nebraska Sandhills region—it's a hundred years old and still in use!

The climate crisis is rapidly changing our world. We may not have wolves blowing our houses down, but we do have storms, wildfires, and rising energy demands. Homes built with local, widely-available natural materials, with superior heating and cooling performance, could help us adapt.



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POOLESVILLE SENIORS FY26 ANNUAL MEETING

You're invited to join the Poolsville Seniors Board of Directors and support team to learn more about this amazing organization offering programs to keep those 50+ socially, intellectually, and physically active. Meet the people who make these events possible and learn about their careful stewardship of the financial support provided by the community.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025
3:00 - 4:30 P.M.**

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FEATURED UPCOMING EVENTS

BUTTON FARM: BEYOND THE BIG HOUSE

Thursday, September 11, 10 A.M.
16820 Black Rock Rd, Germantown, MD 20874

WHY RETIREMENT IS A DIRTY WORD

Wednesday, September 17, 2:30-3:30 P.M.
Poolsville Presbyterian Church Speer Hall

WHAT'S THE RUSH: PLANTING NATIVE

Tuesday, September 23, 7:00-8:00 P.M.
Poolsville Town Hall, 19721 Beall St, Poolsville, MD

RED DOOR ESCAPE ROOMS

Friday, October 3, 6:00 P.M.
125 Boardwalk Pl, Gaithersburg, MD 20878 (The Rio)

BASEBALL BINGO BONANZA

Tuesday, October 7, 1:00-3:00 P.M.
St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 20100 Fisher Avenue

GLENSTONE MUSEUM SELF-TOUR

Friday, October 10, 10:00 A.M.
12100 Glen Rd, Potomac, MD 20854

FALL DANCE PARTY: MUSIC THROUGH THE DECADES

Saturday, October 18, 7:00-10:00 P.M.
St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 20100 Fisher Avenue

poolsvilleseniors.org



Poolsville
Seniors!

Continued from page 1.

Poolesville Day: Your Guide to a Great Day

within this large circle of community service groups. Visit them, learn about their missions, and discover if it is something you might like to join.

The day, though, is mostly about fun, food, and friends. As always, it kicks off with the parade which, each year, offers something new and surprising. Last year, we had, for the first time, the Maryland National Guard band marching with our American Legion. We are awaiting their final decision and only hope they can fit us into their schedule again. Each year, nominations for grand marshal are submitted by the public with final decision made by the Poolesville Day Committee. It's never an easy decision as we are blessed with so many people deserving of the honor. We had more nominations than usual this year, but the final choice could not be better than Brenda Murtha. We explain why in the guide section of this issue.

We continue to have first-time food vendors with a wide variety of selections. Read through the vendor lists and the other information with descriptions of events, specific locations (including a QR code map) and the time schedules are all here for you to plan your day.

The very first events in our history always included farming animals, so naturally our ag exhibit will be a favorite, especially for the kids. They love to see and pet the farm animals! This exhibit's traditional location has been moved to the center of old town, in the field next to Jamison Real Estate.

Poolesville Green's annual EV show is one of the best and largest in the nation. Once again, they will have on display a great variety for your review. You can look at, touch, sit in, and even test drive some EV models.

The Historic Medley District has put together a great exhibit in the Old Town Hall Bank Museum of historic pictures of downtown Poolesville from the 1860s through 1970s. From oil-fueled streetlamps to wooden sidewalks to snow piled more than four feet high to buildings long gone due to fire or demolition, there are many subtle changes in this town that seems to remain the same yet is always changing in small ways. The streetscape traffic changes feel like being in a time machine, starting with horsedrawn carriages and then seeing the changes in automobiles that seem to define each decade, my favorite being the cars in 1918 coming through town while participating in a cross-country car race that even included traversing the Potomac on the ferry.

Word on the street is that even John Poole, Jr. may make an appearance at the trading post he built in 1793. If you stop in, you will learn why Poolesville was globally famous during the Civil War. The Town of Poolesville was well known by kings, queens, even emperors and other leaders all over the world. In our other front-page article, you will discover just what a pivotal role Poolesville played in the victory of the Union during the Civil War.

There is no party without great music. The headliners are on the main stage in Whalen Commons, but there are more at Locals. This year's main stage entertainment features three dance groups, starting with our own Hope Garden Ballet, and introduces two other groups from Montgomery County, CoMMotion Dance, and Danceworx.

Of course, we are so proud to have Hope Garden Children's ballet from Essence Studios with us again. Their performance will be from students of all age ranges.

A dance company that is new to us is CoMMotion Dance which brings to the stage their importance of building confidence, leadership skills, and providing a positive and encouraging environment for dancers to gather and develop friendships that will last a lifetime.

Also new to us is Danceworx, which is devoted to providing dancers of all ages an encouraging environment where they are given the opportunity to grow and excel in their dance education. They strive to deliver the highest quality of dance training, while nurturing each student's unique gift of talent and creativity.

The main stage bands are The Bob Band and The Brahman Noodles.

The Bob Band is a Bob Dylan tribute band, consisting of veteran musicians based in Washington, D.C. dedicated to capturing the vibe, spirit, and arrangement of Bob Dylan's original recordings. A faithful musical journey through the amazing Dylan catalog—fifty years of folk, rock, country, blues, even gospel.

Also performing on Whalen Commons is The Brahman Noodles. Their style of music is known as Jug Funk, based on a nickname of Jimmy, the band leader. The style is a hybrid of blues, funk, jug band, and Americana. This can be heard throughout their funky improvisational jam acoustic sessions.

Returning local bands are Touch of Grey and No Stop Light. Touch of Grey, as the name implies, is a group of "experienced" musicians who share a love of Americana—a mix of folk, popular, and bluegrass. One of our most popular local

bands is No Stop Light, an upbeat acoustic guitar/sax duo out of Poolesville. For seven years, they have played locally with a lively set list made up of covers and originals. Returning for their sixth Poolesville Day performance, Chris Doto and Matt Partain are pumped to anchor the afternoon slot under the big shade trees at the Locals stage, joined by Jean Innocent on keys/vocals and percussionist Kev Rice on congas/etc.

Jim Poole's Tidbits of Poolesville History

Poolesville in the News!

A Connection to John Brown's Raid in Harper's Ferry

Washington Star

Dateline: Alexandria, Virginia

December 8, 1859



A man, calling himself James Tempest, was arrested here on Wednesday night, on suspicion of being connected with Brown's raid. He was confined in jail, and yesterday underwent a further examination before Justice Summers, in the presence of several persons from Poolesville, Md., whence, it was stated by the prisoner, when first arrested, he had escaped, at the instance of a tavern keeper named Connelly. Mr. Connelly was present at the examination, and being sworn, the following facts were elicited, viz: Tempest came to Poolesville on Saturday last, and acted in a manner to excite the suspicion of its citizen that all was not right about him. Consequently, he was called upon to give an account of himself, which account, not being satisfactory, he was committed for jail, but before the commitment was placed in the proper hands, he escaped.

The most interesting part of this affair is that the prisoner is supposed to be Richard Realf, the Secretary of State under Brown's provisional government mentioned in Cook's confession. A further examination into the facts will be had on Monday.

Post Note: He made the acquaintance of John Brown, accompanied him to Chatham, Ontario, Canada, and was to be Secretary of State in the provisional government that Brown projected. The movement being deferred for two years, Realf made a visit to England and a tour in the Southern states. When Brown made his attack on Harper's Ferry in October 1859, Realf was in Texas, where he was arrested and sent to Washington, D.C., being in imminent danger of lynching on the way.

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Remembrance

Dr. Hector
Castro Asuncion

Dr. Hector Asuncion passed away on July 23, 2025. He served the Poolesville community for many decades. He was not only a loving husband and father but also a devoted family physician who served his community with compassion and dedication for over fifty years. Throughout his long and distinguished career, he touched countless lives with his gentle care, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to his patients' well-being. His passion for medicine was evident in every interaction, and he was deeply respected not only for his clinical expertise but also for the kindness and empathy he brought to his practice.

Beyond his professional life, Dr. Asuncion was deeply involved in his local community and was a faithful and active member of the Catholic Church. He generously gave his time and talents to various parish ministries, always guided by his strong faith and desire to serve others. His presence was a source of comfort and strength to many, and his legacy of service and compassion will be remembered for generations.

Dr. Asuncion is survived by his loving wife, Dr. Odita Asuncion; and his beloved children, Anthony, John Christopher, Marie Gerritz, Mark Edward Asuncion, Kyla Harrison, and Romel Yatco. He also leaves behind six cherished grandchildren who brought immense joy to his life and who will carry forward his memory with love and pride. In addition, he is survived by his sister, Thelma, and brother, Arthur, who will remember him fondly as a loving brother and steadfast presence in their lives. He served as a mentor to several of his nieces and nephews in addition to many students in the medical profession.



Dr. Hector Castro Asuncion

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Remembrances

Maria Emilia Battello
De San Martin

Maria Emilia Battello De San Martin, 86, of Dickerson, passed away on August 15, 2025.

She was born on July 11, 1939 in Rivera, Uruguay to the late Italo and Maria (Ripoll) Battello.

“Mima” or “Mimila” was a loving and devoted mother and was happy and proud about her role as a grandmother. She will be remembered for being a loyal and caring friend. She loved flowers and gardens and had a unique talent for flower arrangements. Her devotion to our Most Holy Virgin will be her most beautiful legacy.

Maria is survived by her children, Carolina San Martin (Lucio Chacon), Juan Francisco San Martin (Elena Diaz), and Jose Antonio San Martin; one sister, Marta Battello; one sister-in-law, Marianela Andriolo de Battello; three grandchildren, Nicolas San Martin, Matias San Martin, and Maru Chacon; and nephews, Nicolas, Federico Alejandro, Luciana and Santiago, and Juan Jose and Raul. She was preceded in death by one brother, Carlos Battello, and one sister, Ana Maria Battello.



Maria Emilia Battello De San Martin

Julianne T. Hamm

Julianne T. Hamm, “Julie,” died peacefully on August 20, 2025 at her home in which she lived for fifty-eight years in Boyds.

She will be greatly missed by her beloved son, James J. Hamm, II “Jack,” daughter-in-law, Nanci, and two grandchildren, Reagan and Jackson; step-daughter, Robin Friedhoff and Robin’s three children, Krissy, Kelsey, and Kevin; brother, Anthony Salatto; nephew, Alekos Polyzos “Alex”, wife, Maria; and one great-nephew, Visillios Polyzos, “Billy.”

She is predeceased by her parents, Louis and Anna Salatto; her husband, Jackson Whitfield Hamm; and one sister, Theresa Polyzos. She was fiercely independent and loyal and stayed busy with her many friends and her volunteer work with the Friends of Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Boyds Historical Society, and Montgomery County Parks.

Julie worked at Montgomery County Park and Planning at Black Hill Regional Park for thirty-two years and retired at the age of 80 in 2021. She made so many lifelong friends during her time at Black Hill and continued to keep in touch with many of them during her retirement.

She treasured her time with her grandchildren, Reagan and Jackson, and shared her love of history of the Montgomery County and Frederick County areas as well as her love of nature with them.

In lieu of flowers please send a donation in her memory to Friends of Black Hills Nature Program. A celebration of life will be planned for the near future.



Julianne T. Hamm

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Kindness Returned

As streams flowing down from
the mountains,
By windings no mortal can wist,
Appear to return to their fountains
At sunset, in rainbows of mist;

So often, some deed of affection,
In youth, more tender than wise,
Passed away from our own
recollection,
Returns in some loving disguise.

—Emily Page Webb

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Remembrance

Robert ("Bob") Kenneth Hull, Jr.

Robert ("Bob") Kenneth Hull, Jr., of Boyds, died on August 17, 2025, at the age of 54. Bob was the loving husband of Sara Chandros Hull.

Born on February 6, 1971, in Plainfield, New Jersey, he was the son of Robert Kenneth and Mary (Hurley) Hull.

Bob grew up on the south side of Cranford, New Jersey. He spent much of his childhood playing hockey and traveling around the tri-state area with friends and family for games and tournaments. Bob attended Cranford High School (CHS) where he remained active as a member of the varsity swimming team while shifting his focus to his academic achievements and the study of music. During the summers, he was a lifeguard, and he also delivered pizzas for Domino's. In 1988, during his junior year, Bob began dating his future wife, Sara.

Bob graduated as the valedictorian of the CHS Class of 1989, standing alongside Sara who graduated as Salutatorian. He pursued a bachelor's degree in English literature at Cornell University and performed in their symphony orchestra, graduating magna cum laude in only three years in 1992. He then attended Vanderbilt Law School, graduating in 1995 with his Juris Doctorate.

Bob and Sara were married in 1995. While Sara pursued a Ph.D. in bioethics at the Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health, Bob and his future business partners co-founded the Round Table Group. Their vision would lead to the creation of the entire expert witness referral industry as it is known today.

Once Sara completed her degree, Bob and Sara settled permanently in Boyds, and happily lived in the same home for over twenty-six years where they raised their sons.

One of Bob's greatest joys in life was raising his sons, Sam and Max, as a team with Sara and eliciting a good laugh from them at every opportunity. He took enormous pride in watching them follow their passions and find happiness, and he relished learning new skills to help guide his sons in their musical endeavors and their many other diverse interests.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife, Sara; two sons and their significant others, Samuel David (girlfriend, Tayla) and Maxwell Isaac (fiancée, Ainslee); sister, Kathleen Anne Hatoff (Kory); brother, William Hanford Hull (Suzanne); mother-in-law, Libby Chandros; brothers-in law, Mark and Joshua Chandros; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in his memory to Through Piscataway Eyes, Inc.



Robert ("Bob") Kenneth Hull, Jr.

Continued from page 12.

Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre Appoints Justin Rustle as Associate Artistic Director

Artistic Director Claire Jones praised the appointment, noting, "Justin brings an unmatched combination of performance experience, teaching expertise, and artistic vision. His impact is already evident in the growth of our productions' quality. Having him in this leadership position will only strengthen HGCBT's artistic future."

HGCBT Board President Brad Gularson added, "Justin's appointment reflects our commitment to excellence on stage."

Rustle will continue to teach classes at Essence Studios and will play a pivotal role in HGCBT's upcoming winter performance, *A Winter's Eve*, scheduled for December 6 at the Bender JCC Kreeger Auditorium in Rockville. The event will feature a mix of traditional and culturally diverse holiday-inspired works.

For tickets and performance information, visit www.hopesgardenballet.org.

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A Ruby-throated hummingbird enjoying a snack.

By IJ Hudson



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A Monocacy Moment *Lost in Time*



So many of these men have their names on Poolesville street signs! The man on the right with his hand on the chair is Mr. Spurrier, an original bank BOD member. Can you name any of the others? We would like to know. Email rdavis@monocacymonocle.com.

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Back-to-School Dangers for Pets

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

As the school year kicks off, so do the risks of common household toxins that can threaten our pets. While there are always some hidden dangers, normally, when back-to-school season begins, there are new objects, treats, medications, and routines that sometimes disrupt our pets' normal patterns. It is at this time, when animals are more prone to investigate and chew new toys, new school gear, new plastic wraps from new items, medications, and illicit drugs like marijuana to everyday foods like grapes and chocolates that are now being placed in lunches or during morning meals as the kids rush out the door, that they explore all the new items purchased for lunches and breakfasts.

It is important to have effective communication strategies with your kids to identify potential exposures and outline ways to keep the furry family members away from or out of both known and unknown dangers.

Recommendations:

- Keep all new school purchases up or away from your pets.
- Be sure that any new food supplies for meals or packed into school backpacks are secure.
- Be sure that any medications that will be going with your children are secure and not out in on a counter available for snooping furry friends.
- Have a conversation with your non-furry children about letting you know if they are asked to bring home added items from school or are bringing home added items for their friends.
- Always be sure to discuss the dangers of drugs, not only for them, but for the furry family members also.
- Be sure that you are careful when leaving the house. Oftentimes, it is a rush to get to school, and our dog and cat friends may sneak out.
- Do not bring your furry friends in the car for the first few trips to school. You may have to leave the car, and they would be left alone in the car, or they may escape the car when the kids leave.

Enjoy your school year. Keep your furry guys safe.



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