



Chuck Copeland and friends brought joy in helping others at this year's Rebuilding Together event. See more pictures in Family Album on page 2.



This little piggy went to market. Will she be bringing home the bacon to a location near Poolesville, too? Maybe. Read the why and the where on page 5.



Lady Liberty in NYC? Nope, she's in Poolesville. See exactly where in Tidbits on page 8.



PHS's Jacob Lee and Eleanora Vencill are seniors on the same PHS team. Learn which on page 18.

Final Proposals to Open White's Ferry Are in Loudoun's Hands

By Rande Davis

White's Ferry closed in December 2020, and throughout the long four years that have since passed, efforts to reopen it have been fruitless. Initial efforts by the Herb Brown family, the original owners, to negotiate a reopening that would allow the ferry to land on the Virginia side failed, and they could not afford to keep the ferry operational based on what it would cost to land on the Virginia side. The ferry operation, landing, and surrounding land were subsequently sold to Virginia's Chuck and Stacy Kuhn. The Virginia landing is part of Rockland Farm, LLC, which now is in its fourth generation as a family farm and is represented by Libby Devlin.

The Kuhn family has a very long history of purchasing open space in Virginia for historical preservation/farming. Similarly, it was their plan to

preserve the ferry's history and save this local economic engine. From the very beginning, a negotiated price paid to Rockland to open the ferry operation has been sought without success by the Browns, Kuhns, and Montgomery County or Maryland State governments. The primary obstacle has been a demand that Rockland LLC receive a per-car fee payment rather than a lump sum payout. The Virginia side has repeatedly stated they will not agree to a lump sum and will only consider a long-term income resource through a payment per car. White's Ferry owners have sought an immediate conclusion to the impasse through a lump sum payment, so they could invest further in the operation without fear of potential complications

Continued on page 9.



White's Ferry resting on the dock on the Maryland side of the Potomac River. Will it ever see the Virginia shore again?

Commissioners Hear Presentations Regarding the Town's Water System

By Link Hoewing

At the second of their two meetings in April (April 7 and April 21), the Commissioners of the Town of Poolesville held an informational hearing to discuss water capacity and demand, and the aquifer that supplies the town's water. Town hydrologist, Kathy Mihm, and Pat Hammond, a hydrologist who has completed a study for the Montgomery County Alliance (MCA), along with MCA's executive director Caroline Taylor made presentations and answered questions regarding water capacity and usage in Poolesville and in the Ag Reserve.

Taylor introduced Pat Hammond, noting his background as an experienced hydrologist not only publishing extensive research but developing modeling to assess aquifers. He also worked for the State of Maryland's Department of the Environment (MDE)

for years and had previously done papers on the town's aquifer and watersheds when he worked with MDE.

Providing some historic background, Hammond said that, prior to 1969, town residents were supplied by individual wells and springs. Due to contamination by on-site septic systems, the state directed the town to develop a central public water supply in 1970. By 1978, water use was 246,000 gallons per day (gpd) on average, and the yields of some wells had declined, which he said was linked to well interference. More wells were drilled and total well yields increased to 580,000 gpd average in 1986 to meet "unspecified growth in the town."

By the time Wells 9 to 14 were built, the total permitted daily withdrawal granted by the state was 650,000 gpd. Over the years, Hammond noted a

number of instances in which he said that the town's well system affected the wells of nearby neighbors, such as residents of the Sugarland area. The town paid to dig new wells in those instances or connected some affected residents to the town's water system.

The aquifer supplying Poolesville's water has four watersheds: Broad Run, Horsepen, Dry Seneca, and Russell Branch. They are all part of one aquifer, and changes in one watershed can affect another. Two types of rock exist in the aquifer, and the one underlying the Dry Seneca watershed is less capable of holding water, making wells there less productive. The Horsepen watershed has been affected by town wells, including the stream and wetlands in that area. Hammond added, however, that "the stream could be

Continued on page 19.

Family Album



WUMCO's executive director Katie Longbrake thanked the volunteers for assisting in the group's important mission.



WUMCO president Bill McDonald welcomed the volunteers being honored at the group's annual gratitude dinner.



Post 247's Tom Conlon, and Ellen and Jim Cappuccilli.



Heather and Jeff Witt, Patricia Brown, Phil and Chris Stanholtz, and Richard and Barbara Polak.



*Bill and Sally Lermond with Laura Davis.
Do we have a cowboy hat trick here?*



Commander of Post 247 American Legion Julien Singh (right) with the winners of the best western outfit contest, Tim Weigner and Sylvia Hill, at their annual Saloon Dinner.



Wild west wranglers outside the notorious Calleva Saloon. Tim Weigner, Nick Markoff, Val Dickerson (with grandson), Rich Huelbig, Butch Mesick, Craig Dickerson, and Michaela Huelbig.

Tribute

Tribute to Jack Toomey and His Police Blotter Column

By Rande Davis

For over twenty years, Jack Toomey wrote for the *Monocacy Monocle*, with his Police Blotter: Past and Present and Local History columns being very popular among readers. Jack passed away on April 19, and his remembrance is in this issue. As a tribute to Jack, we offer samples of some of his police blotters of the past for our readers to enjoy once again. Over the years, the most common comment we received from women has been, "I just love the *Monocle*, I read it from cover to cover." During Jack's time of writing, however, the most common comment from the men was always, "Love the *Monocle*, love that Police Blotter." We plan to reprint many more of these dramatic tidbits and many of his local history articles in future editions. Jack will be missed, but his spirit will continue in our paper into the future.

April 4, 1896: The cemetery house at Monocacy Cemetery in Beallsville caught fire and was destroyed. Sparks from the burning building set fire to several other buildings that were close by.

December 27, 1887: Sheriff W. White, of Rockville, was on a train between Washington and Rockville when he was struck in the face by a man known as Dink Nell. The man was promptly arrested by the sheriff, but then one of Nell's friends continued to assault the sheriff. He was arrested, too.

June 9, 1915: C.S. Dove became the first white man to be whipped in Montgomery County. Jude Mace ordered that Dove be lashed fifteen times in the jail yard after he had been convicted of beating his wife.

August 10, 1899: A m  le broke out at a camp meeting a short distance from Barnesville, Maryland. On the last day of the meeting, a shooting occurred, one man lost his life.

April 25, 1902: Joshua Terry, William Prater, and Gary Dines bought four pies at a bakery at Germantown and retired into a pine grove to eat them and shoot craps. In a quarrel, either over the pies or the game of craps, Terry was shot and killed by Prater. Prater was arrested and taken to the jail at Rockville.

May 5, 1903: An accident occurred at Dickerson, six miles west of Boyds, this afternoon at 5:00 p.m. at the government stone quarry which supplies the District of Columbia with crushed stone for street making. One man was fatally injured and three others painfully wounded. The men were putting down a hole for another blast before quitting work when the explosion happened.

October 4, 1905: Pietro Catanana, an Italian laborer on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad work crew, was killed almost instantly while working in a pit at the Little Monocacy Bridge, just east of the Dickerson station. He was struck by a huge iron bucket that was being lowered into the pit. It was reported that fellow workers attempted to wreak vengeance on the operator of the machine.

August 24, 1912: The body of Robert Edwards of Adamstown was found along the tracks of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. He was employed as a brakeman on the railroad, and he had been run over by a train.

March 17, 1922: Two wife beaters were lashed in the yard of the jail at Rockville. Sheriff Alvie Moxley carried out the sentences imposed by Police Magistrate William Vi  t yesterday. Moxley applied the cowhide to the bare backs of George Kemp of Barnesville and Frank Terry of Cloppers Road.

July 19, 1922: A still (said by Montgomery County officers to be the biggest yet confiscated in Maryland), with a complete outfit for the making of home brew, a barrel of corn whiskey, and twenty-one barrels of corn mash, was seized yesterday afternoon. Revenue officers reported that they had lain in wait for forty hours before they raided the still located two and half miles south of Poolesville, Maryland.

December 24, 1923: The Montgomery County Sheriff and four of his deputies were kept up all night responding to calls about a strange man trespassing on private property. Those with phones reported that the man sometimes landed on their roofs and made such a commotion that farm animals were excited. The reports covered a wide area from Barnesville, east to Dickerson, south to Boyds, and as far west as Poolesville.

September 24, 1942: A Baltimore and Ohio passenger train plowed into the rear of another stalled passenger train at Dickerson, Maryland, killing fourteen passengers. The stalled train had stopped on the grade just west of the Dickerson

Continued on page 15.



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Rande(m) Thoughts

White's Ferry, Supermarkets, and Growth: The More Things Change, the More They Stay The Same

By Rande Davis

Our May issue may be considered a most exemplary issue of the *Monocle* in that it reports on three of the most important concerns of our community over the past two decades: White's Ferry, growth, and a grocery store. The good news is that, for better or worse, we are very close to reaching closure on all three and—I don't know about you—but I find that just moving on to a few new issues will be a relief.

Reaching closure on contentious issues doesn't mean getting a result most preferred. It only means the issue is finally decided, or to use a more current term of endearment: It's settled. How refreshing it will be not to have to write about these issues again.

Let's begin with White's Ferry. The journey to open White's Ferry has been a veritable long and winding road. Although it has not come to an end yet, time seems to be quickly running out on the issue if for no other reason than from pure exhaustion. For my part, I have written in length more on this one issue than any other in the past twenty-odd years of publishing the *Monocle*. Many of us are still confused over the issue and cannot conceive how the two sides have been so unable to negotiate a solution.

The real problem is that real negotiations have never really taken place. Negotiations, by definition, require a process of give-and-take, of offering proposals and counter proposals. Only one side of the equation has made any negotiable moves throughout this whole time.

From the owners of White's Ferry (first the Herb Brown family, then the Kuhn family), to Montgomery County, the State of Maryland, and the Town of Poolesville, multiple offers have been made from day one—each time offering more money to close the deal. At the time it started, an offer to buy the Virginia landing rights was made for what seems now as a quaint sum of \$400,000, then the proposal grew to \$700,000, eventually reaching \$1.25 million.

Shaking things up, a notion to donate the ferry and its operation

to the county was offered as a hope of finding a solution only to fail as it did not coax Rockland to offer anything new from their original requirements. It did seem to be working, for a whole year. Then the floor fell in. Although it appeared Montgomery County and the Kuhns had found an agreement to a solution, in the end, they had not. The problem was that Montgomery County still had to deal with Rockland, and their intransience and failure to offer up a sum to settle, no matter how outrageous, did not happen, and the county's patience ran out. Marc Erich sent a heartfelt plea to settle the issue to both sides by putting a grandiose amount of money, \$3 million (\$3,000,000!), on the table. The county "demanded" that the solution of compromise over the money by both parties had to be settled by July 2026. A year and a quarter? How generous. They should have only offered sixty days to agree in principle and then allow more time to work out the details.

I agree with their decision to call the hand, but I think it should not have extended out so long. What's the phrase? Put up or shut up.

Now Kuhn has offered the operation as a donation to Loudoun County, hoping that since the zoning restriction on the Virginia side has expired, they would have the ability to get Rockland to finally come up with a settlement. Loudoun County has the ability, but do they have the will? I am not sure. Through all these many offers over these many years, the only proposed changes came from the Maryland side. Rockland, once they decided they wanted a per-car payment settlement, never advanced the negotiations a dime. In one way of looking at it, Maryland has been, shall I say, "negotiating" with itself, and Rockland really hasn't been negotiating at all. The time to end this madness is now.

If Loudoun County cannot successfully deal with the Devlin family, no one can. I believe our nightmare will end soon one way or the way. If the ferry closes, it closes. The total time of travel to and from Virginia will be permanently extended an extra fifteen minutes. Businesses and living history on both sides of the river will be the real losers here. I would hope Rockland would, even at this late date, propose to compromise and negotiate something other than a per-car payment solution, but even if Devlin does, it begs the question: "What took you so long?"

Another issue we talk about of high interest in May is that of a grocery

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Continued on page 9.

Tidbits

French Museum Launches English Version Website that Honors Poolesville Hero from World War II

The headline story in the April issue of the *Monocle*, announced the high honor to Norman Davis Hersberger, a WWII pilot who had to ditch his plane in Brittany, France. The French Resistance rescued and hid him from the German Gestapo for a few weeks, but he was eventually taken prisoner by the Germans. His heroic action in refusing to give up of the names of French people who helped him is honored through a special display now at the French museum, l'Association Bretonne du Souvenir Aérien 39-45 (the Breton Association of Air Remembrance). ABSA 39-45, whose president is Benoit Paquet, has now posted a new English version website where you can read the more complete story of Mr. Hersberger's ordeal and heroism. The April headline article can still be read online at monocacymonocle.com.



A French WWII museum displays a propeller from the airplane flown by Poolesville's Norman Davis Hersberger. A picture of a crashed plane represents those ending up in French fields, with pilots often hidden by the French Resistance from the Gestapo. Davis is being honored and remembered in the museum for his refusal to give up names of the Resistance to the Nazis.

Harris Teeter in Darnestown to Close

The bad news? Our local Harris Teeter is now scheduled to close, but no date of doing so has been announced. The good news? While Harris Teeter has not succeeded as a corporate business model for its owner, Kroger Foods, another supermarket brand they own, Piggly Wiggly, is expected to replace the departing Harris Teeter. The main difference between the two supermarkets is that Piggly Wiggly stores are primarily independently-owned supermarkets under the Kroger umbrella. The *Monocle* will keep you posted.

Poolesville Neighbor Suffers Devasting House Fire

On April 18, Alandra Nicole Moreira of Poolesville suffered a house fire and is in desperate need of help. She is a secretary at Poolesville Cats, whose mission is to coordinate efforts to control and maintain the good health of Poolesville's feral cat population, to reunite missing owners with their feline family, and to share resources to help their kittens have a good home.

In the aftermath of the house fire, they have opened a GoFundMe account to help her. Gift cards are also gratefully accepted and can be mailed to Poolesville Cats, P.O. Box 72, Poolesville, MD 20837.

Continued on page 11.



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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Present Virtual and In-Person Programs

Registration is required, but all events are open to the entire community and free unless otherwise noted. In case of bad weather or unusual circumstances, consult poolesvilleseniors.org. Most in-person events take place at *Poolesville Presbyterian Church's Speer Hall* at 17800 Elgin Road (Rte. 109).

May 1

Chair One Fitness with Deirdre

Join Deirdre, a certified Chair One Fitness Instructor for a chair-based dance program that delivers a musically-driven 45-minute, interactive workout that uplifts people through dance and fitness movements. *PES Cafeteria*. 7:00 p.m.

May 2, May 9, and May 23

Story Lifelines: Connection and Community with Noa Baum

Join master Storyteller Noa Baum as she provides guided activities in a fun, interactive and safe space. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

May 4

Continuing Hikes: Broad Run Trunk Aqueduct Walk with Jon Wolz

Join one of the 2025 Continuing Hikes focused on aqueducts. Attendees should dress for the weather, bring water and lunch or a snack, and be prepared to walk four to six miles, round trip. *Parking lot at Edwards Ferry, Lock 25*. 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

May 6

Brad Stone: How the Civil War Led to the Cinco De Mayo Holiday

Discover the significance of Cinco de Mayo (May 5) to the Civil War. *PPC Sanctuary*. 7:00 p.m.

May 7

Birthday Card Club Crafting Event

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

May 8

Hip-Hop Dance Class with Kim Harris

Learn one complete hip-hop dance each monthly session. Spend twenty minutes learning the steps, and then the dancing will begin. *Speer Hall*. 6:30 p.m.

May 10

Spring Fling Dance Party

Put on your dancing shoes and enjoy the free Spring Fling Dance Party with DJ EZ spinning tunes from the '60s, '70s, and '80s while you socialize and dance the night away. Age 21-plus. Light snacks and refreshments. Optional: Dress for your favorite decade. *St. Peter's Episcopal Church*. 7:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

May 14

Game Day Golf Social

Share a bucket of balls provided by the Poolesville Seniors on the driving range at Poolesville Golf Course then hit the green with some putting games. *Poolesville Golf Course, 16601 W Willard Road*. 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

May 14, May 21, and May 28

Cutting Edge AI: Intro and Its Uses

Tech guru Jessica Wallach will help you understand the basics of AI, discovering simple ways it can support daily tasks and make online activities smoother. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

May 15

Chair One Fitness with Deirdre

Join Deirdre, a certified Chair One Fitness Instructor for a chair-based dance program that delivers a musically-driven 45-minute, interactive workout that uplifts people through dance and fitness movements. *PES Cafeteria*. 7:00 p.m.

Historic Ag Reserve with Kenny Sholes

Join local historian Kenny Sholes for the next Historic Ag Reserve Properties presentation. Virtual on Zoom. 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

May 16

Glenstone Museum

Meet at the world-class Glenstone Museum in nearby Potomac for our 10:00 a.m. timed entry. Glenstone, with thousands of square feet of gallery space on 300 natively-landscaped acres, is the largest private contemporary art gallery in the U.S. and features a series of indoor and outdoor spaces that showcase post-World War II works. *12100 Glen Rd., Potomac*. 10:00 a.m.

Friday Night Movie: *The Last Rifleman*

A 2023 drama starring Pierce Brosnan as Artie Crawford. Artie, a 92-year-old World War II veteran, escapes his care home in Northern Ireland to attend the seventy-fifth anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, France. *Speer Hall*. 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

May 19

Book Club: *How to Age Disgracefully*

Discuss *How to Age Disgracefully*, the comedic novel by *New York Times*-bestselling author, Clare Pooley. Virtual. 7:00 p.m.

May 21

Trail Hike: Sugarloaf Mountain

Join a challenging hike skirting a 2.5-hour, 5-mile loop to Sugarloaf Mountain's peak and down (about 800 feet of elevation) at a moderate but steady pace. Most of the climbing is not too steep, but rocky and with roots, so hiking shoes are needed, and poles are wise. Hydration and snacks are recommended. *West parking lot, 7901 Comus Rd., Dickerson*. 8:50 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

May 29

Great and Small Therapeutic Riding

Visit Great and Small, a therapeutic riding farm which focuses on providing equine assisted services to the disabled community. *17320 Moore Rd, Boyds*. 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Space is limited.

Continued on page 7.

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Continued from page 6.

Senior News

May 30

Line Dancing w/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. *St. Peter's Episcopal Church*. 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Weekly Events

**Tuesdays, Wednesday,
Thursdays, Fridays**

Outdoor Pickleball Open Play.
Stevens Park. 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Mondays

PS Walking Club. *Flagpole on 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.

Ping Pong Afternoon. *Speer Hall*. 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Tuesdays

PS Walking Club. *Flagpole on Whalen Commons*. 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Tai-Chi with Maureen Ivusic. *PMUMC and virtual*. 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Bridge. Snacks provided. Registration required. *Speer Hall*. 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Wednesdays

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

Knitting/Crochet Instruction and Support. *Poolesville Presbyterian Manse*. 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Trivia Game Night. If you love Trivia, come join a team with Poolesville Seniors on the first Wednesday of the month. For more information, email info@poolesvilleseniors.org. 7:00 p.m. *Virtual*.

Thursdays

PS Walking Club. *Flagpole on Whalen Commons*. 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Mahjong with Terri Pearson. Beginner and seasoned players are welcome. *Speer Hall*. 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 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.

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Pulse

KPC Peace Park Shines as a Welcoming Jewel in the Ag Reserve

By Maura Daly

On one side of the road you see Lady Liberty, her torch held high, offering a warm welcome to all. She stands at the entrance to the Buddhist Temple at 18400 River Road, Poolesville.

Opposite the temple, with simple wooden steps as an entryway, the Palyul Peace Park is a little-known gem. Its sixty-five acres offer visitors rustic trails, colorful prayer flags, meditation gardens, and sacred statues and stupas. The private land is open to the public during daylight hours. It's an offering to the community from Kunzang Palyul Choling, the Buddhist Temple that has housed a place of peace and prayer since 1985.

The Palyul Peace Park is the brainchild of KPC's spiritual director and founder, Her Eminence Jetsunma Ahkön Lhamo, who brings the wisdom tradition of Buddhism to the western world. "There's a place for everyone here," she says. "I want to tell you about the treasures we have here."

Blessings not just for Buddhists

The fourteen stupas and large welcoming statue in the Peace Park are traditional Tibetan Buddhist structures, built with all the proper and exacting rituals and consecrations so that each is a living presence of the Buddha in the world; however, their blessings are not just for Buddhists. They are here on this land to benefit all. Thus, the park is open to people of all faith traditions or no tradition. We simply ask that visitors sincerely show respect for the land and all that it holds.

The Peace Park provides a place of refuge to those who need it—humans and animals—and is certified as a wildlife refuge by the National Wildlife Federation.

For many area residents, it's the place they go when they need a place of peace, when their minds feel busy or their lives too complicated. "I go there to center

Continued on page 13.



The serene trail within the KPC Stupa Peace Park.



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Nicholas Spano
New Ownership

Continued from page 1.

Final Proposals to Open White's Ferry Are in Loudoun's Hands

that could ultimately result in another disagreement, lawsuits, and possible closure again of the Virginia landing over debates of payments per car.

When Montgomery County entered the fray in hopes of ending the closure, the county wanted to offer Rockland a fixed amount to land the ferry on the Virginia side to resolve the issue. Rockland refused, continuing to insist on receiving payments for landing rights based on a per-car payment arrangement. The county government budgetarily is unable to enter such a pay-per-car arrangement.

A year ago, the Kuhns finally offered to donate the ferry and its operations to Montgomery County to help get the ferry open faster. After a year of considering the offer by the Kuhns and reaching what the Kuhns believed was an agreement to do so, the Kuhns were very disappointed in the county's recent decision not to accept that original offer to find a way to get the ferry open.

Instead, this past month, the county made a final attempt by offering both parties a total of \$3 million to be divided as they determine.

In making the offer, County Executive Marc Erlich specified that, "contingent on County Council approval and appropriation, the funds may be used for property rights, equipment purchase, or other capital investment needed for the ferry. Resumption of ferry service by a set date and sustained operation of the ferry are prerequisites for disbursement of these funds."

He stated further, "We've done everything we can do as a government to get this ferry reopened because we understand how much it means to the people who live and work in this region. This offer is about giving the private parties one last opportunity to find a workable solution. We can't force an agreement, but we are putting real money on the table to help make one possible. If this doesn't get resolved now, it won't be for lack of effort from the county, the state, or the Town of Poolesville."

This final offer to assist with an agreement stipulated a July 2026 expiration for the contending parties to reach an agreement on a settlement.

This month, the Kuhns then responded to that decision by turning to Loudoun County government with a similar offer of a donation of the ferry to it.

"We spoke to Loudoun County leaders, and they are open to considering the donation," Chuck Kuhn stated. "This will make it easier to work through zoning issues since the exemption on the Virginia landing side—owned by Rockland Farms—has now expired. Donating the land to the county will make the zoning process simpler and faster. Our goal since purchasing the defunct ferry has always been to get it reopened. This crossing has served as a local economic engine and is a piece of our history. Too many businesses and residents have been hurt by its closure. After numerous proposed solutions, we hope that this one ensures the ferry finally becomes operational." The Kuhns said their goals are to get the Potomac River crossing operational, preserve the history of the ferry, save jobs, and reduce traffic.

In donating the ferry operation and supporting infrastructure, the Kuhns have requested that the same landing rights agreement be made for both the Maryland and Virginia sides.

The economy of Poolesville has been significantly hurt by the closure, but it is hopeful that this final initiative may result in a solution. At this juncture, either a new arrangement between Loudoun County or the Kuhns and Rockland Farm LLC is concluded, or the ferry will be permanently closed.

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Continued from page 4.

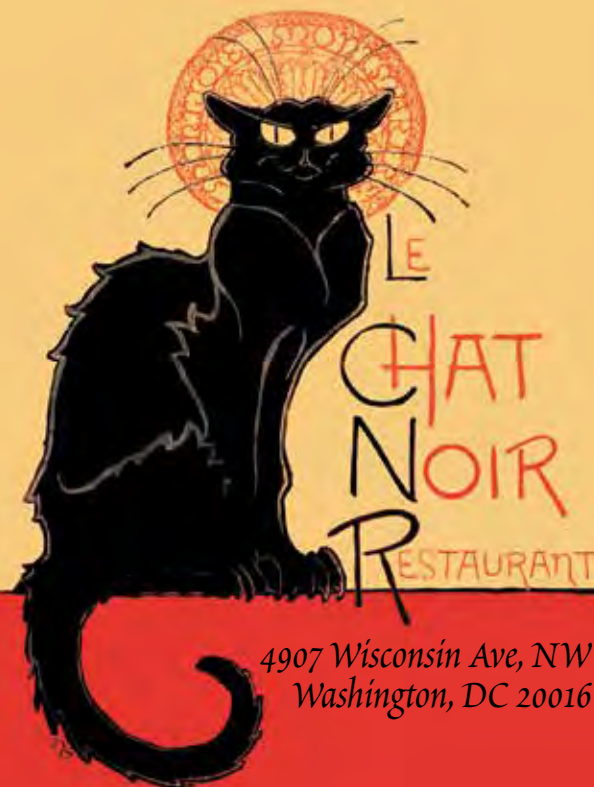
White's Ferry, Supermarkets, and Growth: The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same

store. Harris Teeter has decided that the Darnestown location will be closed. For those who still think we should be able to attract a supermarket to Poolesville, take note. The Darnestown location has failed as a Food Lion and now as Harris Teeter. Whatever makes you think a supermarket in Poolesville would be a better idea? There may be hope: Kroger, which owns Harris Teeter, also owns the Piggly Wiggly supermarket brand, and they believe that this supermarket model of non-corporate, independent ownership of the store under the umbrella brand of the Piggly Wiggly could still work. If it will and if they find an independent owner to take it over, we might still have a supermarket within twenty minutes of all of us.

Finally, on the matter of growth in the town, we have reached our peak. With the development of the Willard property next to town hall, Ferry Crossing (which may soon become Non-Ferry Crossing) along with the townhomes near Tractor Supply and just a couple of private lots of less than six homes each, the growth of the Town of Poolesville will have reached its peak. All these new homes will add around 200 to 225 new residents. With our current population nearly six thousand, this less-than-four percent increase in population should be quite easily merged into our current infrastructure. The hand-wringing of this is ill-advised. Of course, just when you think we don't have to be concerned about population issues anymore, and now we can begin to relax and enjoy life, forget it. The flag of concern over climate change negatively impacting our aquifer supply is already in the mix, so, sorry to say, we will have plenty to argue about going forward no matter what.

What's the phrase? The more things change, the more they stay the same.

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Garden

To Weed or Not to Weed

By Maureen O'Connell

That is the question, and your answer lies in defining what you want to achieve with your garden. It could be for growing specific vegetables, fruits, or herbs, for creating a beautiful display that is the envy of your neighborhood, or for supporting pollinators and contributing to a sustainable ecosystem.

Garden weeds, the good, the bad, and the ugly: Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882) was a prominent writer, poet, lecturer, and philosopher. He is quoted as saying, "What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered." There are many differing opinions about the wisdom and need for weeding. Weeds are present in all landscapes in some form or other; they are part of nature. There are legitimate reasons to let weeds stay where they are, but they are also the bane of most gardeners. Why are they considered uninvited guests who can wreak havoc on our gardening plans? Weeds are opportunistic and aggressive. They compete with other plants (the ones you planted and want) for water, light, soil nutrients, and space.

Why are they good and deserve to be left in our flower gardens? Weeds are the fundamental food source for pollinators, especially in the early months of spring, and without them, many pollinators would not survive. Some weeds, especially those with deep taproots like dandelions and bindweed, can access nutrients from deeper soil layers and bring them to the surface as they decompose. They are part of nutrient cycling. Some weeds, such as clover, can fix nitrogen from the atmosphere, making it available to other plants; weeds can help prevent soil erosion by holding the soil together with their roots. Many weeds attract beneficial insects like pollinators and predatory insects which can help control pests. They can also repel other undesirable pests. Save money on mulch. Weeds are living mulch. As they suppress the growth of more weeds, they help retain moisture and improve soil health.

Weeds provide a valuable food source for various animals. Many types of wildlife eat weeds, including deer, rabbits, and livestock like cows and sheep.

Speaking of weeds as food, let's not forget what is usually considered a weed—the dandelion. While reviled by many people, dandelions are one of the most nutritious plants on the planet. All parts of the plant are safe for humans to eat. They can be added to salads or sautéed or cooked in other dishes.

Are you going to weed your garden this year or let these uninvited guests stay where they are? As far as bad versus good, it's all pretty much how you look at it. Love your weeds? That doesn't mean all weeds are great. Some have very pretty flowers and might have a place in your garden. If you can't stand the plant in your garden, get rid of it. There are lots of ways to deal with weeds without turning to chemicals. It involves manual labor. Hand pulling weeds is my least favorite job in the garden; I consider it my daily exercise. Not all weeds respond well to pulling; Japanese knotweed, bindweed, Canadian thistle, and a few other invasive species are best controlled by continual top cutting. Digging up thick,

Continued on page 16.



The weed, ground ivy.



Adults Getting Together

When: First Saturday of each month from 9 AM – NOON

Where: Vail Christian Education Building
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The Boyds Presbyterian Church (BPC)

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Continued from page 5.

Tidbits

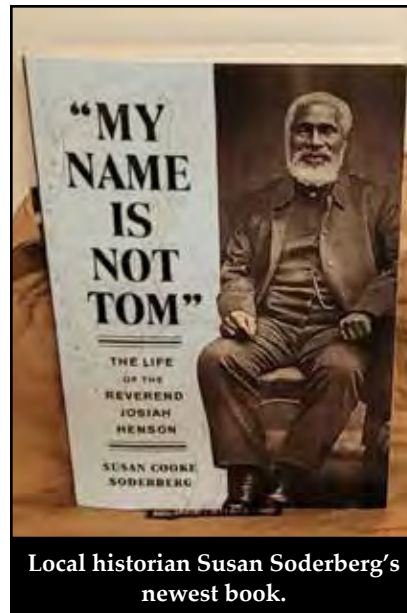
Sadly, Alandra's daughter's cat, Cutsie, did not survive. Everyone else, two-footed and four-footed, is fine but in shock. Poolesville always reaches out to help our own. You may do your part by donating at gofund.me/523e6e67.

My Name Is Not Tom, a New book by Susan Cooke Soderburg

My Name Is Not Tom: The Life of the Reverend Josiah Henson is a biography by local historian Susan Cooke Soderburg of Josiah Henson, the man catapulted to fame after Harriet Beecher Stowe noted that certain events in his life partially influenced the development of her fictional character Uncle Tom. While previous biographies have relied heavily on Henson's four autobiographies, which replicated the myth that he was the sole inspiration for Stowe's character, *My Name Is Not Tom* uses new primary source research to fill in the untold parts of his extraordinary life and to examine his views of slavery and morality, which changed substantially over the course of his life. This Georgetown University Press publication is available on Amazon.

Attention Poolesville Day Vendors

The Poolesville Day vendor registration opened on April 1, and many have already completed their registration. If you have not registered yet, please be sure to do so before the pricing increases.



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Youth Sports

Off-Season Workouts Paying Off For Falcon Boys' Lacrosse

By Jeff Stuart

Last year was a transition year for the Poolesville High School boys' lacrosse program. Longtime coach Stu Orns retired. Dave Fisher, an assistant football coach, moved over to temporarily take the reins of the program. With a big assist from assistant coach Niko Sofelkanik, the Falcons won their first three games and finished with a 6-3 record.

Nick DeOto is the head coach now. He graduated from Seneca Valley in 2015. Nick played lacrosse at Goucher College where he helped coach the men's team after graduating.

On April 3, at Magruder, the Falcons won, 4-3, to run their early season record to 4-0.



Seniors on the PHS boys' lacrosse team: Hayden Myers, Nick Feys, Cory Gatons, Da'shawm Stanton, Carter Rice, Nathaniel Gilli, Racer Anderson, Vinnie Volpe, Keefer Bowen, and Jacob Nagel.

"We are doing a lot better than last year," said senior captain Racer Anderson at practice on March 31. "Last year we lost some close games. We are winning now. I have scored in all the games so far. Clarksburg was our best game so far. It was our opener, and we won, 10-6, at home. My shout goes to senior Jacob Nagel. He worked out during the off season. He is a scorer and looking pretty sharp."

"Coming into the season, a lot of people were down on us," said junior captain Levi Roe. "They did not think we were going to be very good. In the first couple of games, we proved a lot of people wrong. We got some good wins, but we have a challenging road up ahead, and we've got to get ready for that. My shoutout goes to senior Nick Feys on defense. He worked hard in the off season, and he is causing a lot of turnovers and helping to lead the defense."

"I think our best game was definitely against Clarksburg," said senior captain Carter Rice. "We started out a little slow, but we picked it up and ran away with it. I think we all surprised ourselves, starting out with a game like that. They are a good team. We learned we could hang with them. I want to shout out to our junior goalie Behr Shickler. It is the hardest job on the team."

"I have had a lot of fun so far," senior captain Jacob Nagel, "and I think my teammates have too. My favorite game was the Watkins Mill game because it was the first time my mom got to come and see me score in a game. We won, 16-1. I would like to give shoutouts to Levi and senior Vinnie Volpe for putting in the work in the off season and helping me get a lot better."

"A personal highlight for me was creating four forced turnovers in the Clarksburg game," said senior captain Nick Feys. "I played very well in that game. It was a good overall defensive game for me. Last year, I played very well against Clarksburg as well. I cleared the ball and passed it to Landon Tetlow who scored the goal. I give my shout out to junior captain Ethan Schlosburg. He helps command the defense and will let us know if we are slacking."

"A major season highlight was beating Clarksburg," said Schlosburg. "It is a big rivalry, and everybody was waiting for that first game, and it was action packed, a lot of back and forth. We knew we were going to win if we executed. We did exactly what we planned to do. My shoutouts go to Nick, senior Keefer Bowen, and sophomore Ben Schneider. All of them improved over the years. All

Continued on page 17.

Monocacy Critters

Serendipitous Pet and Animal Pictures*



Do you ever have the feeling that you're being watched? Photo by Jon Wolz.

*Do you have an unusual or funny picture of an pet or animal?
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Continued from page 8.

KPC Peace Park Shines as a Welcoming Jewel in the Ag Reserve

myself," says David Wolfe, of Bethesda, a busy medical doctor with a keen interest in Eastern philosophy and Native American traditions. "It's a deeply spiritual place. I think it would be appealing to people of all denominations. It speaks to a part of us that goes beyond all distinctions."

It's a welcoming place

Whether first-timers or regulars, people can walk the trails, enjoy the sounds of the flowing streams or wind chimes, see the spring ephemerals or the flitting birds. They connect with nature—and reconnect with themselves. Settling in at one of the meditation gardens, making prayers from their heart, or circumambulating any of the fifteen stupas nestled throughout, people find the Peace Park to be healing and nourishing.

Says Marcia Snavelly, World History teacher at Poolesville High School's (PHS) Global Ecology Science Program (GESP), the visit to the Peace Park is one of the favorite field trips for her eleventh graders. "Junior year is a stressful time, and I want them to know there is a place to destress and learn healthy ways to deal with the challenges in their lives." Having brought students to KPC annually since 2009, she reports that her students routinely express their appreciation for the outing.

Community supporters care for the park

The sixty-five acres and several miles of walking trails are maintained by volunteers: community groups and individuals who enjoy outdoor work and are motivated to support a place dedicated to peace and harmony.

One such volunteer, John Darrin of Frederick, geo-mapped every inch of the trails, using his GPS app. The maps he created can be easily used by hikers, birders, and weekend walkers. Collaborating with others, John now keeps hiking maps available at the entrances to the park, with loops designated with varying distances. He loves to go in the early morning when he can enjoy the solitude and the company of foxes and deer. "The park is a beautiful asset to the community, and I want others to enjoy it."

Other regular volunteers are PHS students, supported by GESF educator John Sparrow and other teachers, who offer service at the park annually, removing invasive plants, repairing bridges, and clearing trails. Adult teams and individuals also help care for flowers, trees, and shrubs in the park, including teams led by Poolesville resident Omar Bonilla, Environmental Restoration Captain of MOM's Organic Market in Gaithersburg.

Visitors to the park also benefit from the efforts of many boy and girl scouts who've undertaken service projects over the years. A recent refurbishment of the steep section between the Blue and Green Gardens, an Eagle project led by Zachary Antonishek, is the most recent example. The previous year, Andrew Fraser built a new bridge for his Eagle project. Trail signs created for Lauren Doring's Eagle project during COVID-19 lockdown are still going strong.

Ani Dawa Dellamula, a KPC nun, Poolesville resident, and one of the park's volunteer caretakers, can often be found working in the park, whether mowing the trails, hanging prayer flags, or repairing the stupas. Wearing her trademark cowboy boots, she remarked, "Stupas are wish-fulfilling gems, and it always makes me happy to have people see them, walk around them, and help care for them. The traditions of stupa-building run deep, but anyone can benefit from stupas without directly knowing any of the history or symbolism."

Tsering and Jyoti Lama, of Germantown, agree. Kunzang Palyul Choling reminds them of their native country, Nepal. "The stupas and the Peace Park make us feel at home, and we feel so blessed to be able to visit and help in any way we can."

It's a gift to and from the community

The Peace Park is both a gift to the community and a gift sustained by the community. Beyond the physical support, fiscal contributions are always needed and welcomed. All financial donations to KPC are fully tax-deductible and deeply appreciated. To learn more or to donate, visit KPC on River Road or at www.tara.org.

Maura Daly is a student at Kunzang Palyul Choling and one of its volunteer coordinators. She rejoices each time someone finds solace and support in the Peace Park. If you'd like to volunteer or plan a group tour, she'd love to hear from you at KPC@tara.org or via www.tara.org.

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Youth Sports

Girls' Lacrosse Emerges As a Division Contender

By Jeff Stuart

The Poolesville High School girls' lacrosse team is off to a quick start this spring. "I am definitely excited about being 3-0 at this point," said sophomore defenseman Carson Hartke at practice on April 1. "We have a really good season ahead of us. I think our best game was against Kennedy. I think we had really good ball movement on offense. We beat them, 14-1, and got to try out some of our new plays. Our defense was more cohesive. I enjoy playing good defense, pressuring opponents with the ball, and getting steals. I want to give a shoutout to junior Ainsley Walton. She plays really tough defense and is a really good teammate."

"Our best game was our opener against Clarksburg," said senior captain Kate Dacanay. "We played hard and were very aggressive. They had pretty tough defense, but we were able to work around it as a team. We won, 13-3, away. I scored a left-handed goal that game. That was pretty cool since I am right-handed. Our coaches have been working with us on that, so I was very proud of myself. I want to give a shoutout to our other two senior captains, Laynie Sofelkanik and Kristin Lang. They are very aggressive, well-rounded players. I am so happy I can spend my last year with them."

"I think the start to our season has been really great," said senior Olivia Kwon. "I love that our teamwork has been growing by the day. I love all my teammates. We all encourage each other. I agree with Kate that Clarksburg was our best game. They came out super aggressive. It was really hard to get past their defense, but in the end, we pulled through. It surprised us because, in the past years, we have lost to them. It was really nice to finally get a win. It was great to experience that in my last year. I want to give a shoutout to our junior goalie, Ashley Obodo. This is her second year playing goalie, and she is killing it."



Kristin Lang, Kate Dacanay, Valeria Castro Dugarte, Laynie Sofelkanik, Lulu Alcorta, Abby Heitzmann, Neema Adolwa, and Olivia Kwon.

"This year we are super excited," said Coach Sean Foster. "We have eight returning seniors, so we have a lot of experience and leadership. They make sure things go smoothly. We have three new freshmen who have played a lot. They are excited to be on the team. It is a good balance. We can stand toe to toe with

Continued on page 15.



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Continued from page 3.

Tribute to Jack Toomey and His Police Blotter Column

Station when it was stuck in the rear. An east-bound freight train then was derailed when the toppling passenger cars struck it. The engineer of the second train was arrested.

November 1, 1944: Jake Powell, star outfielder for the Washington Nationals, yesterday closed out his baseball career by accepting an appointment to the Montgomery County Police force. Powell will fill a vacancy left by officers who have been called into the military for wartime service.

July 25, 1945: A nineteen-year-old German prisoner-of-war asked the wrong man for a drink of water near New Market, Maryland. The prisoner-of-war, who had escaped from a work detail on a nearby farm, approached Sgt. William Blake who had just returned from thirty-six months of fighting in Europe. Sergeant Blake delivered the man to authorities.

September 7, 1945: The FBI joined the Montgomery County Police and military police in a search for Werner Koehler, 25, a German prisoner of war, who escaped from Green Meadows, the farm of Clion Viers, near Rockville.

May 21, 1958: Twelve people were killed after a Capital Airlines passenger plane and a Maryland National Guard training plane collided over southwest Frederick County.

November 18, 1969: Two Poolesville brothers, who had just been sentenced to four years in prison for cattle rustling, escaped from the Rockville courthouse in a hail of gun fire. A force, consisting of the Maryland State Police and county detectives, arrested the brothers in a Monroe Street apartment about an hour after their escape. The two had been convicted of stealing cattle from a Poolesville farm and selling them at the Frederick cattle auction. One of the brothers was found to have a bullet wound in the buttocks.

October 23, 1971: The Poolesville branch of the First National Bank of Maryland was robbed by two armed men who took an undisclosed amount of money. Montgomery County Police were actively searching for the men who were presumed to have escaped in an automobile.

May 6, 1981: An Air Force jetliner packed with sophisticated missile tracking equipment exploded in the sky over Frederick County and crashed in a rural area near Walkersville. All twenty-one persons on board were killed. Dr. Alan Garst, a veterinarian, was treating a horse when he saw the plane explode above him. Later investigation revealed that the explosion was caused by a malfunction of the control system.

October 29, 1984: A forty-year-old Montgomery County man was shot and killed and another man wounded in an apparent confrontation with a third man on Mt. Ephraim Road in Dickerson.

Copies of Jack's recently published book, *Crime, Tragedy, and Catastrophe in Montgomery County, Maryland 1860 to 1960* can be obtained by emailing rdavis@monocacymonocle.com.

Continued from page 14.

Girls' Lacrosse Emerges as a Division Contender

everybody that we are going to play. We have to make sure they are earning every goal they get and really working to defend against us. Kate, Laynie, and Kristin have been with me all four years. Olivia and senior Abby Heitzmann have really stepped up on the attack. Defensively, senior Lulu Alcorta has been a beast so far this season. Our freshmen, Victoria McGuire, Haley Sherrill, and Charley Straniero, are really talented, and all the returning sophomores and juniors have kind of stepped up and are showing off the skills they are starting to master.

"I would like to give a shoutout to co-coach Debi Haba. She played goalie in college and came out two years ago to help me out. She is going to grad school now and helping me coach. She has been a shining example of what a coach should be. She has a great knowledge of the game. She works very well with the girls."

Other seniors are Valeria Castro Dugarte and Neema Adolwa. Juniors are Lila Snelson, Zoe Hornyak, and Camden Sosna.

Senior Night is May 22 against Wheaton at 7:30 p.m.

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

Protect the Ag Reserve

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

■ **Solar installations on farms.** A new state law—The Renewable Energy Certainty Act—aims to significantly expand solar energy generation in Maryland. It does that, in part, by giving solar companies easier access to farmland, including over 5,000 additional acres in the Ag Reserve. The new law directly pitted solar energy against farming and local land-use zoning. The state—rather than counties—will now have jurisdiction over most decisions about where solar facilities can be sited. The law's implementation and impact are still largely unclear, however.

■ **Waste management.** Montgomery County's elaborate plans to overhaul its waste disposal and recycling systems over the next decade may be nearing launch. We continue to urge speedy closure of the Dickerson incinerator as part of the plan. The incinerator is the county's single largest source of pollution and greenhouse gases.

■ **Data centers.** A proposal to build a data center and battery storage campus in Dickerson continues to move forward, albeit slowly. Along with Montgomery Countryside Alliance, we are closely monitoring the county's regulatory process as it assesses the proposal. If approved, the project would be the largest real estate and industrial development in our area in decades.

You can read more about all these issues on our website.

OTHER SCA INITIATIVES

- ✓ Promoting regenerative agriculture and table crop farming
- ✓ Monitoring the evolution of agritourism in the Ag Reserve
- ✓ Preventing development near Sugarloaf Mountain
- ✓ Tracking energy infrastructure projects that threaten farmland

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



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Things to Do

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WUMCO's *Care for Your Health* provides low-cost medical care and consultations for those 18 years and older on the first and third Saturdays of each month. Insured and uninsured patients welcome. Low copays. Medical funds may be available through WUMCO to help cover additional costs. Call Care for Your Health at 240-258-8583 to make an appointment. *Poolesville Baptist Church, 17550 W. Willard Rd. (across from the high school). 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*

May 2

UMCVFD Bingo Night

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. Come hungry! Refreshments sold onsite only. Doors open: 5:30 p.m. Games: 7:00 p.m.

May 3 and 4

Old Line Market

Mid-Atlantic regional antique and garden show featuring vintage, artisan crafts, and collectibles. Food vendors. *Aix La Chapelle Farm, 19130 Jerusalem Road, Poolesville. Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

May 5

PHS Varsity Home Game

Baseball vs. Paint Branch. 5:15 p.m.

May 10

Scouting for Food

Food and canned goods donation on behalf of WMUCO. Most needed: Canned veggies and fruits, soups, canned pasta (SpaghettiOs), canned tuna, salmon, chicken, and baking/pancake mixes. Place items in a bag and attach to mailbox by 9:00 a.m.

Pickup from homes in Poolesville. Outside of town, donations can be dropped off at WUMCO offices in the *Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church parking lot.*

May 13

Annual Poolesville SpringFest

Beer and Wine Tasting Tent: A variety of breweries and wineries hosting. Food trucks. \$20 for three tickets and a commemorative pint glass, or \$6 per ticket. *Whalen Commons.* Live Music: No Stop Light: 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Bad Influence: 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Village Piecemakers Quilting Club

Featuring Erin Grogan, lecture and trunk show of modern quilts. *Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.*

May 15

PACC Family Ice Cream Social

Free small ice cream cone for PACC members. Food truck on site. *The Market at Deere Valley Market Farm, 22919 Dickerson Road. 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.*

Monocacy Garden Club Flower Show

St. Mary's Pavillion. 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

May 17

Rock and Rhyme with Mr. Jon & Friends

Join multiple Parents' Choice Award-winning musician Mr. Jon & Friends for a fun interactive show for the whole family. Mr. Jon uses rhymes, songs, books, and puppets for a musical comedy show not to miss. Be ready to jump, dance, laugh, and sing along! This program promotes early literacy, movement, and positive connections. For more information, please call 240-773-9550. This program is generously sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc. and is especially for children ages 1 to 6 and their families. *Maggie Nightingale Library. 2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.*

May 28

PACC Lecture on AI

PACC is hosting a lecture on artificial intelligence entitled "AI-It's Not a Beginner, Are You?" The presenter will be PACC member, Theresa Wallingford, with AI Stratisfy. Come learn how AI can help your business. The event is free, but registration is requested since space is limited. Sign up on the PACC website. *Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.*

May 31

Taste of Riverworks

A free, outdoor festival featuring *en plein air* painters around the Ag Reserve, a wet paint auction of their work, live music, and dance performances, art activities for adults and children alike, beer, wine, food, and ice cream! Join us at a Taste of Riverworks and play a vital role in developing this growing new arts center as it transforms our community and becomes a place of creativity for all!

Performers include: Riverworks's very own Reserve Wind Ensemble and Children's Choir, dancers from Poolesville's Essence Studios and Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre, and our headliner band, The Nighthawks, a local legendary blues and roots rock

band! Music begins at *Locals* then moves to the *Performance Center, 17617 W. Willard Rd., Poolesville.* See *en plein air* painters at their locations: 11:00 a.m.; live music at *Locals*: 2:00 p.m.; live music at the future Performance Center: 4:00 p.m.

Continued from page 10.

To Weed or Not to Weed

well buried roots disturbs the plant and seems to invigorate it. Here today and back tomorrow.

Gardening involves working with nature. If you try to outsmart it in weeding your garden of bad weeds or uninvited guests, you will probably fail. In nature, there is no such thing as a weed; they are just plants like any other. When your garden weeds start to stretch the limits of your patience, try to think of their redeeming qualities.






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Continued from page 12.

Off-Season Workouts Paying Off for Falcon Boys’ Lacrosse

are relatively new to the Poolesville High lacrosse program. I liked watching them grow up. They are all great players.”

“So far we have managed to win all our games,” said Coach DeOto. “We have started off the season undefeated. We are looking to continue that trend, but there are some really tough opponents coming up. They are going to give us a run for our money, so we are going to have to mind our Ps and Qs. Getting that first win under our belts was big. Clarksburg played us real tough last year. We won, 10-9. We knew they were going to be a worthy opponent. We came out composed and took care of business and started the season off with a win. Our leaders are Vinnie, Levi, Ethan, and Racer, ad we have a pretty good goalie in Behr.”

On March 28, the Falcons beat Kennedy, 17-4, they then beat Magruder, 4-3. Unfortunately, these wins were followed by six losses, bringing the season record to 4-6 at publication. Senior Night is May 2 against Wheaton at 5:30.

Other seniors are Da’shawm Stanton, Cory Gatons, Hayden Myers, and Nathaniel Gilli. Other juniors are Abraham Klemek, Maxx Gordon, Jack Murphy, Francis Mureithi, Shubh De, and Alexander Rich. Thomas Blackstone, Jackson Shickler, Chris Daza, and Andrew Paul are sophomores. Jackson Cogan is a freshman.

Chris Daza is the JV Coach. Volunteers are James Pioli, Stu Orns, and Remy Anderson.

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May Snow

May is a blue and gold and green,
Not a trace of cloud is seen;
Yet I find along the way
Snowflakes falling all the day.

Dainty snowflakes fragrant white,
And there's not a cloud in sight,
Snow you cannot truly be—
You're just petals from the tree!
— Annette Wynne



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Youth Sports

Win over Clarksburg Highlights Coed Volleyball Season

By Jeff Stuart

In coed volleyball, there is always a unique blend of the social and competitive aspects. This year, that balance skews a bit more toward the competitive. Early season success has the players wanting a little bit more. They are looking forward to the playoffs.

After sweeping Walter Johnson and Northwood on the road, the coed volleyball team returned home to sweep Whitman. After a loss to Wheaton, they rebounded with four straight wins. They won at Damascus in four sets and swept Northwest at home and Seneca Valley away, leading up to a dramatic win over Clarksburg.

“Honestly, we have had such a great season,” said junior Emma Chettupuzha. “We have all been playing really well. We pushed very hard against Clarksburg at home and won. It was an amazing game. We fought for every point. It went to five sets. Junior Jaylin Anderson, our setter, has been working really hard, getting the ball to our hitters. Junior Scarlett Hunter plays well all around. She is all over the court. Her passing is insane, always getting the ball up. The season has gone really fast. Sarah has done an amazing job coaching. My other shoutouts go to junior Emmanuel Chukwurah and senior Jacob Lee. They are both great defenders at the net.”

“It has been a great season,” said junior Riley Sutton. “We have some talented new freshmen who have played lots of volleyball before. We are all upbeat and having fun. Our best game was last night against Clarksburg. They are probably more skilled than us, but we took them in five sets. Everyone had a lot of energy. I got to play with my brother Zachary, a freshman, in the front row. We have not played on the same team in a while. I would like to give a shoutout to senior

Eleanora Vencill. She does not get much time in the game, but she definitely brings a lot of energy, and it matters. Junior Jaylin Anderson pulls the whole team together. He tells us where we are supposed to be, and Scarlett is always managing things on the side.”

“We have a really strong team, and we have done so well this season,” said Scarlet. “In our loss to Wheaton, we had a lot of miscommunication on the court. We were not communicating with our setter, and our defense was all over the place. We only won the second game. I think our best game was the five-set win over Clarksburg. We put a lot of pressure on ourselves to establish that we were the better team. We made good plays throughout. I give a shoutout to senior Jacob Lee. He is a really good captain and knows the game really well. He is always getting the ball to our hitters and communicating with us.”

“I think this has been the best team since I have been here,” said junior Jaylin Anderson. “We are doing pretty well. We have really strong boy hitters, and our energy is great. The girls really know how to communicate with the boys, especially the new ones. We help them learn more about the sport and what plays to run. I think my best game was against Seneca Valley. I remember Emmanuel, a middle hitter, told us to run a trick play where he goes behind me. As a setter I dumped it right over the net into the donut in the middle of their court. Nobody saw it coming. It was the best feeling. He hasn’t played much volleyball, but he said let’s do this, and we did. Great to see him giving directions and saying do this or do that. I think Clarksburg was one of the hardest teams we have had to play. Wheaton was good, but I think they were better. It was really competitive. We won the first game on the high-ceiling end of the court, and eventually we won the fifth set, 15-8. I think Scarlet is one of the best defenders on our team. She knows how to pick us up when we are down. Her passes are amazing. Emmanuel is the best hitter on our team. He really puts the ball down. He is learning the game fast.”

Brainy Akpala is a senior. Sava Brizhik is a junior. Owen McIntyre, Madeleine Klemek, and Grace Lee are freshmen.

Camryn Smith and Camila Marin are managers.



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Continued from page 1.

Commissioners Hear Presentations Regarding the Town's Water System

restored by using excess water balance capacity and additional wells in the Dry Seneca Creek and Broad Run watersheds. That should be sufficient to supply existing demand, and depending on well yields, future growth."

Hammond said that his review of scholarly research indicates that the effects of climate change are likely to result in more droughts, and the impacts could significantly affect the average baseflow in the wells. This could reduce yields in the wells. Any assessment of its impacts on well demand and yield must include an assumption that our area could see thirty days of hundred-degree-plus Fahrenheit temperatures in a month. His analysis suggests the effects of climate change could result in a reduction of sixteen percent in well yields. He factored this assessment into his analysis of total demand.

Using a "peaking factor" is necessary to assess necessary well yields. For each year, the month of maximum use is divided by the average annual daily demand for that year to calculate the peaking factor for that year. This factor is used to adjust total well demand.

Using all of this analysis, Hammond concluded by saying that "under average climatic conditions as a result of climate change, there should be an adequate water supply to serve the existing town population of 5,772." He continued, "During a moderately-severe drought, water restrictions might be required." He said further, "At a population of 6,500, voluntary water restrictions may be required under dry, below average, climatic conditions, and mandatory water restrictions likely will be required during moderately-severe droughts. The water supply will be at higher risk during severe and extreme droughts."

Hammond recommended that careful monitoring of system production and periodic evaluations are needed to verify the effects of climate change on well yields, due to reduced recharge and increased well interference. Work needs to be done to ameliorate impacts on the Horsepen watershed, and "groundwater exploration should be conducted in the Broad Run watershed" in part due to the excess water balance in that area and because the rock formation there is more high yielding.

Kathy Mihm, the town's hydrologist who works for the firm S. S. Papadopoulos, spoke next. Mihm has decades of experience as a hydrologist and has been involved in monitoring and assessing the town's water system for many years.

She started her presentation by providing a brief overview of the town's water system. Thirteen wells provide water to town residents. All wells must be permitted by MDE and limited to a set maximum use rate. The MDE permits that are in place are designed to support a population of 6,500, consistent with the town's Master Plan. The town's current population is roughly 6,000 with about 120 new homes approved for construction. The projected population of the town is 6,385 persons.

MDE permits are based on the four watershed areas in town and the recharge rate for each well. Recharge is the amount of precipitation that makes its way through the ground to the aquifer. The permits do not allow the town to take more water out than is recharged naturally to the aquifer. Each MDE permit has two withdrawal rates: Daily average (gallons) on a yearly basis; and daily average (gallons) for month of maximum use. Under the current permits, the daily average use rate is 650,000 gpd and the monthly maximum use amount is 910,000 gpd.

Mihm pointed out that the average daily demand for water has recently been within eighty percent of the permitted rate, so MDE requested a Capacity Management Plan (CMP) from the town. The CMP evaluates water demand, additional demand of approved developments, and water system capacity. The town submitted the CMP to MDE in October of 2024, including the addition of the town-approved 120 new homes. In March of 2025, MDE approved the CMP plan which includes support for enough water for all residents and the additional new homes.

Mihm said that both her analysis and Hammond's include demand estimates based on future scenarios of thirty days in a month with air temperatures exceeding one hundred degrees Fahrenheit and peaking factors. She said her estimate is "reasonably conservative" compared to those in the Hammond study. In her view, the estimates of water demand in the two reports are similar, up to the point of climate change impacts included in Hammond's study.

She concluded by saying that MDE does not anticipate changes to water management strategy due to climate change because the impacts are highly uncertain. Also, MDE does not anticipate reductions in town water allocations. The town is using all of the data and analysis it has been reviewing from all

sources to submit new water permit requests that will be considered and decided by MDE in early 2026. The permits do not allow withdrawals that would impact the natural recharge occurring in the aquifer.

Mihm recommended that the town plan additional studies/aquifer testing in collaboration with Hammond, including aquifer testing to evaluate potential well interference for select wells. The town should continue its active water level monitoring for improved drought monitoring and pursue additional well(s) and water easements from adjacent properties. She recommended that there be no additional approvals for new development until MDE permits are evaluated and approved, likely in 2028. The town must continue to rely on conservative "yet realistic water management practices" and work to improve conservation in part by helping educate local residents.

After the two presentations, Hammond added that he has studied drought cycles over the last two hundred years and found severe droughts occur every thirty-five years or so. "The next cycle happens in just ten years or so, and if that happens, you have a problem. It is probably going to happen faster than you think."

One question from the audience dealt with how many homes or how much population the town's water system can support. Hammond said if you don't consider climate change, it is pretty close to what we have now at about 5,500 people, but with climate change included, there may periods of water restrictions.

Town Commission President Jim Brown remarked that the population of the town grew from several hundred to more than three thousand in just a few years during the 1970s. The town has not grown that much in the many decades since then. He also noted that the discussion about the population that can be supported is based on "if we don't do anything in the future." It does not include changes or strategies to adapt to future issues with the water system as time goes on, including sinking new wells in the Broad Run watershed as Hammond suggested, and data he and Mihm have developed over the years to guide future actions.

At the April 7 meeting of the town, the commissioners heard from the Commander of the First District of the Montgomery County Police, Jordan Satinsky, accompanied by Lt. Oneil Ormsby. Commander Satinsky noted that he is aware that response times are an issue in our area and even noted that in one instance, it took him more than forty minutes to get to Poolesville from across the county. This was a rarity, and the policy is for the district to have an officer patrolling either in town or nearby, so they can respond as quickly as possible, but he knows more work needs to be done.

The commissioners also set a public hearing date for its next meeting on April 21 to consider the budget, tax rate, and water rates for the town. The hearing on April 21 did include brief comments from a couple of citizens expressing concerns about the many grants the town was making given its plans to increase taxes and about the tax increases themselves.

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I Wish I Could Tell You, Mom

I wish I could tell you, Mom

How much you mean to me....

But there are no words to say

How much I admire you...

How much I appreciate you...

How much I thank you

For everything you've done.

— Anonymous

Mystery History

Is it a Bank? Is it a Town Hall? It's a Museum!

By Rande Davis

The new commissioner was very pleased with himself. The installation of the town's new four-foot-wide sidewalks, costing between \$1,000 and \$1,200, gave him much pride. The best part was that the sidewalks were all paid for with no outstanding debt. Could this have been the beginning phases of today's much-heralded streetscape plan? No, not really, because you see, we are not talking about the year 2025, but 1912. The "new sidewalk" to which we are referring runs through downtown Poolesville on the opposite side of the street from what we now call the Old Town Hall Bank Museum. In 1912, this building was known as the Poolesville National Bank.

Who was the commissioner with so much pride? It was H. W. Spurrier, who, at the time, not only owned the town's leading mercantile house but was also named the first president of the local bank. The new sidewalks replaced old wooden-plank sidewalks which in their time had provided welcome relief from an often-muddy dirt road that ran right through the center of town.

Mr. Spurrier was an important merchant among many important merchants in the then-bustling town of Poolesville. His two-story, forty-four-thousand-square-foot establishment offered consumers ready-made clothing, boots, shoes, hats, underwear, furniture, floor coverings, chinaware, and novelties—but he was not the only merchant in town.

In the first part of the century, we had three other general merchandise stores. They were Wootton and Elgin, Fletchall Hall's, and Thomas Hoskinson's stores. Additionally, Mr. J. E. Pyles had the drugstore, and E. D. Cruitt specialized in harnesses. Isaac Fyfe was the town's butcher, and C. W. Morrison sold tin and hardware.

With so much enterprise in the town, the twenty-mile trip to Rockville was an undesired burden on the many merchants and businessmen in town. Besides, the small safes in each store did not adequately safeguard the capital of each



Poolesville National Bank circa 1909, with wooden sidewalks.

merchant. Through the leadership of Mr. Spurrier, the business community joined together to charter the bank.

Along with the previously-mentioned gentlemen, James Darby, Dr. Walling, William Griffith, John Jones, Furr White, and D. J. Willard made up the first Board of Directors of the Poolesville National Bank.

Chartered on December 9, 1907, with just twenty-five thousand dollars in capital, all stockholders lived within a five-mile radius of Poolesville. At the time, the bank paid four percent interest on savings accounts which, except for just one other bank, was the highest paid out in the county. By September 1908, resources versus liabilities netted \$89,595.95. By June of 1912, financial success reached \$125,843.12.

Continued on page 26.



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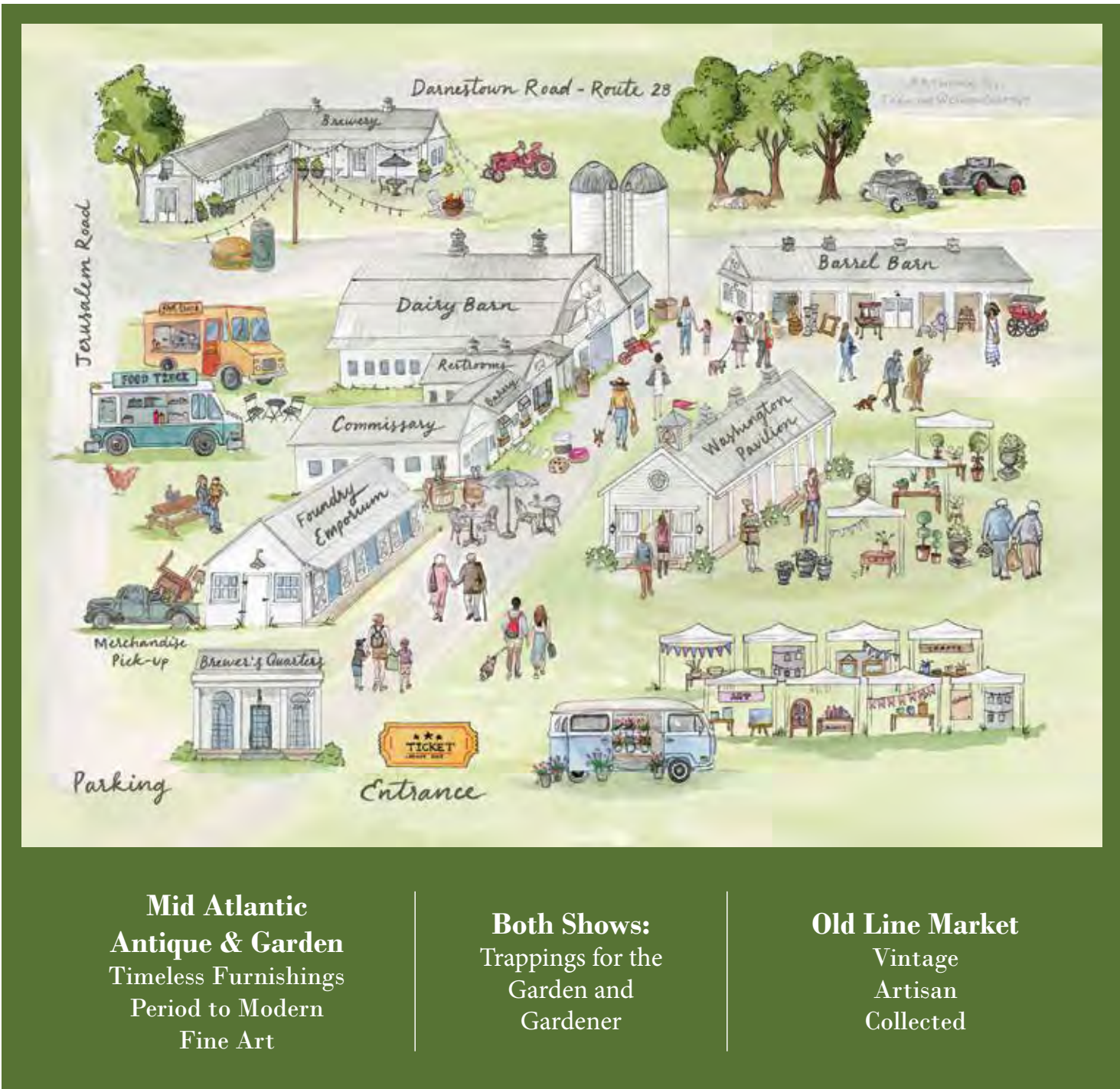
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Youth Sports

A Reset for Boys' Volleyball

By Jeff Stuart

"This season has been like a reset for the team," said sophomore captain Ryan Chung of the Poolesville High School boys' volleyball team. "We lost almost all of the people who got a lot of playing time last year, so we are rebuilding with a whole new set of people. It has been a lot of fun. I think we will get a lot better. We have had ups and downs, but I think we are moving up generally. Our best game was the three-set win against Wheaton. They are a really good team. The whole team played really well. We were focused, talking to each other, and not making easy mistakes. I have been playing with senior captain Shalav Pawar since I started playing the game in seventh grade. He has been a great teammate the whole time."

"We opened the season playing some really strong teams," said junior captain Jason Lee. "Upcoming after the spring break, we have some teams that we should be able to beat. I think we played our best game in our opener at Walter Johnson. They are a very strong team. As a team, we were united and engaged. Our receiving was really good. We played good defense and fought hard. For me, personally, I think my blocking has really improved this year. My shoutouts go to our freshman setter, Bohui Bob Xiao, and to Andrew Nguyen, another freshman, and to Shalav. They both hustle and cover the court really well. They are great teammates. Sophomore Jason Kim is one of my closer teammates because I have known him for a bit."

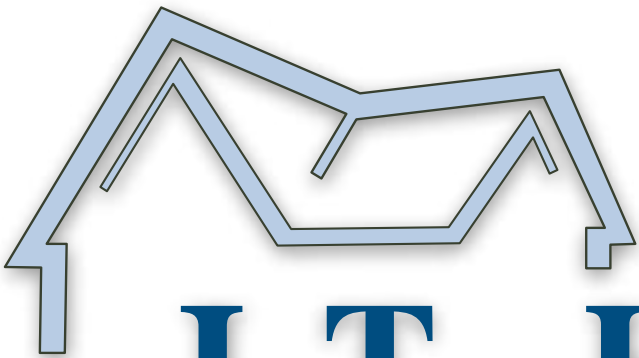
"It has been a roller coaster," said sophomore captain Dimitri Kepler. "We have had some really high highs and some pretty low lows. We are young, and there have been growing pains, but I think overall as a team we have made a ton of progress. Now we are able to compete with some of the high-level teams that have been together for a while. I think we performed our best at Seneca Valley. They are one of the better teams that we have played. We were very competitive."

Continued on page 23.



Shalav Pawar, Saahas Yaddula, Sehaj Singh, and Ben Ren.

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Continued from page 22.

A Reset for Boys’ Volleyball

A personal highlight for me came at practice during a passing drill. My pass was a little too tight, but our setter Bob gets up there and gives me a one-handed set, and I just crushed it. It was perfect. Bob is a newcomer. He is great to have on the team. He is really good and really fun to play with. The whole team deserves a shoutout.”

On March 31 at Damascus, the boys followed up on their impressive win over Wheaton by beating Damascus, three sets to none, claiming bragging rights in the rivalry for a while. Their other win came at Northwood, 3-1, in the second match of the season.

“It has been really fun,” said Shalav. “It is kind of sad because it is my last year, but I am enjoying it. In addition to matches, we have mini tournaments. Everyone gets really competitive. My favorite match was last year against Rockville. They have a really good team, and we beat them in the playoffs. It was a big upset. This year, we beat Wheaton, three sets to none. I think that was our best game. They are a good team, and it showed how far we have come. As for shout-outs, I have gotten to know Jason over the past two years, and I have enjoyed playing with Andy and Bob and senior Sehaj Singh—the whole team actually.”

Ben Ren and Saahas Yaddula are seniors. Jason Lee and Omar Elkoshairi are juniors. Ethan Chong is a sophomore who was injured early in the year. Utkrish Gupta is a freshman. The head coach for both the boys’ and coed volleyball teams is Sarah Kenneweg.

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May Baskets

In other lands the children bring
May baskets for the first of spring,
And hang them on a lady's door
To say that spring is here once more;
And when the lady comes to see

What all the sound outside may be,
She's glad; that's the way
The Swedish children keep the May.
But we can do kind things and sing
And tell our way the joy of spring.

-Annette Wynne

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Poolesville Green

Trees in the City: Good for Climate, Good for People

By Doug Boucher

In 1987, a wonderful field guide to the trees of Washington, D.C. was published by local author and naturalist Melanie Choukas-Bradley. It was called *City of Trees*, and a recent article in the *Washington Post* showed just how apt that title was and still is today.

Using data assembled by the U.S. Forest Service, the Arbor Day Foundation, and the consulting company PlanIT Geo, *Post* columnist Niko Kommenda showed that the Washington area (including D.C. and its suburbs in Maryland and Northern Virginia) has one of the largest “urban forests” in the country.

Just a fraction under 40% of the region is covered by trees. Even more encouraging is the fact that the tree cover has been increasing in recent years, growing by 1.1% during the last five-year period. Its tree cover figure puts the D.C. area slightly ahead of other local towns and cities, such as Frederick (31%), Poolesville (36%), Hagerstown (38%) and Baltimore (also 38%). For the state of Maryland as a whole (including rural areas), the figure is just under 46%.

As Kommenda’s article points out, people can’t claim all the credit for Maryland’s numbers; one of the reasons that we have more trees is simply that we live in the eastern half of North America. Our region has a relatively moist climate, with an annual average of about forty inches of rain or snow distributed fairly evenly across all the months of the year. This makes forests the natural kind of vegetation for our region. As you go westwards, the climate gradually gets drier, and forests are replaced by grassland in the Great Plains region and then by desert in much of the West (the Pacific Northwest is the major exception to this pattern).

It’s particularly impressive to find such large percentages of land with tree cover over them, even in our cities, because of the history of land use in the U.S. Roughly three fourths of our eastern forest had been cleared for farmland by the Civil War, but then the forests began to recover as farming moved westward into the Great Plains, and by the mid-twentieth-century they covered three fourths of the land east of the Mississippi. Since then, there hasn’t been much change in either direction.

The recovery of the eastern forest has been good for humans as well as other animal species. People have long appreciated many of the benefits of trees in the city, including their shade, their beauty, and the habitats they create for wildlife, but in recent years, science has begun to realize some of their contributions to human health as well.

As our forests grew back, they took up carbon from the atmosphere (about half of the weight of a tree is carbon) and thus helped slow down climate change. The effect of reforestation wasn’t strong enough to completely prevent heat waves,

Continued on page 25.



Trees planted in front of row houses in Washington, DC..



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Continued from page 24.

Trees in the City: Good for Climate, Good for People

droughts, and floods, but it did make them less harmful than they would have been if the land had remained clear. Urban trees both reduced deaths from heat waves and cut down the electricity we use (and the dollars we spend) for air conditioning. There are also psychological benefits: People tend to feel happier if they can see trees from where they live.

Research published last year estimated that an ambitious urban reforestation program in the U.S. would produce an additional \$9.6 billion in benefits, mainly from better health and less need for electricity. Of course, it would take time for the trees to grow up and give their full benefits—which is all the more reason to start today.

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- Food truck will be on onsite

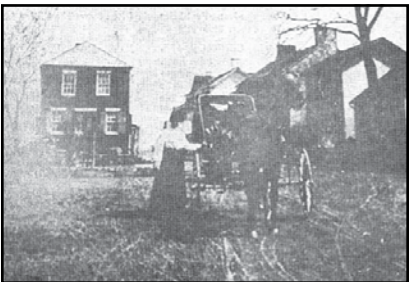
Continued from page 20.

Is it a Bank? Is it a Town Hall? It's a Museum!

Despite careful and prudent management in the early days, the Poolesville National Bank faced its own challenges during the Great Depression. While much money was, indeed, lost during the Depression, the board of directors eventually was able to pay out twenty-three cents on the dollar, and through dedication, they were able to reopen the doors. Not everyone was happy. The younger sister of Mary Chiswell, Poolesville's centurion, vowed never to put her money in a bank again. Eventually, the bank became the First National Bank of Maryland and continued to serve the community for another fifty-four years. It wasn't until December of 1966 that the building's vault doors were officially closed for the last time.

You may wonder if the bank was ever robbed. This old bank building was never robbed, but in 1971, armed gunmen robbed the bank in its new location, taking \$6,604.00. One robber had a sawed-off shotgun while the other brandished a pistol. While no one was hurt, one shot was fired, possibly by accident. The entire event took just five to six minutes.

The bank building eventually became our town hall, and today, after being acquired and refurbished by the Historic Medley District in 2006, it houses the Old Town Hall Bank Museum.



Poolesville in 1899 before the Bank.

Do you have any interesting local history or fun facts to share with our readers? The *Monocle* welcomes your contribution.
Send to editor@monocacymonocle.com



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Remembrances

John Albert Gardner, Sr.

John Albert Gardner, Sr., "Johnny," was born on July 4, 1949 in Easton, Maryland, one of ten children born to Raymond and Alice Gardner. There he grew up until his family moved to Poolesville, and he attended Poolesville Jr./Sr. High School, graduating in 1967. There he met his future wife, Emily Weedon. After graduation, Johnny was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served his country honorably from 1969 to 1972.

Following his military service, he became very involved in his community by assisting with Sunday School at St. Paul's Community Church in Poolesville. Johnny worked for a number of companies but settled into his final career as a para-educator for Montgomery County Public Schools from which he retired in 2011. Johnny was always a role model and mentor for many children in the community. He was one of the original coaches for the JMH Firebirds track club, worked with the Mark Twain Satellite program at Walt Whitman High School, and after retirement, returned to Gaithersburg High School (where he had once worked as a security guard in the 1970s) as a substitute teacher from 2016 to 2018. He motivated and encouraged many children, teens, and even adults.

Johnny is survived by Emily Gardner; children, Troy Gardner, John Gardner, Jr., and Kimberly Moore (Graham); and granddaughter, Mikayla Moore.

A celebration of life will be held on May 10, 2025 from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Meadowbrook Park Activity Building, 7901 Meadowbrook Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Light refreshments will be served.



John Albert Gardner, Sr.

John Joseph Toomey, Jr.

Jack Toomey, 79, of Poolesville, passed away on April 20, 2025.

Jack was born to John J. Toomey, Sr. and Betty S. Toomey. He had five siblings and grew up in Kensington. He attended St. John's College High School in Washington, D.C. before enlisting in the U.S. Navy. John deployed and served in the Vietnam War, where he served as a radio specialist at Cam Ranh Bay. He returned home and graduated from the University of Maryland with a degree in criminology.

Jack went on to become a police officer with the Montgomery County Police Department. He served most of his career in the Bethesda 2nd District, where he was also a detective. Jack retired in 2001 from MCPD and went to work for Montgomery County Public Schools.

Jack enjoyed fishing, photography, watching trains, and writing for many local and online newspapers. Jack was the historian for the MCPD Alumni Association and wrote articles for the *Monocacy Monocle*, including the popular Police Botter: Past and Present and various Local History articles. He was a published author, recently publishing *Crime, Tragedy, and Catastrophe in Montgomery County, Maryland 1860 to 1960*. Jack was philanthropic and enjoyed volunteering with numerous charities.

He is preceded in death by his parents and is survived by his children, Matthew (Katie) and Karen (Sean) McCormack; four grandchildren, Margaret, Annabelle, Molly, and Robert; former spouse, Carla; siblings; and numerous cousins and relatives.

In lieu of flowers, the family would request any donations to go to WUMCO Help, Inc.



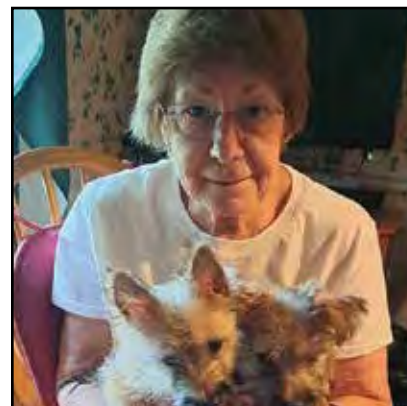
John Joseph Toomey, Jr.

Cecelia Ann Hobbs "Ann"

Cecelia Ann Hobbs "Ann" passed away unexpectedly on April 13, 2025 at her beloved home in Adamstown. She was 77. She was born on August 31, 1947 in Beallsville and attended Poolesville High School. She was the daughter of the late Louis Parker Weller and Vivian Virginia Weller.

Ann was a dedicated animal lover. She rescued many terriers throughout the years and gave them a loving home. Also, she was an avid gardener. She enjoyed sailing with her husband and daughter on the Chesapeake Bay and driving to British car rallies. She was also a classic movie buff. Ann dedicated thirty-five years as a devoted staff member of a local firm accepting accounts payable and weekly payroll.

Ann leaves behind her husband, Frederick T. Hobbs, Jr.; her only child, Laura Hutchinson (Thomas J.); and sisters, Faith Lewis and Mary Lou Hoffacker. She was preceded in death by her brother, Larry Weller.



Cecelia Ann Hobbs "Ann"



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scene—
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As if it were his own!

—Emily Dickinson



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Remembrances

John Francis Windolph, Jr.

John Francis Windolph, Jr. died February 4, 2025 at age 90.

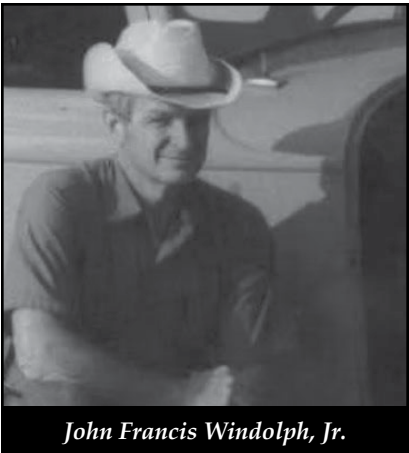
John was born on April 14, 1934 in Grand Island, Nebraska. He was the son of the late John F. Windolph, Sr. and Emma Virginia (Hahn).

He attended Poolesville schools and was a graduate of Georgetown Preparatory School in North Bethesda and Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana. John was a retired geologist for the U.S. Geological Survey.

He was a beloved husband, preceded in death by Catherine "Samla" Windolph, of Poolesville; and preceded in death by his loving son, John Francis Windolph, III "Raoul."

He leaves behind his much-loved sister, Christina Windolph Williams; his loving children, Gwendolyn "Cara" Fleming, Victoria "Ella" Grandi, Maria "Arene" Windolph, and Angela Windolph; grandchildren, Christopher "Cian" Fleming, Laura Flecha, Michael Lumpkin, Ross Grandi, Val Windolph; great-grandchildren, Asia Claus, Della Claus, Eli Grandi, Caiden Flecha; and nieces, great niece, nephew, extended family, and many friends.

He was greatly loved by all and will be dearly missed. John was a strong supporter of the Nyingma Buddhist Monasteries in the Palyul Lineage. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Buddhist Relief in his honor to carry forward his intention: PO Box 88, Poolesville, MD 20837



Babara Eva Pratt

Babara Eva Pratt, 98, of Venetia, Pennsylvania, formerly of Beallsville, passed away on April 5, 2025.

Babara was the loving wife of the late Elwyn Fred Pratt.

Born on December 28, 1926 in New York, she was the daughter of the late Maximillian Joseph Graf, Jr. and Eva Violetta (Hauptman) Graf.

Babara is survived by her children, Deborah L. Perry (Michael), Barbara Jeanne Ritter (Arthur), Steven C. Pratt, and Tracy E. Pratt (Cheryl); eight grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her brothers and sisters, Elizabeth Bailey, Max J. Graf, III, William H. Graf, and Charles R. Graf.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in her memory to Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, 1 Schenley Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 or to Monocacy Cemetery, P.O. Box 81, Beallsville, MD 20839.





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Remembrances

Margaret "Peggy" Elizabeth Johnson

Margaret "Peggy" Elizabeth Johnson, 82, of Dickerson, passed away on April 18, 2025. Peggy was the loving wife of Arthur R. Johnson. Born on May 23, 1942, in Maryland, she was the daughter of the late Robert T. and Virginia E. (Tabler) Dayhoff.

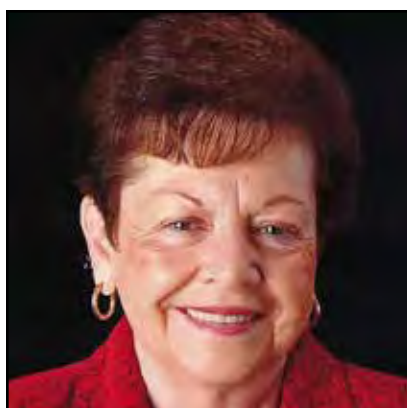
Peggy and Arthur Johnson had been married for over sixty years. They had a long, happy life together, and they raised three children. Peggy was born and raised in Dickerson. She attended Frostburg University, where she studied Elementary Education, and became a schoolteacher at Germantown Elementary in Montgomery County.

After marrying, she and Arthur farmed in Cedar Grove, Maryland. Later, they decided to move to Peggy's family farm in Dickerson and began dairy farming. She and her husband were very active as Montgomery County Holstein 4-H Leaders, served on many committees for the Maryland Holstein Association, and were inducted into the Maryland Dairy Shrine. They have made lifelong friendships in the dairy industry and enjoyed working with young people. Peggy also volunteered and worked at the Montgomery County Agricultural Center for the better part of her life, both in the main office as well as the dairy office.

Peggy is survived by Arthur; her children, Bobby Johnson, Kathy Johnson, Lisa Thrash (David); sister, Nancy Baker (Paul); sister-in-law, Ida Lou Dayhoff; eleven grandchildren, Cole and Elle Johnson, Jason (Kaylee), Brent (Frenchesca), Ryan (Lindsay), and Cory (Taylor) Zimmerman, Kirstyn, Joshua (Maddie), Damaris, Hannah, and Jada Thrash; and two great-grandchildren, Brent Zimmerman, Jr. and Selah Claire Thrash.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Robert Dayhoff.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in her memory to the Maryland Dairy Shrine.



Margaret "Peggy" Elizabeth Johnson

Earla Jane Nicholson

Earla Nicholson, known affectionately by everyone as Janie, passed away on April 8, 2025, in her beloved childhood home in Boyds, surrounded by her loving family, after a lengthy illness. She was 75. Janie was born in Bethesda on May 5, 1949 to the late Earl T. Nicholson and Edna Norwood King Nicholson.

Janie was proud to be a lifelong resident of Boyds and spent her entire life living in the home built by her loving Daddy.

Janie graduated from Gaithersburg High School in 1967. She was very popular in high school and involved in many activities, including the School Senate, Pep Club, choir, *Blue & Gold* Newspaper, Follies, and Keyettes. She was Homecoming Princess in her senior year, escorted by her loving brother-in-law, Gene Schwartzbeck. After graduation, Janie went on to a career with the federal government at what was then the National Bureau of Standards. After a few years as a secretary, Janie left the government to work at Community Savings & Loan, where she was promoted to Vice President. Janie's love of sales led to her career in real estate with some of the largest builders in Montgomery and Frederick Counties.

Janie leaves behind her beloved daughter, Tara Kristen Faulconer, and her beloved son-in-law, Thomas Jesse Faulconer, Sr.; seven grandchildren, Declan Carson, Sophia Carson, Liam Carson, Reagan Faulconer, Jaxon Faulconer, TJ Faulconer, and Paytin Faulconer; sister, Lorna Nicholson Leonard (Tom); niece, Caitie Lipscomb (Mich); sweet baby nephew Thomas "Tommy" King Schwartzbeck (Brenda); great-great niece Faith Schwartzbeck; sisters-in-law, Carolyn King and Karen King; niece Deborah Anne King; nephew, Edward King (Loretta); beloved goddaughter, Lauren Helmer; many great nieces and nephews; numerous dear cousins; and her BFFs Ronnie "Big Daddy" Burdette, Shelley Ellington, and Mary (Ginnie) Beitzel.

Janie was predeceased by her sister Edna "Sissie" King Schwartzbeck and brother-in-law Donald Eugene "Gene" Schwartzbeck; beloved great nephew Jason Schwartzbeck; beloved nephew Henry King, III; brothers, Henry "Ticky" King, Jr., James "Jimmy" King, and Larry King. Janie was also predeceased by Robert Wade Deadrick, Kristen's father, and many aunts and uncles.



Earla Jane Nicholson

Sue Ann Rouse Ewald

Sue Ann Rouse Ewald, 92, of Poolesville, passed away peacefully at home on March 21, 2025, surrounded by family and friends.

Born to Edgar B. Rouse and Verona Dobson Rouse in Washington, D.C., Sue spent her early years studying interior design and performing on water skis with the Ski Belles at the Beverly Ski Club.

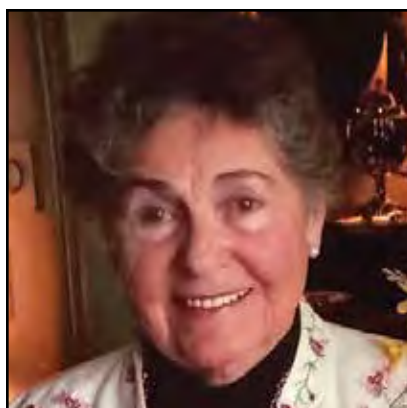
A dedicated animal lover, Sue founded what is now known as Friends of Montgomery County Animals and served as president of the Montgomery County Humane Society in the 1970s. Those who knew Sue were never surprised to find horses, dogs, and cats living their best lives under her loving care.

Sue was a well-respected antiques dealer and appraiser for over sixty years. She was also an honorary member of the Potomac Hunt Club and loved to watch the hunt field stroll through her farm on crisp fall mornings.

Sue was preceded in death by her husband, Gerald R. Ewald, and her son, Gerald R. Ewald, Jr.

She is survived by her son, Thomas Lee Emrich (Tina); daughter, Verona Fleming (Randy); granddaughter, Kimberly Fleming; and dear friend, Nancy Heil.

Donations in Sue's name can be made to the Montgomery County Humane Society or Montgomery Hospice.



Sue Ann Rouse Ewald

Gregory "Gregg" Lee Pitts

Gregory "Gregg" Lee Pitts, 79, of Poolesville, passed away on March 27, 2025.

Gregg was the loving husband of Terri Pitts.

Born on April 27, 1945 in Michigan, he was the son of the late Kenneth and Audrey (Stillwell) Pitts.

Gregg was an artist, engineer, and all-around nice person. As an artist, he painted many watercolors that adorned family walls for over thirty years.

As an engineer, he began his career after earning his Master's Degree from Northwestern at JHU/Applied Physics Lab (APL) and then joined the team at American Computer and Electronics (ACE). It was here that he met Terri. Gregg was a loyal friend that kept in contact with his friends from APL to this day.

Gregg is survived by his wife, Terri; four sons; Colin Pitts (Fan Pat), Ian Pitts (Jessica), Adam Pitts, and Clayton Pitts; and three grandchildren, Cameron, Kyden, and Lucas.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Paul Pitts, and sister, Pamela Borroff.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you donate blood in his memory to help save a life.



Gregory "Gregg" Lee Pitts



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Considerations if Your Pet Is Bitten by a Snake

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

As the spring and summer seasons get into high gear, remember that we all live in and around wildlife areas here in the Agricultural Reserve of Montgomery County.

While most wildlife seeks to move away from interactions with humans and their furry pals, it is not always avoidable. Keep your animals on leashes. Look ahead of where you are walking on paths. Sometimes snakes will be sunning themselves on the path.

What to look for if your pet is bitten by a rattlesnake or copperhead (both are found in this area):

Signs of a snakebite on a dog:

The dog will cry out and run away. Around the bite site, where there may be a strike mark from the snake, there will be pain and swelling, and swelling could be apparent in as little as half an hour.

Dogs may become nauseated or will salivate because of pain, especially if the bite is in or near the mouth. Bites on the limbs, face, nose, and tongue are common.

What to do if your dog is bitten by a snake:

Remain calm but get your dog away from the area where the snake was.

Then stay calm and keep the pet calm. Anything you do that excites the patient allows the venom to circulate more extensively.

Do not attempt to provide first aid. Do not try to suck the venom out of the wound. Instead, call your veterinarian or emergency center immediately.

Once at the veterinarian's office, they will make sure there aren't any systemic issues, which are less common, but could include problems with clotting or anemia. Bites may not be fatal, but they will produce a lot of pain and often local tissue damage.

What treatment to expect for snake bites:

An exam: Your pet will get a full physical examination to determine the extent of the injury. That might include shaving the fur to get a good look at the wound site; you can estimate the size of the snake based on how far apart the fang marks are.

Pain management: These are critical to make the pet more comfortable.

Labwork: The veterinarian may also check lab work to make sure there are no systemic effects.

IV fluids and anti-venom: The faster treatment is given, the better the chances of minimal tissue damage or systemic problems.

Besides the systemic effects of venom, the pet will also need wound care. The wound site could become infected, and venom can destroy the local tissue.

Enjoy time outside with our four-legged friends but be mindful of the area you are in for the potential for snake interactions.



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