

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Monthly Newspaper

June 2025 • Volume XXI, Number 4



Donald Myers and Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Harris attended a recent chamber event. See more photos in Family Album on page 2.



The Reserve Wind Ensemble certainly knows how to have fun. Find out more about them in Tidbits on page 3.



These delightful ballerinas performers with HGCBT. Read more about the group in Center Stage on page 8.



Pam Klobukowski with a coozie soup holder made by some special women for special people. Details in Pulse on page 15.

Commissioners Hear Update on Town Residential Developments

By Link Hoewing

With two highly-visible developments now taking shape in the Town of Poolsville, the Poolsville commissioners, at their May meetings, heard reports from two of the developers/landowners involved and took questions and community input regarding the history and impact of developments in the town.

Appearing at the May 5 meeting, Tim Hartman, a vice president at Mid-Atlantic Builders, offered a glimpse of what styles of homes will be offered for sale at the Ferry Crossing development and provided details about the timeframe for the sales process.

Hartman said his company has already submitted permits for the model home and expects to begin paving by the middle of June for the initial twenty or so lots to be sold. Models



Ferry Crossing, the new development in the center of town, hopes to be at the center of community spirit as well.

should be ready for sale by Poolsville Day. The blasting that has taken place to prepare the site is nearly finished. Sales will begin in the trailer on the site within the next several weeks.

Hartman said they expect to offer between fifteen and twenty units for sale between now and the end of the

Continued on page 23.

Falcons Tennis Dominated on Way to Fourth State Title

By Jeff Stuart

The Poolsville tennis team beat runner-up Hereford, 26-10, in the Maryland 2A Championships at Wilde Lake Tennis Center in Columbia over Memorial Day weekend, concluding a dominant season where they rolled to the county championship. Despite a wrist injury that hampered his backhand, Andy Wu defeated Harry Smith of Hereford, 6-1, 6-3, in boys' singles, his third consecutive

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Right: Pranahitha Kanuparthi (junior), Kyra McGlinchey (senior), Ruhika Bhat (senior), Andy Wu (junior), William Chen (sophomore), and Akshaj Mareddy (freshman).



Family Album



Andrew Parsley played Taps during the ceremony at Whalen Commons for Memorial Day.



Jim Brown, president of the Town of Poolesville Commission, with fellow Commissioner Ed Reed, acknowledged in remembrance our local vets and those who died serving the nation.



Local Scouts from Troop 496 honored fallen heroes from our past.



Scott Conlon and Jim Cappuccilli gave their very personal tribute to Poolesville graduate Corp. Kirk Bosselmann who lost his life fighting in Iraq.



Genevieve Shelton and Josie Springer sang a very special and delightful rendition of the National Anthem.



Over one hundred community members came to join Daniel-Jeffers American Legion Post 247 in its Memorial Day of Remembrance.



Chamber members at a House of Poolesville network event: Ed Samuels, PACC President Tom Kettler, Poolesville Commissioner Ed Reed, Cheryl Kenley, Brianna Pacheco, Maris Bardos, Samantha Baker, Julie Kuhlman, and Linda Howard.

MEMORIAL DAY

Right: Fr. Justin Huber of Poolesville's Our Lady of the Presentation offered blessings on those who died in military service (with Commander Julien Singh).



Below: Leadership of American Legion Post 247: Jim Cappuccilli (2nd Vice Commander), Drew McKone (Treasurer), Commander Julien Singh, Annette Howard (Adjutant), and Chief Markoff (1st Vice Commander).

Tidbits

Senior Scouts Honored for Their Extended Leadership

Scouting America Troop 496 recently recognized and celebrated its 2025 graduating seniors: Zachary Antonishek, Joseph Garrison, and Ishaan Patel. These young men began their Scouting careers in Poolesville's Cub Scout Pack 694.

For his Eagle Scout project, Zachary renovated fifty railroad tie stairs at the KPC Buddhist Temple Peace Park. Zach is also a Global Ecology Studies Program (GESP) student at Poolesville High School, a Project Lead the Way student, a member of the National, Science, Math, and Technology Honor Societies, and founder of the PHS Trail Club. Zachary will attend Ohio State University to study mechanical engineering in their honors college.

Joseph Garrison revitalized areas of the Warren Historic Site to earn his Eagle Project Award. The Warren Historic Site is one of the last remaining historic African American churches in Montgomery County. Joseph's work stabilized areas of the church, and he hand-built signs for the church and cemetery. Joseph completed a term as a Student Page for the Maryland General Assembly. In the fall, Joseph will attend the University of Maryland to study political science.

Ishaan is currently working on his Eagle Project. He is working with the Monocacy Cemetery to refurbish forty corner markers throughout the property. Ishaan is a GESP student. He will begin his pre-med course work at Indiana State in the fall.

Scouting America Troop 496, its scouts, parent volunteers, assistant scoutmasters, and scoutmaster, Jon Kasner, wish to extend their thanks to these young men for their years of service, leadership, and dedication to Scouting.

John Poole House and Trading Post Open Every Weekend through Poolesville Day

The Historic Medley District, LLC is pleased to announce that the John Poole House, a Poolesville landmark, will be open at least one day every weekend through the summer until Poolesville Day in September. A team of supervising adult docents includes Rande Davis, Suzanne Tallia, John Pentecost, Tom Kettler, and Jean Findley. They will be joined by other adult volunteers and students in hosting the John Poole House and, on occasion, the Old Town Hall Bank Museum.

Check out the *Monocle's* Things to Do column to know precisely which day and time the facility will be open each month. Remember, as you host out-of-town visitors, it will be great fun for them to visit the home as part of their visit to Poolesville.

Those on this mission to promote town history to the public and town visitors are: student volunteers, Evan Spindler, Davis Hitchcock, Aryan Thakkar, Emmett Comaskey-Marcil, and Evan Comaskey-Marcil; adult volunteers, Janet Jamama, Joan Yolken, and Mary Green; HMD supervisors, Suzanne Tallia, Tom Kettler, and Jean Findley; and docent coordinator, Rande Davis.

A goal of the organization is to be open from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday. To reach the goal, they will need an additional ten volunteer docents. To join this initiative, please email rdavis@monocacymonocle.com.



Scouts Zachary Antonishek, Joseph Garrison, and Ishaan Patel.



John Poole House docent Suzanne Tallia reported enjoying the community service and would love to have more volunteers join her.



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Rande(m) Thoughts Memorial Day: Missing Man Table

By Rande Davis

As a member of the Daniel-Jeffers American Legion Post 247, I want to share the appreciation of our members for the truly grateful citizens who joined us at noon on Memorial Day in Whalen Commons to pause for a solemn remembrance for all who have died while in battle.

There was a broad representation of the general population, but we were most sincerely pleased with the involvement of our youth. From the uniformed boy scouts in attendance to bugler Andrew Parsley to JPMS students Genevieve Shelton and Josie Springer who so sweetly and beautifully sang the National Anthem, it was reassuring to have such caring young people join in this event.

Jim Brown spoke on behalf of residents in giving thanks for those who gave their all and also for those who have served and still serve. He also gave tribute to his good friend, Marine Corp. Kirk Bosselmann, who died in 2004.

Scott Conlon graced us all with a most poignant and heartfelt story of how he learned of Kirk's death, his high school friend and fellow lacrosse player. In fact, I am very honored to be able to present his statement in place of my standard Rande(m) Thoughts. The following is Scott's narrative, followed by a list of those from our area who died in combat.

Good afternoon,

Each Memorial Day, we gather to honor and mourn those who lost their lives while serving in the United States Armed Forces. We express our shared grief through symbolic acts of visiting cemeteries, laying wreaths, reciting poems of war, and singing hymns of remembrance. Each of these symbolic acts was born out of past conflict, evolves over time, and takes on new meaning to each generation.

This Memorial Day, I would like to share my thoughts on one of the lesser-known observances that honors those who never made it home. That is the Missing Man Table.

For many of the Vietnam generation, the Missing Man Table symbolizes the absence of prisoners of war and those missing in action. At military ceremonies where food is served, a small table will be set by the entrance with a single place setting to symbolize isolation.

The table is set with items meant to symbolize the sacrifice of the service-member, their love of country, the bitterness of loss, the tears of loved ones, their absence, and the hope of return.

For the post-9/11 generation, the Missing Man Table has taken on additional meaning, which is to honor those killed in action and remember their lives cut short; however, what the Missing Man Table symbolizes for me comes from a very specific place and time in my military career.

Throughout my time in the Marine Corps Reserve, from 2000 to 2007, I served as an infantry weapons repairman at Fort Detrick. After my company's deployment to Iraq in 2003, a new active-duty staff rotated into our unit, with a marine named Staff Sergeant Feil assigned as the new armory chief. Since many marines on active-duty struggle to travel home for the holidays, one of Staff Sergeant Feil's traditions was to invite the marines of his section to his house for Thanksgiving dinner.

So there we were, a bunch of marines, seated around the table for Thanksgiving dinner with the staff sergeant, his wife, and children. Shortly after we sat down to eat, the phone rang, Staff Sergeant Feil answered, and immediately we could tell something wasn't right. He excused himself from the table and asked that we go on eating without him. Ten minutes later, he reappeared in the kitchen in full dress blues and informed us that he had to notify next of kin that their loved one had been killed in action. He said nothing else, turned on his heel, and left.

We sat in stunned silence, each imagining how difficult it must be to deliver such devastating news, each considering our own mothers and fathers and loved ones. At the head of the table, there was now an empty seat, symbolizing both the solemn duty of delivering unimaginable news and the tremendous grief of those who lose servicemembers.

What I didn't consider in that particular moment was the marine we lost, the individual himself. Given the strict secrecy around next of kin notifications, I couldn't have known his identity at that time, but in the days to follow, I would learn that my company would provide the military honors at his funeral, and that I would serve on the rifle detail for his twenty-one-gun salute. I was assigned this duty because Corp. Kirk Bosselmann and I were teammates on the Poolesville High School lacrosse team, where I came to know and respect him as motivated, tough, and reliable. It came

as no surprise to me that he would go on to become a marine's marine, serving fearlessly, dependably, and honorably in the fiercest fighting of the war: the Second Battle of Fallujah.

As a testament to Kirk's character, his sniper team partner wrote about Kirk's actions on that fateful day: "I do not know how much you want to know. The entire ordeal was about four to five hours long that led up to this, and of the many heroic things Kirk did the months prior to all this, and of the many lives he saved while here: there are too many stories to write down without a hard cover on that book."

On this Memorial Day, twenty years on, let's honor those who didn't come home, and let's continue to keep those families with an empty seat at the table in our thoughts and prayers.

Roll Call of Honor for Those Killed in Action in Military Service

Cpl. Kirk J. Bosselmann, USMC...
Dickerson... 11/27/04... Iraq

Spec. 5 Robert D. Donaldson, Army...
Dickerson... 01/31/66... Vietnam

Cpl. Claude H. Belcher, Army...
Dickerson... 02/12/51... Korea

PFC Robert E. Fink, Army... Boyds...
08/06/50... Korea

2nd Lt. Frederick S. Hays Jr., Army...
Barnesville... 09/22/52... Korea

Cpl. Kermit Q. Prather, Army...
Poolesville... 04/21/51... POW, Korea

PFC John J. Brown, Army...
Dickerson... 01/23/43... WW2

PFC Edward L. Doggett, Army...
Poolesville... 10/13/44... WW2

PFC William F. Grossard, Army...
Barnesville... 03/30/45... WW2

F.O. Harold B. Jeffers, Army Air
Corps... Dickerson... 12/21/42...
WW2

Seaman 2nd Class Mahlon J.
Kelbaugh, Navy... Barnesville...
05/07/44... MIA, WW2

Pvt. William J. Comphert, Army...
Poolesville... 09/28/18... WW1

Pvt. Adolphus M. Graham, Army...
Poolesville... 10/21/18... WW1

Pvt. Basil R. Graham, Army...
Poolesville... 10/11/18... WW1

Pvt. John W. Nicholson, Army...
Barnesville... 07/19/18... WW1



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Local News

Poolesville Pickleball Players Win Big In Maryland Senior Olympic Pickleball Tournament

By Norman Spencer

Over the past few months, Poolesville pickleball players have been focused on getting ready for the Maryland Senior Olympics Pickleball Tournament. This dedication has paid off with thirty-two Poolesville area players participating in the May games. During the tournament, Poolesville area players won thirty-four medals and had the largest number of participants (and fans) in the tournament.

The Poolesville Seniors had players entered in all play categories: singles, men's doubles, mixed doubles, and women's doubles—an amazing player entry into fifty-five events, in age categories from 50 to 84.

The Poolesville team had an outstanding record with seven gold, eleven silver, fifteen bronze medals, and three fourth-place ribbons.

Division II Singles

Gold: George Coakley (age 80-84)

Silver: John Cotton (age 80-84)

Bronze: Ed Spitzmiller (age 50-54)

Fourth: Jeff McIntyre (age 60-64)

Division III Singles

Gold: Norman Spencer (age 80-84)

Gold: Patty Civetti (age 65-69)

Silver: Lee Bristol (age 75-79)

Silver: Melissa Rose (age 70-74)

Bronze: Steve Malinowski (age 75-79)

Bronze: Joel Gilbert (age 50-54)

Bronze: Amy Seely (age 60-64)

Bronze: Susana Zapata (age 50-54)

Fourth: Brian McNally (age 50-54)

Division II Doubles

Gold: John Dansby/Norman Spencer (age 80-84)

Division III Doubles

Gold: Roger Brenholtz/Lee Bristol (age 70-74)

Silver: Courtney Ives/ Maureen Dolan (age 65-69)

Silver: Ron Dietz/Ron Hanson (age 65-69)

Bronze: Terry Clark/Willie Little (age 80-84)

Bronze: Steve Malinowski/Harold Hannett (age 75-79)

Bronze: Melissa Rose/Marion Bona (age 70-74)

Bronze: Joel Gilbert/Troy Jones (age 50-54)

Fourth: George Coakley/John Cotton (age 80-84)

Mixed Doubles

Silver: Ron Dietz/Laura Dietz, Division III (age 65-69)

Silver: Tom Chang/Deb Ahern, Division III (age 60-64)

Bronze: Brian Peper/Gwen Haney, Division II (age 70-74)

The Poolesville pickleball team and supporters were the largest group at the games which were held at the Finksburg and Columbia Dill Dinkers facilities. Many of the players and supporters wore the blue pickleball Poolesville team shirts and sweaters, that players proudly wear around town. There were numerous comments regarding how well Poolesville fans supported our players.

With over one hundred members, the Poolesville pickleball group has grown into one of the largest and most successful sporting and social organizations in the area. The Town of Poolesville commissioners, County Park Service, and the Poolesville Baptist Church all help support the increased play. The resurfacing of Stevens Park has provided eight courts dedicated to pickleball. Halmos Park now has two pickleball courts and rollaway nets so that both pickleball and tennis play can be accommodated. The lighting at Halmos and new restroom facilities

Continued on page 7.



Poolesville pickleball players won many medals at the Maryland Olympics.





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Senior News

Poolesville Seniors Present Virtual and In-Person Programs

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

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

June 4, 11, 19, and 25

PS Birthday Card Club Crafting Event

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

Digital Photography: Digital Camera Basics

Learn how a digital camera works, how to stop and capture motion, and how to isolate a subject from the background. *Speer Hall. 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.*

June 6

Latin Dance Instruction

An introduction to the basic steps of Latin dance (salsa, merengue, cumbia, flamenco). No experience is needed. *Speer Hall. 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.*

June 10

Beach Blanket Bingo

Callers, IJ Hudson and Roger Brenholtz, summer music and trivia by Kay Douglas will add to the entertainment. Open to all ages. *Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

June 11

Game Day Golf Social

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

June 12

Hip-Hop Dance Class w/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.*

Off the Beaten Path: Brandywine Valley

Travel enthusiast Barbara Paulson will be your guide on a virtual visit to the Brandywine Valley, exploring spring's bounty and some of the sites of this charming and picturesque suburban Philadelphia area. Registration required. *Virtual. 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.*

June 16

PS Book Club: *Don't Let Go*

We'll discuss *Don't Let Go*, a mystery by Harlan Coben. The recent deaths of two classmates provide New Jersey detective Napoleon "Nap" Dumas with a clue to the deaths of his brother Leo and Leo's girlfriend, Diana, and the disappearance that same night of Napoleon's girlfriend Maura. *Virtual. 7:00 p.m.*

June 18

KPC Buddhist Relief Presentation

Learn all about KPC Buddhist Relief, the humanitarian arm of Kunzang Palyul Choling Tibetan Buddhist Temple nearby on River Road. Discover how everything began, the scope of support provided, the difference being made, and how you can participate. *Speer Hall. 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.*

June 20

PS Movie Night: *Nonnas*

After losing his beloved mother, a man risks everything to honor her by opening an Italian restaurant with actual grandmothers as the chefs. Rated PG. Comedy. *Speer Hall. 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.*

June 21

Community Book and Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange

Stock up on summer and vacation reads and puzzles at this free exchange! You do not have to bring a book or puzzle to attend. Each person can bring as many as five hardcover or paperback books and three puzzles to swap. *Speer Hall. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

June 25

Trail Hike:

Schaffer Farm Trail: Part 2

Meet at Black Rock Mill parking lot. This is a 5.3-mile hike with an elevation gain of 430 feet. The hike should take less than 2½ hours. The trail is mostly packed dirt, tree roots, and a few rocks. Carpool recommended. *16500 Black Rock Road, Germantown. 8:50 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.*

Hospital Warrior Presentation

This program, presented by Steve Lorberbaum, and based on Bonnie Friedman's book *Hospital Warrior: How to Get the Best Care for Your Loved One*, will describe how to advocate effectively for yourself or a loved one during hospital visits. *Speer Hall. 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.*

June 27

Line Dancing

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

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



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

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Continued from page 5.

Poolesville Pickleball Players Win Big in Maryland Senior Olympic Pickleball Tournament



When not playing pickleball, these Poolesville-area players turned into exuberant fans for their fellow players.

are a great addition. Poolesville Seniors repaired gym walls, and now the Poolesville Baptist Church has completed the renovation with a refinished gym floor and new paint on the walls.

We are looking forward to our Poolesville Seniors Pickleball players' participation in the upcoming 2025 National Pickleball Senior Olympics games in July 2025 in Des Moines, Iowa. Poolesville will be represented by George Coakley, John Cotton, John Dansby, Jerry Greaney, Gwen Haney, Maggie and Dave Newcomer, Brian Peper, and Norm Spencer. The Poolesville area players qualified for the national games with their wins in the 2025 Maryland Senior Olympics.

The Poolesville pickleball players welcome community members to join the fun. Just register at Poolesville-Seniors.org. See you at the courts!

Of Poetry and Prose

In June

A quiet hour beneath the trees;
A little, whispering, lazy breeze;
A perfect sky,
Where, now and then, an idle cloud
Strayed from its mates to
wander by,
And near the border of the wood
A thrush that sang, serene
and strong,
The flute notes of the perfect song
We almost understood;
Then eventide—and in the light
The mystery that preludes
the night.

—Matilda Hughes

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Center Stage

Hope Garden Delights with Enchanting Fairy Tales in the Park

By Brian McNally

On a picture-perfect weekend, Hope Garden Children’s Ballet Theatre (HGCBT) presented its annual spring production, *Fairy Tales in the Park*, at the Whalen Commons bandshell. This year’s show celebrated storytelling through dance and marked several exciting firsts for the growing community institution.

The performance opened with a lively first act featuring original dances inspired by classic fairy tales, including *Frozen*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Sleeping Beauty*, and *Beauty and the Beast*. Audiences of all ages were swept into worlds of underwater kingdoms, enchanted forests, and palace banquets. Among the highlights was an emotionally-charged jazz-contemporary performance of “Defying Gravity,” choreographed by Lynn Schaeber, capturing the imagination and spirit of young dancers reaching toward their own aspirations.



Hope Garden Children’s Ballet Theatre dancers in performance at Whalen Commons.

HGCBT’s Adult Tap group debuted on the main stage this year, performing to Sara Bareilles’ “Fairytale.” This marked the first time adult recreational dancers performed in the spring production, reminding us of dance’s magic is for all ages.

After intermission, the audience was treated to a stunning performance of *Paquita*, a classical ballet that featured advanced students. Staged by Justin Rustle, Audra Johnson, and Claire Jones, the performance transported viewers to a celebratory court scene, complete with pas de deux and vibrant corps de ballet work. *Paquita*, danced by Kendall Zimmerman, and Lucien, portrayed by Sava Brizhik, delivered a commanding and elegant performance that drew enthusiastic applause. The suite also featured dazzling solo performances by Elizabeth Tchorni, Alarica DeLongchamp, Kate Borman, and Gabriela Stradley, whose artistry and technique shone brightly in the afternoon sun.

HGCBT board member Joanna Borman thanked the Town of Poolesville for the generous grant that allowed HGCBT to acquire stage curtains. The curtains beautifully framed the stage, enhancing the professional quality of the community production and creating a stunning backdrop for the dancers’ hard work.

Artistic Director Claire Jones expressed gratitude to the dancers, faculty, volunteers, and sponsors who made the production possible: “This show celebrates the growth of every student, the power of storytelling through dance, and the spirit of our local community. We are so proud of what our performers achieved this spring.”

HGCBT continues to transform young artists and bring arts and culture to Poolesville through performances like *Fairy Tales in the Park*. The curtain falls on another successful season, setting the stage for the winter production of *A Winter’s Eve* on December 6.

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PROUD PARTNERS WITH:



Event Dates:

- Sunday, June 22nd
- Sunday, July 20th
- Sunday, August 3rd
- Sunday, September 14th

Event Location:

Congressional Polo Club
14660 Hughes Road
Poolesville, MD 20837

Event Schedule:

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

Additional Information:

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General Admission – \$45

- Access to all polo matches
- Gourmet food and bar available for purchase
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- 1 complimentary beverage

VIP – \$75

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- Open Bar
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Tailgate – \$65

- Premium tailgate parking
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- Gourmet food and bar available for purchase
- Opportunity to bring personal picnic or tailgate style setups
- Option to add on a custom picnic experience with Eat, Picnic, Explore at an added cost
- Note: One Tailgating Ticket required per vehicle. Remaining adult passengers can either purchase a General Admission or VIP ticket



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Garden

June in the Garden

By Maureen O'Connell

In the Rogers and Hammerstein musical *Carousel*, there is a song entitled "June Is Bustin' Out All Over" that has some great lyrics about June: "All over the meadow and the hills, buds're bustin' outa bushes... Because it's June! June, June, June!" Summer doesn't officially begin until June 20, but in early June, the garden makes its entrance onto center stage. It is one of the most glorious points of the year. There is a freshness and vitality to the foliage in the garden, which is young and unblemished, where the beds are starting to fill in with potential for more to unfold in the summer ahead. It started a bit late this year, as the temperatures in March and April were lower than usual with some nights with frost and freezing temperatures. I waited to buy any new annuals and perennials until the middle of May. The temperature did not stop the growth of the ever-hardy and opportunistic plants commonly known as "weeds." Ground ivy was the big weed winner this year in my garden. He was not particular as to where he would become a guest, an unwanted guest. I refer you back to my last column, "To Weed or Not to Weed." Any bare bit of soil or a perennial flower that looked lonely with no mulch to protect it was a good home for him. We have had a very good amount of rain recently, so there are no drought conditions for the moment.

There are chores to be done now if you want to keep your garden thriving into the summer months. Here are some tips and advice.

Now is a good time to add a good layer of organic mulch to your planting beds. It will help reduce weeds and will keep moisture in the soil. You don't need a very thick layer. Be careful not to mound the mulch around the trunks of the trees, as this can kill a tree.

Spring flowering bulbs and shrubs. Some bulbs have foliage that is beginning to turn brown or already has. It can be removed without affecting next year's flowers, but wait until it is all brown before removing it as the green leaves make food for next year's bulbs. Shrubs such as azaleas, forsythia, and lilacs can be pruned after the flowers finish blooming. It is also a good time to cut back the entire shrub to keep it to a manageable size.

Deadhead spent flowers from perennials and annuals to keep the plant neat looking and encourage the growth of new flowers. Russian sage and Autumn Joy sedum can be sheared back once they grow to about twelve inches to keep them blooming and tidy. Left unpruned, they can grow too large and smother their neighbors.


If you started some flowers and vegetables from seed, now is the time to thin the seedlings, as crowding is not conducive to optimal growth. Left alone, all will receive less sunshine, space, and soil nutrients. Some gardeners tend to feel attached to their new growing seedlings, but not all of them are destined to become fully-grown plants.

Check roses, other flower plants, and vegetables for aphids, other pests, and diseases. Don't let them get a foothold. This is an ongoing concern for all gardeners. Go into any garden center store or big box store, and you will see aisles with shelf after shelf of sprays to control anything that can damage or kill your garden plants. If you want to protect the environment while maintaining a beautiful garden, do some homework. Read the labels before you purchase any products. The ingredients vary greatly in their toxicity to birds, butterflies, moths, beneficial insects, small animals, family pets, and ground water or surface water systems that feed drinking water supplies. According to several studies, "Birds suffer from the effects of pesticides during all life stages and in a wide variety of situations, including when they eat food containing the pesticides." There have been heated discussions and debates about glyphosate and neonicotinoids, which are found in many commercial pesticides and other 'cides used in agriculture, public gardens, parks, golf courses, and home gardens, but there is no agreed-upon solution to this problem. Home gardeners do not have to resort to chemicals in their garden. A homemade spray is a mixture of vegetable oil,



False Indigo (Baptisia australis)
blooming in author's garden
in early May

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Continued on page 18.

Father's Day

Father, Pappy, Pop, Or Dad

If you're the sort who says rawther,
Then I suppose you'd call him Father.
If you like your talk a little
more snappy,
You might be casual and just
say Pappy.
If you like it short and efficient,
A simple Pop is sufficient.
To me it doesn't sound bad
If you call me plain old Dad.
Whatever you call him, one name
or another,
He's the guy who loves your mother,
And endured with her your
childhood ills,
And mowed the lawn and paid
the bills.

And though maybe it didn't
always show,
Prayed for you more than you know.
Men don't talk much about love
and devotion,
And think it's not manly to show
much emotion.
If he did not often hug you,
Sons, I say, don't let it bug you.
Daughters, too, do not cry
He loves you; he's just being a guy.
The guy who was there when times
were tough,
And your troubles were more
than enough.
Who helped you through life's
bereavements
And helped you celebrate your
achievements.
So this day let everyone be glad
Who has a Father, Pappy, Pop,
or Dad.

—The Mudge

Fun Fact...

carepatrol.com

Approximately only half of the Father's Day cards that are purchased are actually given to dads. About fifteen percent of these are purchased for husbands, grandfathers, brothers, uncles, and sons.

Neckties still rank as the most popular of all Father's Day presents.

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Youth Sports

Teagan Bandholz's Record Discus Toss Highlighted Track and Field Post Season

By Jeff Stuart

The biggest highlight of the Poolesville outdoor track season, and one of the most notable accomplishments in the Falcon athletic calendar this year, was junior Teagan Bandholz's first-place finish at the Montgomery County Championship on May 6 at Seneca Valley High School.

"Honestly, at the counties, I was trying to shake the rust off and pointing toward the region championship," said Teagan. "In the last few meets, I wasn't throwing my regular numbers in the discus. I was sort of in a rut. I thought, 'I just want to get through this meet,' but I was having a really good day. An official said, 'Teagan, the record is 130 feet, and you could break that.' I thought, 'You know what? I will try and do that.' It was something I could achieve. I just went after it, and it worked out. I finished first in the discus and the county meet last year, but this year I broke the meet record with a toss of 136' 11", and I will be back for one more year.

"I have had highs and lows this season. I broke the shot put record for the school. Something happened at the regionals that wasn't too great, but I broke forty feet in the shot put there, a personal record. Ruby Mercer, a junior, has been my biggest cheerleader through all this, and I would like to thank junior Isaiah Valmonte, sophomore Andrea Barillas, and senior Julia Kolotev for having my back in throwing. I have so many friends on this team. I love everybody. We just have a great community, and that is a highlight for me. All the coaches are really supportive. When I got into track and field, I wanted to be a sprinter, and I still do run sprints, but my friends told me, 'Teagan, you are super strong, you should try throwing.' I was a gymnast for so long, and I still am, so I thought, 'Oh sure, I will try it,' and I ended up being pretty good at it."

Teagan actually first broke the record in the prelims with a throw of 135' 3", and then she exceeded that in the finals.

"This is my first time qualifying for the states," said Isaiah. "The season did not start out the best for me, but I worked my way back up. I took third at the regionals and threw the discus a PR distance of 134' 4". I had a couple of PRs in the shot. My best was 36' 9". Teagan is a fellow thrower, so she helps me a lot. She is amazing. Junior Owen Robbins is a fellow thrower, and senior Kage Tupa has been there for moral support in the shot."

"We have a good quality team," said coach Prasad Gerard. "We have some juniors who are doing a good job in some of the relays and also in the hurdles and the high jump. We have got sophomore Keegan Slonski who ran a PR in the 300m hurdles at the county meet and finished second in the region meet, and junior Alex Daniels who finished sixth in the region in the 800m, and senior Eric Hoeger who finished third in the 800m in the region. Then we have sophomores like Ethan Dimmerling in the 800 and Keaton Trouteaud, who was part of the 4x800 relay team that finished fourth in the region, along with Daniels, Hoeger, and senior Connor Kohne. Kohne also runs the 1600 and 3200 meter events as well as the mile.

"On the girls' side, we have a really good 4x800 relay team consisting of senior Amelia Goettsch, junior Claire Main, sophomore Addison Kain, and junior Anna McCrae. They finished third at the region. Amelia broke sixty seconds in the 400m at the county championships."

Sophomore Keegan Slonski qualified for the states in the 300m hurdles, and the high jump, finishing second in both events at the region. His 6'2" jump matched a personal best.

"The Kayley Milor Twilight Meet at Urbana was fun for me," said Keegan. "I set a PR in the high jump and the 400m, but a special highlight for me was breaking the school record in the sprint medley at the Quince Orchard Relays on April 6, along with junior Alex Daniels, senior Jack Stokes, and Hoeger. My shoutouts go to Jack and Eric and Alex on that team, and to sophomore Bryan Smith. They are the most fun to hang around with. They push me the most in my workouts."

Junior Anna McCrae finished fourth in both the 1600m and the 3200m at the west region. She set PRs in both events at the county championships. She was also a part of the 4x800 relay team that finished third in the region. She qualified for the states in all three events.

"I started running the two mile this year," said Anna, "and it has been fun. I am starting to like the longer distance a little bit more. My shoutouts go to



Teagan Bandholz, record setter in discus for Montgomery County.

junior Claire Main, she is also a distance runner, and to senior Roma Diak. She has always been a great teammate, great competition, and very supportive...On the guys' side, Keegan, who is new to the team this year, has been awesome. He has made a huge impact."

"My personal highlight," said Hoeger, "was the 4x800 relay at the region. As a team, we ran an 8'14", two seconds off the school record. I ran the anchor leg in under two minutes. That is faster than I have ever run it. My shoutouts go to Alex, Connor, Keaton, and Ethan, my teammates in the 4x800, which has been

Continued on page 13.

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Continued from page 12.

**Teagan Bandholz's Record Discus Toss
Highlighted Track and Field Post Season**

the highlight of my last two years of track. We have been trying to get the school record, and we are right there. We have run the second, third, and fourth fastest times in school history."

"One of my goals since my freshman year was to run the 400m in under sixty seconds," said Goettsch, "so I was really happy about doing it at the county championship. I ran it in 59.84 seconds. All the work paid off. My time at the region was just a little over a minute. I finished sixth. My shoutouts go to Addison. She started running track this year and has so much potential."

At the state tournament at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex, Teagan finished second in the shot put. Keegan set a PR in the 300m hurdles and placed seventh in the high jump. Isaiah finished eighth in the discus. The women's 4x800 team finished seventh. The boys 4x800 team finished sixth.

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Youth Sports

Resilient Falcons Battle Together through Tough Baseball Season

By Jeff Stuart

Brian Paskill is the new Poolesville High School baseball coach, taking over from Scott Davis who moved over to coach softball.

"I have been coaching for fourteen years at various levels," said Paskill, "most recently at Savage National in Savage, Maryland. We placed twelve players into D1, D2, and D3 programs. I am on the board of directors for the Cropdusters college level program in Olney.

"We only had two or three returning players who actually saw playing time last year. We lost nine seniors. We only have three seniors this year: first baseman Jacob Smith, left fielder Russell Kimball, and second baseman Ian Harper. Those were my captains, so we saw juniors and sophomores get a lot of playing time.

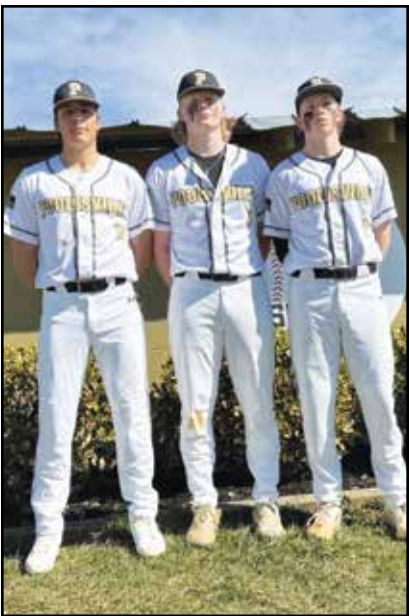
"We played one of the hardest schedules in the state, including games against Damascus (14-2), Sherwood (14-3), Whitman, Wootton, and Quince Orchard. We are a very young team. We made a lot of mistakes, but we learned from those mistakes and grew. I am very proud of some of the players stepping up and providing leadership, like junior shortstop Garrett Simons and our starting catcher sophomore Caleb Davis, who is also our number one pitcher. They helped bring the rest of the team into the fold. We have a high-end talent in sophomore Reid Kimball, a great centerfielder. Any ball hit in the outfield, he has the range. He hit a huge bomb against Quince Orchard. It was great to see the team show some resiliency after getting beat up pretty badly by some of those monster Montgomery County opponents. We held our own with the other teams in the county. We lost our home opener at Rockville in a walk off, 7-6. Then we took care of Northwood, 17-2. We beat Clarksburg, 8-2, on their senior day, and we defeated Kennedy, 4-3, at home in eight innings, and won at Springbrook, 17-1. It has been a very fun season."

The Falcons did not fade away quietly. They salvaged a little pride, winning three of their last four games. The last home game against Paint Branch was cancelled, and they ended up the fourth seed in the region.

The PHS baseball program has had a lot of success in recent years, so the seniors have a lot to look back on in division titles and a lot of great memories.

"This season has been a tough situation for us," said Jacob, "but we came out beating Clarksburg. That was a tough game. It was their senior night. We played really well. In my four years here, beating Damascus twice last year was a personal highlight. My shoutouts go to the other senior captains, Russell and Ian. They have been great teammates."

"In the Clarksburg game, we just wanted to go out there, play our best, and have some fun," said Russell, "because we have not had that great of a start to the season. My friend Caleb threw seven innings in that game. We prioritized having fun, and we played well. A personal highlight is getting called up from JV for the spring break games in my sophomore year; I got a hit and an RBI. I want to give a shoutout to Caleb; he has been pitching great; and my catcher junior Dominic. Bradley. He has been doing his best and has been great behind the plate; and to all the freshmen who came out and are taking on the challenge of playing varsity baseball. We hope to win more games and continue to have fun."



Falcons: Russell Kimball, Jacob Smith, and Ian Harper.

Continued on page 15.



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Pulse

Quilting Group Meets For Fun, Education, And Good Deeds

By Rande Davis

The origins of the Village Piecemakers Quilt Guild of Poolesville started in a similar way as a group in the 1980s. The current organization, which began in the 1990s, merged with the original local club, and the members have been making quilts for personal and charitable use for about forty years. Quilting, which has its roots in utilitarian uses as well as artistic ones, had its roots in Europe, when quilting appears to have been introduced by Crusaders in the twelfth century in the form of the aketon or gambeson, a quilted garment worn under armor which later developed into the doublet, which remained an essential part of fashionable men's clothing for three hundred years until the early 1600s.

Quilting's utilitarian origin comes from utilizing scraps of material left over from other cloth projects as well as from worn out clothing, blankets, etc. There is a golden rule in quilting, often referred to as the "golden ratio." It is a mathematical concept that, when applied to quilt design, creates harmonious and visually-pleasing proportions. It can be used to determine the size of quilt borders, sashing, and other elements, ensuring a balanced and attractive final product.

Pam Klobukowski is the group's community service coordinator, and Anne Wellborn is their moderator (president). The Piecemakers meet monthly for learning and teaching seminars from each other and visiting lecturers, with typical topics such as quilting techniques, historical quilts, etc.

They also plan special projects to help various charities. This year, they chose WUMCO by making soup cozies (cloth soup bowl holders for use when using a microwave oven), potholders, etc. to give to clients of the food bank. They have also partnered with a Wider Circle in Silver Spring, which has a mission to help people who are homeless, unemployed, or otherwise in need. They aid people in a housing crisis by assisting them in finding and establishing a home. The Village Piecemakers have a current project to help fill baby diaper bags with quilted items, like changing pads, burp cloths, bibs, and a baby quilt.

They meet monthly in the Poolesville Town Hall for educational and quilting entertainment projects, having about twenty-five attending these regular meetings. They also meet in mini groups that work on smaller projects, meeting separately in various homes. The group also gets together twice a year in events



Members of the Village Piecemakers Quilt Guild created gifts for WUMCO clients.

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Continued from page 14.

Resilient Falcons Battle Together through Tough Baseball Season

"I came back from an injury," said Ian. "I wasn't able to play with these guys last year. I live in Clarksburg, so that game was kind of like a home game to me. It was fun to finish my high school career by beating them. That meant a lot to me. I got a hit late, so that made it even better. We have been improving as a team, and that was a big turning point. Playing with the guys and being together has been fun. My sophomore year was probably my best performance. We won two playoff games before losing to Glenelg, but getting back on the field this year after not knowing if I would ever be able to play again—that was big for me. My first start in my freshman year was also a highlight. I played all year but didn't pitch until the mid-point of the season against Sherwood. I gave up runs, but I was back. I want to give a shoutout to Garrett. He has been one of my best friends since I have been here—a hard-working great player. We bounce ideas off each other. I like just being able to work together and get better; and to Caleb, who has been our best pitcher by far this season. He anchored the pitching staff, which has obviously been lighter this year than in previous years; and Russell. Playing baseball with him and joking around is always a good time. There is a close bond there."

Right fielder Sam Lewis and Alvin Tong are juniors. Pitcher Jonathan Kwon is a freshman.

Solar on Farms—What Now?

A new state law—The Renewable Energy Certainty Act—aims to significantly expand solar energy in Maryland.

The law does that, in part, by giving solar companies easier access to farmland, and by preventing counties from blocking solar projects. It goes into effect July 1—and nobody knows precisely what impact it will have on the state's farmland or energy supply. It's likely, however, that the law will lead to a reduction in food production (crops and animals). That's mainly because solar companies pay ten or more times what farmers do to lease farmland.

In Montgomery County's Ag Reserve, the law opens up some 5,000 additional acres of prime farmland to solar. A county zoning ordinance protected that land before. That ordinance is now eclipsed by the state law. State lawmakers were driven to pass the law by a desire to expand energy generation. Maryland imports about 40% of its total energy, and 75% of its renewable energy, from other states.

Opponents of the legislation decried the state's "land grab." They also questioned lawmakers' assertions that the state needed as much farmland as the law opens up to solar—rather than more aggressively approving solar projects on rooftops (houses, barns and businesses), open non-ag land, parking lots, and land not in agriculture.

SCA strongly supports solar and renewable energy. We oppose the placement of large solar facilities on good quality farmland. You can read more about this issue on our website.



OTHER SCA INITIATIVES

- ✓ Promoting regenerative agriculture
- ✓ Monitoring "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

The John Poole House is open every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

June 4

Community Dinner

Hamburgers and hot dogs, baked beans casserole, coleslaw, bagged chips, cookies, and drinks. *Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church*. 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

June 5

PACC Networking Breakfast

Featured PACC member, Robin Snider of Rustic Route Coffee. *Locals outdoor patio*. 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

June 6

Library Storytime

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

Library Family Movie Day

Moana 2. For all ages. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

June 7

UMCVFD Pork and Beef Fundraiser

Slow-smoked BBQ pork and beef, classic coleslaw, and hearty baked beans. Enjoy your meal at our covered tables or grab carryout to go! 19801 Beallsville Rd, behind the firehouse. All proceeds benefit our new Training and Activity Center. 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. or until sold out!

Teaching Basics to Children

Find out how to enrich young children's learning with "The Basics." For adults: Health and Wellness Games and Play. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Play Date

A drop-in playtime up to 6 years old and their caregivers. Free play time in our meeting room. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

June 7 and 12

English Conversation Club

Practice English conversation in a friendly, informal setting. All are welcome. No registration is required. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

June 10

Pajama Storytime

Music, movement, rhymes, stories, crafts, and more! An evening storytime where pajamas are encouraged but not required. Babies, toddlers, preschool, and kindergarten. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 6:30 p.m. to 7:10 p.m.

June 13

Sweet Cherries at Kingsbury's

Kingsbury's Orchard opens for the season with sweet cherries.

June 14

Milkshake Rock Concert

Kid-friendly music for the whole family. Performance and dance: Enjoy the music of this Grammy-nominated music group for children! Music, movement, stories, rhymes, crafts, and more! *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Poolesville's Second Annual Pride Fest

Food, drink, music, dancing, art, talent show. *Locals Restaurant*.

June 15

Lewis Orchards Opens

Lewis Orchards is due to open mid-June. Be sure to begin your local fresh fruit and vegetable shopping this month.

June 20

Friday on the Commons: Bingo Night

Old-time bingo for the whole family, sponsored by UMCVFD, also inflatables, yard games, and food trucks. *Whalen Commons*. 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

June 21 and June 28

Play Date

A drop-in playtime up to 6 years old and their caregivers. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

June 22

DC Polo Society Summer Matches

Enjoy watching two action-packed rounds of polo and grab a bite from our onsite bar and food trucks or bring your picnic lunch with our tailgate package. This fun, family-friendly event is perfect to get dressed up and spend the afternoon with friends and family. Children under 12 free. Pricing options available at: dcpolosociety@evenbr9te.com. Cash bar and food truck on site. *Congressional Polo Club*, 14660 Hughes Road, Poolesville. Doors open: 2:00 p.m.; first match: 3:00 p.m.; second match: 4:00 p.m.

June 22 to 26

Vacation Bible School: On the Road with God

Crafts, music, recreation, Bible stories, and snacks. Register at: Poolesville-Memorial-UMC.MycokesburyVBS.com. Ages: Three through elementary school. *Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church*. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

June 23

Dance Party

Performance, dance games, and play. Preschool to elementary ages. Put on your dancing shoes and join the fun! *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

June 24

Pajama Storytime

Music, movement, rhymes, stories, crafts, and more! An evening storytime where pajamas are encouraged but not required. Babies, toddlers, preschool, and kindergarten. *Maggie Nightingale Library*. 6:30 p.m. to 7:10 p.m.

June 28

Second Annual Picnic for Seniors

RSVP by phone to 301-943-6845. *Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church*. 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.




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Continued from page 3.

Tidbits

Falcon Sets County Record in Winning the Discus

On May 7, 2025, Poolesville High School's Teagan Bandholz took first place in discus at the MCPS County Championship held at Seneca Valley High School. She threw the discus a whopping 136' 11", breaking a fourteen-year MCPS sports record. Read more details about Teagan's feat in Youth Sports on page 12.

Reserve Wind Ensemble Performed at Riverworks



The Reserve Wind Ensemble.

The Reserve Wind Ensemble wowed the crowd at Riverworks Performance Art Center on West Willard Road this past May. The fun is just starting, so stay in touch and watch our Things to Do column to know when the next performances will be.

Monocacy Lions Elect Leadership

Congratulations to all those individuals in the Monocacy Lions Club having been recently reelected and/or elected to positions of leadership. The motto of the Lions: "We serve." Those now elected can proclaim, "We serve those who serve."

The new leaders are: President, Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz; First Vice President, Tom Rojas; Secretary, Cathy Mattax; Treasurer, Scott Daniels; Membership Chair, Valaree Dickerson; Director, Milton Andrews; Director, Gary Burdette; Director, Suzanne Tallia; Director, Wendy Smith; Tail Twister, Josh Maisel; and Immediate Past President, Roger Brenholtz.

Heidi is the first woman to hold the position of club president. Traditionally, the club leader has been referred to as King Lion. Heidi chooses to avoid that title, preferring, we assume, Madame President!

Good News on the Harris Teeter Closure News in the May Issue

Harris Teeter in Darnestown will not be closing after all. While it originally was listed to be closed in a list sent out by the corporation, it turns out that the list is no longer correct; furthermore, Piggly Wiggly will not replace the store.

Correction

In the May issue of the *Monocle*, in the story about the Town of Poolesville's water system and aquifer, it was noted that a resident asked how many homes or how much population the town's water system could support. In response, hydrologist Pat Hammond said that the town's system could support the current population goal, but it would likely need to implement water restrictions and impose limits under his assessment of the impacts of climate change. The article had a typo indicating the current population goal is 5,500 people, when in fact it is 6,500. We apologize for the error.

Continued from page 10.

June in the Garden

mild dishwashing soap, and baking soda. I often make a spray of water and white vinegar, which works well. Two good commercial and safe products are Bonide Insecticidal Soap and Neam Oil.

With a little bit of work now—and more as we enter the summer months—you can stand back and see and enjoy the fruits of your labor. A garden lives in a state of evolution. Garden work is never done. Come July, don't give up. You can still rest in your garden chair with a cool drink and enjoy it. To garden with nature, a pact must be made. You do your part while giving nature a free rein so that the ecosystem is allowed to develop. Onward and upward!

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Youth Sports

A Plan Came Together for Falcon Softball

By Jeff Stuart

A win over Quince Orchard highlighted a late season turnaround by the Poolesville High School softball team—but it wasn’t easy getting there.

Scott Davis, the baseball coach for the last several years, took over the reins as softball coach this year. This followed the retirement of longtime coach, Laurie Wohnhas.

“Being a first-year coach came with many challenges,” said Davis. “First, I did not know the players or their abilities or how they play the game. Second, we faced a tough early season schedule. That could have been very difficult for player morale, and I had to figure out what equipment and facilities I would need to make a better program. Athletic Director Gina Grubb has been a great help with that all season.

“I realized quickly that I did not have many travel ball or club team players with experience, so I had to coach many of the basics early on. I have had several conversations with the players on the plan for the season, especially with the seniors. I told them that we would treat the tough first half of the season as an extended preseason and work on things. Then, hopefully, we could make a run in the second half. We have won three straight games and are playing better softball which has been great to see. Hopefully, we can continue to improve as the season progresses.”



Falcons: Paige Soaskin, Kacey Raines, and Cara Porch.

At the time the coach made these comments, at practice on April 23, the Falcons were coming off consecutive wins over Seneca Valley, Blake, and Quince Orchard, improving their record to 4-6. Since then, they have defeated Watkins Mill, Magruder, Northwood, and Gaithersburg, before losing 8-2 to Richard Montgomery (10-6) by a score of 8-1 on senior day. The coach’s plan came together. The seven-game winning streak is the longest by any PHS field team during the 2024-2025 school year.

“We did have a tough early season schedule,” said senior pitcher Cara Porch, “and we knew that going in, but we put in the work every practice, and we have really grown. Yesterday, April 22, in a home game against Quince Orchard, we gave our best effort. We played a full seven innings and had hits in almost every one. Our coach always says energy wins games, and that was definitely the case there. We won, 6-4. For me, a personal highlight was in the home game against Wootton on March 26. I hit a walk-off double in the last inning to win the game, 10-9, for our first win of the season, and as a freshman, I hit a double against Quince Orchard, and it scored a lot of runs. My shoutouts go to the two other senior captains, third baseman, Paige Soskin, and first baseman, Kacey Raines. They really help the team chemistry and are leaders on and off the field. Also to Hadley Miller, our junior shortstop. She is just a beast on the field. She is always confident.”

Continued on page 21.



FRIDAY ON COMMONS

19701 Fisher Avenue Poolesville, MD 20837

(All events start at 6:00pm unless otherwise noted)

Red, White, & Brews

June 6 - 6pm - 10pm

Inflatables - Food Trucks - Artisan Vendors Kids Crafts - Jenn's Uncommon Critters

Beer: Featuring Checker Spot Brewing, Stone Silo Brewery, & Third Hill Brewing

Wine: Featuring Metzger Winery

Music: Michael Heister - 6-8pm
19th Street Band - 8-10pm

All Out 80's

July 25 - 6pm - 10pm

Inflatables - Arcade Games - Food Trucks Artisan Vendors - Kids Crafts and Games

Beer: Featuring Checker Spot Brewing & Third Hill Brewing

Wine: Featuring Metzger Winery

Music: DJEEZ Zach Etheridge - 6-8pm
Six Daze (80's Cover Band) - 8-10pm

Sunset & Sips

August 22 - 6pm - 10pm

Waterslides - Foam Dance Party
Food Trucks - Artisan Vendors - Kids Crafts
Jenn's Uncommon Critters

Beer: Featuring Checker Spot, Smoketown, Stone Silo, & Third Hill Breweries

Wine: Featuring Metzger Winery

Music: Sean Chyun - 6-8pm
Back to the Beach (Beach Boys Cover Band) - 8-10pm

Barrels of Fun

September 5 - 6pm - 10pm

Inflatables - Food Trucks - Artisan Vendors
Kids Crafts and Games - Jenn's Uncommon Critters

Beer: Featuring Checker Spot, Smoketown, Stone Silo, & Third Hill Breweries

Wine: Featuring Metzger Winery

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

Bingo Night

June 20 - 6pm - 9pm

Old Time Bingo for the Family
Sponsored by UMCFVD

Inflatables - Yard Games - Food Trucks

Stars & Screening

October 3 - 7pm - 10pm

Movie:
Hotel Transylvania: Transformia

Fire Pits - Movie Snacks - Halloween Fun



Continued from page 20.

A Plan Came Together for Falcon Softball

"This season has been so much fun," said Hadley who has emerged as a power hitter. "The team dynamic is great. We all get along very well. Yesterday's win over Quince Orchard was big. We lost to them by one run last year. That was pretty rough. It was a team effort. We fought hard. Cara did a great job pitching. I hit a couple of triples, and junior Lauren Borman made a really great catch in the outfield to help us close it out in the seventh inning. Pretty early on last season I hurt my shoulder. I tore my labrum and had shoulder surgery. I was out for six months. Last winter, I worked with Coach Davis. He helped me rehab and changed my swing and mechanics a bit, and I got stronger, so I was able to hit some homeruns this season that really helped the team out. I want to give a shoutout to Cara. I will be really sad to see her go next year. She is a star pitcher. We have two freshmen in the outfield. They have done a really great job, and freshman left fielder Meher Sharma is a lefty. She bats second in the lineup. She is very reliable getting on base. She scored one of our runs by stealing home. Junior Ashley Kim is a great catcher. She and Cara work very well together."

"We had some hard games at the beginning," said Soskin, "but I think that helped us because we got to see how some Division I college prospects played their positions. We learned from that, and now, toward the end of the season, we are playing teams that we are more competitive with, and we can use that knowledge. Like yesterday, we knew we would be more competitive against Quince Orchard. That team is really good. They are 8-4, and we ended up walking away with a win. As for me, fielding has not been my strong suit, but my hitting has definitely improved this year. I want to shoutout Lauren for her amazing catch yesterday. She ran all the way from right center field and crossed the foul line to make it. Cara is an amazing pitcher. She has gotten us through most of our games."

"We played a lot of good teams the first half of the season," said freshman centerfielder Mackenzie Kavanagh. "Now we are hoping to win a lot more often. Against Quince Orchard we had a big early lead. Then they put a lot of runs on the board, but we came back and took control of the game. I got my first varsity hit in the opening game at Clarksburg, so that was a personal highlight. I give my shoutout to Hadley, a great shortstop. She has my six—always positive—and she can hit the ball really hard."

Oz Buchet is a junior. Alina Vicinelly is a sophomore second baseman. Rayleen Woods is a sophomore right fielder and third baseman.

I have worked with retiring softball coach Laurie Wohnhas longer than any other coach in my time covering Poolesville High School sports. I have found her to be very professional, kind, and caring. She has been a constant in my life every spring. On behalf of myself, the many students she has mentored, and others who have interacted with her at the high school, I would like to thank her for being a class act.

Continued from page 15.

Quilting Group Meets for Fun, Education, and Good Deeds

for the all the members, such as a picnic in the summer, and in December, for a holiday party.

For readers interested in joining the quilters, contact Pam Klobukowski at pklobuk@live.com.

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Continued from page 1.

Commissioners Hear Update on Town Residential Developments

year. The homes will be built, starting on the left side of the development as you face it from Fisher Avenue and go from left to right and from the front to the back.

Six models of homes will be offered for sale: three “rear loading” (i.e., with the garages in the back) and three “front loading” (i.e., with garages opening from the front). The rear-loading units will be sold first, according to Hartman and about twenty to twenty-five of the first units will be rear loading.

There are very strong architectural guidelines for the homes that they and the Willards agreed to with the town during the negotiations of the overlay zone. Porches, for example, will be built of stone. Siding will be Hardie Plank, which is an architectural board made of fibers impregnated with concrete. Hartman said, “These won’t be the average home” and will be constructed of the highest-quality materials.

The builders want this development to look like a “beautiful community, not a marine barracks” with wide variations in color, styles, and configurations. It will “pretty much be a three-bedroom community with basements but no walk-up basements.” The lots in the development will be around one fifth of an acre at most in size.

After Hartman appeared, Frank Jamison testified about the development his company, Charles H. Jamison, is proposing to build on fifty-six acres of land along West Willard Road. The project is known as the Bricken Property. Jamison said that when a preliminary plan was approved by the Poolesville Planning Commission for the development, it included the following caveat: “We recommend prior to processing the plats for the subdivision that adequate sewer and water services are available.”

Jamison said the January 8, 2025 Poolesville annual water capacity report stated that the net available water capacity for the town is 32,850 gallons per day. This net available capacity was after the Bricken Property allocation of 21,125 gallons per day had been accounted for, according to Jamison.

At the time of the conditional preliminary plan approval, Jamison said, the only issue that led to withholding the allocation of water and sewer approval for the development was the presence of PFAS in the town water supply, including Wells 2, 4, and 14. The presence of PFAS in Well 2 has been mitigated, he noted, by filtering equipment that had been installed.

Jamison said that in order to move forward with water and sewer allocation for the Bricken Property, it appears the only issue is the presence of PFAS in Wells 4 and 14. He said he had asked the town for a breakdown of the estimated cost to construct and install the necessary equipment to mitigate PFAS in both wells and was told the cost was \$650,000. He said Jamison would agree to fund the costs of mitigating PFAS in Wells 4 and 14 and pay the town of Poolesville once the Bricken property had been approved for construction.

Jamison said the proposal would solve two of the town’s water problems for residents. One is that it would eliminate PFAS in Wells 4 and 14 and bring back online two wells currently offline, at no cost to the taxpayers. In addition, the money would free up funds for other water or sewer related expenses that the town may have.

Jamison noted that his family has been in the Poolesville area since 1809. They owned one of the first housing projects in the town after it had installed public water and sewer. That project was known as Wootton Heights. In addition, the land where the water tower and Well 2 are located was once owned by the Jamisons.

He and his family have donated the land for a drilled municipal well, and the sewer trunk line that serves Tama, Tama 2, and Brightwell Crossing on property they own on Cattail Road. They also donated to the town the property for the town Water Tower; furthermore, the family drilled at their expense Well 14 as part of the Westerly Grove subdivision and donated land as part of the roundabout that will be constructed at the intersection of Fisher and Wootton Avenue.

He noted that the development will be the last major one in the town for the foreseeable future. He urged the commissioners to accept the offer because he views it as a commonsense solution to help provide safe drinking water in exchange for water and sewer allocation for an approved subdivision.

President Jim Brown said that the town is “making sure we move ahead cautiously.” He said there was nothing he could see the town could do in response immediately to the proposal.

At their May 19 meeting, the commissioners took time to recognize two men who had served on the Parks Board, Doug McKinney and Patrick Trainor. McKinney had once chaired the board and had been a member for many years.

The commissioners then turned to a presentation about development in the town. President Jim Brown explained it was in part a follow-up to the discussion about the town’s water system and designed to demonstrate how the planning process works and how it ties into the ongoing monitoring and upkeep of the water system.

Town Manager Wade Yost gave the presentation. Everything the town does in terms of major infrastructure work, development, planning, and budgets is a result of the Master Plan the town adopts every ten years. The Master Plan can take up to two years to prepare and is a result of a wide range of public outreach and information gathering, including citizen input, surveys, workshops, and research done by the Planning Commission and staff.

He emphasized that under Maryland law, the Planning Commission has control of the master planning process and that, while commissioners certainly have input into the plan, they should not try to sway the Planning Commission in terms of their work and findings leading up to the draft Master Plan. After the plan has been voted on by the Planning Commission and forwarded to the commissioners, they then engage in a review of the plan and hold public hearings as well.

Yost noted that Maryland law gives the Planning Commission “full and independent authority over the development process.” They review development plans, and they also review water system reports and analyses. They send recommendations on water allocations and water availability to the commissioners who then must approve them. The major power the commissioners do have is to approve water allocations for developments, but again, these are based on recommendations from the Planning Commission.

In the 1960s, the town had a population of under three hundred people and a rudimentary sewer system with a few wells. The population surged to about three thousand people in the 1970s and 1980s. In the forty-five years since this rapid period of growth, the town has not added as many people as it did during that period.

In the 1990s, developments came along that most are familiar with and that came out of the 1996 Master Plan. These include Elizabeth’s Delight, Meadowlark Estates, Tama, and Hunter’s Run. During this time, developers were starting to be required to build infrastructure connected to the water system like a new one-million-gallon water tank and new wells.

In the next round of planning during the late 1990s, water allocation plans and a bidding process along with impact fees and proffers from developers to help finance the water system were established. Major sewer relining projects were funded too to reduce demand on the plant. The Planning Commission and town commissioners came up with a ranking system that included proffers, land donated for parks, land donated for wells, and the like to help establish priorities.

In the 2000s a new Master Plan was developed that reduced the 7,500-resident population target to 6,500 to better align planning with resources. The town adopted the Streetscape Plan, acquired Whalen Commons, and built the new town hall as well. Yost said the 2011 Master Plan focused on infill in the center of town, as well as pedestrian safety.

Today, four developments are either underway or will be starting in the not-too-distant future: Ferry Crossing, the Estates at Hartz Pond, Grace Cottages, and Poolesville Crossing. While the town now has two thousand homes, Yost noted that in comparison to nearby areas like Urbana, Clarksburg, and Brunswick, Poolesville has grown at a much slower pace.

One of the questions from the audience concerned the affordability of homes in Poolesville and the relatively-high cost for homes that have been announced in developments like Ferry Crossing. President Jim Brown acknowledged that he is disappointed with where the prices have come in but also said the market is not as robust as it was and the builder could have proposed very large homes with multiple bedrooms that would have been much more expensive. Prices may change depending on the market, he said.

Concerns were also expressed about the empty storefronts in town, and questions were asked about whether the growth would help lead to a new grocery store. Brown replied that work had been done on a co-op and said he would have liked to have seen that move forward more robustly, but it was very unlikely that a conventional grocery store would open in town. He and town staff know the owners of the shopping centers, and while there are some empty store fronts, it is not an excessive number. Town businesses are often small or family owned and really need traffic. The former frozen yogurt shop, Mooey’s, had only needed seven more customers a day to break even but had not been able to generate that extra traffic.

Mystery History

One of the Most Damaging Spy Cases in U.S. History Happened near Poolesville

By Rande Davis and Jack Toomey

In May of 1980, our area of Montgomery County played an important part in one of the most serious espionage cases in the history of the nation. John Walker, a navy enlisted man, collaborated with agents from the Soviet Union to betray the United States and delivered material that could have been devastating to the nation in the event of war. His travels, sometimes reaching into upper Montgomery County, happened without notice or detection until May of 1985. John Walker enlisted in the navy in 1955 after being given a choice between jail and military service after being arrested for breaking into a gas station. He qualified for duties as a radioman which gave him the keys to the nation's secrets. Radiomen routinely transmit, receive, and have access to the most sensitive information and documents that can mean the difference between victory or defeat in time of war.

In 1967, he was stationed at Fleet Headquarters in Norfolk where he had access to many secret codes, documents, and other top-secret material. He realized that the Soviets would probably pay for this type of material, so one day, he drove to Washington and simply knocked on the door of the Embassy of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Walker was interviewed by KGB agents, the Soviet equivalent of the FBI, who verified that he was legitimate, and Walker's espionage career began.

In the ensuing fifteen years, John Walker would provide the KGB with a treasure trove of communication key codes that allowed them to decipher U.S. radio traffic and communications during the Vietnam War and most of the Cold War. Some of this information included the location and times of B-52 strikes and the positions of American ships and submarines. At the time, Walker's spying was described as "devastating to the United States" and "the most important" (spy operation of its time).

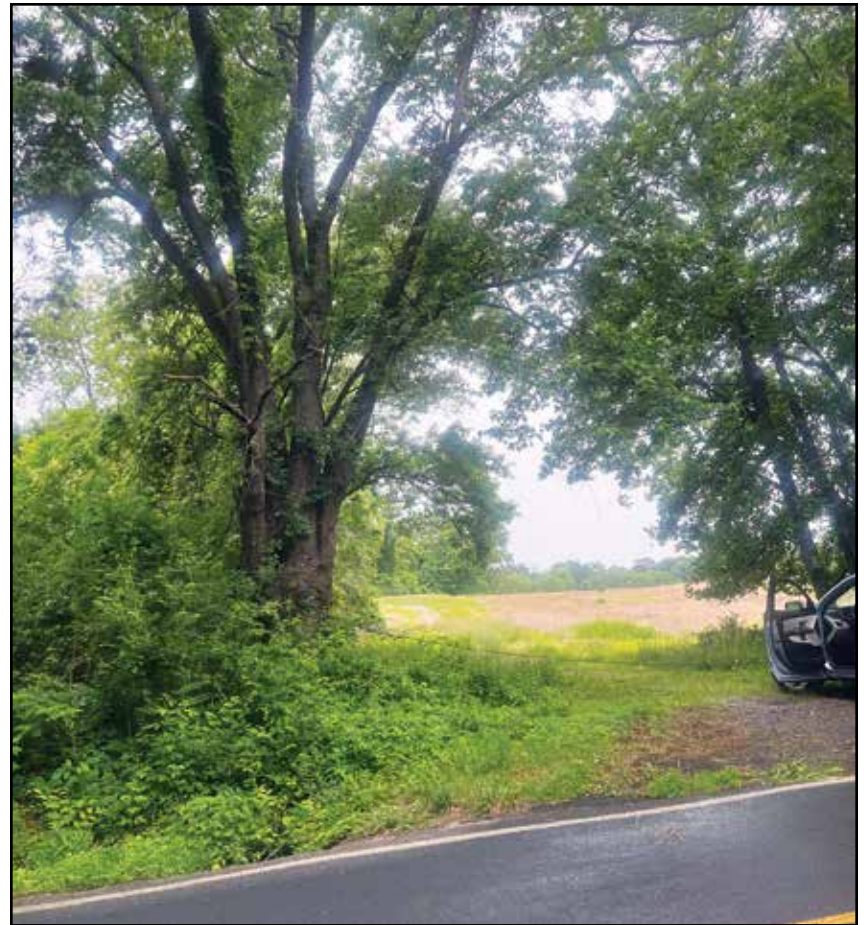
Walker would occasionally travel to Europe to exchange the top-secret information for cash but became greedy. He believed that the secrets that he was selling were worth more. Walker then recruited a friend and his brother, who were both in the navy, to join him in his activities. Later investigation revealed that John Walker passed bags of secret information to the Soviets in upper Montgomery County as far back as the early 1970s.

Walker was nearing retirement at the same time that his son, Michael Walker, had joined the navy as a seaman. Michael was assigned to the aircraft carrier, the USS Nimitz, where he worked in a clerical job. John Walker talked his son into photocopying classified documents and carrying them off of the ship under his clothing or in bags. John Walker retired and settled in the Norfolk area. He made frequent trips to the Washington area where he and the Soviets set up a complicated system in which Walker would leave bags of top-secret data at secluded spots in upper Montgomery County and then later go to another deserted spot where he would find a bag of cash left there by KGB agents.

One of his drop-off spots was at the base of a large white oak tree, no longer standing, that stood at the intersection of White Ground and Schaeffer Roads. Eventually, Walker's ex-wife telephoned the FBI and told agents that she suspected that her former husband was spying for the Soviet Union. The FBI obtained wiretaps and set up a constant surveillance of John Walker.

One evening in May of 1985, Walker drove north on Route 95 towards the Washington area. He was followed by a team of FBI agents and an airplane. He left Route 495 at River Road and drove west. Near the intersection of Quince Orchard Road and Dufief Mill Road, Walker left a signal by the roadside to alert the Soviet agents. He then drove out Darnestown Road to White's Ferry Road and then onto Partnership Road and traveled to a pre-designated spot where he left a trash bag of documents under a huge oak tree.

The bag was quickly retrieved by the FBI who had been watching him the entire time. In the meantime, a KGB agent who had Walker's payoff realized that he had been spotted and left the area. Walker then drove to the intersection of Old Bucklodge Road and White Ground Road where he expected to find two hundred thousand dollars. He thought there must have been a mistake, so he left the area and checked into the then-Ramada Inn on Route 28 near Rockville. Later



This old white oak on Partnership Road (about a half mile from Route 107 on the right) is where spy Walker hid the microchip of information.

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Continued on page 29.

Continued from page 1.

Falcons Tennis Dominated on Way to Fourth State Title

Maryland 2A state singles championship. He did not lose a set in those three state tournaments.

Senior Ruhika Bhat took the girls' singles title, defeating Julia Carrese of Hereford, 6-1, 6-0. She won the state title as a freshman as well. "She finished the season undefeated (20-0), losing only nine games," said girls' coach Andy Johnson, "claiming the Montgomery County Tournament Singles and West Region Singles titles. She was dominant against the best players in the county and state. In her twenty matches, she lost only nine games (a 96% win-loss ratio). In the regular season, Ruhika finished 12-0 and lost only six games. She should be All-Met. She will be playing tennis for Georgetown University next year."

In boys' doubles, William Chen and Akshaj Mareddy defeated Arnav and Rishi Rajadhyaksha of Glenelg. They did not lose a set in the tournament. This is William's second consecutive doubles title. "Akshaj is a freshman," said boys' coach Gilbert Cooper, "and William Chen is a sophomore and a returning 2A West Region champion. Braden Walter and Yuvi Sharma also played competently at doubles.

"This was a phenomenal season. We concluded with a 10-2 record, losing only to Churchill and Wootton, two division I schools. We kept a larger roster of players this season than last year's recommended sixteen. I kept twenty players in total, but this proved a solid decision. They kept our strength solid throughout. We were able to circumvent injuries and excused absences due to previously-confirmed school appointments. With a young talented team, I have high expectations for next season."

"Kyra McGlinchey and Pranahitha Kanuparthi lost the 2A girls' doubles final in the narrowest fashion in a third-set tiebreaker, 6-3, 3-6, 0-1 (9-11)," said Coach Johnson. "Annie Zhou won the second singles title at the county tournament. There were many positive stories this season."

During the regular season for the boys, Wu was first singles. Chen was second singles. Mareddy was third singles, and Quentin Cole was fourth singles. Walter and Sharma were first doubles. James Woo and Daniel Zhang were second doubles, and Jordon Go and Bryan Yung were third doubles.

For the girls, Bhat was first singles. Zhao was second singles. Kyra McGlinchey was third singles, and Sandy Lakshmanan was fourth singles. Kanuparthi and Lindsay Huang were first doubles. Elena Du and Kareena Gupta were second doubles, and Samyuktha Sivakumar and Anwitha Kondagunta were third doubles.

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This photo of a cliff swallow was taken by I. J. Hudson at the Monocacy Aqueduct. The little fellow was busy building and repairing its nests. The swallows dig mud from the riverbank with their beaks and take the mud to the nest. This remarkable photo shows a swallow with mud between its beaks.

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Remembrances

Carol Barron Lamb Clifford

Carol Barron Lamb Clifford, 73, of Poolesville, passed away on May 12, 2025. Carol was the wife of James Reynolds Clifford, Sr. for 45 years. She was born on January 5, 1952, in Morgantown, West Virginia where her father was on temporary assignment by the U.S. Army to teach ROTC at West Virginia University. She grew up in Georgia and then went to high school and college in Columbia, South Carolina where her family had moved in 1965.

Carol graduated from the University of South Carolina with a nursing degree, and she became a psychiatric nurse at the South Carolina State Hospital. Upon marrying Jim, Carol moved to Darnestown, Maryland and worked as a psychiatric nurse at Sibley Hospital. For all of those who knew her, she was loved and cherished as a gentle spirit who loved music and animals and all her family and many friends.

She is the daughter of the late Fred and Elizabeth (Barron) Lamb. She is survived by her two children: James "Jake" (Rebecca) and Patrick "Barry" (Jeanne); three grandchildren James, William, and Conner; brother, William Lamb (Susalee); and many nephews, nieces, and grand-nephews and grand-nieces.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made in Carol's memory to Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, 14139 Seneca Road, Darnestown, MD 20874, or to the Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration, 2700 Horizon Drive, Suite 120, King of Prussia, PA 19406.



Carol Barron Lamb Clifford

Richard Calvin King, Jr.

Richard Calvin King, Jr. passed away on May 10, 2025, at the age of 57. A resident of Littlestown, Pennsylvania, he always kept a special place in his heart for Big Woods Road and his hometown of Dickerson, while his soul belonged on the open highway.

Born on September 21, 1967, he was a member of the Poolesville High School class of 1986. He left school ready to dive into the workforce, starting with a job on the Savage Dairy Farm. In 1999, he started driving for Tumbleweed Express, and a year later purchased his own truck and continued to lease to Tumbleweed for fifteen years until he proudly started his own business, R.C. King & Sons LLC in June 2014.

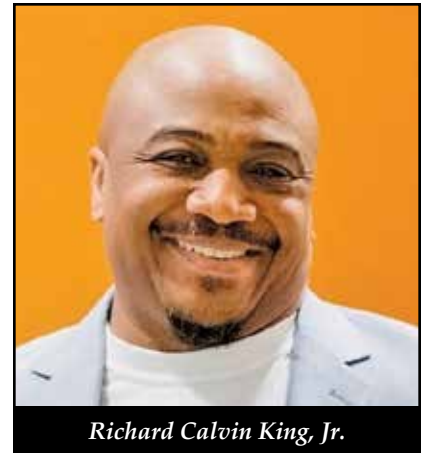
He married the love of his life, the woman he had prayed for, Anissa. They proved the age-old saying, "When you know, you know," because he knew from that first introduction at their mutual friend, Nelson's, cookout that he had found his other half. Wasting as little time as possible, he proposed in May of 2015, and they were married on August 14, 2015.

In 2017, he was joined in the family business by his son, Richard III (RJ), officially putting the "son" in R.C. King & Sons, when the business became a partnership.

His love of fun extended to his time with his grandchildren who could count on Pop and Gigi's house as a haven of safety and joy. His passion for life extended into his hobbies as well, and he was a respected member of the Thunder Guards Motorcycle Club, a deacon at the Hosanna Community Church, and could be found often in his shop working on his 1964 Chevy II.

He is predeceased by his namesake and father, Richard C. King, Sr. He leaves behind his cherished mother, Jo Ann, and beloved wife, Anissa, as well as their hoard of children and grandchildren, his siblings, and his nieces and nephews. He was a proud father to Lauren, Richard III (Samantha), Leanne (Vante), Kasinda (Danny), Azya, Sasha, and Shawn. He adored his role as Pop to Aiden, Evan, Evalyn, Michael, Amara, Naomi, Elaina, Rilynn, Khálayla, King, Zeke, Calvin, Reagan, and Brayden, and could often be found bragging about the sheer number and general brilliance of his own little army. Left with decades of fond memories that were cut too short are his siblings, Rem (John), Richlyn (Ron), Rochele, and Ryan (Maria), and thirteen nieces and nephews he held dear to his heart.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made in his memory to Andrea's House.



Richard Calvin King, Jr.



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Continued from page 24.

One of the Most Damaging Spy Cases in U.S. History Happened Near Poolesville

that night, Walker was arrested and eventually agreed to cooperate with FBI and CIA agents, and he revealed the depth of his espionage.

John Walker pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole and died in prison in 2014. His son, Michael Walker, was sentenced to twenty-five years and was paroled in 2000. This was an extremely dark time in the county's history, and experts believe that many Americans died because of John Walker's treachery.

It all happened here while we went about our daily business, slept, and drove the same roads as Walker and the KGB agents. Why did Walker and the Soviets choose the Poolesville-Boyd's area for their espionage? At the time, Soviet diplomats were not allowed to travel more than twenty-five miles from the center of Washington without permission. It is exactly 24.9 miles from the White House to the base of the oak tree. That was one rule that Walker never defied.

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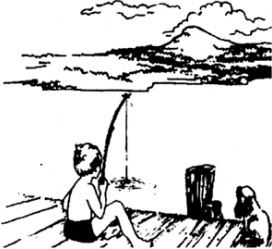
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The Rise of Longhorned Ticks—an Invasive Tick from Asia

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

Our area has its share of four different tick types. Brown Dog tick, blacklegged (or deer) tick, and Lone star tick are most common. Researchers are realizing that a new invasive tick species, Asian longhorned ticks, are on the rise.

Asian longhorned ticks were first discovered in the U.S. in 2017 on a New Jersey sheep farm just north of Philadelphia. Since then, the invasive ticks have spread to 22 states, including Maryland.

“The longhorned tick has spread to an average of four new counties every year, and presently, longhorn ticks are found in 27 counties in Pennsylvania—almost the entire southern half of Pennsylvania,” said Keith Price, who manages the Vector Management Laboratory at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. “The greatest abundance is still in Southern Pennsylvania. Over the past five years, longhorn tick numbers have spiked by around 150%, becoming the second-most common tick in Pennsylvania. To sum this up in a nutshell, they’re spreading quickly, and when they do spread, there’s often quite a lot of them.”

Here is the huge difference with longhorned ticks: “A big part of the reason they’ve managed to spread so quickly, Price said, is that they’re parthenogenetic, which means females are capable of reproducing asexually without the aid of male ticks...a single individual female that lays around 2,000 to 2,500 eggs, all without mating, can create an entire population just by that individual. There’s no other tick in North America that reproduces in this manner, and it’s this unique reproductive strategy that enables the longhorn tick to very successfully and very rapidly invade new geographic regions across the state and the country.”

The full story can be found on: <https://why.org/articles/asian-longhorned-tick-pennsylvania-forests/>

The longhorned tick also has a lot of hosts to choose from. Migratory hosts, including white-tailed deer and black-capped night herons, are capable of carrying the ticks across vast distances, which also accounts for their rapid geographical spread.

The bottom line is that it is now more important than ever to protect your pets from ticks. A growing number of researchers are recommending both oral and topical protection together. This is because not only is the longhorn tick very invasive, it can cause significant blood loss due to the sheer number that are often found on its unsuspecting hosts.



*A longhorned tick is seen in a file photo.
(Commonwealth of Pennsylvania)*



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