

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Monthly Newspaper

November 2025 • Volume XXI, Number 8



Five German police officers attended a PHS home football game with Post 247 Commander Julien Singh. What brought them all the way here? Answers on page 3.



This young man is a champion in an old man's game. Is your curiosity piqued? See Tidbits on page 10 for the full story.



This little guy made our day on Poolesville Day. We didn't want you to miss pics of the big day, so we have them in this issue on page 14.



Monty always loves reading the Monocle while watching people visit the town's scarecrows. See more pictures of Halloween on page 23.

The New PHS Sports Facilities Dedicated to True Sports Legends

By Jeff Stuart and Link Hoewing

On October 24, the Poolesville High School football field was officially named the Howard Lyles Stadium in honor of the beloved coach. Regrettably, Mr. Howard was ill and not able to attend the ceremony honoring him. Relatives, Gregg Brooks, Mark Brooks, and Darryl Thomas, stood in for him. The school's new gymnasium will honor Coach Fred Swick officially on December 5 at the same time as the town's traditional Holiday Lighting Festival.

Fred Swick and Howard Lyles were both coaches of many sports, heads of the Athletic Department, and teachers at PHS. They served at different times at PHS, though their tenures overlapped for a few short years in the mid-1990s. Both men were well known and respected by their peers and their students. They lived exemplary lives and set wonderful examples for their students regarding sportsmanship,

team play, and how to treat others with respect.

Fred was born on April 17, 1951, in Winchester, Virginia. After graduating from Richard Montgomery High School in Rockville in 1969, Fred went on to play basketball and study physical education at Montgomery College and Frostburg State University. Fred was a talented basketball player with a deadly outside shot. He was named to the Second Team All-County at Richard Montgomery his senior year. Fred would go on to play at Montgomery College, earning First Team All-State Junior College honors, and at Frostburg, from which he graduated in 1974.

Fred began his career in 1974 as an elementary physical education teacher at Garrett Park Elementary in Kensington. He then taught at North Bethesda and Randolph Junior High Schools, followed by several years as a PE

Continued on page 17.



The new scoreboard sign proudly carries the name of the football field now renamed for the legendary coach, Howard Lyles.

Commissioners Have Limited Agendas for September And October Meetings

By Link Hoewing

After taking a break in August, the Town of Poolesville commissioners came back to hold only one meeting in each month of September and October.

At the September 8 meeting, the commissioners announced that current Town Attorney Jay Gullo is leaving. No reason was given for this move, but it was also made clear that this development had nothing to do with his performance.

The only business item at the meeting was supposed to be a discussion about the annual grant made by the town to the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department to run the annual fireworks display. Representatives for UMCVFD could not make the meeting, but it was noted that the fireworks this year will occur on the 250th anniversary

of the country's founding, the nation's semiquincentennial. It appears there are preliminary plans to have an all-day event on the polo grounds on Hughes Road featuring activities, food, and community involvement.

In his Town Manager's comments, Wade Yost commented that Wells 2 and 3, which had been offline due to the presence of PFAS, are now back in service with the successful installation of specialized filtering technology. He also said that the decision to take these wells offline last year when PFAS were being treated contributed to the decision to call for water restrictions.

Assistant Town Manager Niles Anderegg said that the town was initiating speed tests on Route 109 due in part to citizens' concerns. The study

will be done in October, and the town will work with the state to use the results to keep speeds consistently in line with an average speed of thirty miles per hour.

At the October 6 commissioners' meeting, the first item of business was to reappoint members of two town committees, the Fair Access Committee (FAC) and Sustainable Poolesville. For FAC, Nancy Kidd and Link Hoewing were reappointed; Adam Sroka has decided to step down. On Sustainable Poolesville, Don Street and Jane Harris were reappointed.

The commissioners next discussed the redesign of the town's flag. Nile Anderegg and Jim Brown attended a

Continued on page 8.

Family Album



American Legion
Daniel-Jeffers Post 247.



PHS wrestlers created a
challenging scarecrow wrapped
in on itself in a contorted
discombobulated display of ferocity.



Right: When you put the profile of
the town's Parks Director, Preston
King, on a Halloween display, you
end up with a very scary scarecrow.



Friends and supporters of the Riverworks Performing Arts Center
were on hand to celebrate the official ground-breaking ceremony.



The Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department
held its annual open house this past October. It was a great
day for family fun, refreshments, and fellowship.



We're a bit late, but we couldn't resist showing this fun
time from St. Mary's annual summer chicken dinner!



Twenty-seven students from PHS's tenth grade history class
visited the John Poole House for a lesson from John Poole, Jr., himself.
There haven't been that many visitors at one time since ol' John
held a community auction in the house.



Children loved feeding the cute animals at
Polesville's Friday on the Commons events.

Local News

German Foreign Exchange Police Officers Help Unfurl American Flag

By Rande Davis

At the annual PHS Senior Night home football game, at which graduating Falcons are honored, the local Post 247 American Legion dramatically unfolds an American flag during the playing of our national anthem. The flag is a huge garrison flag measuring 28 x 38 feet and requires at least forty people to carry the rolled-up flag to the fifty-yard line and, with holders on each side, it is slowly unfurled until on full display, then the handlers shake it, emulating a waving motion. On a historical note, the flag at Ft. McHenry was a garrison flag (slightly larger at 30 x 42 feet). Its size, as you know, allowed the writer of the words to our national anthem to easily see it from the distant shore throughout the night.

Each year, the American Legion post usually recognizes a vet from its ranks who is deserving of special honor, but this year, the post had the pleasure of featuring a different group of heroes, five foreign exchange German police officers who are currently assigned to the Montgomery County Police Department. Their enthusiasm and smiles while "waving our flag" matched those of the Legionnaires and students. To our newfound friends across the pond we say, "Danke Schön." Hailing from Hamburg, these "honorary Americans for the night" were Malte Hoffmann, Romy Wendlandt, Kai Burholt, Janne Tetzl, and Olaf Tetzl.



Long may she wave!



It took over forty patriots to hold the large, rolled-up garrison flag just before its unveiling.

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Rande(m) Thoughts Phew! That Was A Close One!

By Rande Davis

Dodging bullets is scary but exhilarating, all at the same time. We are so pleased to be back after not publishing an October issue. It was the first issue skipped in the over-twenty-three years since John Clayton and I published our first issue on March 4, 2004. We think restructuring the paper will be helpful in ensuring its future.

In 2004, there were four news media covering our little town. Our primary mission then, as it is today, is to publish a newspaper worthy of the good people living and working in our part of the Ag Reserve.

Along with the *Monocle*, the now-defunct *Gazette* newspaper group produced a Poolesville edition within their regional chain of papers. Legendary resident, Ray Hoewing, and family started a very good and well-written online paper appropriately called *Poolesville Online*. Finally, there was the *Upper Western Montgomery County Bulletin*. Imagine that! We had as many newspapers covering Poolesville as had New York City!

Without dwelling on the negative, suffice it to say that the weekly *Bulletin* had lost its way and had devolved into a very negative journal. It stopped representing the core soul of the town and began a journalistic path more reflective of the deleterious online media of today. John and I both knew the town deserved better.

It was a long time ago, but in its early years, *The Bulletin*, published by Gene Halmos (now of local park fame) and Stan Janet produced a delightful local newspaper covering many personal stories and civic news. Both Gene and Stan were distinguished veterans, with Gene publishing a magnificent book on his experience as a German prisoner-of-war, and Stan an army intelligence officer reaching the high rank of lieutenant colonel. At its end, its vitriolic and perpetual attack on the town commissioners became not just wrong, but, maybe even worse, boring. John and I resolved to bring the town a refreshing journal, nurturing the true spirit of being "a small town." From the beginning, we

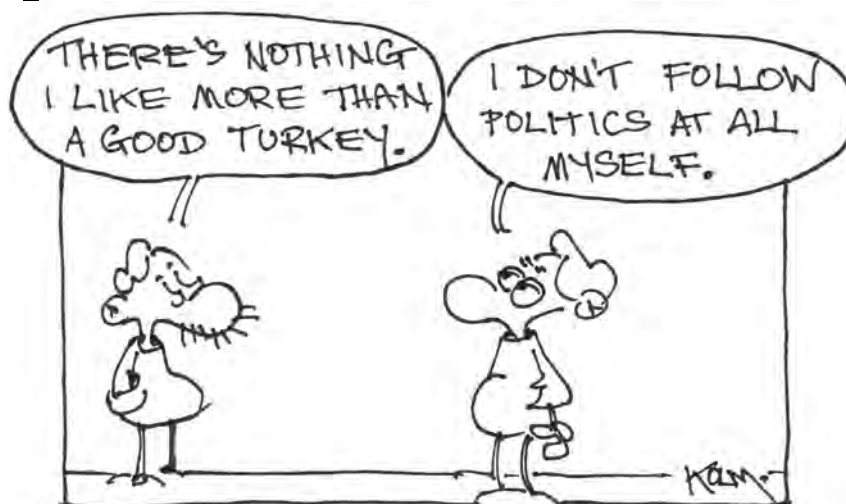
knew that being a small town was so much more than a population count; its heart nurtures a spirit of shared true camaraderie.

On a side note, as is true for most of us men, Stan's greatest blessing was marrying well. When men say "our better half," we really mean it. In her fifteen years of living without Stan, Sophie has blessed this town in her quiet, unheralded way through her voluntary work at Poolesville Elementary School, gathering food donated from downcounty supermarkets to help feed local people in need, and being an "angel of care" for many individuals, including right now our own beloved Betty Ritorto. For those who don't recognize Betty's name, you probably have talked to her if you ever walked the sidewalk on Fisher Avenue between Dollar General and McDonald's. If not that, then you may recall she was the lady standing in front of her home on Fisher, waving a hand-made sign alerting drivers to slow down for the first days of school at Poolesville Elementary School. The whole town knows the very soul of Poolesville is manifested in people like these two. Both are just a couple of the many, many people I had in mind when, while reflecting on being given the honor of Poolesville Day Grand Marshal, I had observed that there are so many unrecognized people of goodwill deserving of the honor.

As the *Monocle* moves forward again, albeit "flying close to the trees," we hope to remain a safe, comfortable place for all residents, a safe zone from the vitriol of national politics found on online sites like Facebook. All of us might benefit from remembering when posting our national passions, we are living in a small capsule, where such passions can cut deeply and personally. Pitting us one against one another in our world can do far more harm to our valued smalltown spirit than all the building of houses you can imagine.

The *Monocle's* true formula for success has been staying local in all we do. Avoiding issues beyond our Upcounty area, especially any of the national politics of today, keeps us focused and centered. As we approach Thanksgiving, we continue to be thankful for all the support we receive from our readers and grateful to have the high honor and reward of publishing this "chronicle of your life."

Kolm's Corner



Fun Fact...

wikipedia.com

The modern newspaper is a European invention. The oldest direct handwritten news sheets circulated widely in Venice as early as 1566. These weekly news sheets were full of information on wars and politics in Italy and Europe. The first printed newspapers were published weekly in 1605 in Germany.

In Boston in 1690, Benjamin Harris published *Publick Occurrences Both Foreign and Domestick*. This is considered the first newspaper in the American colonies even though only one edition was published before the paper was suppressed by the colonial officials, possibly due to censorship and control issues. It followed the two-column format and was a single sheet, printed on both sides.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

Published and Edited by
Rande Davis

Rande Davis
Advertising
Circulation
301.509.9232
rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

Dominique Agnew
Copyediting
dqagnew@gmail.com

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

Monocacy Press, LLC
Rande Davis, President
P.O. Box 21
Poolesville, MD 20837
301.509.9232

Contributing Writers

Link Hoewing
linkhoe@aol.com

Maureen O'Connell
mafoconnell@msn.com

Jeffrey S. Stuart
sark10@juno.com

Jon Wolz
wolzjon@hotmail.com

John Kolms
john.kolm@teamresultsusa.com

Layout and Graphics

AnyArt Solutions LLC
sales@AnyArtSolutions.com

Fun Facts Contributor

Laura Muncy
laura@AnyArtSolutions.com

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Local News

Just in Time
For Christmas

By Rande Davis

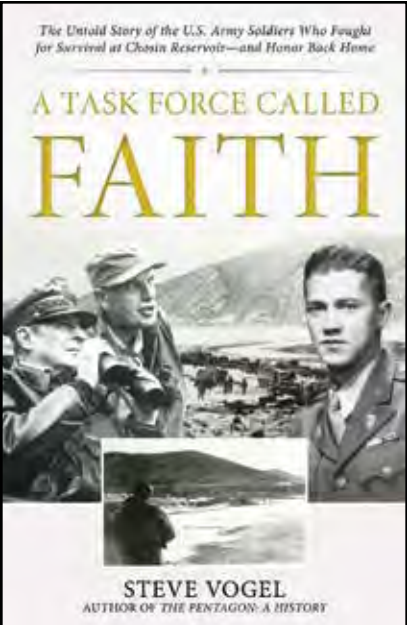
The newest history book by local author, Steve Vogel, will be released in November just before Thanksgiving and in time to be given as a great gift for the holidays. The book, *A Task Force Called Faith*, is about the Battle of Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War. It focuses on a U.S. Army unit whose soldiers were falsely accused of cowardice after the battle, despite suffering eighty-five percent casualties.

The book carries through to the present day with the fight to correct the historical record and the continued return of MIAs from the battle to their families.

On the seventy-fifth anniversary of the legendary Battle of Chosin Reservoir, Steve Vogel tells the little-known story of the army soldiers who gave all during the Korean War's most consequential battles and then were denigrated for their sacrifice. *A Task Force Called Faith* delivers a fresh perspective on Chosin, where 150,000 Chinese soldiers trapped 20,000 U.S. Marines and soldiers in the frozen mountains of North Korea in November and December of 1950.

For seven decades, the marines who successfully broke out from Chosin have been justly hailed as heroes, but the army soldiers who fought alongside them have been reviled as cowards. In *A Task Force Called Faith*, Steve Vogel sets the record straight. What he's learned is the culmination of twenty-five years of digging into the story, first as a reporter for *The Washington Post* and now as a leading military historian.

Books by Steve: *Betrayal in Berlin* (the true story of the Cold War's most audacious espionage operation), *Through the Perilous Night* (the battle that inspired Francis Scott Key which gave us our national anthem) and *The Pentagon, A History*.



Steve Vogel's newest history about
an infamous battle of Korea.



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Fun Fact...

wikipedia.com



National Bison Day is the first Saturday in November



National Vanilla Cupcake Day, November 10



National Mason Jar Day, November 30



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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.

November 1

Empower Through Movement: A Zumba Event for Breast Cancer Awareness

This inspiring and energizing event, hosted by the ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, will shine a light on breast cancer awareness. Wear your pink and lace up your sneakers! *Speer Hall*. 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

November 4

Civil War and the Birth of the U.S. Air Force

Historian Brad Stone outlines how the Union Army, with Abraham Lincoln's support, created the first modern air force: the Union Balloon Corps. *PPC Sanctuary*, 17800 Elgin Road. 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

November 7

Latin Dance Instructional Session

Join Genicia and Daniela for a lively evening of Latin dance! You'll be introduced to the basic steps of salsa, merengue, cumbia, and flamenco in a fun, welcoming environment. *Speer Hall*. 6:30 p.m.

November 9

Continuing Hike: Antietam Creek Aqueduct w/Jon Wolz

Join Jon Wolz at Antietam Aqueduct, a stone masonry aqueduct built in 1834 to convey the canal across Antietam Creek in Washington County, Maryland. It is the fourth of eleven aqueducts built along the C&O Canal. *C&O Canal Lock 29, Jefferson, MD 21755*. 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

November 12

An Invitation to Dine Out for Single Seniors

Please join Claire and Gwen for a low-key gathering for single seniors,

men and women (and those otherwise in need of a dining out partner), looking for company while dining out. For our November get together, we will meet at India Palace. The atmosphere is casual, prices are moderate, and the menu includes a wide variety of very interesting appetizers, entrées, and desserts. 19743 *Frederick Road*. 5:30 p.m.

November 14

Movie Night: *The Six Triple Eight*

The Six Triple Eight is a 2024 war drama directed by Tyler Perry, focusing on the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, the all-black, all-female unit tasked with processing over seventeen million backlogged pieces of mail during World War II. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 p.m.

November 17

PS Book Club November: *Ordinary Grace*

Join our discussion of William Kent Krueger's *Ordinary Grace*, an atmospheric murder mystery set in a fictional small town in Minnesota. The tragedies that unfold during the summer of 1961 are described forty years after by the now-fifty-three-year-old Frank Drum. *Zoom*. 7:00 p.m.

November 19

Trail Hike: Seneca Greenway Trail Continuation

This trail is the final leg of the top half of the Seneca Greenway Trail, starting from where the September Trail Hike ended at the Route 355 trailhead. We will continue west for about three miles with an elevation gain of 435 feet. The trail is wooded and follows alongside Seneca Creek, so good hiking shoes are strongly recommended. Registration required. 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Darts Social

Are you ready to throw some darts? Hit a bullseye with other seniors for some fun, easy darts games that anyone can play! We will supply the darts, you supply the nimble fingers and dead-eye aim. Registration is limited. *Speer Hall*. 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

November 20

Historic Ag Reserve with Kenny Sholes

Learn about 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. *Zoom*. 7:00 p.m.

November 21

Line Dancing with Ashley Kelch

Enjoy a free evening of line dancing with basic instruction that builds up to more complicated moves. Join the fun, work out, and meet new people. *Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church*. 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Weekly and Monthly Events:

Monday

Ping Pong and Cornhole. *Speer Hall*. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday

Pickleball Open Play. *Poolesville Baptist Church*. 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Monday and Friday

Walking Club. Meet at the flagpole in *Whalen Commons*. 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Seniors at the Barre. *Speer Hall*. 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday

Tai-Chi. *Speer Hall*. 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Bridge. *Speer Hall*. 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday

Walking Club. Meet at the flagpole in *Whalen Commons*. 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

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Continued from page 6.

Poolesville Seniors

Wednesday

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

Knitting and Crochet Instruction and Support. *Speer Hall.* 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

First Wednesday

Birthday Club Card Craft. *Speer Hall.* 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Second and Fourth Wednesday

Chair One Fitness with Dierdre. *Speer Hall.* 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Thursday

Mahjong. *Speer Hall.* 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

First and Third Thursday

Chair One Fitness with Dierdre. *Speer Hall.* 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Third Friday

Movie Night. *Speer Hall.* 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Fourth Friday

Line Dancing. *Speer Hall.* 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For more information or to register for any of the programs listed here, visit the Poolesville Seniors website: poolesvilleseniors.org and receive the link for virtual events or directions for in-person events. View recorded presentations on their YouTube channel. Contact 301-875-7701 or email info@poolesvilleseniors.org with questions.

Of Poetry and Prose

Trees in Autumn

The poets have made
Autumn sorrowful;

I find her joyous, radiant, serene.

Her pomp is hung in a deep
azure sky

That turns about the world by day
and night,

Nor loses its bright charm.

And when the trees resign
their foliage,

Loosing their leaves upon the
cradling air

As liberally as if they ne'er had
owned them,—

They show the richer for
the nakedness

That weds them with the clarity
of heav'n.

—John Jay Chapman

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Local News

Local Author in The Fast Lane

By Rande Davis

Local privacy author and commentator, Dr. Leslie Gruis, took to the racetrack at Virginia's Dominion Raceway on September 20, speeding around the two-mile course in a Porsche 911 GT3 and hitting well over three digits on the straightaway.

"It's been a lifelong dream," said Dr. Gruis. "I've always wanted to race at track speeds, so when the opportunity came up, I put aside my work and went for it."

Dr. Gruis pronounced herself impressed with the power of a Porsche 911 GT3 supercar, as compared to her own Porsche Boxster. "There's nothing like it," she said after three high-speed laps on the track. "When you roll on the gas with the supercar, it feels like being strapped to the front of a rocket." Despite being new to race driving, Dr. Gruis maintained control, overtook some other drivers, and reached speeds of over one hundred miles per hour. She described her performance on the track as: "Not bad for a first time."

There are several companies in the Maryland-Virginia area offering racecar-driving experiences. Some feature high-performance supercars like the Porsche 911 GT3, Ferraris, and Lamborghinis, while others offer NASCAR vehicles. It's all a matter of what you would like to experience. All require prior registration, insurance, and a compulsory race school before they'll put you behind the wheel of a half-million-dollar racecar.

"Would I go again? Oh, you bet!" concluded Dr. Gruis with a broad grin, standing in the pit lane. "I want to go faster next time."

Stay tuned to the *Monocle*, and you may see her beat her own record.

Dr. Leslie Gruis is a well-known, multi-published local author on the subject of Americans' right to privacy, whether that right really exists, and—if it does—how it can be defended. She is a former senior officer at the National Security Agency and the CIA, and became interested in the subject of defending privacy while doing counter-terrorist work with these agencies. She has a Ph.D. in applied math and electrical engineering from Northwestern University, and lives in Potomac with her husband and son. Her newest book is called *The Privacy Pirates* and is available on amazon.com.



Dr. Leslie Gruis with her borrowed Porsche.

Continued from page 1.

Commissioners Have Limited Agendas for September And October Meetings

special presentation offered by the National League of Cities that provided guidelines about how to design a flag. Anderegg remarked that the presenters said simplicity in design, use of meaningful symbols, avoiding the use of more than three colors, not including lettering or shields, and not copying other flag designs were important guidelines that will help improve the impact of a flag and make it stand out.

In terms of processes for deciding about a flag design, Anderegg said that a variety of approaches have been used by other jurisdictions, but special committees, often including citizens, were quite common. Anderegg said the commissioners need to decide on what process they want to use; how people would be chosen for a committee if one is to be set up; and what kind of deadline should be set.

After discussion, the commissioners decided to establish a small committee of five or so people. Anderegg will be the staff manager for the committee. The commissioners said that the work should be done in time to have the flag ready for Poolesville Day.

Town Manager Wade Yost announced at the end of the meeting that the more-than-four-million-dollar federal grant for which the town qualified many months ago had had to be reviewed and authorized by federal and state agencies. The grant has now been officially approved, and the town can start using the money to begin implementing the Streetscape Plan. He also announced that the town has qualified to receive a "forgivable" loan of \$3.5 million and an additional low interest loan of \$1.5 million to fund PFAS remediation work.



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Local News

No Kings Rally in Poolesville

By Rande Davis

On October 18, the nationally-organized No Kings Rally came to Poolesville. A large gathering of almost 250 residents assembled along Fisher Avenue at Whalen Commons waving anti-Trump signs, chanting various slogans, and returning waves (both pro and con) from drivers passing by. What the crowd lacked in diversity it gained in enthusiasm. Intriguingly, the participants were made up entirely of white people, seventy-five percent female, and almost exclusively over fifty.

The crowd began to form in the late morning and dispersed by two o'clock. The atmosphere remained entirely peaceful, almost joyous. The camaraderie from being around like-minded folks fueled their enthusiasm for their mission. There were many smiles, much waving of signs and banners, and a lot of group-chanted slogans, such as: "We will not bow down," "No crown, no king," "No justice, no peace," and "We will not stand for this."

Trump supporters made a brief appearance in the form of local farmers driving by in a large ag vehicle, bearing Trump signs and flags.



Having their voices heard.

The Monocle asked a sampling of protestors, "What is the number one thing you hope to achieve by being here today?"

The following are some of the replies given:

"That the voice of the people is heard and that we are not just sitting around letting anything happen with our government unchallenged."

"Make people aware and how we feel about things."

"It's time to speak up as an American."

"Understanding that we are in a dangerous time. I grew up in the Nixon era, and the GOP has no heart and no soul."

"Free and open elections."

"I am hoping that I can be a small part of what, at the end of the day, will be a very large protest."

"I think people are afraid, and maybe, when they see all these people, they might not be so afraid."

"The biggest thing is that we support the United States, we support the constitution and are tired of what seems to be someone who wants to be king."

"That people learn what is going on out there. Pay attention to what is going on, the important thing is to pay attention, people."

"I want to protect the constitution. Too many lies, Fox News, those people who watch this are brainwashed."

Of Poetry and Prose

discoverpoetry.org

Autumn Blue Mist

This is night's own trailing wind
That goes by in blue mist
When morning wakes.
This is not smoke from chimneys,

No fire breathes and puffs it out
Across the sun.
This is autumn on an October
morning...
Early hills,
Fields in a veil.

—Hilda Conkling

The County's Trash Overhaul Plans

Montgomery County in September took a big step towards overhauling its trash management systems. The County released an open RFP (request for proposal) to private companies to propose the means and methods—and cost—of disposing of the county's 550,000 tons a year of non-recyclable trash. The winner of this bid process will be expected to manage the system they propose for an initial five years, with the likelihood the contract would continue beyond that point if all goes well.



Proposals from the companies are due by November 11, 2025. The County's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Executive Office are expected to make a choice by January 2026. They'll then take that choice to the County Council for budget approval. A transition to the new system could begin as early as July 2026.

The County's RFP specifies that disposal of all non-recycled trash transition from being burned—in the county's 30-year-old incinerator in Dickerson—to being hauled by truck to landfills in surrounding states. Montgomery County lacks its own landfill site. Truck hauling to the nation's roughly 3,000 landfills is by far the most common waste management system in the U.S., accounting for 65% of trash after recyclable material is diverted from the "waste stream" and processed separately.

SCA has advocated for an alternative to incineration for more than a decade, and thus strongly supports the county's RFP process. The Dickerson incinerator is the worst single source of air pollution and greenhouse gases in the county—emitting toxic pollutants harmful to human health and some 600,000 tons per year of CO2 equivalent into our region's air.

If all goes well, the incinerator could be closed by the end of 2026 / beginning of 2027. We eagerly await the County's assessment. You can read more about this issue at SCA's website.

OTHER SCA INITIATIVES

- ✓ Promoting policies that preserve farmland and farming in the Ag Reserve
- ✓ 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



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Tidbits

Pickleball Is Not Just for the Old Folks

Aidan Gohn, eleven years old and a fifth grader at Poolesville Elementary School, has been an avid pickleball enthusiast and player since he was seven.

He got his start in pickleball as the Stevens Park pickleball courts are near his home, and the Poolesville Area Senior pickleballers were nice enough to allow Aidan to play with them when he was only seven. Their one "kids' rule"? Aidan was allowed two bounces versus their one.

The Stevens Park courts have been renovated, and Aidan is excited to be training there this fall, and training is something he takes seriously as he is an accomplished player already.

In 2024, he began his competitive play at a few Professional Pickleball Association (PPA) events around the country and became the only nine-year-old to medal in 12U singles. His competitive play took him to North Carolina, Ohio, and Tennessee.

In 2025, he has really improved his singles and doubles games. Currently ranked second nationally, he won gold medals in both singles and doubles for the first time.

Riverworks Breaks Ground on New Performing Arts Center



Riverworks broke ground on its Performing Arts Center, a major milestone in the art center's mission to cultivate creativity, community, and connection in the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve.

After nearly three years of planning and fundraising, Riverworks broke ground on its Performing Arts Center, a major milestone in the art center's mission to cultivate creativity, community, and connection in the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve.

The groundbreaking ceremony officially begins the process of transforming the Old Methodist Church into a state-of-the-art performance space. Built in 1826, the church will be restored and refurbished with indoor seating for around one hundred people. To accommodate larger outdoor audiences, custom-designed doors behind the stage will open to face the grassy field. A lobby with restrooms and a green room for performers will be added to the north side of the building on the footprint of the current parking lot.

PHS Class of 1970 Returns to Find One Thing Familiar

For some of the members of the 1970 PHS graduation class, this was their first time "back to school" in fifty-five years and what they saw, while immensely impressive, was not the typical nostalgic visit to the past. One of the recognizable things was the auxiliary gym, which is where their actual graduation was held fifty-five years ago. Two people even commented that the gym smelled the same!



The PHS Class of 1970 visited the new school.

Continued on page 28.

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Youth Sports

PHS Girls' Volleyball: Reaching New Heights

By Jeff Stuart

Seniors Jaylin Anderson and Scarlett Hunter wanted to put their stamp on their final season on the Poolesville High School girls' volleyball team, so they bought two pairs of shoes and each wears one green and one pink shoe for mismatched pairs. The shoes are on the ground but the ceiling in the new gym and for this team is higher than in previous years.

"This has been one of the best teams in the past several years," said Coach Steve Lostoski. "Jaylin has worked diligently on her setting and her connection with the hitters. Her court awareness and overall volleyball IQ are a major asset for the team. Scarlett was a front row player last season but transitioned to the libero position during the club season. She has been extremely solid. The entire team feels more comfortable when she is on the court. Senior defensive specialist, Emma Chettupuzha, has shown great improvement in both her skills and mental toughness. She was a bench

player for the past two seasons but has earned her time on the court. Senior middle hitter, Camryn Smith, started as an outside hitter last season, but I moved her to the middle, and she has been improving ever since. It's been great seeing her gain confidence. Sophomore middle hitter Megan Elder is one of the best players in the county, averaging sixteen kills a match. She has become a dominant force both as a hitter and as a blocker.

"The team has worked hard to create a solid defense. Our setters have been effective in creating opportunities for our hitters. I think the team has started to find their groove. They had a four-match winning streak and then lost a hard-fought contest against Quince Orchard."

"Our season is going really well," said Elder. "I think, personally, my best game was against Damascus. I had an all-time best twenty-four kills in that match, but as a team, I think we played really well against Seneca, beating them in a five-set match (25-7, 17-25, 25-13, 21-25, 15-8), but we did struggle in a few sets. It has been a lot of fun playing in the new gym. Last year, when we played at John Poole Middle School, it just didn't feel right because it wasn't our school. This place is a lot bigger and brighter. I definitely



Emma Chettupuzha, Camryn Smith, Scarlett Hunter, and Jaylin Anderson.

want to give a shoutout to junior Caroline Baltazar. She is my pepper partner. Last year as a freshman, I was very nervous, but she welcomed me immediately, including me in plays, becoming my partner. Another shout-out to captain Jaylin. She is always energetic and makes sure we all have fun."

"We have a really good team, stronger than in previous years," said Smith. "A

Continued on page 30.



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Business Briefs

Healthy Hub Has a New Home in Poolesville

The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the relocation and reopening of the Healthy Hub. Now located at the rear of Anytime Fitness, the facility is bright, open, and colorfully attractive, sporting motivational signs promoting a healthy, positive lifestyle like: “Be silly, be honest, be kind,” or “Be yourself, everyone else is taken.”

The proprietor, Laura McClure, got her start in the original location behind Poolesville Hardware, and while the space is changed, the amazing high-protein smoothies remain the same popular delicious guilt-free palate-pleasing “sweet



Laura McClure, owner of the Healthy Hub, enthusiastically cut the red ribbon for the grand reopening of her business. The PACC sponsored the event. Along with Laura are her employees, leadership of the PACC, and Town of Poolesville Commissioners.

health food” without the calories. The Hub doesn’t offer just shakes, though, they also have special donuts, muffins, peanut butter protein balls, and cake pops to make your day a little happier!

Just before making the big snip of the ribbon, Laura thanked the very large group of patrons and friends for the amazing support from residents right from the beginning. “I am so appreciative of all the support from everyone. I just love this wonderful town!”

If you are craving a large shake dessert and want to have a big variety of options as well, and most importantly, don’t want to consume more than two hundred calories, stop by to try one for yourself. Don’t let yourself be the last person in town to discover Healthy Hub. As Laurie would say, “Sip, smile, and stay awhile!”

Wow! Number Two in America!

At a recent annual Anytime Fitness National Conference, Poolesville’s Anytime Fitness was awarded Runner-Up for Coaching Club of the Year. Imagine that! Out of 2,500 Anytime Fitness locations across North America, they were chosen for second place. Joy Hallfors is so proud of her team of coaches. “To even be considered means we’ve helped a lot of people and built something truly special inside our walls.” Her message to the local members while she was returning from the conference: “A huge thank you to our members for your patience while we were away. The Anytime Fitness conference was an incredible time of inspiration, learning, and growth, and we’re coming home fired up to make our club even stronger!”



Joy Hallfors is all smiles—and for good reason. If you were ranked second out of 2,500 you would be smilin’ too.



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Things to Do

November 1

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. Pre-registration required. Visit www.umcvfd.org/cpr or call 301-972-8719 for more information. \$55. Beallsville Firehall. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

November 3

Family Movie Day

Featuring the movie *Elio*. Maggie Nightingale Library. 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

November 6

PACC Monthly Breakfast Meeting

Businesses helping businesses. *Locals Restaurant*. 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

American Legion Post 247 Monthly Meeting

All veterans welcome. *Calleva Offices, Poolesville*. 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. followed by social hour.

November 7

UMCVFD Bingo

Bring your friends and family for a night of fun, food, and fantastic prizes! Every game supports our community and your local heroes at UMCVFD. For more info, call 301-972-8719. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Games begin at 7:00 p.m.

November 8

UMCVFD Pork and Beef Fundraiser

Join UMCVFD for a delicious BBQ pork and beef fundraiser! Offering slow-smoked BBQ pork and beef, classic coleslaw, and hearty baked beans. Enjoy your meal at our covered tables or grab carryout to go! All proceeds benefit our new Training and Activity Center. Come hungry and bring your friends. Once it's gone, it's gone! Behind the *Beallsville Firehouse*. 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or until sold out.

Owl Moon Raptor Festival

Live raptor displays, kid-friendly activities, presentations on farm raptors and vultures, bird walks, and food trucks. *Black Hills Regional Park, Boyds*. 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

November 12

2nd Annual PACC

Harvest Dessert Contest

New this year: PACC welcomes entrants under 18 years of age to join in the contest. prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third places. (Donation of boxed cake mixes and premade icing will kindly be accepted at town hall November 11, 12, and 13. These items will be made into cake kits and given to WUMCO for distribution. Poolesville Town Hall. 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.; judging at 8:00 p.m.; prizes awarded at 8:30 p.m.

November 21 and 22

St. Peter's Christmas Attic

Shop for the holidays! Ornaments, decorations, wrappings, wreaths, trees, lights, candles, even Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day decorations. Elegant bar ware and tableware, vintage linens, jewelry, gifts, toys, and cooking and baking items, plus Georgian pecans. Donations accepted until November 17. Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

December 4

The Village Piecemakers Quilt Guild of Poolesville

Featuring a program about children's books and quilts. We will be sharing member-made quilts that go with six children's books. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

December 5

Poolesville's 20th Annual Holiday Lighting Festival

Holiday musical performances, Holiday Express train, ice skating rink, HMD gingerbread decorating at the Old Town Bank Museum, holiday gift basket auction, holiday gift shopping in town hall, special evening hours for the Sweet Lemon gift shop and Sugar Pea Vintage, bonfires, and food trucks. Santa arrives by firetruck at 6:30 p.m. and holiday lights are turned on at 6:45 p.m. *Whalen Commons*. 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

December 5 to 7

Vintage Shop Crawl

Shop eleven of the best, most unique vintage and antique retailers in Frederick and Montgomery Counties. This three-day special event will continue through December 14. The shops are Ampersand, Chartreuse &

Continued on page 24.



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Poolesville Green

Poolesville's Solar Array: 'Old' but Still Going Strong

By Doug Boucher

In 2013, the Town of Poolesville became the first town in Montgomery County, and only the third in the state, to create its own renewable energy system. Located next to the municipal wastewater treatment plant on the town's eastern edge, the five-acre solar array was relatively small, generating just 1.13 megawatts of power. Yet that was enough to satisfy ninety percent of the needs of all the town government's activities.

Next to the solar array is a pollinator meadow that brightens the landscape throughout the growing season, from scarlet poppies in the spring to yellow goldenrods in the autumn. Likewise, the grassy vegetation under the array is also perennial; it covers the soil all year long, preventing erosion.

The construction and management of the array was a public-private partnership, joining together the town government's efforts with contributions from Standard Solar, UGI Energy Services, and Also Energy. One helpful feature of its conception was a commitment to transparency, so that Poolesville's citizens (and anyone else in the world who has access to the web) can check how it's doing in real time. Just go to the town website at www.poolesvillemd.gov/298/Solar-Power and click on the "See how the solar array is performing" link, and you can see the amount of power being produced, right now or all the way back to the first electrons generated in 2013.

I happened to do that on Poolesville Day this year and found a remarkable coincidence. It turned out that on that day, the total electricity generated by the array in 2025 had just reached one billion watt-hours. Since it went online in December 2013, Poolesville's array has created almost sixteen billion watt-hours of clean renewable power.

That's just a dozen years ago, but in terms of renewable energy technology, it's practically the Stone Age. Since then, there has been a phenomenal increase in solar, wind, and geothermal generation, accompanied by advances in related parts of the energy system like battery storage and electric vehicles.

The cost of solar energy has dropped dramatically, from twenty cents per kilowatt-hour in 2013 to just four cents last year. The panels that capture the sunshine are now much more efficient (as well as considerably cheaper), but it's not just the hardware that has progressed. The software is better too, so that the new state-of-the-art panels change their tilt throughout the day to keep facing the sun—like sunflowers!

There's still room for old-school solutions as well. The town array is periodically grazed by sheep, keeping the vegetation below the panels at a reasonable height and generating income for local farmers. This maintains the perennial vegetation that keeps the soil covered, unlike conventional corn-soy production that may expose bare ground much of the year, leading to erosion and carbon dioxide emissions.

The town's solar array is one of many innovative clean-energy steps taken by Poolesville. Other examples include our LED streetlights, the electric vehicle (EV) chargers, the solar panels on the roof of St. Peter's Church, and the EV show on every Poolesville Day. The progress continues: Elements of government like the Sustainable Poolesville Committee, the Montgomery County Green Bank, and the PHS Global Ecology Program, are working with nonprofits such as Poolesville Green to lead the way.

When you turn on the lights or drink a glass of water in Poolesville, take a second to thank the sun. To borrow a phrase from the environmental group CCAN, it's 4.6 billion years old and still going strong.

Doug Boucher, a retired climate scientist, is the president of Poolesville Green.

Do you have any interesting local history to share with our readers? The *Monocle* welcomes your contribution.
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Youth Sports

Two Big Home Wins in Early Season For Boys' Soccer

By Jeff Stuart

On Monday, September 8, the Poolesville High School boys' soccer team opened its season with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Kennedy. It was the first athletic event in the new stadium this fall and the first outdoor home win of the school year.

"We were very glad to get that opening victory," said Coach Komi Godo at practice on Friday, September 12. "The team really worked hard. We started pretty well, getting ahead early. We had goals from both our forwards. The first came from senior Adam Abzakh, and the second from junior Shane Lawler. It really was a collective effort from the guys. They gave it their best and that is all I can ask for. It set the tone for our season. I want us to become more established and more consistent. Even though we lost our second game at Springbrook, 5-4, we came back from being down 3-0 to take the lead. We have two great goalkeepers, senior Dominic Bradley and junior Adam Singh."

"We had a strong positive mentality going into the opener," said senior defender Isaiah Valmonte. "It was the start of the last season here for the seniors and the first home game. We finished strong as a unit and pulled out the win. A decent number of people showed up, so we had good crowd support. We got a goal in the first four minutes. That definitely set the tone for us. In the second half, we were even stronger. In the second game at Springbrook, we started out kind of flat-footed. It was rough for the first ten minutes, but we came out with a better mentality in the second half and turned it around. The back line did really well. The midfield worked hard the entire game, advancing the ball up the field and keying the comeback. I want to give a shoutout to Dominic. He started and played well in goal against Kennedy and Springbrook. He had a much better second half against Springbrook. We are both seniors, so we have played together a lot. I also want to give a shoutout to Coach Godo for keeping everyone focused and making it fun for us."



2025 PHS Boys' Soccer Team: Rear: Levi Roe, Mustapha Bojang, Isaiah Valmonte, Dennis Coronado, Denis Motuzenko, Dominic Bradley, Adam Abzakh, and Kolt Tupa. Front: Krish Pruthi, Alejandro Cruz, and Archer Dansby.

"That first goal really helped our confidence because we were not sure how we were going to do this season," said senior captain Denis Motuzenko. "Shane's goal put us ahead to stay. Like Isaiah said, we were very strong in the second half. We were maybe a little too relaxed or overconfident going into the second game at Springbrook because it is not too often that we win our opener in so convincing a fashion like that. We fell behind, but the team spirit was extremely strong, and we rallied back to take the lead. It was amazing to see all the people on the team working so hard in the second half. The defense and our goalkeeper, Dominic, held strong. I have been injured, but based on what I saw watching from the bench, I would like to give shoutouts to junior forwards, Shane and

Continued on page 18.

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Continued from page 1.

The New PHS Sports Facilities Dedicated to True Sports Legends

teacher and coach at Albert Einstein and Walter Johnson High Schools. In 1983, he became the head boys' basketball coach at PHS. By the time he accepted the Poolesville Athletic Director position in 2006, he was already the all-time winningest coach in both boys' and girls' basketball history at the school. He had similar success coaching baseball for thirteen years, football for ten years, and softball for four years, all while teaching five classes a day. Fred took the boys' basketball team to the state tournament at Cole Field House during his tenure. As an assistant football coach, his teams had multiple successful seasons, including region play and state playoffs.

Howard Lyles, a 1960 PHS graduate, lived most of his life in Montgomery County and was raised in the historic black community of Jerusalem, just outside of Poolesville. He was one of the first black students integrated into Poolesville High School in 1956. He is a natural athlete and excelled in a variety of sports. Baseball and basketball are his two greatest loves.

He attended the University of Maryland at the Eastern Shore where he received his bachelor's degree in physical education in 1965. He went on to receive his master's degree in education from George Washington University in 1971.

Howard took a position as a teacher at Poolesville High School in 1968. He taught mathematics and driver's education for much of his career at PHS. In the early 1970s, Howard became the head of the Physical Education Department, a post he held until just prior to his retirement in 1994. Before accepting this position, Howard was Athletic Director from the late 1960s to the early 1970s. During virtually his entire career at PHS, Howard coached one or more sports. He simultaneously coached three sports at PHS: soccer (head coach), basketball (assistant coach), and baseball (head coach). When a PHS football team was established, he became the assistant coach of the team and continued to coach baseball. Eventually, he stopped coaching baseball and became the head coach of the track team while continuing to coach football, until he retired from coaching.

Howard's teams had great success over the years. The baseball teams he coached made it to the state playoffs three times. In his final year of coaching, the team was undefeated in the regular season but unfortunately lost during the State Championship game. The track teams he coached were co-ed and were, as he puts it, "Small but mighty." Many of the students won region championships and state titles in their events. Howard was inducted into the Poolesville High School Hall of Fame in 2018.

On Friday, September 5, the Falcon girls JV and varsity volleyball teams symbolically swept away the last of the construction dust in the new gym by defeating Rockville, 2-0 and 3-0. In the first game of the varsity match, Poolesville breezed to an early 8-2 lead, but the Rams battled back to tie it at 20-20 before falling, 25-23. PHS took games two and three by scores of 25-13 and 25-12, respectively.

The excitement of playing in the gym for the first time was shared by all. "We are so pleased with the new gym," said coach Steve Lostoski. "It is big, bright, and gives us plenty of room for both matches and practices. With the old gym, we could only have one practice at a time, so we had to stagger JV and varsity practice times. This led to players not finishing practice until 7:30 p.m. and then needing to travel home, which for some could be over thirty minutes away. The students were having late days which was not ideal. It was tough going through the building process, as we had to practice in our auxiliary gym with its lower ceiling, but it was well worth the wait. I want to give a shout out to Principal Jon Green and the staff at John Poole Middle School for allowing us to have our home games there last year. In addition, they allowed us to have tryouts there this year and some practices prior to the opening of the new gym. Without their support, we would have had all 'away' games last year. Everyone at JPMS was very helpful and accommodating. We truly appreciated it."

"The larger, updated, modernized gym has been a labor of love for our entire school community," said PHS Principal Mark Carothers. "I am so pleased that our students now have access to athletic facilities that will support our physical education and athletic programs, as well as a larger space for other student community-building events, such as speedball and indoor pep rallies. I am also honored to celebrate Fred Swick's legacy and impact on Poolesville High School through the naming of the gym and including his signature on the court; it is wonderful to include such an important part of Poolesville High School history as we begin our next chapter."

"I was so pumped to start in this beautiful new gym," said starting senior captain and starting setter, Jaylin Anderson, "but I was also excited because it

was our first game as a team, and I think we really got to show off our potential for success in our future games.

"I must give a shoutout to another captain, senior libero Scarlett Hunter. She was a middle hitter her first two years. She is an amazing leader and one of my favorite people. She makes beautiful passes. She has really helped me get better—and to senior Megan Elder, our middle hitter. She is a very patient player and our go-to hitter...Senior Caroline Baltazar is tiny and was a libero last year. She is an outside hitter this year, and you cannot underestimate her. She makes some great kill shots. We only recently started practicing in the new gym. The lighting is great. There is so much space, and the ceiling is so high. You can play volleyball in here."

"It was really exciting," said Scarlett. "The first game in the new gym and a lot of people came. I think we were very consistent with our passing, and I think that carried us throughout the match. We had so much support from the stands. So many people came. I think that really helped us keep our energy up."

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2nd Annual PACC Harvest Dessert Contest

Wednesday, November 12
Poolesville Town Hall
19721 Beall Street

Drop Off Time: 6:15PM-7:30PM

Judging Time: 8:00PM

Winners Announced: 8:30PM

- NEW THIS YEAR...PACC would like to welcome any youth (under 18 years old) bakers to join the contest.
- Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners.

****Donation of box cake mixes and premade icing will kindly be accepted at the Town Hall November 11th, 12th and 13th. These items will be made into cake kits and given to WUMCO for distribution. ****



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Continued from page 16.

Two Big Home Wins in Early Season for Boys' Soccer

Rory Peang-Meth. They have been pressing really hard. Whenever there is a loose ball or a chance to put the ball back on the other side of the field, they are doing that. They have really battled hard. Another shoutout goes to the bench. We were loud and encouraging in the Springbrook game, trying to initiate a comeback, and it worked because we got four goals back on them."

The Falcons had a satisfying win at home against Damascus on Tuesday, September 16. Due to pouring rain, there were fewer spectators than expected, but the Falcons were anything but flat-footed early in this contest, defeating the Hornets, 2-0. Keeping the ball on the Damascus side of the field for much of the first half, PHS had what appeared to be a header for an early goal disallowed by an offside call, but they finally scored on a well-executed corner kick from senior midfielder Kolt Tupa that Isaiah deposited in the net with about ten minutes to play in the first half. A few minutes later, senior forward Alejandro Cruz scored again for the Falcons on a breakaway goal into the center of the net. The Falcons took a 2-0 lead into halftime. They had a good scoring opportunity right at the start of the second half, and midway through the half, a Poolesville shot hit the right post.

The Hornets' best scoring chance came shortly thereafter. Goalkeeper Adam Singh blocked a shot, but it bounced off him into the air. He corralled it again with Hornet players all around him. He cramped on the play, and Dominic took over in goal for the remainder of the game, making several saves. Damascus had a late chance to score on a breakaway but shot wide of the goal. The Falcon defensive backs were outstanding throughout the contest.

Remarkably, in the game on October 15 against Albert Einstein High School, Dominic kicked a sixty-six-yard goal from a free kick. As the goalie, he took a free kick, and it went right over the other keeper's head to score!

The team finished the season with a 6-6-1 record.

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Thanksgiving Time

When all the leaves are off
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And nuts and apples gathered in,
And cornstalks waiting for the cows,
And pumpkins safe in barn and bin,
Then Mother says, "My children dear,
The fields are brown, and
autumn flies;
Thanksgiving Day is very near,
And we must make
thanksgiving pies!"

-Anonymous

At Grandma's House

I like the taste of turkey
Any time throughout the year.
But it never seems to taste as good
As when Thanksgiving's here.
Could be it's all the trimmings
That are cooked with it to eat,
But I think it's eating at
Grandma's house
That makes it such a treat!

-Anonymous



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Youth Sports

Win at Northwest Highlights Division Title Run for PHS Girls' Soccer

By Jeff Stuart

The Poolesville High School girls' soccer team rattled off four straight wins to start the season. That was the best start of any of the fall sports teams. The highlight of that winning streak was a 2-1 win over Northwest at home on September 18. Northwest is new to the North Division this year. The streak included home wins over Kennedy and Springbrook, and a 4-3 win at Damascus.

"We are a young team making great progress," said Coach George Penn. "Five freshmen and three sophomores are regular starters. We secured the North Division Title with four wins and one loss in the division. We beat Northwest for the first time in over ten years. Through the first eight games, we outscored our opponents, 29-12. "Sophomore Caitlin Elder is our top goal scorer. We have had stellar goalkeeping by sophomore Renari Frazier. She has made multiple game-changing saves. Our strong back line is anchored by junior Emma Weyrauch, junior captains junior Addison Kain and senior mid Jazmine Vanegas. All have started every match this season."

"It has been a great year," said Elder. "We have such good chemistry. We work really well together in all aspects of soccer. We have great defense and attacking. Our best game was against Northwest. It was a low-scoring game. We played very well. We were very compact. We went down 1-0 in the beginning, but with our team spirit, we fought back and were able to win. Personally, my best game was against Kennedy. I scored two goals and had an assist."

"Our freshmen have made an impact. Almost all of them start, depending on injuries. They are so good. They are one of the main reasons this team is winning. My biggest shoutout goes to Renari. She makes incredible saves and has kept us in games."

"We are very positive," said junior defender Emma Weyrauch. "All the juniors and seniors have been working together for a long time, and the new people coming in have added to that positive chemistry."



2025 PHS Girls' Soccer Team

"The Northwest game was big for us as a team. We played really well throughout. I also want to give a shoutout to Renari and to our midfielder and captain, Jazmine. She is always upbeat. She is always hustling and giving her best, backing us up on defense."

The team ended the season with a 6-6-1 record.

Camilla Henao, at midfield, is a senior. Juniors are Carson Hartke, Andrea Barillas, Lillian Jauquet, and Lily Welsh on defense, Camden Ranero at midfield, and Stella Volpe at striker.

Cailynn Rivenback, Riley Schlosberg, and Molly Schmidt are sophomores.

Freshmen are Sophia Dirks, Carina Lundgren, Nia Kontos, Sia Reyes, and Vivian Ritter. The JV and assistant varsity coach is Sarah Mullikin.

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Youth Sports

Girls' Flag Football Settles in for the Long Haul

By Jeff Stuart

The fanfare and media attention of the inaugural season of flag football in Montgomery County last year has faded, but the enthusiasm among the participants for the sport is strong. It is quickly becoming a notable part of the fall sports calendar. Last year, the girls were allowed to participate in two fall sports. Many did, but this season, the athletes had to make a choice.

"So far it has been a little bit of a mixed bag for us," said new coach Michael Davis.

"We have a strong defense, and we are still developing the offense. We are a fairly young team. We have mostly juniors and sophomores, and four freshmen, so they are still learning the game. We are still trying to figure out new pieces on the offensive side. but our defense has been very strong. It will be very strong again next year. We will only lose one starter. Our best game was at Seneca Valley. We played extremely good defense against them. They only had two first downs in the whole game, and we scored three offensive touchdowns. That was our most complete game. Although we lost to Northwest in double overtime, that was a very good game as well. They are a very good team. We played Watkins Mill at home. They are fast and a very run-oriented team. We played very well against the run, and we were very quick defensively, but they were pretty quick on offense and made a couple of big plays against us."

"We are doing really well," said Straniero. "We are young. Our chemistry is amazing. Our record doesn't show how good we are. We have been dealing with some injuries, but we are learning. I think our best games were Northwest and Gaithersburg. I scored touchdowns in both of those games, two against Gaithersburg. Our offense struggled a bit in both games. Our defense picked us up. I am a center and wide receiver on offense, and I feel like I played very well on the defensive side. I am a safety and pass rusher on defense. Personally, my best game was against Seneca Valley. I had a touchdown, a two-point conversion, and two interceptions. It was a complete game for us. We had a shutout and scored



PHS flag football seniors: Addison Barrett, Hyunbee Cho, Erin Kwon, Olivia Sordo, Zoe Hornyak, Mehek Patnaik, Issabella Duncan, and Katlyn Christ.

twenty-two points. I want to give a shoutout to junior Brynn Miller. She plays really well on defense. Freshman Malika Barry has played well. It is her first time playing flag. Junior Nyah Huang, our pass rusher and running back, and junior Rayleen Woods, a running back, are some of the best players on our team."

"We are a pretty fresh, new team," said Miller, a slot receiver, running back, and wide receiver who starts at cornerback on defense. "We lost a lot of good seniors last year, so we are having to bring our freshmen trained and up to speed. This is an opportunity for them to learn. Hopefully, we will have a good season and will be more competitive next season. The freshmen that came out have so much potential. I think our best games were Seneca and Northwest. We won by a lot at Seneca. We had a lot of good teamwork. The Northwest game was more challenging. They are a good team, and we lost in double overtime. We gave them a run for their money. I am proud of that. I had a pick six that tied the game up late in the second half. Shoutout to Malika. She has really stepped up. She has improved a lot and had a great game on defense against Gaithersburg. We won that one, 22-0. Obviously, AnnaMay is a great center and safety. Rayleen is a great running back, and Nyah, they are really good players. We have a close-knit team. They give their all and are so much fun to play with. I have never been a part of anything like this. I look forward to coming to every practice."

Seniors are Zoe Hornyak, Hyunbee Cho, Katlyn Christ, Addison Barrett, Olivia Sordo, Mehek Patnaik, Issabella Duncan, and Erin Kwon.

Juniors are Nyah Huang, Elizabeth Reed, Kasey Wesselink, Alina Vicinelly, and Rayleen Woods.

Sophomores are Addison Hagen, Chloe Barbieri, Cassidy Cessna, and Hedy Tayman.

Brooklyn Corbett, London Simpson, and Arianna Cypress are freshmen.

The team finished the season with a 2-10 record.

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Continued from page 13.

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December 6

Santa Breakfast

A jolly morning for the whole family! Come for pancakes, presents, and pictures with Santa. Photos: \$2.00. You may also use your personal cameras. For more info, visit www.um-cvfd.org/santa or call 301-972-8719. Adults: \$13.00; Ages 3 to 17: \$10.00; Under three: Free. Beallsville Firehall. 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

December 20

Santa Is Coming to Poolesville!

Santa will be at Sugar Pea Vintage shop, and you may schedule a time to have a picture with Ol' St. Nick by scanning the QR Code on page 26. Great time to do some early shopping for many unique gift ideas.

Santa Ride

Santa's trading his sleigh for a fire-truck for one night!. Keep your eyes peeled—Santa's coming to your street and bringing the Holiday spirit with his annual ride around town. For more info, call 301-972-8719.



Remembrances

Abby E. Dunn

Abby E. Dunn, 55, of Tallahassee, Florida, passed away on Saturday, September 13, 2025.

She was born in Washington, D.C., the first daughter of John D. and Karen J. Dunn, on September 30, 1969.

Abby was raised in Dickerson, surrounded by fresh air, friends, and lots of Maryland sunshine, but spent summers in Fayetteville, West Virginia, and Belton, South Carolina, going on adventures with her many cousins. Abby was an active member of Barnesville Baptist Church and a large youth group, surrounded by many friends. It was during the annual youth group trip to Flora Gillam's beach house in Rehoboth that Abby cemented her love for the beach.

She graduated from Poolesville High School alongside her best friends in 1987. She attended the University of Maryland, graduating with a B.S. in Information Science. She worked as a receptionist at the public defender's office while attending school, greatly relishing putting inmates on hold to cool their heels if they were impatient with her.

After graduating, she worked performing on-site implementations for software systems, work that took her on an extended stay to Tallahassee. She took an instant shine to the area, the people, and its close location to Florida's "Forgotten Coast," especially St. George Island. She found work with the State of Florida, bought a home, and built a life.

Abby loved music of all sorts, especially metal from the 1980s. In fact, if you look closely at Metallica's website, you'll find a photo of Abby and friends from a concert in the late eighties. She was a longtime member of the Tallahassee Parrotheads and loved attending concerts and shows. In 2015, she met Ed Boyack, and together they loved taking trips, listening to music, and attending Florida State football games.

Abby was one of the hardest workers you'd ever encounter. Everything she took on she did in a meticulous, diligent way. Abby was the Treasurer of the Nugen Cemetery Trust, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of her family's heritage, farm, and cemetery in Fayetteville, West Virginia. Her work was a declaration of her love for her family and to the memory of many beloved family members.

Abby is survived by her parents; one sister, Linda Standley (Rob); one niece, Jordan Smith; one nephew, Braden Smith; and cousins, Ken, Heather, Ricky, Christi, Steven, Michelle, Jason, Dana, Danielle, Marian, Karen, Julie, Sherry, Scott, Lisa, Donald, Heather, Robert, Michelle, Trevor, Kathy, Vicky, Lori, Craig, and Brent.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the Nugen Cemetery Trust, 1154 High Meadow Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32311.



Abby E. Dunn

Judith Ann Twigger

Judith "Judy" Ann Twigger, 84, of Poolesville, passed away on September 2, 2025.

She was the loving wife of the late Richard Twigger. Born on October 29, 1940 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, she was the daughter of the late Steve Macurak and Loretta Metzger.

Judy loved to spend the holidays and weekends with family, lunch outings with friends, and every Sunday she would make the best meatballs.

Judy is survived by her daughter, Lynda D'Amelio (Peter); one sister, Jean Lane (Joe); and three grandchildren, Jami, Ryan, and Sam.

Judy was preceded in death by her husband; parents; and son, Rick Twigger.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in her memory to the Alzheimer's Association.



Judith Ann Twigger

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Remembrances

Thomas Benton Jeffers

Thomas Benton Jeffers, 64, of Middletown, passed away on October 13, 2025.

Born on November 30, 1960, in Maryland, he was the son of the late Donald E. and Doris E. (Hawse) Jeffers.

Tom enjoyed hunting, automobiles, and a really good steak. He loved the country life and was in his element when he was working the land on his John Deere tractor. Tom collected antiques and relished the work he did, with his own hands, restoring his Civil War-era farmhouse.

Tom was very proud of those he loved and took every opportunity to share about them. Tom will be lovingly reunited with his beloved dog, Frangelica, his faithful companion known to all as "Frannie" or "Fran."

Tom took tremendous pride in his work. He established his own business, Antietam Refrigeration (previously Antietam Heating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration) in 1983. His peers often praised his persistent work ethic and "old school" honesty. His customers were more than clients; they were family to him, and many became personal friends.

Thomas is survived by his sons; Christopher Thomas Jeffers, wife, Casey, and Jeremy W. Jeffers; his devoted fiancée; Nadine Dintzer, one sister; Brenda Thew, husband, Lee, two grandchildren; Cecilia G. Jeffers and Archie Benton Jeffers and two nephews, Alex Thew, wife Caroline, and Zachary Thew, wife Wendy, and their children Easton, Elliott and Emmett.

Tom dearly loved his sister, Karen Denise Jeffers, who preceded him in death in 1978.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations be made in his memory to the Frederick County Humane Society (<https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/fchs/mobile>) or Frederick Community College to help support the next generation of HVAC Technicians.



Thomas Benton Jeffers

Gus Mohammadi

Gus Mohammadi of Barnesville died on September 5, 2025 at the age of 72.

Gus was a devoted and loving husband, father, brother, uncle, and friend. Born on November 12, 1952 in Malayer, Iran, he was the proud son of the late Ahmed and Pari Mohammadi.

Gus studied aeronautical engineering at East Carolina University but chose racecars instead of rocket ships. He was an avid participant in road racing with the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA). Gus owned and operated ESM Racing with his wife and crew chief, Jan, and was a Porsche master mechanic and race engineer, helping his driver to break numerous track records in the Eastern United States.

Gus made friends wherever he went and was always there to offer a helping hand and welcoming smile to everyone. He touched many lives and will be deeply missed by everyone that knew him.

He is survived by his wife Anne (Jan) Mayfield Mohammadi; daughter, Mitra Mohammadi Tolson (Mark); stepdaughter, Melissa Wingate (Marc); Stephanie Todd, widow of predeceased stepson Christopher Todd; sister, Mojgan Mohammadi Rahai (Saeed); brother, Hamid Mohammadi; and niece, Nelou Rahai. The family would also like to honor his dear friend and uncle, Dr. Mahmood Mohamadi, his sons Ali and Afshin Mohamadi, and their children.



Gus Mohammadi

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Remembrances

Christopher Keith Kindel

Christopher "Chris" Keith Kindel, 56, of Martinsburg, West Virginia, passed away peacefully on October 18, 2025, surrounded by loved ones. Born on April 6, 1969, in Maryland, Chris lived a life full of service, adventure, and love for his family.

Chris proudly served eight years in the United States Marine Corps, embodying strength, discipline, and loyalty in all that he did. His service took him around the world and into the heart of conflict, where he demonstrated exceptional courage and commitment to his fellow Marines. Throughout his military career, Chris earned numerous commendations, including the National Defense Service Medal, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with Star, Combat Action Ribbon, Navy Sea Service Ribbon with Two Stars, Overseas Service Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, and the Devils Landing Salty Warrior Medal. These honors reflect not only his bravery and sacrifice but also the deep respect he earned from those who served beside him.

After his military service, Chris devoted over 26 years to the Montgomery County Fire Department, where his courage, humor, and compassion left a lasting mark on his colleagues and community alike.

Outside of work, Chris found joy in life's simple and meaningful moments. He loved traveling to new places, playing different golf courses, attending sports games with friends, and cooking meals that brought people together. He had a gift for storytelling, often having "one better," and despite his stoic front, he was the kind of person whose presence made everyone feel at ease.

Chris is survived by his parents, John F. Cooley, Jr. and Margaret (Webb) Cooley; his children, Andrew Kindel and Bryan Kindel; and his brothers, Jason Kindel Sr. (Mandi), John F. Cooley III, and Nicholas Cooley (Danielle). He was a proud uncle to Jason Kindel Jr., Abby Kindel, Katie Kindel, Connor Cooley, and Milo Cooley. He was a dear friend and "brother" to many, and he is eternally grateful for those that remained close and supported him through the past year.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department (<https://umcvfd.org/donations/>) in honor of Chris's lifelong commitment to helping others.



Christopher Keith Kindel

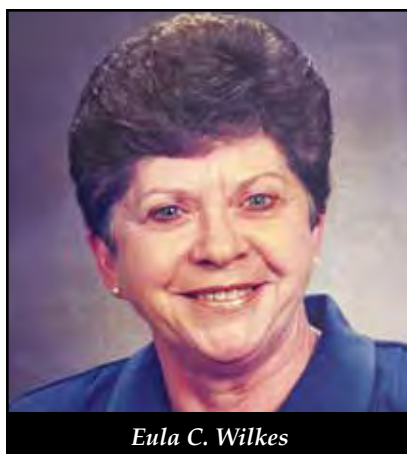
Eula C. Wilkes

Eula C. Wilkes, 81, of Dickerson, passed away on August 29, 2025. She was the loving wife of Gene W. Wilkes, Sr. Born on January 26, 1944 in West Virginia, she was the daughter of the late Alonzo and Rosa Asbury.

Eula was a loving wife and mother. She was a devout Christian who loved her Lord and was a dedicated church member. She enjoyed bowling with friends and family.

Eula is survived by her husband, Gene; daughter, Lisa Wilkes Badstibner (Rob); one brother, Chester Asbury (Maria); one sister, Daisy A. Daniels (Albert); eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her two sons, Gene Wilkes, Jr. and Kevin Wilkes, Sr.; sisters, Margie Wells, Dorothy Riley, Nanny Phillips, Doris Asbury, Veda Rose, and Beulah Combs; and brothers, Hubert Asbury, Carlisle Asbury, Edward Asbury, and Elmer "John" Asbury.



Eula C. Wilkes

Esgar Roque

Esgar Roque of Boyds passed away suddenly on September 23, 2025. He was the cherished son of Roberto and Esther Roque.

Esgar was known throughout Boyds and Poolesville as the person you called when things broke, or you needed help. The definition of irreplaceable, Esgar will be missed by all those who had the privilege of knowing and working with him. His passing will leave a void in the hearts of his family, friends, and the equine community.

Esgar was simultaneously strong and kindhearted. He loved animals, his trucks, cookies, and a good steak.

He is survived by his parents; his wife, Catia; son, Oliver; daughter, Nora; sister, Olga; brothers, Roberto, Agustin, and Cesar; as well as many extended family members.

The family requests donations be made to the GoFundMe account: "EsgarRoque."



Esgar Roque

Carol Lee Warfield

Carol Lee Warfield, 71, of Dickerson, passed away on October 2, 2025. Born on June 5, 1954, in Frederick, she was the daughter of the late Norman R. and Catherine M. (Zimmerman) Morgan of Beallsville. She was formerly married to Stephen Craig Warfield, Sr.

Carol grew up on her family's dairy farm in Beallsville, where she learned the values of hard work, responsibility, and compassion from an early age. Working alongside her brothers and sisters, she developed a lifelong love of animals and the simple joys of country living—traits that remained with her throughout her life and shaped the caring, grounded person she became.

Carol proudly served as a devoted security guard at the NIH Poolesville campus for thirty-plus years. She had a deep love for her family, her animals, and her hometown of Poolesville. She graduated from Poolesville High School in 1972.

Carol's greatest joy came from spending time with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, who were the light of her life. She loved spending time outside, finding peace and beauty in every hummingbird that came to her feeders. Her home and her heart were always open; she was the first to lend a helping hand, offer support, or share a kind word with anyone in need. Her gentle spirit and selflessness touched the lives of all who knew her, and she will remain forever in their hearts. Carol will be remembered for her kindness, love of family, and her giving spirit.

Carol is survived by her beloved sons, Stephen Craig Warfield, Jr. (Cindy) and Matthew Warfield (Blair); seven cherished grandchildren, Chelsea, Travis (Morgan), Austin (Jennifer), Charli, Haddie, Hayes, and Cayden; and three adored great-grandchildren, Rainey, Noah, and Finnley. She is also survived by her brothers, Richard (Dick) Morgan (Sharon) and Howard Morgan; and sisters Shirley Stone Darnell (Rick) and Sandra Hollenbaugh (Michael); and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by two brothers, William (Bill) Morgan and Gene (Ginny) Morgan; and one sister, Joan Morgan.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Carol's memory to a local animal shelter or charity of your choice.



Carol Lee Warfield

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

Call Rande Davis at 301-509-9232

Continued from page 10.

Tidbits

For these alumni, the biggest change was all the common areas. The school used to just have classrooms and hallways. Now you see students socializing in the hallways, on the floors, and meeting in “collaboration rooms” — an entirely new concept in classroom space for the Class of 1970.

They were impressed by all the lighting and updated technology. No more blackboards and erasers, only whiteboards. With computers in every classroom, they could only relate by reminiscing about typewriting class with Mr. Johnson. They shared stories of the old cafeteria, detention room, and believe it or not, even the smoking area. For these former PHS Indians, they were thrilled to find that their greenhouse is still standing. Maybe this is a sign that an Agriculture Science magnet house at PHS is its true destiny.

SAR Honors Hoewing with Good Citizen Award

The president of the local General Smallwood Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), Jon Wolz, awarded Poolesville's Link Hoewing with their prestigious Bronze Good Citizenship Medal.

They recognized Link's over-twenty-seven years of volunteering in the Town of Poolesville government, including serving on its planning commission, parks board, and as a town commissioner. He currently serves as chairman of the Fair Access Committee, a local activist group advocating for gaining more county services to the town. The crown jewel of the initiative is the new high school.

They also cited him for his serving as a past PTA officer and president of the Poolesville High School and Elementary School PTAs. He was cluster coordinator for the Poolesville Cluster, advocating with policymakers on policies affecting the cluster. He has been on the leadership committee that pushed for the successful opening of John Poole Middle School. He is a Maryland Life Member of the PTA, having served twenty-two years as a PTA leader.

A partial list of his other good citizen involvement is: Starting the On the Commons events, particularly the Holiday Lighting Festival; serving on the board of WUMCO; local Jaycees; Poolesville Day Committee; and being active in both the United Memorial Methodist Church and St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Most impressively, he is the *Monocle's* star reporter, covering matters of town government and their regular meetings.

You Can Be Part of History!

The Town of Poolesville has decided that our hunter green town flag doesn't cut it anymore. Seems they think a new look is called for, they sent a clarion call to the public for volunteers to join a New Flag Design Committee. They need five creative people to join the team with their time and expertise.

The goal? To design a flag that adheres to the established standards set by the North American Vexillological (google it) Association (NAVA). They want something that is simple, meaningful, with two, no more than three colors. No lettering or seal, distinctive but relatable. Hmm, sounds familiar, but it will be something new to celebrate the nation's semiquincentennial by Poolesville Day 2026.

Just in Case You Didn't Know, Poolesville High School Ranks First

Niche.com, a national rankings and review site that analyzes schools and neighborhoods across the country, has released its 2026 list of the top public high schools in Maryland, and Poolesville ranks first.

Even JFK Would Agree with This!

When you see something, do something! Poolesville native, Mark Hoewing, noticed that the WUMCO food drop box, which has been in front of Pike and Valega's office since 2014, needed replacement. Also, while cutting the grass

at Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church (PMUMC), he noticed that the WUMCO signs (near Fisher Avenue and in front of the WUMCO offices) were in bad shape. With that in mind, he gathered up the usual suspects, Link Hoewing (his brother), Eddie Schwartzbeck (Poolesville resident, carpenter, and all-around good guy), and two of Eddie's sons, Justin and Jordan, and sprang into action.

Securing the sponsorship of PMUMC, the team decided to act. Mark also enlisted the help of brother-in-law (Teddy Burriss) and sister (Rebecca Hoewing Burriss) who created the signage which was installed on the box as well as in front of the WUMCO offices. Teddy skillfully engraved the wooden signs, and Becky painted and weather-proofed them with sealer.

On October 24, this team built a fabulous, new food drop off box about which Dr. Tim Pike, his staff, and Katie Longbrake (WUMCO Executive Director) were ecstatic.

Lesson to be learned? If you see something that needs a little TLC around town, don't wait to be asked. As Mark Hoewing might even say, “Ask not what your town can do for you, ask what you can do for your town.”

Methodist Teens Make Donation to WUMCO



Mia Stewart and Jayden Williams, along with Betty King (seated), adult leader of the youth group, presented a check to Bill McDonald, president of WUMCO Help.

The youth group from Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church presented a check for \$1,585.00 to WUMCO. The proceeds came from the second annual Rock-A-Thon. The youths raised this amount by getting people to sponsor each youth for rocking in rocking chairs all night from 7:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Various members of the church supported the rockers by stopping in throughout the night with movies, crafts, food, dogs, and music to keep the rockers awake. Lots of fun was had, and memories were made!

Of Poetry and Prose

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Autumn

The morns are meeker than
they were,
The nuts are getting brown;
The berry's cheek is plumper,
The rose is out of town.

The maple wears a gayer scarf,
The field a scarlet gown.
Lest I should be old-fashioned,
I'll put a trinket on.

—Emily Dickinson



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Continued from page 11.

PHS Girls' Volleyball: Reaching New Heights

lot of us play club volleyball together in the offseason. That really helps. We know how each other plays and how to work together. Playing that first game in the new gym was so nice. I loved how bright it was and how high the ceiling was. The past few years playing in the middle school and auxiliary gym here was not good.

"I think all of our games were good, but we had a lot of energy at Northwest, even though we lost in five sets. Sometimes, we win the first set easily, get overconfident, and then we let up a little bit. We have to stay focused. I think a lot of schools come in here thinking maybe we are not going to be so tough. Then we win the first game, and they have to pick up their game, and then we have to adjust. I really want to do well in the [region] this year because in the last couple of years we have lost in the finals, and I want to do well in the counties as well. My shoutouts go to Scarlett and Jaylin, our setter and libero. They are always pushing and encouraging the rest of us. Jaylin is the most strategic-minded person on our team. She always knows where to put the ball and tells us where we should go."

"This is one of the strongest teams we have had in a couple of years," said Chettupuzha. "I think the home opener against Rockville was a really good game for us. We served well, passed well, and hit well. I am so grateful we have the new gym because playing and practicing in the aux gym for the last two years was pretty horrible. It was also amazing to see the stands completely full. My shoutouts go to Jaylin. She is an amazing setter and the MVP of this team. Scarlett has played so well all season, and Megan has been strong as a middle hitter."

The team finished the regular season with a 10-4 record.

Other juniors are Zoe Lee, Rosalina Loznak, and Abigail Wu.

Grace Lean and Jasmin Baltazar are sophomores. Isabelle Liu and Maybelle Yoo are freshmen.

Monocacy Critters



Now that Halloween is over, how mad can they get anyway?

Photo by Suzanne Tallia

Do you have an unusual or funny picture of an pet or animal?
Mail or email the picture to editor@monocacymonocle.com
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Celebrating 36 Years of Service

The importance of At-Home Dental Care for Your Pets

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

Over 80% of our canine and feline friends have evidence of periodontal disease by three years of age. This is of course because they refuse to brush their own teeth. Kids are hard to train that way.

Periodontal disease is a big bucket of potential issues for the teeth. It includes damage to the gums from tartar, damage to the tooth/root junction, and undermining of the root ligament (Did you know that teeth are part of the skeletal system and there is a ligament of the tooth that stabilizes it in the socket?).

Your veterinarian will perform an annual oral exam to look for signs of tartar, gum disease, and loose teeth. They will also look for any oral masses. Even young dogs can sometimes get oral masses. The sooner they are identified and treated (removed) the less likely there is to be a problem in the future.

It is impossible on an oral exam to see below the gingival margin (area under the gum line) without sedation. My canine and feline friends will not sit still in a chair and talk about sports or their favorite toy selection while I am examining their mouths. For this reason, sedation is the only medically-proven way to check the teeth, get oral x-rays (radiographs), and treat any issues while removing the tartar.

There has been an increase in non-licensed individuals indicating that awake dental cleaning is as effective as sedated dental hygiene. This is not the case. If you think about it, how will someone be able to get the inside areas of the teeth clean? It is hard enough to get the ball or feather toy out of their mouths. If there is tartar and gum disease on the outside of the teeth, there is also the same on the inside.

How to help reduce your pets' need for sedation veterinary dentistry:

A major study looked at the benefit of home dental care by the owners for their furry friends. Two groups were trained to brush their pets' teeth daily for 8 weeks. Then one group was allowed to stop brushing. The other group continued for an additional 8 weeks. The results showed that while both groups benefited from brushing daily, there was considerable improvement in tartar reduction, gum inflammation, and tooth integrity for those that continued brushing.

Another study identified that a daily drinking water additive that makes teeth more slippery (trying to keep bacteria from attaching to the enamel) was also effective in reducing dental disease.

The takeaway from these studies is that having your veterinarian discuss oral care and show you how to do it and what toothpastes and water additives to use can improve your four-legged friends' oral health and reduce the need for sedated dental cleaning.

A clean mouth is a happy mouth.



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