May 6, 2022

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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Eleanor Bateman of Colony Supply and Tom Kettler, president of PACC, at a network night at Landmade Brewery. More pictures in Family Album on page 2.

The works of a local artist open new art gallery. Details on page 12.

PHS students volunteer with UPN. See Tidbits on page 14.

The thrill of the race, the fun of friends, and the love of tradition. Check it out on page 16.

Town Hears Proposal to Place Plaque Commemorating Lynching

By Link Hoewing

At its May 2 meeting, the Town of Poolesville commissioners heard about plans to commemorate the lynching of George Peck, an African American laborer who was hanged in 1880 near the current location of Locals Restaurant. Representatives from the Montgomery County Lynching Memorial Project, including local Pastor Chuck Copeland and Barbara Donzin a leader in the project, presented plans for placing a plaque about the lynching and holding various events and educational activities around its placement.

Donzin explained that the Memorial Project had come together in 2018 and it is affiliated with the national Equal Justice Initiative based in Alabama. The national organization has a museum and helps coordinate memorial activities throughout the U.S. to commemorate and educate Americans about the four thousand African Americans killed through lynching from the late 1800s through the 1950s. As part of this effort, soil is collected from the site of each lynching and is stored in jars displayed in the Equal Justice Initiative museum located in Montgomery, Alabama.

Donzin said that the group wanted to do a commemoration service in Poolesville to acknowledge the lynching of George Peck who was accused of molesting a young girl. Two other lynchings occurred in Montgomery County in Rockville. A commemoration service was held in Poolesville in November of 2019. Donzin said that Poolesville's commemoration actually preceded those held in Rockville concerning the lynchings that occurred in that city. Her group wants to partner with other groups, including the commissioners and the Historic Medley District, in order to make the plaque's placement meaningful and educational for the public. She said the owners of Locals, David and Sandy Therriault, had already pledged their full cooperation regarding the project. The initial plan is to place the plaque near the John Poole House which is near Locals and in the vicinity of where the lynching took place.

Pastor Chuck Copeland, who is a minister at the Hosanna Worship Center and has long been involved with the Memorial Project, said "This place hangs its hat on history…It is important to me that the young people grow up knowing the true history of our town." He is convinced that the people of the Poolesville area "have the courage to look at ourselves." He pointed out that there were at one time many plantations dotted around Poolesville and, when he drives into town and through the open fields, he thinks about the likelihood that many of his relatives

Continued on page 8.

Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Winery, Custom Crush Facility, Restaurant, and Event Venue near Golf Course

By Rande Davis

A few weeks ago, we watched as the clubhouse at the Poolesville Golf Course was torn down, and along with it went decades of memories of after-round beers, company parties, weekend darts in the knotty-pine bar, weddings, and community dances—many, many dances. Most alarmingly, was the disappearance of the ghost of Bernie Siegel. Legend has it that ol' Bernie committed suicide after his dream in the early sixties for a planned community for thirty thousand people with its own country club went down the drain. Some people claimed that if one looked closely at the upstairs window of the clubhouse at sunset, one could still see the ghost of Bernie wandering listlessly in that upstairs room still dreaming his dream. Now, maybe, Bernie will finally rest in peace.

Groundbreaking with local leaders who envisioned the new Crossvines, winery, restaurant, event center, and more at Poolesville Golf Club.

On Saturday, April 30, the facility named the Crossvines hosted a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the beginning of construction on its new multipurpose facility.

The Crossvines, which will be a dining and tourist destination, research vineyard, winery and custom crush

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Family Album

Jim Bindeman (Celebration Mailers), Olivia Murphy (PACC BOD and Calleva), Dave Hedrick (PFS Investments), Lina Ganassa (Belina Gifts), and Jackie Hopkins (PFS Investments).

POOLESVILLE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
PACC
EST. 1979

PACC Network Event at Landmade Brewery

Kailee McLure (Healthy Hub), Ashley Elliott (Balloony Bin), Kina Jones (HomeFirst Mortgage).

LANDMADE

Erika Reed, Commissioners Jeff Eck and Ed Reed.

Lynn Andreas Arndt, CEO, BlackRock Center for the Arts, Laurie-Anne Sayles, at-large candidate for Montgomery County Council, and Chris Arndt.

Kwame Cudjoe (Moco Foods), Penny Cudjoe, Romy Nunez (Foresight Insurance), and Marilyn Balcombe (president, Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce).

JaLynne Prince, President and Founder Madison House Autism Foundation, Val Dickerson, and Brice Halbrook, WesBanco Mortgage.

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Local News

Public Forum: County Council Candidates

By Rande Davis

The candidates for Montgomery County Council District 2 attended the public forum sponsored by the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce (PACC) and the Fair Access Committee (FAC) on April 28 at Poolesville Town Hall. While the town hall was filled, the number of viewers on YouTube included another few dozen. The forum is still available for interested voters on the town's YouTube channel.

This is the first election since the county expanded council districts from five to seven. The Upcounty, District 2, includes Poolesville north to Little Bennett Regional Park, south to the McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area, and the east border includes Germantown and North Potomac.

Link Hoewing, the *Monocle's* town government reporter, represented the FAC in moderating the event. Questions included submissions by the attendees at the event. Topics included: solutions about White's Ferry, Poolesville's low ranking in healthcare services, protecting the Ag Reserve, equity in county-provided services, the environment, economic growth, skills and trade education, transportation and Route 270 problems, senior housing, and county permitting practices as a hindrance to prosperity.

Candidates for Montgomery County Council: William Roberts, Lorna Phillips Ford, Marilyn Balcombe, and Don Cuda.

The specific answers provided by the candidates may be seen on the town's YouTube site. The following presents a recap of each candidate, and opening and closing statements.

Lorna Phillips Ford, Democrat, is a thirty-five-year resident of Germantown and has two daughters living in Clarksburg. She is the small business owner of Aria Travel Service. She is a product of Montgomery County Public Schools and a former substitute teacher in the county.

She promotes her background as a community advocate whose education and employment background are important to dealing with the complexities of county financial and budgetary concerns. She came to the county from New York as a financial analysist for IBM. She has a Business Administration degree from Virginia State University and an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh.

In her closing remarks, she emphasized her small business background, applicable education in respect to key issues in the county, her community service advocacy, and as being someone who truly cares, listens, and addresses solutions that bring results. Her stated priorities are jobs, education, transportation, the environment, gun violence, and police reform.

Marilyn Balcombe, Democrat, is a thirty-year county resident living in Germantown and is the CEO of the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce. Her employment background includes being an accountant and an organizational psychologist which provides the experience to deal with complex budgets. She is a community advocate, founding president of her HOA, member of the PTA, Cross Country Moms, past chair of Community for Montgomery, program chair for Leadership Montgomery, and vice chair for Future Links, a program to help first generation college students navigate the education system. She is the former Executive Direct of BlackRock Center for the Arts during its construction.

She promotes her leadership background and endorsement by Ike Leggett, the former Montgomery County executive director. Through her

Continued on page 17.

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Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce

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PART TIME

PACC Executive Secretary

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- Flexible hours
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- Additional job description details are posted on the PoolesvilleChamber.Com
- Estimated start date: July 1, 2022

Rande(m) Thoughts

As Joan Rivers Used To Say, 'Can We Talk?'

By Rande Davis

The last two weeks continued our heavy rush of exciting news for the area—I even thought of entitling this column "Fast and Furious." In baseball terms, we had the bases loaded when a home run boomed over the wall.

Loading the bases started with the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce (PACC) having ribbon-cutting ceremonies for three businesses and a network event at Landmade Brewery. The PACC seemed to be everywhere, heralding local businesses and bringing them together to network for success.

Then the long-anticipated opening of the Riverworks Art Center with its two locations—one at Alden Farms, the other at Locals—finally happened on May Day, and it did not disappoint. As a reflection of the town, I don't want us to get a big head, but this is pure class. The intriguing and empathetic work of Sydney Therriault will be available for all to see through September.

Then the Willard family officially released their new plan to the planning commission for the property next to town hall, and while it came too late for us to go into it in detail in this issue, it really does appear that they really listened and put on paper the priorities of the town.

Then the cleanup hitter came to bat! I can hear it so clearly: The wind up, the pitch, Holy Cow, that ball is going, going, gone! The groundbreaking of the Crossvines winery, restaurant, and event center at Poolesville Golf Course is a grand slam in all our books. The facility is a new and amazing venue sure to boost our economy and culture. It is a testament to a bold vision by the county political leaders who, for ten years, worked to get this done and who should be thoroughly applauded.

All this exciting news was framed by the assurance of normalcy as once again there was a public forum for candidates running for county council. Rebuilding Together hustled with an energetic crew of volunteers, and the town started promoting its traditional SpringFest. How fitting that the first town event post-COVID is a beer blast. Guess we can all drink to that.

Even with all this news, the headline this issue was what really drove the title to this column: The call for us to talk. A conversation about our history regarding race relations is being sought by the leaders of our African American community, especially as it relates to the lynching of an African American, George Peck, in the late nineteenth century. The Rev. Chuck Copeland is heading an initiative to place a historical marker as a remembrance to the injustice. The mission is to use this as a way of opening dialogue among us on this and other race-based issues in Poolesville. The plan is to set in motion a series of small gatherings of people sharing their thoughts and desiring a healing process to begin.

Anytime friends can talk together over concerns they share is welcomed. Having said that, we must also recognize these times we share can make this endeavor especially difficult. I am not sure the incident in question is the best one to use as the beginning of discussion on race relations. We will find out if it really is possible to have an open and honest discussion and if it can be done without the prevailing cancel culture infecting us.

As we prepare to open our hearts and minds on the topic of past racial injustices, let me share something I really saw just two days ago. Something we must always keep in mind, before remembering our past, and understanding that the past is not the present.

As a group of eight or nine white teen-aged boys were walking near Whalen Commons, a black teenager approached them in a swift rush. As the first two boys came together, the hugs and embraces were so warm and joyous as to cause both to fall tumbling together on the ground. Apparently, the black teenager had been away, and this was the first they had seen each other in some time. Laughing hysterically, the two rose from the ground with the black teenager going from one white teenager to the others sharing high fives and hugs. We can decide to share our shame together if we must, but do not lose sight of what we have achieved. These kids learned the gift of friendship from Poolesville parents of today.

I have many reservations and concerns about placing a permanent marker commemorating such a terrible incident in our history. Are we really sophisticated enough to fully, openly, and honestly be able to discuss this without many misunderstandings? If, after listening to the discussion, I think such a marker is ill-advised for us, will that mark me as a racist? Will this discussion lead to even better relations between the races or might it prove otherwise? Will it heal a wound or cause a new one? This will be a challenging process.

Letter to the Editor

In a recent issue of the *Monocle*, there was reporting on the water rates charged by the town versus the rates charged by WSSC and Rockville. The service provided by Poolesville is not comparable to that provided by WSSC. Comparing the rates of Poolesville and WSSC is an apples-to-oranges comparison. I have lived in Montgomery County for over six decades and moved to Poolesville three years ago. I thought that because Poolesville is in Montgomery County, the water would be comparable. It is not. I did not perform due diligence with respect to the water prior to moving here.

The level of Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) in Poolesville water is significant. Dissolved minerals such as calcium are high. As a result, scale quickly builds up on faucets and internally in clothes washers, refrigerators, dishwashers, water heaters, etc. This shortens the life of home water-using components. Solids precipitate out when ice cubes are made with town water leaving little solid crumbs in beverages. Many of my neighbors have installed full home water treatment systems and filters to remove the TDS. A whole home treatment system can cost $5,000 and require ongoing maintenance. Others buy bottled water or install filters at faucets.

The water pressure in my area off Jerusalem Road is so low that many homes have had to install water pressure booster pumps and tanks. This system costs $2,500. In some homes at higher elevation, the water pressure is too low for normal showers without boosting.

The water is not treated with fluoride as in the rest of the county's municipal water system. This can necessitate fluoride treatments at the dentist.

When the town provides a comparable product that does not require thousands of dollars of remediation measures, the rates with WSSC can be compared. Until then, it will be a long time before I break even with the lower Poolesville rates.

—Jim Rapp, Jerusalem Church Road

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Keeping an Eye on Local News

Published and Edited by
John Clayton and Rande Davis

John Clayton
Production
Financial
301.461.8840
jclayton@monocacymonocle.com

Rande Davis
Advertising
Circulation
301.509.9232
rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

Dominique Agnew
Copyediting
dqagnew@gmail.com

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

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

Contributing Writers
Link Hoewing
linkhoe@aol.com
Maureen O'Connell
mafoconnell@msn.com
Susan Petro
bsusan424@gmail.com
Kenny Sholes
kcs7110@gmail.com
Jeffrey S. Stuart
sark10@juno.com
Jack Toomey
jackt21262@aol.com
Jon Wolz
wolzjon@hotmail.com
Lauren Raskins
Student Reporter, PHS News
laurenraskins5@gmail.com

Contributing Photographer
Terri Pitts
terri.pitts@gmail.com

Layout and Graphics
AnyArt Solutions LLC
sales@AnyArtSolutions.com

Fun Facts Contributor
Laura Muncy
laura@AnyArtSolutions.com

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Garden

Local Students Celebrate Earth Day 2022

By Maureen O'Connell

On Friday, April 22, students at Monocacy Elementary School in Barnesville joined Amy and Garth Seely's LAND (Land and Nature Discoveries) crew at their school to celebrate Earth Day. For the past fifty years, Earth Day has been celebrated by billions of people around the globe.

At Monocacy this year, every student in every grade participated in age-appropriate activities. Each class rotated through various projects, such as weeding the school grounds and gardens, mulching, and planting flowers.

LAND was founded by Garth Seely in 2005. He wanted to share his love of nature and the outdoors with other people, especially children. His two sons at that time were students at Monocacy Elementary, and he started there to develop a program of interpretive field trips for the young students. His "LAND crew children" helped in community projects such as road cleanups, river cleanup, and school beautification plans. Over the years, his program has grown and includes many schools in Montgomery County. Nature is all around us, but very often, children and adults get caught up in everyday chores and distractions, and they forget to look around and admire nature and to also help nature prosper and enrich our lives.

Earth Day has an interesting and meaningful history. In 1970, Wisconsin Sen. Gaylord Nelson, along with many more people worldwide, witnessed the disastrous results of the California oil spill on the environment and its inhabitants. He pledged to create a grassroots demonstration of thousands of students at colleges and universities across the United States. He called to action all Americans to stand up for the environment. He organized protests for a healthy, sustainable Earth. He called on us to examine more closely air pollution from factories and freeways, as well as the loss of habitats for animals and animal extinction. Because of these national rallies, the first Earth Day helped create the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the enactment of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts into law. Now, fifty years later, we are still facing these environmental problems, even to a greater extent.

In a small, but very important way, Amy and Garth Seely are helping children face and bring alive the problems we have created for our planet and how they can begin to do their part in the healing process.

Earth Day at Monocacy Elementary School with Garth Seely's LAND crew.

Would you like to announce a meeting, club, or upcoming event in **Things to Do?**

Then let us know! Send it along to *editor@monocacymonocle.com*

Business Briefs

PACC Presides over Two Ribbon-Cutting Ceremonies for Poolesville Businesses

On April 23, Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce president Tom Kettler presided over ribbon-cutting ceremonies for two chamber members, Essence Dance Studio and Performing Arts, and Crazy Running.

The *Monocle* first celebrated the opening of Essence Dance Studio and Performing Arts last fall when Claire Jones picked up the baton of ballet training and performance from Fran Ichijo of Hope Garden Children's Ballet Academy.

Claire Jones, a 2010 graduate of Poolesville High School and one of the more prominent students at Hope Garden since she was just six years old, was considered the perfect replacement by Fran Ichijo.

Claire danced and performed under Miss Fran throughout her academic years, leaving temporarily from the age of eleven to thirteen to train with the Maryland Youth Ballet, and performed with the Joffrey Ballet and American Ballet Theatre at the Kennedy Center with its annual Nutcracker performances. She returned to Miss Fran and stayed until graduation from high school.

This summer, Essence Studios is offering a full lineup of half-day camps for ages three to six (mornings) and six to ten (afternoons), including "Broadway Bound" and "Dance Mania"! In addition, there are a wide range of afternoon and evening jazz, tap, and ballet classes at varying experience levels for ages seven to eighteen. Middle schoolers and high schoolers may also want to check out their two-week Musical Theatre Camp that culminates in a cabaret of musical numbers, performed the last Friday of camp! Finally, their popular adult classes in yoga, ballet, and tap will continue as well. Check the website for more information and to register: essencestudiosdance.com. The very next venture is their Spring Recital which will be held at the Whalen Commons bandshell on June 3 at 6:30 p.m. and June 5 at 2:00 p.m.

Commission President Jim Brown expressed his pride in Claire, as a local girl, rising up through the ranks as a student to become owner and investing herself in our community. "Like Fran, Claire and the dance studio is the heartbeat of our life for our community." Commissioner Ed Reed noted that her studio is the "crown of youth programs in town with the jewels being the children and students."

Claire was heartfelt in her gratitude for the support of her family, especially her parents which she said was fifty percent of the sustenance for her success and the other fifty percent coming from her students.

Claire Jones, the owner of Essence Dance Studios, cut the ribbon for her official grand opening.

The other ribbon-cutting ceremony was for Crazy Running, a business owned by Poolesville resident Dr. Will Triplett. Dr. Triplett describes his service as running made fun, where kids enjoy an hour of after-school running and exercise with friends. They have an Upperclassmen Crazy Runners program for third and fifth graders and a junior program for kindergarten to second grade. In Poolesville, Triplett serves as one of the coaches.

The program is designed to help develop coordination and athleticism in young kids. Crazy Running will encourage children to adopt a healthy lifestyle, get in great condition, and become a balanced, well-rounded athlete. The focus of Crazy Running is to get kids moving.

Continued on page 7.

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WUMCO IS MOVING!
LOOK FOR MORE NEWS TO COME ABOUT WUMCO'S MOVE TO MEMORIAL UMC THIS SUMMER!

Thanks to WUMCO Members for your ongoing support!

WUMCO Help is our area's Emergency Assistance Organization and Food Pantry.

Continued from page 6.

PACC Presides over Two Ribbon-Cutting Ceremonies For Poolesville Businesses

Their goal is to positively impact the health and future of young athletes through running. Challenging exercise is made fun, and through the discipline of running, young athletes learn the importance of goal setting, mental toughness, determination, and perseverance. Programs are based around structured, time- and kid-tested curriculum developed by a USA Track and Field certified coach. All Crazy Running coaches are trained, background checked, and are fully insured. Crazy Running provides all plans and equipment needed as well as providing insurance for each practice to protect coaches, facilities, and athletes. Within each curriculum, they strive to develop endurance, strength, speed, and flexibility with unique elements of traditional workouts and the incorporation of play, which makes it fun for kids. For more details, visit www.crazyrunning.com.

Tom Kettler, president of PACC, Mrs. Triplett, and Dr. Will Triplett of Crazy Running.

Fun Fact...

Modern ribbon-cutting ceremonies begin to appear in historical accounts at the end of the nineteenth century. According to Union Parish, Louisiana. Archives, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held around 1898 for the opening of a railroad line in northern Louisiana. Prominent ribbon cuttings include the opening of the Disneyland Monorail in 1959 and the opening of the World Trade Center in 1973.

—Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce

Continued from page 1.

Town Hears Proposal to Place Plaque Commemorating Lynching

worked in those fields. "We want this to bring us together. No one wants to point fingers. I love this town. I believe in reconciliation. We get to decide what kind of town we will be." In saying this, he made it clear that recognizing the history of the town and using it as a force for coming together is his goal.

Commissioner Martin Radigan asked what the plaque would look like. Donzin replied that it would have two sides: One would tell the national story of lynchings, the other would focus on the George Peck case.

Commissioner Ed Reed said that "there are a lot of unheard stories and unhealed wounds" in our community. He believes the initiative can turn something that is negative and horrible into a positive learning experience for all.

The commissioners agreed that they will keep in close touch with the Memorial Project leaders on plans for the future around this initiative. Copeland said that former Commissioner Valaree Dickerson will head a project to have a series of community conversations concerning the lynching and the history of race relations in the Poolesville area.

The commissioners next turned to a proposal to formalize the process for appointing and approving volunteers to serve on town boards. The town has a mix of advisory boards, some created by state law and some by the town. As a result, there are slightly different processes for appointing and approving members of the boards. The town has not had a written process guiding how it selects members to serve on its boards, and Town Manager Wade Yost proposed a process that would include a standard form to be filled out by nominees for board positions, outlining their qualifications, and an interview process. The commissioners will approve the new policy at their next meeting.

Yost next discussed a proposed position description for the new Assistant Town Manager. He said the new description will detail the powers of the new position. The assistant town manager will report to the town manager but will be hired and fired by the commissioners. The public will have a chance to comment on the new position description on May 16 at the next commission meeting. If approved at that meeting, it is expected that the hiring process could begin by June 6.

Yost provided an update on the effort to sell the Old Town Hall Bank Museum. A proposal to sell the building had been drafted, including proposed restrictions on what can be changed in the building's exterior and a "right of first refusal" so that any buyer who might want to sell the building cannot do so without the town first having a chance to reclaim it. He said they have a deed from when the building was first taken over by the town in 1953 and are now waiting for a final survey and plat from the surveying company. It is likely the proposed RFP and sale proposal will be adopted at the next town meeting.

In his Town Manager's Report, Yost said that the town's submission to Congressman Trone for a $4 million grant to design and build the Streetscape Plan appears to be in very good shape. While there is no guarantee that the town is in line to get the grant, if it were to occur, it could be a major achievement. The Streetscape Plan contains major enhancements to the town's "main street" Fisher Avenue, including changes to slow traffic, improve safety and walkability, and generally improve the beauty of the town's downtown. No time frame for a final decision on the grant was revealed.

Finally, Yost announced that the owners of the Donegan retail property across from the elementary school had come in with a site plan for nearly thirty townhouses to be located in the vacant site near the CVS. The land abuts a major part of the proposed Streetscape improvements where a roundabout would be located. Yost added that the Willards are coming in again to discuss their newest plan for their property next to town hall. Both of these projects act as sort of bookends to the Streetscape Plan, and their design and approval could prove to be a major piece of finishing the improvements and enhancements to downtown Poolesville. Both of these proposals are to be discussed by the Planning Commission at the May 11 meeting.

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

Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce

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May Gathering at Asian House of Poolesville

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Hawaiian Sunrise

Peanut Brittle

Boosted Energy Teas

Strawberry Margarita

Poolesville Pride

Mom-Mosa

Calypso

Focus on Business

Poolesville Vision Relocates

By Rande Davis

You may have noticed on April 7 all those colorful purple balloons on the porch of Dr. Hector Asuncion's former office at 17600 West Willard Road directly across from the high school. The Poolesville Chamber of Commerce, as well as folks from all over town, joined Poolesville Vision in celebrating its grand opening in their new location.

New offices do not mean a new practice though; Dr. Robin Mevissen has been practicing in Poolesville since 2006 when she opened her in-home practice at her residence in Tama.

She received her B.A. in economics in 1973 from Hartwick College in Oneonta, New York. She began to study Optometry in Munich, Germany and received her master's degree (Augenoptikermeister) in Optometry in 1983. She first went to Germany as a foreign exchange student, ultimately meeting her first husband there and living there for seventeen years.

Her decision to open the home office was as a single mom wanting to be closer to her three children. Prior to that, she was with the Georgetown University Department of Ophthalmology in research on Lasik/PRK Refractive surgery. Her experience there included Clinical Research Coordinator and serving as the Location Doctor in a national multi-office practice as the Research Study Coordinator for multiple Contact Lens Research studies.

Robin moved to Poolesville in 1994 and bought her first home here in Tama in 1995. At the time, she was active in the Gaithersburg Lions Club and founded and chaired a Cycle for Sight bike ride in 1997. It was in the same year that she and Dr. Thomas McInnes were married. His father, the Rev. Thomas McInnes, a chaplain in the army, officiated at their wedding.

Dr. Thomas McInnes received his Bachelor of Science degree from Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois. He was awarded his Doctor of Optometry from the New England College of Optometry in Boston where the couple first met. He has a background in research with the Eye Research Institute, at the Massachusetts General Hospital, the Mass Eye and Ear Infirmary, and Tufts Medical Center and has accomplished clinical investigations for Johnson and Johnson. With twenty years of experience in private practice, he has been a resident of Poolesville since 1997 and has practiced part-time here since 2011 when they opened a practice next to Poolesville Hardware. In 2018, he began working with Robin full time.

Dr. Robin Mevissen and Dr. Thomas McInnes.

Poolesville Vision offers comprehensive eye exams, routine and diabetic exams, treatment of eye disease, along with fitting for contact lenses. They also have a selection of fashionable frames you will love from Ray-Ban, Vera Bradley, Life is Good, Trina Turk, and many more.

The building on West Willard Road was purchased in July of 2021, but the renovation and remodeling were painstakingly slow, primarily due to issues related to the pandemic.

Through so many twists and turns in her life, Robin sees her profession choice as a true calling and had a plaque made to reflect that belief and her thankfulness in choosing it. On the plaque is written Psalm 29:18: Ascribe to the Lord, you heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the lord in the splendor of his holiness.

The couple is so grateful to be here, and for their many neighbors, friends, and patients, and they should know we share that gratitude and are pleased with their success and move to their new offices.

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

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Highlights of the proposal for the Willard Property:

The proposal is for sixty-two single-family home sites with the retention of the Willard Family House. There are no duplexes or townhomes, and the homes are smaller than what is typically built in town. There will be a 40,000-square-foot commons dedicated and adjacent to the John Poole House. There will be a playground visually connected to Whalen Commons with the pathway beyond Fyffe Road as an extension of the playground.

The May 20 issue of the *Monocle* will present more details on the homes and other aspects of the proposal.

Continued from page 1.

Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Winery, Custom Crush Facility, Restaurant, and Event Venue near Golf Course

facility, events venue, and learning hub. Nestled in Montgomery County, in one of the nation's leading agricultural reserves, the Crossvines is supporting new county businesses that support the area's rich farming history. Partnerships with the Agricultural Reserve and local educational institutions mean the Crossvines is a celebration of Montgomery County's makers of wine and products, both the well-known and yet-to-be discovered.

The lineup of dignitaries was most impressive. Attending the groundbreaking event were Marc Elrich, County Executive, Montgomery County; Gabe Albornoz, Council President, Montgomery County Council; Andrew Friedson, Montgomery County Council, District 1; Brian Feldman, Maryland State Senator, District 2; Craig Beyrouty, Dean of College of the Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Maryland; Keith Miller, CEO, Montgomery County Revenue Authority; and Marc Weller, Founding Partner and CEO, Weller Development Company, responsible for the construction of the site.

Crossvines at the Poolesville Golf Course planted their vineyard in the area a few years ago and sampled their new wine at this venue which was created by the MC Revenue Authority and Maryland Agricultural project through University of Maryland extension.

The initiative, which began ten years ago, has as its goal to expand economic opportunity and jobs in the county. The cost of purchasing individual wine pressing equipment greatly hinders the development of wine farming, so with the county providing a public wine press, more farmers will be encouraged to enter grape growing.

Marc Elrich, County Executive, Montgomery County, opened the festivities by saying, "I first started promoting the concept ten years ago after attending a program about wine industry in Maryland. I discovered that by being in the Agricultural Zone 4, the red wines, I love, are perfect for our area. A crush pad in Maryland is an essential piece of bringing together farmers and increasing wine industry. A press can cost as much as a million per farm, most farms shied away from growing wines, but having a crush pad locally to share helps making growing wines affordable.

Elrich noted how wine farming can be more appealing to young farmers than standard soybeans and other vegetables. "For future, young farmers, the excitement of wine versus soybeans will excite the young." He also thanked Ike Leggett for being so willing to listen and finally agree to move forward with the project.

Montgomery County Council president Gabe Albornoz spoke of the project checking every box for potential of economic improvement. "This is not a good day for the county, it is a great day for the county, it will create memories for generations to come."

Andrew Friedson, noting how honored he has been to represent our area, also spoke of the emerging economic opportunity and environmental sustainability of the project. "The Ag Reserve needs economic sustainable projects. This has been a partnership between state and county, partnership between public sector and private sector, it will become a destination site for the county. It will be site as a premiere destination for wine making and ag tourism."

Brian Friedman, District 15, recalled emerging from a 2012 meeting with Councilman Mike Knapp who had presented a forty-one-page research report on development in the county. "Getting the crushing service makes winemaking in the county possible. It is a great idea, great project, and it's great to be part of it."

Craig Beyrouty, Dean of College of Agricultural and Natural Resources, University of Maryland congratulated the attending political leaders for their vision. "You are in a unique league of your own for your vision, especially regarding the decision decades ago to set up the Ag Reserve, which puts you apart from most counties in United States, and this project will also set you apart as visionaries even more." This project, the first time, promotes fermentation science intent on helping industry deal with fermentation whether it is for winemaking, brewing, cheesemaking, etc. It will add fifteen thousand new jobs in the fermentation industry.

Marc Weller, Founding Partner and CEO, Weller Development Company, praised the project as "world class tourist destination, awesome restaurant, and special event center."

The final speaker was Keith Miller, the CEO of the Montgomery County Revenue Authority. Mr. Miller is considered the founding father of the concept which, he added, was a ten-year journey. "It was created by an amazing design team who developed the plans. The Crossvines is a play on the word crossroad on purpose. The facility will be a crossroad where education, research, work-force development, economic development, agricultural tourism, and the golf course come together. It will be where businesses and associations are able to host an event and then spend time relaxing. Additionally, it will feature produce and products that are created right here in the Ag Reserve, providing another outlet for our farmers, and it will be a gateway that educates the visitors as to the most wonderful farms and facilities right here in the Ag Reserve. Most importantly, Crossvines will create jobs and be an economic engine to propel the wine industry in the State of Maryland."

It is hoped that an initial soft opening might happen prior to the end of the year.

Local News

Riverworks Opens At Locals

By Rande Davis

The artistic work of Sydney Wright Therriault became the first gallery exhibit of the newly-created Riverworks Art Center in Poolesville and Beallsville. The artist, the daughter of David Therriault and Sandy Wright passed away last year. She grew up in Beallsville and attended Butler Montessori School and Poolesville High School. After high school, Sydney traveled to Tanzania to build schools and teach children; she traveled to Ecuador to farm; and she worked in the Galapagos. Additionally, she traveled to Africa and South America, found her way to Europe, and across the United States and Canada. She attended Hampshire College and studied painting at the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Riverworks Art Center, the vision of David and Sandy, was established to bring to our community a place to meet, for artists to come together to learn, to be inspired, and to support each other. It will be a space for the whole community to view, support, and enjoy visual and performing arts. The nonprofit program will support artists in their growth and to better understand their practice, and to expand their opportunities to share.

Finally, Riverworks Art Center will be stewards of a heritage through a site that celebrates place, local history, culture, stories, and creativity.

As it opens with Sydney's work with displays at the facility at Alden Farms in Beallsville and at Locals Restaurant in Poolesville, the full vision of Riverworks Art Center includes the restoration of one of the very oldest iconic structures in town, the Old Methodist Church (formerly the Friendly Thrift Shop). David's vision is to restore the building to its roots as a historic church, including a performance area to its rear, and be a center piece of the performing arts and living history.

Artist Sydney Therriault with her dog, River.

The theme of the exhibit is "Hold Still: She pauses for a moment, drinking in the gesture, the eyes. Her subject blinks and shifts her weight from one leg to the other. She whispers, 'Hold still, there you are,' and she begins to paint. 'Hold still, Syd, hold still.'"

The day before the gallery opening, the artist was celebrated at a memorial event attended by friends and family.

In reflection about her daughter and as an introduction to her artwork exhibit, Sandy Wright wrote, "It is difficult to lose such a soul. We are all surrounded by her now—her presence spiritually and concretely in her artwork that started on her bedroom walls before we can remember—we mean directly on the walls. As young as two or three years old, she would wake up in the morning to another round of artwork that she had done during the night. At midnight, she would toddle down the hall and wake us up to show us her drawing. Her more recent works, part of her studies in painting at the Savannah College of Art and Design, are constantly impressed with a new level of expression and technical achievement. Her empathy was unmatched. She touched countless lives in important ways, continuously defending the underdog as she took upon herself the world's inherent unfairness. Sydney lived life to the fullest at every moment—and this is what we will do."

Local News

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association Annual Meeting

By Maureen O'Connell

On Saturday, April 23, 2022, the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association (SCA) held its first in-person annual meeting in two years at the Linden Barn, Martinsburg Road, Dickerson. Attendance was slightly down, due to COVID concerns. It was a welcome opportunity for neighbors and friends to catch up on SCA activities and current priority issues. The featured speaker was Marc Elrich, Montgomery County Executive.

Montgomery County Executive Director Marc Elrich addressed the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association.

SCA President Steve Findlay welcomed everyone and thanked them for their continuing support. He was very pleased to report that the organization continues to work on many fronts to fulfill its primary purpose to safeguard the Agricultural Reserve. Created in 1980, the 93,000 acres of northern Montgomery County are zoned to protect and preserve farming, natural resources, land conservation, and rural life. The SCA also strongly advocates for sound environmental policy in Montgomery County. Its current priority issues are: Better Waste Management, Enhancing Solar Energy, Protecting the Sugarloaf Mountain Area, Regenerative Agriculture, and the Growth of Table Crops in the Ag Reserve. Steve reported that, despite many cutbacks in events, SCA experienced a good year. Donations were at a healthy level, and plans are underway to design a new and more up-to-date website. Last fall, they conducted a survey of its members; the results were highly encouraging, reflecting a substantial level of interest and engagement in regional and Ag Reserve issues of vital interest to SCA.

Marc Elrich delivered a broad-range review of his administration's success stories and works in progress. He understands very well that more work is needed to fulfill his vision for a more equitable and inclusive Montgomery County for all its citizens. Its children need great schools with fairly-paid and -supported teachers. The county must work together with the police to understand both sides of certain police/community relationships; better training is important. Mr. Elrich is excited about growing a healthy business community that will help both new and existing businesses. A "green county" is important to him. He said that there is much we can all do to reduce our carbon footprint by investing in clean energy, energy efficiency, enhanced building design, and reduction of waste. "Burning and the incinerator is not the right way. We must invest time and money into finding alternatives."

Another topic of his concern is affordable housing for all income groups, young families, and seniors. This can be accomplished while still adhering to Smart Growth policies.

The preservation of the Ag Reserve is very important to Mr. Elrich. Farmers are its backbone. They and the county must work together to encourage more growth of table crops—farm to table. They need more access to markets. Local restaurants and grocery stores should be encouraged to sell the farmers' produce.

On a closing note, Mr. Elrich believes that the county has done a good job of dealing with COVID and its impact on people's lives, health, and businesses. Most people acted in a very responsible manner.

The annual meeting was closed with remarks and presentations by three groups of schoolchildren who received grants from SCA for a variety of projects, ranging from Forestry Programs, Climate Control, and innovative greenhouse designs. A slate of officers for 2022-2023 was presented and accepted.

Do you or someone you know have a special announcement or milestone you would like to share with our readers?

The *Monocle* welcomes your contribution. Send to editor@monocacymonocle.com

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70 years

Come and visit us at our upcoming In-House Job Fairs:

Monday, May 16, 2022
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Tidbits

An Evening of Good Times Caps a Tough School Year

The Upcounty Prevention Network (UPN) today announced that they are sponsoring a special event, Untamed at the Commons, a free event open to local youth. The program is on Friday May 13 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at, of course, Whalen Commons. Untamed at the Commons is a great way for students to relax and enjoy getting together in person and offers healthy fun after the stresses of COVID, isolation, and the anxieties even an ordinary end-of-school year can bring.

"Young people are experiencing extraordinary levels of stress now," says Meg Oberman, MD, MPH, FACP, local physician, and UPN Director. "Everything we can do to support friendship and a sense of belonging to a caring community is vitally important."

The program features food and games (bring a frisbee or ball to toss), music by local teen band Reasonably Untamed, and DJ/EZ. There will be teen mental health resources included in the program. At dusk, the movie *Spiderman: No Way Home* will be shown.

For more information and ways you can help or donate, contact www.upcountypreventionnetwork.org.

UPN has worked to support local youth for the past seven years by mobilizing the power of community to promote healthy youth lifestyles through positive action, education, and support of healthy choices. UPN is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Lewis Orchards Hosts Lunch for Face of America Riders

There was a great turnout on April 23 at Lewis Orchards for the Face of America riders who stopped for lunch on their annual journey by bike to Gettysburg. This was the first year for Lewis Orchards to host this event as they have an indoor space suitable for up to 350 people.

Face of America Bike riders were greeted upon arrival at Lewis Orchards for a lunch break.

Participating athletes pedal from the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia north through Maryland to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The ride honors our military—veterans and active duty, both disabled and able-bodied—and celebrates the American Spirit.

Cyclists traveled 112 miles in two days, with an overnight stay in Frederick, Maryland. The route is fully supported with manned rest stops every ten to twelve miles, SAG wagons, skilled ride marshals, a moto team, and mechanical support.

Face of America provides athletes the opportunity to welcome adaptive and able-bodied servicemen and women as teammates and to show them how much we appreciate their service and dedication to the country.

World T.E.A.M. has been organizing and directing Face of America for nearly two decades. Its inaugural Face of America in 2000 saw two teams of adaptive and able-bodied cyclists begin from each coast, and meet under the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri.

The Lady Is a Lion

Lion Gary Burdette swore in Donna Kahil as the newest Monocacy Lion.

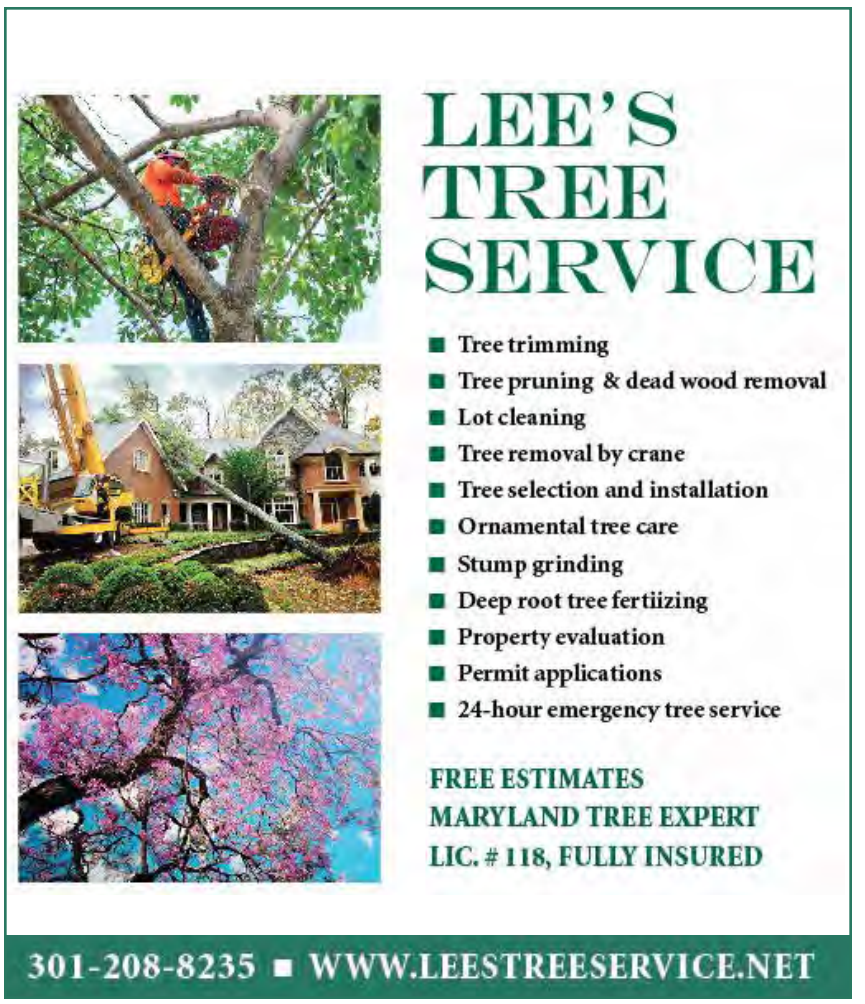
Tony of Tony's BBQ and Lion Charlie Glass.

Actually, quite a few ladies are lions, Monocacy Lions that is. Many people do not realize that the Lions International has been accepting female members since 1987. The local group of Lions wants to emphasize to Monocle readers that they really do accept women in their organization. In fact, Val Dickerson was inducted just a few weeks ago, and last meeting, Donna Kahil joined. This meeting was held at St. Peter's Church, and they had special treat by having it catered by Tony's BBQ.

Déjà Vu All Over Again

PHS Global Ecology students with Gene Kingsbury (right) on a tour and eco-study of the orchard.

Yes, we really did tell you before how the Montgomery Countryside Alliance (MCA) has been reaching out to students in the PHS Global Ecology Studies Program for several years to underscore the importance of the Ag Reserve and diversity in agricultural activity. Especially how that outreach includes several walking tours of local farms and how on such a group visited Kingsbury's Orchard on April 19. In fact, that news was just in our last issue, but what we forgot was the delightful picture of all the kids down on the farm, so we mention it here again just so we can share the picture of them.



Things to Do

Riverworks Art Center Gallery exhibit, featuring the work of Sydney Therriault. Located at *Alden Farms in Beallsville* and at *Locals Restaurant*. Exhibit runs from May 1 to September.

May 7

30th Annual Youth Fishing Tournament

Join in the fun-filled morning of trying to catch the largest fish at *Stevens Park Pond*. Kids six to sixteen. $1.00 to register. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m. Fishing from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Games

Baseball vs. Winston Churchill. 2:00 p.m.

May 11

Track and Field MCPS County Championship

At Seneca Valley. 4:00 p.m.

May 12

Art Enlightens

An event to benefit art education sponsored by BlackRock Center for the Arts. Pre-show cocktail party, featuring Prof. Alvin Trask, Department Chair of the Performing Arts of Montgomery College, and the MC Jazztet. 6:00 p.m. Performance by MADZ at 7:00 p.m. tickets and information available at blackrockcenter.org/artenlightens.

May 14

Help Shape the Town's Future!

Join the Planning Commission and Comprehensive Plan Consultants for an interactive visioning event and share your hopes for the future of the Town of Poolesville. This hands-on event will help us to identify the community's aspirations and goals for the future.

May 15

Annual Potomac Hunt Races

Steeplechase racing to benefit TAPS, organization that provides comfort, care, and resources to all those grieving the death of a military loved one. Ten races, vendors, family events, railside space available, only $10 for attendees using the polo ground bus service. Visit potomachuntraces.com for all the details. Noon to 7:00 p.m.

May 16

Watkins Cabinet Job Fair

18001 Sellman Road, Dickerson, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

May 21

10th Annual Poolesville SpringFest

Festival celebrating spring, featuring Beer and Wine Tasting Tent (online tickets $30, at gate $40). Nearly twenty different brews, food vendors, and entertainment includes Worthington, Heister, and Friends (2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Jay Summerour (5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.). Rain or shine. *Whalen Commons*. 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Pitts Quip

I'd say you've put on a few l-b's, Hon.

Photograph by Teri Pitts

Local News

Potomac Hunt: A Time-Honored Tradition of Great Fun and Sport

By Rande Davis

On May 15, the annual Potomac Hunt will once again race on Bittersweet Field on Partnership Road. While the Potomac Hunt dates its present incarnation to 1931, its antecedent hunts trace their ancestry back to the early nineteenth century in Washington, D.C.

Held right here in the heart of Montgomery County's horse country, the Potomac Hunt Races celebrates the sport of steeplechase racing. There is a very special thrill of thundering hooves and soaring horses as you watch the race from railside.

The day is one of enjoyment and camaraderie of friends and colleagues, enjoying the beauty of nature and the majesty of the equine athletes, all within the pristine rolling fields of the Kiplinger Estate here in Poolesville.

The local history of the races runs deep, going all the way back to 1828 when the Washington Hunt was organized by the British Minister, Sir Charles Vaughn, and the kennels were located at the corner of 14th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. Foxhunters roamed the open territory of the Mall from Rock Creek on the west past the U.S. Capitol Building and as far east as the Eckington Estate near what is now the junction of Florida and New York Avenues.

Later, the Dumblane Hunt was organized under a magnificent oak tree in Tenleytown, just west of River Road and Wisconsin Avenue. This was succeeded in 1892 by the Chevy Chase Hunt, which pursued live fox and a released stag from its kennels in Montgomery County. The colorful master of the Chevy Chase Hunt was Clarence Moore, who hunted hounds until he died in the sinking of the Titanic in 1912.

With such a heavy loss, the Chevy Chase Hunt slowly wound down until it was disbanded in 1916 when the United States entered World War I. During the 1920s, fox hunting resumed in Rock Creek Park from the Washington Riding and Hunt Club at the corner of 22nd and P Streets, NW.

In 1931, the hounds were moved to Charlie Carrico's Bradley Farm near the intersection of River Road and Bradley Boulevard, and the Hunt was recognized by the Masters of Foxhounds Association. Three years later, hounds were moved again, this time to the Great Elm Farm of General Harry H. Semmes on Glen Road, and here they remained through World War II when foxhunting was continued on a catch-as-catch-can basis for the benefit of the foxhunters who were temporarily at home or who were stationed for a while at one of the nearby military bases.

For this year's races, the gates open at 10:00 a.m. with the first races off at noon. The gates will close by 7:00 p.m.

For optimum tailgating enjoyment obtainable, be sure to purchase a railside pass, which must be purchased in advance. They also offer Premium Unreserved Parking for those who wish to park in the lot on the race grounds. All other attendees must purchase a Shuttle Pass ($10) and take a shuttle from the Polo Grounds at 15598 Hughes Road, Poolesville. All the costs and details can be found at potomachuntraces.com.

If you will be new to the races, there are just a few important rules to remember: You need to keep dogs on leashes as all times, keep a safe distance from horses, no loud music from cars or rail spaces, cross the racecourse only during intervals, adhere to all announcements made on the PA, and it is imperative that you monitor your small children closely.

Most importantly, once you're there, sit back, relax, and enjoy the adrenaline rush of the racing horses!

The Potomac Hunt Races return on May 15.

CALLEVA

TGIF

Weekend Adventures

- ☐ **FARM TO TABLE** experiences:
  Dirty Dinner *(May 21!)* &
  Pizza Nights *(coming in June)*
- ☐ **CALLEVA FARM STORE** locally grown products & fresh baked treats
- ☐ **RIVER SCHOOL**
  paddling adventures for all ages
- ☐ **POTOMAC RIVER SUPPLY**
  paddle sports retail store
- ☐ **CALLEVA TROUGH OUTFITTERS**
  canoe adventures in West Virginia

calleva.org

Continued from page 3.

Public Forum:
County Council Candidates

chamber work, she has worked with PACC and has been involved in several Upcounty initiatives. In her closing remarks, she emphasized her listening and leadership skills. Her priorities are jobs, housing, transportation, education, and the environment.

William Roberts, Democrat, is married (Michelle), a father (three-year-old McKenzie), and a resident of Clarksburg. He is a civil rights attorney and an alumnus of Howard University and Howard Law School.

He has specialized in representing low-income housing tenants and concerns with fair housing cases. He has been the legislative director and chief policy advisor to Congressman Jamie Raskins. His public service includes being on the Board of Directors of BlackRock Center for the Arts, and chair of the Renters Alliance, for renter outreach and tenant advocacy. He has been a member of the Manna Food Center Advocacy Task Force. He cites involvement in the civic, political, and nonprofit life of the Upcounty, which includes the Upcounty Community Advisory Board. His stated concerns are improving the county economy, making sure communities recover from COVID, investing in education, protecting the Ag Reserve, fighting climate change, and mastering multiple transportation solutions that are need in the community.

Dan Cuda, Republican, came to Montgomery County in the 1980s when he was in the middle of his air force career. As a graduate of the Air Force Academy, he became a C-130 pilot and then worked at the Pentagon with their $600 billion budget issues. He has a Ph.D. from George Mason University where he is currently an adjunct professor in public administration. His key issue is that "everything gets better when the county grows its job base and plans on emphasizing job growth."

The 69TH Running of the
Potomac Hunt Races • Sunday • May 15, 2022
Bittersweet Field - Poolesville Md.

Celebrate the sport of steeplechase racing.
Race day festivities include
mounted police demonstrations and a Kid Zone.
Shop the Vendor Village.

The most popular activity is Railside Tailgating.
A Railside Parking Space must be purchased in advance.
We also offer Premium Unreserved parking on the race grounds.
Parking and Shuttle service from Poolesville High School.

This is a Green Event: Pack in - Pack out

www.PotomacHuntRaces.com

Potomac Hunt Races Website

The Potomac Hunt Races support the Potomac Hunt and their charity partner, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS).

Place your ad in the next issue of the *Monocle*.
Call Rande Davis at 301-509-9232

Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Presents Virtual and In-Person Programs

Poolesville Seniors is offering a wide variety of virtual programs in May and June that will meet the needs for exercise, information, and socialization. Visit their website at poolesvilleseniors.org or call 301-875-7701 to register for the Zoom programs below which are open to the entire community.

May 12

Off the Beaten Path:
The Richness of Richmond

Travel expert Barbara Paulson will lead us on a virtual tour of Richmond, Virginia. We will discover the largest collection of Fabergé eggs this side of Moscow, visit one of the best public gardens in the U.S., hear some Civil War stories, and more! 7:00 p.m. *Virtual.*

May 16

PS Book Club

This month's selection is *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent* by Isabel Wilkerson, a masterful work by an award-winning and renowned author which examines caste systems through history and in the present day. 7:00 p.m. *Virtual.*

May 19

Historic Ag Reserve Properties with Kenny Sholes

Join Kenny and the Poolesville Seniors as we continue our exploration of the historic homes and properties in the Agricultural Reserve. 7:00 p.m. *Virtual.*

May 24

Through the Perilous Fight

Join Steve Vogel, the author of Through the Perilous Fight: From the Burning of Washington to the Star-Spangled Banner, as he brings to life the story of the British capture of Washington in 1814, the fight for Baltimore, and the story behind the National Anthem. In person. 7:00 p.m. *Virtual.*

May 26

F. Scott Fitzgerald's Rockville

Eileen McGuackian, historian, author, and historic preservationist, will take a look at the small town of Rockville that America's favorite author, F. Scott Fitzgerald, knew in the 1920s. From his link to a famous historical figure in Frederick, to his connection to Rockville and how he came to be buried in Rockville—twice—thirty-five years apart! *Virtual.*

June 7

MaryAnn Jung Sally Ride

Blast off for adventure with award-winning actress and Smithsonian Scholar Mary Ann Jung portraying Dr. Sally Ride, America's first female astronaut. Learn about her 1983 journey and its challenges. In the game show portion, guess odd, surprising facts about life in zero gravity aboard the space shuttle. It's out of this world fun. Poolesville venue revealed with your registration. In person. 2:00 p.m.

Weekly Events

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

Outdoor Pickle Ball. Fully vaccinated players are welcome. *Stevens Park.* 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Mondays

Tai-Chi with Maureen Ivusic. 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. *Virtual.* **No class on May 30.**

Wednesdays

Chair Yoga with Twyla Insalaco. 11:00 a.m. *Virtual.* **No class on May 25.**

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

Trivia Game Night

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

Thursdays

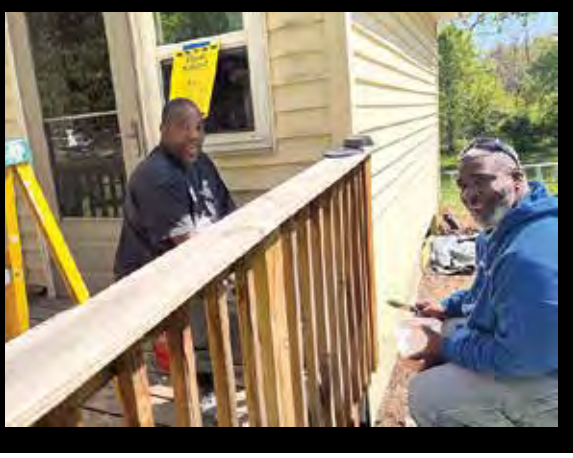
Mahjong with Joyce Kral. Fully-vaccinated beginner and seasoned players are welcome in person. Masks are recommended. Poolesville Presbyterian Church's Speer Hall. 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Fridays

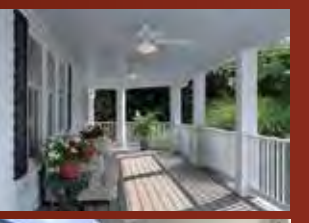
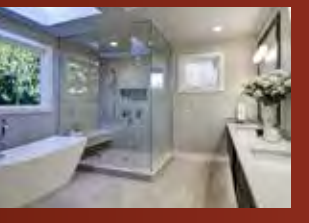
Breath-Mind-Body with Kathy Jankowski. 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m. Please register for each Friday class. *Virtual.*

For more information or to register for any of the programs listed here and receive the Zoom link for each, visit the Poolesville Seniors website: poolesvilleseniors.org. Many of these presentations are also streamed live on their Facebook page and recorded for later viewing on their YouTube channel. Did you know that you don't need a computer to participate? You can join the Zoom presentation using your smartphone or just listen in using the local telephone number from Zoom and the Poolesville Seniors meeting ID and Password. Call or text them at 301-875-7701 to learn how.

Rebuild Together



Additions — Kitchens — Baths — Decks — Porches

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Youth Sports

Inside Falcon Baseball 2022

By Jeff Stuart

On Monday, April 25, the Poolesville High School varsity baseball coach and seniors were raking the baseball infield in preparation for practice and the game the next day against Northwest High School. They shared their impressions of the season so far. Having beaten all five of the division opponents they have played except Blake, who is not on their schedule, Poolesville has clinched at least a tie for the division title. Blake is 4-0 in the division.

"So far we are off to a good start," said coach Scott Davis. "We have an 8-2 record. We have had a fairly easy schedule, but we have pitched very well, and we have had some timely hitting. The combination of the two have led to success so far. Luke Pearre threw a four-hitter against Damascus for a 4-0 win. I thought that was a very good game… and our first game of the season gave us a lot of momentum, a 13-12 extra-inning win at Quince Orchard on March 22.

"I think it has been a very balanced team. We have a good mix of five seniors and four sophomores that have been playing very well. The seniors have been very consistent. Senior Sam D'Amerlio has been solid behind the plate, and defensively and offensively, sophomore Luke Pearre and senior Daniel Butler have been doing a very good job pitching and hitting. They ae good lefties. Luke had a two-run double against Darin Kuskie of Damascus, a big junior right hander who throws in the upper eighties, near ninety miles per hour. That was a big two-run lead for us, and we turned three double plays. Our middle defense has been playing really well. In the outfield, we had a really good play off the right centerfield fence by sophomore Andrew Brill at Damascus where we threw him out at second base. He made a really good throw on one to get the runner. There have been no diving catches or anything so far but a lot of solid plays."

"We have won seven in a row," said D'Amerlio. "We had two tough losses at the beginning, but I think the key to our team is that we are really resilient. We have a group of guys that have a lot of chemistry together. I think that is really big for our success in the long term. Hopefully, we can turn that into a long playoff run. Our best game has to be the first game against QO. It went ten innings which is the longest baseball game I have ever played in. We were down four runs at one point, so to come back from that, even when we had some injuries and we were tired, was very impressive. As a catcher I would like to comment on my teammate Luke. Luke pitched a complete game shutout against Damascus. He has been doing this since last year when he was a freshman. He has a lot of guts. Day in and day out he works his butt off. He is a big leader on this team. My best game was against Magruder. It was a good day for the whole team, but personally, I had two doubles, and I felt I played pretty good on defense.

PHS baseball seniors: Matthew Griffith, Daniel Butler, Sam D'Amerlio, Orion Foo, and Charlie Helfert.

"Our last game is against Churchill (12-0) on May 7 at home. They are pretty much unanimously voted as the best team in the state. It will be nice to see where we stack up against them, and after that, once the playoffs start, it is full speed ahead. We will try to win one game at a time at that point."

"So far I think we have had a pretty successful season considering the recent head coaching change," said Butler. "We have played great. We have had a couple of tough games, but overall, I think the perseverance and the hard work we have been putting in day in and day out at practice has paid off. My best game was the QO game. There was a lot at stake. That set the tone for the season. I had to come in the eighth or ninth inning and shut them down, and then we were able to get on base and score some runs. Junior shortstop Van Rosenbaum has been playing lights out. He has been great defensively, and he has hit a few bombs this season which has really been nice. We have not had many homers.

"Wootton and Churchill are going to be tough games. They have a lot of fire power. We will be able to test ourselves."

"We have played the way we are capable of in most games," said senior right fielder Charlie Helfert. "We have had a few lackadaisical games, but overall, we have been playing really well. My best game was against Damascus. I had some hits against a tough pitcher, and I had some key plays in the outfield. Against QO, I had a big hit to start a big rally and made a couple of catches in the outfield. They were both big wins for the team. Everyone played with high energy. We came together.

Continued on page 22

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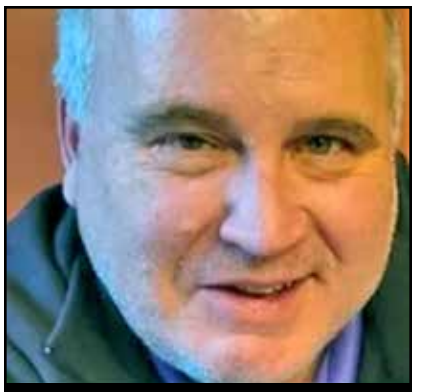
Remembrances

Raymond T. Hughes


Raymond T. Hughes

Raymond T. Hughes, 58, of Poolesville, passed away on April 16, 2022.

He was the loving husband of Ruth Ann Hughes.

Born on December 27, 1963 in Washington, D.C., he was the son of Thomas Raymond and the late Patricia Ann Hughes.

Along with his wife, Ruth Ann, and father, Thomas, Ray was survived by his son, Thomas Albert Joseph Hughes and wife, Maida Lynn Hughes of Olney; his daughter, Kelly Ann Hughes of Columbia; one grandson, Peter Thomas Hughes; and two sisters, Katherine Ann Hughes of Summerville, South Carolina and Linda and husband Bobby Beavers of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Ray "Grandpoppy" Hughes was a family man through and through. A strong, devoted, loving, and goofy husband, father, poppy, son, brother, uncle, friend, and golf buddy. If you needed help, Ray was there. If you needed a big hug, Ray was there, arms outstretched with the best hugs to chase away the pain. Ray will be sorely missed, and we will all keep him alive in our thoughts and hearts with the great memories made together.

Memorial Services will be held Saturday, May 7, at 11:00 a.m. at Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church, 17821 Elgin Rd, Poolesville, MD 20837. Reception to follow.

Mary D. Woodfield

Mary D. Woodfield

Mary D. Woodfield, 86, of Dickerson, passed away on April 20, 2022.

Mary was the loving wife of the late "Big Henry" H. Woodfield of Rockville.

Born on October 19, 1935 at the "Old Chiswell Place" in Poolesville, she was the daughter of the late Francis "Frank" Marion and Mary Virginia (Young) Poole.

Mary is survived by her children, James Dronenburg, Steven Dronenburg, Brenda Dronenburg, and Jerry Dronenburg; one stepdaughter, Margaret "Peggy" Smith Davis; one brother, Linwood H. Poole; nine grandchildren, Nick Ghanayem, Melanie Molesky, Stephanie Boucher, Megan Dronenburg, Jamie Dronenburg, Ashley Main, Amanda Dronenburg, Jennifer Lewis, and Kimberly Burress; and ten great-grandchildren, Aaron, Caden, Mason, Morgan, Lias, Mason, Oliver, Lucy, Zoe, and Amelia.

Mary was preceded in death by her first husband, Harry N. Dronenburg, and her second husband, Howard M. Smith; three brothers, Charles L. Poole, Francis R. Poole, and William R. Poole; and one sister, Anna Mae Poole.

She graduated from Poolesville High School in 1954, later studying court management at Trinity College in Washington, D.C. Mary began her career as a secretary for National Geographic, and later worked for the Circuit Court and finally transferred to the Montgomery County Government where she retired after twenty-seven years of service. Mary spent her life devoting herself to her children, grandchildren, and many friends. Her favorite times were surrounded by family, visits to the Eastern Shore, catching up with friends and family, and simply enjoying life. Also, she was a member of the Manor Country Club Ladies Group, and Ladies Music & Dance Club where she established lifelong friendships.

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Youth Sports

Falcon Softball Team Playing with High Energy and Having Fun

By Jeff Stuart

The Poolesville High School varsity softball team won four of their first five, losing only to 4A Walter Johnson (11- 2). With six freshman and three sophomores, they are a very young team that is exceeding expectations.

"It has actually been a very good season," said catcher, junior captain Erin Dower. "We have come back. We started by beating Quince Orchard which was amazing. We have had a good record since, and we have played well in some games we lost. We have hit well and played good defense.

"The QO game was a solid game. We came from behind to win that first game, and we beat Rockville, 3-1. That was a tight game. The Kennedy game was good for us, too (a 17-1 win on April 23). We really hit the ball well. Sophomore Lindsay Chu has definitely come so far over the past two seasons, especially with her hitting, and her defense has been pretty solid. She has been very clutch. Same with junior Michelle Ramos, and Emma has had clutch hits every single game. I hit a homerun over the fence against Springbrook here last Saturday." Erin also plays the outfield.

"I think we had a lot of really good progress," said junior captain and pitcher Emma Orders, "especially compared to last season. It was hard to do team building during that pandemic-shortened season. We had a hard time coming together, but so far this year, we have done a really good job. We have been more consistent throughout, infield, outfield defense, pitching, hitting, and everything. The win over Quince Orchard was a great way to start the season. We hit really well against Rockville. We consistently hit line drives and hard shots into the outfield. On defense this year, we had a couple of good plays on dropped third strikes where either I or freshman pitcher Cara Porch threw a pitch and the catcher dropped it, but we got them out at first anyway. Sophomore Gabrielle Montemurro has stepped up to be a second catcher. I don't think she has caught a lot before, but she is doing really well behind the plate, and she is being a great sport about it even though it might not be her first position. She also plays second base. The best game for me was the QO game. I had like thirteen strikeouts. That is my best ever, and as a hitter I drove in three runs." Emma also plays third base.

Softball team captains are Erin Dower and Emma Orders.

"Many of these players have been put in a difficult situation having to play on a varsity team since we have no JV team," said coach Laurie Wohnhas. "They come to practice every day ready to learn, and they have improved throughout the season. I'm proud of them and how far they have improved. The future looks bright for Poolesville softball."

Infielder/outfielder Samantha Carter is the only senior. Outfielder Kaitlyn Schramm is a junior. Infielder/outfielder Lindsay Chu and outfielder Lauren Doring are sophomores.

Outfielders Alyssa Bailey, Sophie Dinderman-Kao, and Jillian Maher are freshmen, as are shortstop/pitcher Cara Porch, first baseman/pitcher Kacey Raines, and infielder/outfielder Paige Soskin.

Continued from page 20.

Inside Falcon Baseball 2022

Andrew Brill has really stepped up playing centerfield. He has played a key part in our batting lineup as well. Against Damascus, junior Aaron Deluna had some fantastic stops at third base to start a double play and save some runs."

"We had some early losses to Walter Johnson and B-CC," said senior second baseman Orion Foo, "but overall, the whole team is doing a good job in the field. Our pitching is phenomenal. Everybody in the lineup can hit. Everybody is doing their job. As a favorite game, it would be hard to beat our opener against QO. It was a great game overall. For me, personally, I went two for three against Damascus with a bunt in the hole between shortstop and third. Seems like every time D'Amerlio gets to the plate, he hits the ball hard, and Luke has been pitching really well every time out. The past few games we have had some pretty slick double plays. Van at short and me." A National Merit Scholarship finalist, Orion is headed to MIT next fall.

Matthew Griffith is also a senior; Chuck Roe is a junior; Parker Pearre and Leo Szego are sophomores.

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The dog is a natural host for heartworms, which means that heartworms that live inside the dog mature into adults, mate, and produce offspring. If untreated, their numbers can increase, and dogs have been known to harbor several hundred worms in their bodies. Heartworm disease causes lasting damage to the heart, lungs, and arteries, and can affect the dog's health and quality of life long after the parasites are gone. For this reason, prevention is by far the best option, and treatment—when needed—should be administered as early in the course of the disease as possible.

Heartworm disease in cats is very different from heartworm disease in dogs. The cat is an atypical host for heartworms, and most worms in cats do not survive to the adult stage. Cats with adult heartworms typically have just one to three worms, and many cats affected by heartworms have no adult worms. While this means heartworm disease often goes undiagnosed in cats, it's important to understand that even immature worms cause real damage in the form of a condition known as heartworm associated respiratory disease (HARD). Moreover, the medication used to treat heartworm infections in dogs cannot be used in cats, so prevention is the only means of protecting cats from the effects of heartworm disease.

Heartworm disease is a serious, progressive disease. The earlier it is detected, the better the chances the pet will recover. There are few, if any, early signs of disease when a dog or cat is infected with heartworms, so detecting their presence with a heartworm test administered by a veterinarian is important. The test requires just a small blood sample from your pet, and it works by detecting the presence of heartworm proteins. Some veterinarians process heartworm tests right in their hospitals while others send the samples to a diagnostic laboratory. In either case, results are obtained quickly. If your pet tests positive, further tests may be ordered.

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