

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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The Blizzard of 2016

By Rande Davis



How high did it snow? Family Album lets you know with loads of pictures on page 2.



Three PHS coaches make Poolesville a wrestling destination. See Youth Sports on page 8.



PHS poms thrill the crowds at games and in competition. See Youth Sports on page 12.



Reid Patton scores two for the Falcons. More boys' basketball on page 16.

Winter Storm Jonas hit our area in the early afternoon of January 22, and by the early morning hours of Sunday, dumped thirty inches of snow on a ground already cold and ready-made for accumulation. It was a blizzard for the record books. Called Snowzilla by some and Snowageddan by others, it ranks as the snowiest storm on record for Baltimore, second on the record books at Dulles, and is tied for fourth snowiest in D.C.

Just the threat of the storm alone caused area schools to close on Friday and the result kept them closed through Thursday with school kids hoping for at least a two hour delay on Friday. Other closings followed including most area churches canceling Sunday services by Saturday, although one astute church reminded its congregants that their tithe could still be made online.

While residents hunkered down, the anticipated loss of electrical power



Poolesville's King for a Day: Kudos to Public Works Director Preston King and his remarkable crew for getting town streets cleared so quickly.

never hit the area. Fire Chief Mike White, although out of town, reported to the *Monocle* that the most significant event was the collapse of one barn

holding horses, but the department was able to rescue them. While White

Continued on page 7.

Citizens Consider Creating a Substance Abuse Support Group

By Rande Davis

No town is immune from the need for due diligence against substance abuse by its youth, and, with that in mind, more than twenty concerned local citizens came together on January 13 at JPMS to explore what residents might do to help curb any problems that exist in the Poolesville cluster community. The catalyst for the meeting was a presentation by Lizette del Canto of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) regarding a Drug-Free Communities Support Program (DFCSP) grant that is available to qualifying communities. SAMHSA is a section of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services inaugurated in the early 1990s. Its mission is to reduce the ravages of substance abuse and mental illness at the community level by making key preventative information more accessible.

The focus of the meeting centered on a grant from SAMHSA that is available to community coalitions that ban

together to fight substance abuse. By mobilizing community leaders to identify and respond to their unique drug problems, the goal of DFCSP is to establish and strengthen a collaboration among communities, nonprofit agencies, and federal, state, and local governments in a citizen coalition to prevent and reduce substance abuse.

Peg Arnold, counselor at John Poole Middle School (JPMS), opened the meeting by remarking that the grant being sought is not available to the schools but "requires a community coalition to come together to apply for the grant and is a great opportunity for Poolesville...to receive money that would help us implement drug education and drug prevention information that would help us equip our



Lizette del Canto of SAMHSA and Peg Arnold, counselor at JPMS, held special parental meeting on the matter of substance abuse.

youth with the tools to make good decisions."

Del Canto encouraged local participation in the program especially

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Family Album



Pre-storm lines at Dollar General stretched to the rear of the store for both lanes.



Dawn and Michelle Ramos were the only sojourners out and about getting ready for a grand snowball fight that had to be postponed due to too much snow!



Lilly and Jack Walsh are on top of the world by the Old Town Bank Museum.

THE BLIZZARD OF 2016



These icicles have the appearance of over-done eyelashes.



Paul Shelbelski could not have cleared his driveway without the help of his excited and able companion.



John Speelman ordered product early and stayed opened during most of his regular hours during Jonas's fury.



This determined jogger has Fisher Avenue all to herself.



GM Nick Kleghorn and Luke Armstrong had McDonald's ready to go early Saturday morning.



Snow-covered cars drifted into nature's work of art.



Concerned citizens are asked to help uncover that which may save lives.

Town Government Report

Commissioners Hear Reports on Town's Finances And Sewer System

At their January 19 meeting, the Town of Poolesville's commissioners heard a number of reports about the town's administrative and operational activities, including a presentation on the annual audit of town finances, public relations, and an update on how well the town's sewer system is functioning.

Every year, the town's books are audited by an independent auditing firm to assess the effectiveness and accuracy of town financial reporting and management systems. Audits are not intended to provide any judgments regarding what the town is spending or the financial viability of town operations. Instead, an audit looks at how well the town accounts for, tracks, and reports its financial activities.

In her presentation for the auditing firm RLH, Wanda Lynn said the company found that the town meets the standards for proper accounting and management of its financial assets. In "all material respects, the town's financial reports are accurate." She summarized some of the key findings in the report, remarking that the town had assets on its books as of June 30, 2015 of over \$36 million. These assets include everything from buildings to vehicles. The amount the town had at that time to satisfy immediate needs of town residents (i.e., cash and other valuables that can be used to pay for services and staff) was just over \$2 million.

Lynn pointed out that the town continues to subsidize its business activities (services paid for by town residents, mainly sewer and water). Monies from the general fund (which is supported primarily by property taxes) were used to provide some \$740,000 to the sewer and water fund to help offset capital needs and payroll costs. The town's debt increased as it took out loans to help pay for sewer pipe lining in some older neighborhoods.

Generally, the town's financial management is strong, but Lynn did say that in at least two areas, internal tracking of assets and end-of-year receivables, the town could do a better job of managing and tracking funds. Town manager Wade Yost acknowledged these points and said they were being addressed.

After the auditing report, the commissioners heard from Van

Eperen, the public relations firm that has been providing assistance to the town in promoting its image and informing the public about events and developments in Poolesville. Steve Simon and Laura Van Eperen provided an assessment of the work it had done this year on behalf of the town.

Simon explained that Van Eperen had provided a range of services from the production of videos about the town and community activities to event support including press releases, posts on social media, and direct contacts with the media to encourage coverage of happenings in Poolesville. Among the videos cited by Mr. Simon were a special "Poolesville Day 2015" video montage and three "That's My Poolesville" vignettes that featured local businesses and leaders talking about the town and why they liked living and doing business in Poolesville.

Simon stressed the importance of both videos and social media and said that his firm wanted to push forward in doing more in both areas in 2016. The firm had launched a Twitter account for Poolesville "@Poolesville_MD" and had developed a Twitter outreach plan that included the release of monthly content and efforts to encourage more groups and individuals to follow Poolesville via Twitter. He cited nine news releases drafted and released by Van Eperen as examples of the kind of promotional work that the firm had engaged in to highlight Poolesville and focus attention on its character and achievements.

Van Eperen also had helped garner significant news and media coverage, according to Simon, in 2015. The annual Lighting Ceremony was published in the *Washington Post's* "Going Out Guide" and an interview with Commission Jim Brown in the *Washington Business Journal* concerning the town's efforts to encourage more community and business development in Poolesville as examples.

Looking ahead, both Simon and Van Eperen remarked that a number of activities that had been pursued in the current year, including the release of more videos, continued efforts to promote events, and a special focus on key town objectives like the efforts to attract a grocery store to town, would continue, but some "stretch objectives," such as securing a visit from Governor Hogan to Poolesville, would be a focus for the firm. In closing, they reiterated the importance of social media and the use of Twitter. The town commissioners agreed with this last point and discussed a number of ideas, including more participation by town

Continued on page 11.

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Commentary

More Snow Than I Can Handle

By John Clayton

If anyone had told me the Friday that the storm started that we would be marooned on our property until Thursday, I would not have believed him. I assumed we would dig out Sunday, which seemed reasonable considering that the snow stopped falling Saturday afternoon; Monday, maybe at worst; Tuesday, no way.

Since my wife had provisioned us well, the power didn't go out, our internet service was maintained (thank you, Sugarloaf Network Systems), and no injury or other emergency befell us in our isolated state, I really had no complaints other than the loss of many days of productivity as my entire existence became dedicated to shoveling paths through the snow, trying to get out down a long driveway (still a work in progress as I write this on Wednesday), and a certain amount of time recovering from those activities. My Fitbit now thinks I'm a triathlete.

I have now not seen a newspaper for five days, a record that I cannot believe has been matched in my lifetime since Boy Scout camp in the sixties, as I started reading the comics and then the sports page at a precocious age. This meant I was eating breakfast over my iPad and using it for periodic relaxation during the day and evening recovery time. This spike in online activity also meant I spent more time than usual on Facebook, and I had a great time reading other people's and their dogs' experiences during the great snow and realizing beyond the shadow of a doubt that my experiences weren't much different than anyone else's, albeit perhaps with one small exception, which occurred as I went out to our stable to check on our animals for

the night. Somehow, upon leaving, I managed to jam the door latch so that it would not open. I could not get back in to save my life, or if it came to that, anything else's life. I reported the situation to my wife, and we retired for the night with something besides shoveling to address in the morning.

When morning came, there was some serious digging to be done—my wife started a path to the stable and I dug a path to the garage (unattached, obviously) where the crowbars reside. As we all know, shoveling viable paths through thirty-plus inches of snow is no joke, and these weren't short paths. I had learned the value of paths the night before when I was slogging through the drifts and at one point I lost my balance and fell over. No big deal, right? Wrong—I actually had trouble figuring out a way to get back up. My feet were constrained by the two deep holes I had made and when I put a hand down for purchase it just sank into deep snow. I figured it out eventually by flopping over on my front side and working my way up, but it was exhausting and a little unsettling. I'm not that old, okay?—but "I've fallen, and I can't get up" from those medical alert ads didn't seem so funny anymore. We made a new rule: No travel through the snow without a shovel.

I did make it to the stable and while my wife tended the livestock, I carefully inspected the door in order to determine the cause of the jam and—you guessed it—locked us in. The only other door that was not totally blocked by snowdrifts on the outside would have required a long hike back to the house through the drifts, a point brought home more vividly when I observed that our shovels were still outside, on the other side of the locked door. I salvaged a little dignity by at least bringing in the crowbar with me, but in the end we were rescued by the screwdrivers that we used to remove the doorknob and loosen the latch—my wife's idea, of course.

I'm ready for spring.

A MONOCACY MOMENT

THE BLIZZARD OF 1899

The Old Town Bank wasn't built until 1907.
The town had gas lamplights.



Looks like the Blizzard of 1899
may have had the most snow!

The Monocacy **MONOCLE**

Keeping an Eye on Local News

Published and Edited by
John Clayton and Rande Davis

John Clayton
Production
Financial
301.349.0071
jclayton@monocacymonocle.com

Rande Davis
Advertising
Circulation
301.509.9232
rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

Dominique Agnew
Copyediting
dqagnew@gmail.com

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

Monocacy Press, LLC
John Clayton, President
Rande Davis, Vice President
P.O. Box 372
Barnesville, MD 20838-0372
301.349.0071

Contributing Writers

Dominique Agnew
dqagnew@gmail.com
Pam Boe
pamboe@intairnet.com
Link Hoewing
linkhoe@aol.com
Kristen Milton
kmilton1998@yahoo.com
Maureen O'Connell
mafocconnell@msn.com
Susan Petro
bsusan424@gmail.com
Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz
Heidi@HealthyEdit.com
Jeffrey S. Stuart
sark10@juno.com
Jack Toomey
jackt21262@aol.com
Ingeborg Westfall
ingeborg560@comcast.net

Contributing Photographer

Jonathan Hemming

Layout and Graphics

Anne-Marie Thomas • AnyArt Studios LLC
Anne-Marie@AnyArtStudios.com

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Do you or someone you know have a special announcement, achievement, and/or milestone you would like to share with our readers in our Tidbits column?

How about highlighting your upcoming event, meeting, or club in Things To Do?

Then send it along to editor@monocacymonocle.com

Garden

New Year's Resolutions For a Garden

By Maureen O'Connell

As we approach the end of January, it is not too late to make resolutions for your 2016 gardens. As I have said many times, a garden lives in a state of evolution: New plants are added; old ones die; some become invasive thugs; others grow too big for their site; some succumb to diseases and pests; and many just wear out their welcome. Do any or all of these conditions describe your gardens? My gardens in Barnesville are now over thirty-five years old, and significant changes are long overdue. There are always new design plans on the horizon, new environmental considerations, and new and better plants being developed—so here is my list of ten resolutions for my gardens and yours.

If you are not a gardener, become one. Besides beautifying your home's landscape, gardening brings many health benefits. Wintertime planning for springtime improvements is good for the psyche. Looking forward to something new each day is my way of remaining young. I welcomed a new sous-gardener to my team this year, Spencer. He is a yellow English Labrador retriever and he is now four months old. He is doing his best to keep his eight-year-old black Lab brother Tom young and in shape. Spencer is looking forward to helping (or hindering) in the garden come spring.

Dig up and replace old, overgrown gardens. I have a medium-sized garden that used to be beautiful with daylilies, roses, irises, 'Autumn Joy' sedum, and *Tradescantia* (spiderworts) and *Physostegia* (lionshearts) plants. The last two were well behaved for a while, and then they took over the entire garden, smothering any nearby plants. Digging some up did not work; they just spread through underground roots. The only solution is to dig up the entire garden, roots and all, and begin again with less invasive plants. If you have a similar situation: Be ruthless; there is no other way.

Plant more native plants. Indigenous plants naturally occur in the region in which they evolved. They have adapted to local soil conditions, rainfall and temperature conditions, and have developed natural defenses to many insects and diseases. Best of all, they will grow with minimal use of water, fertilizer, and pesticides. Some examples include: Gaillardia, Shasta Daisy 'Becky,' Jack-in-the-Pul-



New little sous-gardener Spencer with best friend Tom

pit, swamp milkweed, wild indigo, tickseed sunflower, Joe-Pye weed, *Heliopsis helianthoides* var. scabra 'Asahi,' cardinal flower, Turk's cap lily, Solomon's Seal, black-eyed Susan, and *Liatris spicata* (gay feather.)

Use less harmful products. I do not use any more insecticides, fertilizers, or fungicides that are harmful to the environment. It is possible to still have beautiful flowering plants; you just have to choose the correct ones.

Examine your trees now for any dead or dying limbs that could cause damage in winter or spring storms. Consult a professional if they are of a large size.

Think herbs. They are very low maintenance and can be used for cooking. Integrate them into your flowerbeds. Some good examples are: lavender, sage, dill, English thyme, oregano, cilantro, chives, and rosemary.

Include in your gardens, plants that will enhance fall and winter landscapes. *Helleborus* brings a woodland garden to life in late winter and early spring when nothing else is blooming. I have several 'Lenten Rose' planted under several white dogwoods. They are about twenty years old now, but they never disappoint.

Plant something new and exotic. *Arisaema serratum* (Jack-in-the-Pulpit) sports an exotic hooded spathe and is green or purplish with white stripes. I have several growing among smaller hostas. *Belamcanda* (Blackberry Lily) transferred to the genus *Iris* and now called *Iris domestica*, came to this country in Colonial Times. It has bright golden apricot flowers and a fall crop of shiny black berries. I have several of the variety 'Freckle Face.'

Reduce lawn care. Grass lawns are high maintenance and not always environmentally friendly, depending upon how they are maintained. The quest for a perfect lawn leads to the use of high nitrates and other

Continued on page 15.



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Things To Do

January 29

PHS Varsity Home Games

Girls' basketball versus Clarksburg. 7:15 p.m. JV at 5:15 p.m.

January 30

PHS Varsity Sport

Swim and Dive Team Division II Championships. *Martin Luther King Swim Center*. 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Sixth Annual Sugarloaf Citizens Association's Midwinter Garden Dreams

Please join SCA for its winter gardening get-together. Bring your stories, ideas and questions and be ready to discuss your favorite flowers, veggies, and gardening styles. Everyone is welcome -- experienced gardeners and those just starting out. Tea and a light snack will be available. *Linden Farm Barn, 20900 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson*, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

February 1

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Game

Boys' basketball versus Gaithersburg. 7:30 p.m. JV at 5:30 p.m.

February 2

PHS Varsity Home Match

Wrestling versus Magruder. 6:15 p.m. JV at 7:15 p.m.

February 3

Free Community Dinner

Chicken enchiladas and kid-friendly quesadillas are on the menu. Starbucks Coffee and homemade desserts also served. All are welcome. To request a ride, contact Lori Kocur at 240-994-8011. *Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church*. 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Games

Basketball versus Watkins Mill. Girls: 5:15 p.m. Boys: 7:15 p.m.

February 4

PACC Morning Network Meeting

Refreshments and coffee offered. Visitors welcome. *Poolesville Town Hall*. 8:00 a.m.

Pre-School Storytime

Help prepare your children for school by developing early literacy skills. Join in for stories, songs, activities, and crafts. For children aged 3 to 5 years old. *Poolesville Library*. 10:30 a.m.

PHS Varsity Sports

Indoor track 3A West Region. *PG Sportsplex*. 4:00 p.m.

February 5

AARP Tax Help/RSPV/AARP Tax-Aide Program will provide free income tax preparation assistance by trained

volunteers for low-to-moderate income Montgomery County taxpayers, especially seniors 60 and over. Appointments required. *Poolesville Library*. Call 240-777-2577.

February 5, 6, and 7

The Blue Hearth Market Weekend

New gifts, crafts, and unique ideas for Valentine's Day. Open Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Sunday from noon to 6:00 p.m. *19964 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville*.

February 6

29th Annual Sub Sale

Place your order for Super Bowl super foot-long subs from Memorial United Methodist Church at \$7.00 each. Call 301-349-2010 or 301-349-2261 no later than February 6. Sub pickup at the church on Sunday from noon to 1:00 p.m.

Small Wonders

And Stupendous Feats!

Join us for a special story experience with storyteller extraordinaire, Diane Macklin. She will be presenting marvelous tales of unlikely heroes that defy the impossible. In celebration of African American Heritage Month. *Poolesville Library*. 11:00 a.m.

February 7

Super Bowl Sunday

Get together with friends for Super Bowl at *Cugini's, House of Poolesville, Bassett's*, or make the rounds.

February 9

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

\$5.00 per person / \$20.00 per family. *St. Mary's pavilion*. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

February 11

Time for Twos

Begin nurturing your two-year-old's love of books through stories, music, and movement while helping to develop early reading skills. *Poolesville Library*. 10:30 a.m.

February 13

Denim and Diamonds Dinner Dance

A community event to support the Poolesville Area Senior Center. Catered dinner by *Bassett's*, cash bar, silent auction. Dress: casual to cocktail. DJ entertainment. \$50.00 per person/\$90.00 per couple. *St. Peter's Parish*. 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

February 13 and 14

St. Mary's Antique Show and Sale

Buy antiques or collectibles. Bid in the silent auction. Obtain appraisals and win antique raffle prize. Free admission. *St. Mary's Parish Pavilion*. Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 6:00 p.m.

February 14

Valentine's Day Be sure to make your reservations early at local restaurants.

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Continued from page 1.

The Blizzard of 2016

was out of town, Battalion Chief Mike Burns handled his responsibilities. The fire department handles such extreme winter conditions primarily by using its own snow removal equipment that is purchased from donations. Firefighters can also coordinate with county or town officials in prioritizing the placement of snow removal equipment in the case of extreme emergency. Chief White also asked that residents who live near fire hydrants remove the snow around them to make the hydrants more visible and accessible.

The *Monocle* was able to catch up with an obviously-exhausted but determined Preston King, Director of Public Works, on Monday morning to learn more about the town's snow-removal program. Wearily sitting in what might be called his Command Central (otherwise known as a town truck), he gave us an update on his progress. By Monday afternoon the crew was preparing to start with sidewalk snow removal. He and his team had been on the job since 6:00 a.m. Friday morning. King, along with another town employee, was not able to go home for rest since the roads leading to them were still closed. He slept for two-hour stints in a chair at the town shop. With bloodshot, bleary eyes he reported to us that the preparation for a storm this large begins days in advance with vehicle and equipment maintenance and preparation. "We have to ready the salt spreaders and plows, shop for food for the crews, hire contractors, and hold meetings to show them their routes. We had to stake out sidewalks, especially in the new developments which we are now responsible for. My crew did not leave site until Sunday evening. I slept in a chair two nights in a row."

The town staff had the assistance of five to eight contractors who floated in and out throughout the three-day ordeal. The town rented additional

tandem trucks and snow-loaders. In tight areas like the townhome communities, most of the snow must be loaded into dump trucks and taken to Campbell Park.

Mr. King especially wanted to acknowledge the local citizens. "They have been fantastic. They have fed us, they have given us coffee, and ninety-nine percent have been ecstatic over our efforts and have voiced their appreciation."

Most main streets in town were cleared first, and area businesses did their best to stay open. At Poolesville Hardware, John Speelman began bringing in snow removal and electrical power outage supplies in the early part of the week. He opened a little later on Saturday; otherwise, he was ready for business throughout the storm. "We were well stocked with everything from sterno, snow shovels, blowers, ice melt, heaters, propane kerosene. We had a line at the register for three days nonstop."

Tractor Supply opened a little later than their normal time on Saturday morning and also was able to stay open through the storm. The team at CVS shoveled a small footpath to the front door that met the shopping center parking lot that got cleared by the folks at Capital Fence, but its main parking area was left untouched through Thursday. The CVS staff opened on Sunday, which was crucial for those, especially the elderly, in need of prescriptions.

Residents took to Facebook to reach out to the community, some with pictures, others with questions and concerns. A new Facebook site opened just for the storm entitled Snow Wars: The Poolesville Empire Strikes Back. The hope was to have a grand community snowball fight at Whalen Commons. About a dozen hearty souls made it at the appointed time for the battle, but, alas, not in the park but in the parking lot. With most people still solidly snowed in, it seems there was simply too much snow for a massive snowball fight.



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FEBRUARY 5, 6, AND 7

Youth Sports

First Annual Dorsey Duals

By Dominique Agnew

For years, Poolesville High School wrestling coaches together for ten years, Kevin Dorsey and Mark Agnew, had talked about having their own tournament at Poolesville—and athletic director Ed Ross had always been supportive of the notion—but by the time the five-month-long season would come to an end, the momentum would wane; that is, until Tim Tao joined them last year as part of the coaching staff and absolutely ran with the idea. Tao had previously coached at another school where he helped organize and run its tournament, so he knew exactly what running a tournament entailed. “We talked about having our own tournament again at the state championships last March, and I said, ‘Let’s go ahead and plan to have it for the 2016-2017 season so we would have time to get teams to commit,’” said Coach Agnew. “Both Tao and Dorsey voted for this year, and I could not be happier that I lost that vote.”

There were a few bumps in the road as one would expect in organizing such a large event for the first time; first and foremost was getting enough teams to commit. Coach Tao spearheaded that venture. After writing a business proposal for the PHS administration and filing a sanction form, he sent hundreds of emails and posted on numerous wrestling forums in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia, requesting teams and coaches. The PHS coaches had wanted to find eight to eleven other top-quality teams to attend the two-day tournament scheduled for January 15 and 16. “I wanted to get good enough teams to have a challenge for PHS wrestlers,” said Tao.

The week before the tournament, everything seemed set with a quality nine-team field which would have allowed each team to wrestle eight dual-team matches over two days. Then a few glitches arose: One team from Virginia had transportation issues, forcing it to withdraw; another team’s coach was fired suddenly; then yet another team had a last-minute transportation snafu. With some creative schedule changes, the tournament managers were able to give all teams the opportunity to wrestle eight matches. Ligonier Valley from near Pittsburgh won the overall championship, despite falling to Cosby from Virginia in the qualifying round. Poolesville finished third overall. “I thought we had a very good mix of teams,” added Tao.

While one might think that the strength of the teams is the ratings bar that sets the standard for tournament quality, coaches can sometimes be more interested in how well a tournament is run—especially the hospitality room. “The hospitality room was excellent,” enthused Tao. “It was probably one of the better tournaments I’ve seen in sixteen years of coaching. Everything went very smoothly.”

The hospitality room—which feeds and pampers the coaches and workers of a tournament—was the work of an incredible group of volunteers. Helen Truppo, PHS wrestling parent and a volunteer coordinator for the tournament, said, “It was an amazing volunteer effort.” The Poolesville wrestling parents donated food, helped set up, helped with scoring of matches, and traveled to pick up donated food from restaurants over the two-day period. “The parents really brought a level of enthusiasm,” she added—but she also was sure to give praise to another worthy group, the junior varsity wrestling team. “The JV team did an incredible job,” she said. They set up, they were in charge

Continued on page 9.

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Continued from page 8.

First Annual Dorsey Duals

of trash, and they helped with take down. "They never complained," she marveled. "It was really great to see."

Truppo and all the coaches reserved the highest praise for the PHS Booster Club. The Boosters did an incredible job at getting sponsors, finding local businesses to donate food for hospitality, and running the concession stand. Led by Jeff Oyer, the Boosters had numerous meetings before the tournament, and Truppo was quite impressed by their organization and commitment.

Along with donations of food, time, and manpower, Oyer and Boosters volunteers had a tremendous outpouring of support from sponsors: Absolute Auto, Allnuttsville Lodge, Anderson Tree Service & Recycling, Asian House of Poolesville, BUPP Contracting, Butch and Leni Barry, Chipotle – Kentlands, Colony Supply, Construction Applicators Chesapeake, LLC, Cornerstone, Inc., Custom Applicators, Cugini's, D&A Dunlevy Landscapers, Dickerson Market, Fine Earth Landscaping, Frank Jamison Jr. Realtor,

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The tournament could not have come at a better time. Coach Dorsey was very much grateful for all the efforts that so many people made to help the tournament (named in his honor) come to fruition while he can still coach. Dorsey was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease) during the summer of 2014. He knows how much work goes into running a tournament, and he also appreciated the out-of-state schools attending. "He was very moved by [the tournament being named after him]," said Dorsey's wife, Dawn Dorsey. "It was very humbling."



Dorsey and his Gang proudly hold up their hard-won third-place trophy.

Organizers are already putting the pieces in motion for next year's tournament. "I thought it was a great tournament...I'm excited to do next year's," said Tao. He is already working on the proposal and flyer for next year. Last year, he didn't start advertising until April. This year, he will begin making contact in mid-February

and talking to coaches at the state competition. He hopes to have twelve teams and five mats for "more competition, more fans, more money at the gate, more everything."

"Parents appreciated having a tournament at home," concluded Truppo. "It felt comfortable; it felt like home."



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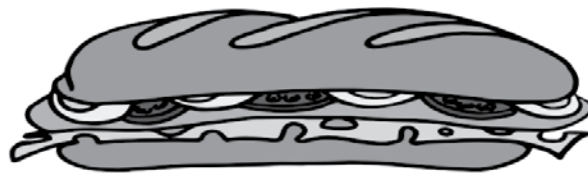
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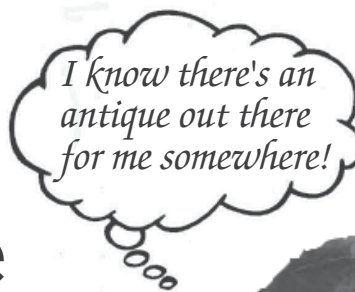
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Continued from page 1.

Substance Abuse Support Group

since the problems with the Poolesville area, while not at a crisis level, are much more preventable at this stage when a community acts sooner rather than later. SAMHSA offers a grant of \$125,000 per year and requires matching funds in the form of money or work-based equivalency. The grant may be renewed up to six years and can be extended, but matching fund requirements do expand in years seven through ten.

A key requirement for a grant is that a working committee consisting of twelve sectors from the community must be put in place. Those representative sectors are: youth, parents, business, media, school, youth-serving organizations, law enforcement, religious/fraternal organizations, civic/volunteer groups, health professionals, state/local government, and other substance abuse organizations.

Remarkably, the group already consists of most of the required sectors, leading Mr. del Canto, who had worked for SAMHSA in the past for many years but was attending the meeting as a volunteer citizen to assist his wife, to state that Poolesville has three times the chance of gaining such a grant compared to communities which have already been awarded a grant. "Simply based on having two or three of what I call subject-matter experts in this small group of people, I think it would be tragic if you did not apply for the grant."

As the vibrant discussion wound down, the group decided to establish a working committee to determine whether this community can put such a partnership of people to work on a program that would help the community meet the threat of substance abuse in our area and only then, would applying for a grant be considered. The conclusion was that at least a SADD/MADD-like program might be created to help the youth.

Charlotte Boucher, former principal of JPMS, proposed that the group proceed in three steps: First: Determine if there is enough interest among the group to continue an exploratory approach to building a program; second: Reach out to MCPS to make sure the group would have its full cooperation and support; and third: Schedule a follow-up meeting to make sure the group can recruit volunteers from each of the required twelve categories so that, should a grant be sought, the committee is poised to be approved.

Boucher offered to be the committee's pro tempore Chair. As a follow-up to this meeting, she reported to the committee via email, "Our overarching goal at this point is to continue inquiry about our town's best path to supporting our youth in making wise decisions about potential substance abuse."

The next meeting is scheduled for February 24 at the Poolesville Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. Any interested volunteers, especially those who qualify within the definition of the twelve sectors, are encouraged to attend.

Continued from page 3.

Town's Finances and Sewer System

commissioners in posting to the Twitter account, as being worth pursuing in 2016.

In a final report, Yost discussed a summary assessment he had prepared about the town's sewer capacity. He noted the importance of an effective wastewater management system in supporting the town's economy and development. Annual reports are submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment detailing how the town's wastewater system is performing, including specific metrics related to such things as the presence of various elements and chemicals in the treated wastewater.

The town had been pursuing a major effort for years to reduce leaks in the wastewater piping system to ensure that the plant could efficiently handle flows and provide a buffer for future development. A three-year rolling average of gallons per day (GPD) treated at the plant demonstrated that the efforts were paying off. Average plant flows per day went down from 670,000 gallons to about 530,000 gallons from 2013 to 2015. The average flow is now just over 600,000 GPD, and the town has a permit to operate the plant at 750,000 GPD. This means that a buffer exists that can be used to service future residential developments that are planned (about 111 building permits are included in record plats but not yet approved). Some additional building permits are on lots that have not yet been submitted for approval. Subtracting all of these potential homes leaves the town with a buffer of just under 20,000 GPD.

Youth Sports

PHS Poms Place 2nd At the Jaguar Pom Competition

By Jeff Stuart

On January 9 at Northwest High School, the Poolesville High School poms, directed by Coach Tanya Ventura, placed second at the Jaguar Poms Competition. They also took home the Spirit Award—not bad considering their competition and this being their first season in Division I. A large and enthusiastic contingent of PHS supporters was on hand. The Falcon Poms Squad won the Division II championship a year ago, earning the right to move up.

At the Blake High School Competition on January 16, the poms squad followed up on their success at Northwest by placing third

“It was quite a shock for the entire team” to place second at Northwest, said senior captain Cathy Xie, “because it’s not very typical for teams that move up a division to place at their first competition. The weeks leading up to our first competition were nerve-racking to say the least.

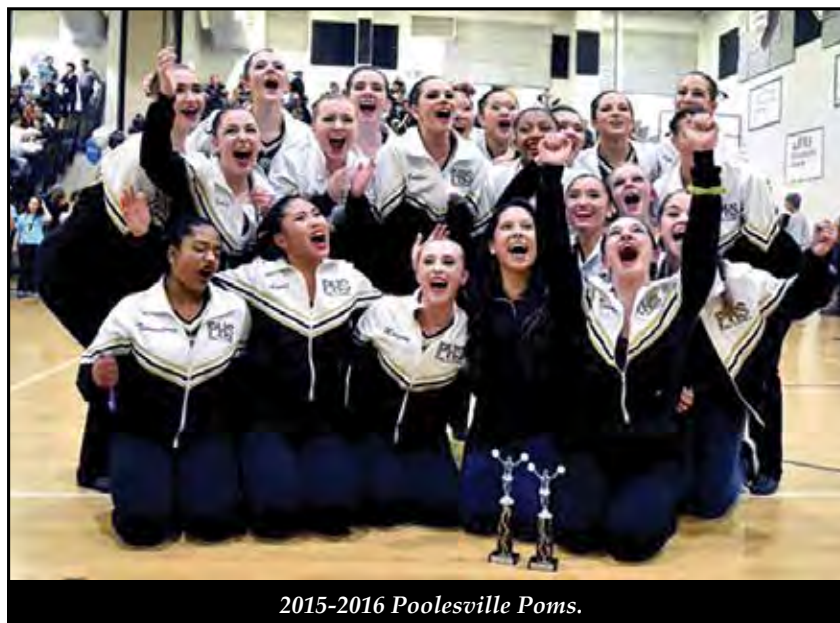
We performed at home basketball game halftime shows for performance practice as well as our regularly scheduled practices six days a week.

“At the Blake Invitational, we placed third and our competing captain placed fourth. We got the spirit award again. It wasn’t our best performance, but we still managed to place among the top pom squads in the entire county.”

Preparation for poms competitions begins in August. The poms perform a different routine at each football game, then they begin to really put together their choreography for competition.

According to county rules, the squad must incorporate poms into at least two minutes of the routine. This allows for the girls to work in different dance styles. Choreography and the editing of the music are extremely time-consuming and usually done by just the coaches and captains.”

We have spent up to ten hours choreographing in one day,” added Xie. “Every year, we choreograph a new routine (all teams do this), and this year was different because we had to incorporate a lot of more advanced technique and unique dance moves into our routine in order to heighten the overall difficulty of the routine. We had to impress the judges, our



2015-2016 Poolesville Poms.

community, and the crowd as the newbies of the division.”

Pompons as a sport is one of the few that covers two seasons, fall and winter. During the fall, they train for roughly two hours per day. During the competitive season, Saturday practices are added. “Every year we have difficulty finding practice space, though,” explained Xie, “being forced to practice in small hallways around the school, traveling to the local middle school to practice, and even practicing

in basements. [Despite] being a three-time county championship squad, we always seem to be put on the very end of our school’s priority list.”

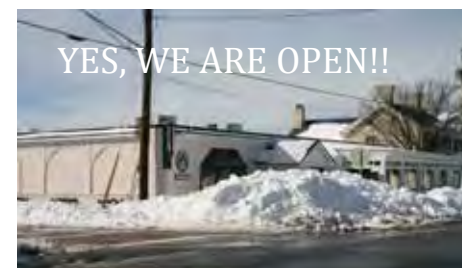
The squad performs at about two varsity basketball games per week, said junior captain Michela Dwyer. Their third invitational is on January 30 at Damascus High School, and the season ends with MCPS Championships at Richard Montgomery on February 13. There is no state competition. Tryouts for the following season are in May.



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By Jack Toomey

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Past Crime

February 6, 1910 Lee Ganley was arrested and charged with burning down the house of Martha Doy on Christmas night. Ganley was released on \$5000 bond to await the action of the grand jury.

Clarence Nicholson, a well-known blacksmith in Boyds, fell asleep on a straw rick, and his feet were frostbitten so badly that amputation was needed to save his life.

February 10, 1910 Sheriff Vielt went to Browningsville near the Montgomery-Frederick County line on account of a drunken man who was threatening to kill his family and burn down the house. When Vielt arrived, he learned that the man had left and had gone to Monrovia where he was trying to board a train to Baltimore. Vielt arrived before the train and placed the man under arrest. Vielt brought George Stephens back to the scene where neighbors said that Stephens had shown up drunk after work and had started being abusive to his family. It was reported that Stephens had twice been arrested for beating his wife.

February 9, 1911 In a wild series of events, the life of an eighteen-month-old infant was saved after her three-year-old brother forced her to drink carbolic acid. The baby had been sick with a coughing fit for several days, and when she awoke, she began

crying. Young Louis Bussard, aged three, had the bright idea to force her to drink a can of acid that had been sitting on a window sill. When the mother entered the bedroom, she saw her daughter screaming and turning blue. She dispatched her husband to Rockville to find a doctor, and the man took off on a wild horse ride. When the doctor arrived at the house, he forced the child to drink a large quantity of milk which seemed to improved the baby's condition. Sheriff's deputies happened by and made the decision to place no charges due to the boy's age.


February 10, 1911 Roland Moore, a farmer and dairyman of the Olney district, and his chauffeur Russell Brown were absolved of all charges at a preliminary hearing at the Rockville court. They had been charged with manslaughter when Moore's automobile had been alleged to have frightened the horse of aged farmer Jaquilla Windham, causing him to be dragged to his death. At a coroner's inquest, it was decided that the reckless operation of the machine caused the horse to panic, throwing Windham off of the horse; however, at the preliminary hearing, other evidence was presented that caused the judge to dismiss all charges.

February 12, 1913 A dapper young man who was described as looking like a college student or a floorwalker at a department store was arrested by D.C. police and turned over to Montgomery County authorities. Phillip Ray, a Montgomery County farmer, had recently been visited by a magazine solicitor. A few days later, his house was broken into. Ray later made the connection between the young man and his crime. Montgomery County authorities came to D.C. and took custody of the suspect.


Some of the material in this column was obtained from the archives of the Washington Post.

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School News

PHS Senior Making 'Much Ado' about Shakespeare

"Much Ado" is a modern adaptation of the Shakespeare comedy, Much Ado about Nothing, told from the perspective of the character Beatrice via video blog. The innovative vlog was created by Anne Hundertmark, Poolesville High School senior and Barnesville School Class of 2012, who is working towards a Girl Scout Gold Award with the goal of making Shakespeare more relatable to her teenaged peers.

Hundertmark returned to the Barnesville School of Arts & Sciences in December to preview the first four episodes of "Much Ado" for Mr. Hart's seventh grade history students. She conducted a focus group with them to get their feedback. Barnesville seventh graders will read Shakespeare later this year in conjunction with their study of the Renaissance Period.

"I was so pleased to make an effort to inspire them to truly enjoy the Shakespearean text," Hundertmark



Barnesville School history teacher Doug Hart with senior Anne Hundertmark.

said. "I think the students were surprised at how a Shakespearean play could be made relatable to them as teenagers."

Hundertmark is working with fellow students from the Poolesville Humanities Magnet Program to produce two episodes a week which can be viewed at the "Beatrice Messina" channel on YouTube.

The two main characters, Beatrice and Hero, are also on Twitter. Follow Beatrice on Twitter @The_LadyDisdain and Hero on Twitter @HeroWMessina..

Continued from page 5.

New Year's Resolutions for a Garden

pesticides that eventually go into our water supply. Replace some of your grass with shrubs or low maintenance plants.

Create a sanctuary for butterflies. There are approximately 20,000 species of butterflies in the world. About 725 species have occurred in North America, north of Mexico. In my gardens, I have seen several different varieties, mostly swallowtails and a few (I think) monarchs. The most important factor contributing to the decline of butterflies is habitat loss. Their perpetuation requires a habitat that will support a butterfly's complete life cycle, from egg to larva to pupa to adult. During this time, they need food plants to provide nectar and host plants where they can lay their eggs and their larval offspring can feed on host plant leaves. Monarch butterflies cannot survive without the milkweed plant (*Asclepias*). The adults lay their eggs on it, and the caterpillars can only eat milkweed leaves. With shifting land management practices, we have lost much milkweed from agricultural fields, which used to be an important resource for milkweed. It used to grow historically alongside crop plants, but with the introduction of herbicide tolerant crops, there has been a shift from a till-based approach to a widespread use of herbicides. Host plants are the nurseries of the garden; no garden is complete without these behind-the-scenes plants. There are wide selections of plants that are useful and attractive to butterfly species other than the monarch. They include asters, Black-Eyed Susan, coneflowers, hollyhock, mallow, nasturtium, sunflowers, violets, herbs, and false indigo.

Happy New Year and Onward and Upward in the Garden.

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Youth Sports

Juniors Lead a Team On the Rise

By Jeff Stuart

Poolesville High School boys' basketball went 4-16 last year, but this year's team, led by juniors, is looking for significantly better things.

"We are 5-5," said junior guard David Esser, at practice before the game at Quince Orchard on January 12, "so we've started off okay. We just had a big win over Damascus. It was a good game. We were making a lot of our shots, making our threes, and playing well defensively. We've improved. When we started off, only a few people were scoring, but against Damascus, we had seven or eight people score points, which is good. Sophomore Jack Tyler had a big game. He helped us win."

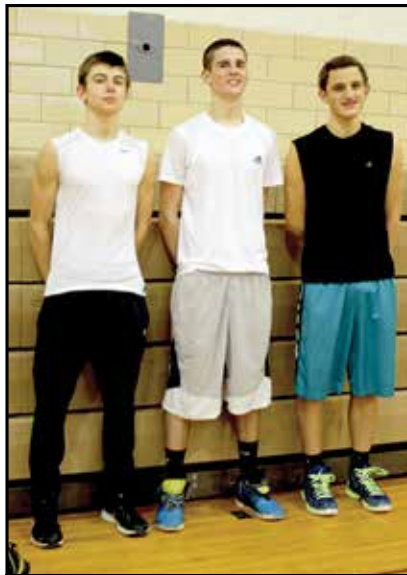
Poolesville outscored Damascus, 19-6, in the second quarter to take a commanding 27-16 lead into halftime. The Hornets tried to rally, scoring twenty-one points in the fourth period, but the Falcons matched them with twenty points of their own, finishing with a 57-48 win.

Esser scored fifteen points against Damascus and dropped in thirty-two points at Walter Johnson, twenty-five at Blake, and nineteen against Springbrook. He has scored in double figures nine times and leads the team with a sixteen point-per-game average.

"Our team is mostly underclassmen," said junior guard Jake Drissel. "Twelve of the guys are juniors. We have a couple of seniors and one sophomore in Jack, so we are a growing team. I think we have played well in the games we have won. We had a real good team effort and everyone stepped up. I feel like we should have won some of the ones we lost. We just weren't making our shots. We'll take it one game at a time, but I am looking at some games on our schedule that are tough, but I think we should win them. We can surprise some people."

Jake scored fifteen points against Wootton, and fifteen in a tournament against Glenelg of Howard County.

"I took off running track this year to focus on basketball," said junior guard Stephen Lang. "Each game that we play well, we get a great contribution from the bench. That always helps us. In the Wootton game, we had senior Reid Patton step up and play great defense. We had Jake Armstrong hitting shots. We had good guard play, handling the pressure. It was just a



Varsity basketball players Stephen Lang, David Esser, and Jake Drissel.

great all-around team effort. I am excited for this year and next year, too, but we are just looking one game ahead of us and trying to beat the team that we play. We focus on them and then we will worry about the rest of the season as we go on. Always the ultimate goal is the state championship if we can get there."

Poolesville beat Wootton, 63-57; Stephen scored twenty-five points. He scored sixteen points against both Damascus and Watkins Mill.

"It's been an up and down season," said Coach Kenny Kramek. "Anytime you have young kids, it's likely to be that way. We've got a lot of juniors, and even our seniors don't have a lot of varsity experience. Jake Armstrong and Reid Patton took last year off to focus on their lacrosse. Both got Division I scholarships to play lacrosse. Joe Soltis is coming back from an ACL injury, so even our seniors are essentially in their first year of varsity basketball. With the exception of the three sophomores who played on varsity last year, they are all new to the speed of the game, so there definitely have been some growing pains, but there have also been flashes of a very good basketball team. They are playing together. They are moving the basketball. Everyone is touching the ball. That culminated in what was probably our best game of the season... against Damascus."

Jack Tyler contributed to the win at Damascus. Against Wootton, Patton helped defensively, and Cole Carmack made a mark against Walter Johnson. "Any time we have had a good win, somebody that you usually wouldn't expect has stepped up. Daniel Cho and Michael Collins have done some really good things for us." Drissel, Lang,

and Esser are the core scorers for PHS. "Esser attacks the basket very well. He is very slick. Teams are starting to scout him. They know his name and his game. He has had to adjust and become more of a distributor. Against Damascus he did not score for three quarters, but he was still an integral part of what we wanted to do, and then the middle opened up and he scored fifteen points in the fourth quarter alone.

"My expectations were high, but I knew we had a group of only three or four kids that had varsity experience. The kids participated in the

summer. That's the biggest thing. Going into this year they already had ten to fifteen games under their belt. That's paramount. We have played Springbrook, Blake, and Paint Branch. To be where we are at, 5-5, with the schedule that we've played, yeah, I am very happy." The Falcons play at Damascus on February 5. Remaining home games are against Northwest on January 26, Gaithersburg on February 1, Watkins Mill on February 3, and Quince Orchard on February 9, senior night. Seniors are forwards Patton, Armstrong, Soltis, and Dylan Landis.

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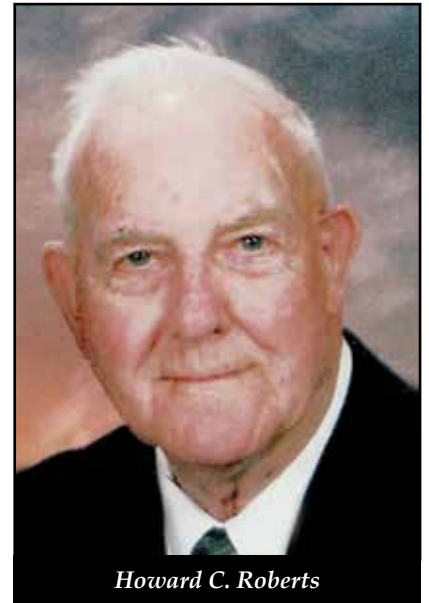
Remembrance

Howard Roberts

Howard C. Roberts, 88, of Mt. Airy, formerly of Lancaster, Pennsylvania and Darnestown, went to be with our heavenly Father on January 19, 2016. Born on February 7, 1927, in Bethesda, he was the son of the late Charles W. and Beulah E. (Carter) Roberts. He was preceded in death by one sister, Virginia Boyer, and one brother, Charles U. Roberts.

He was the loving husband of Sally Roberts since 1946. He is also survived by his three children, Howard Dennis "Denny" Roberts of Mt. Airy, Tanya Sue Gourley of Frederick, and Charles Timothy "Tim" Roberts also of Mt. Airy; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Howard was a member of the Lancaster Woodcarvers and a longtime employee of National Geographic. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy.



Howard C. Roberts

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Snow Safety for Dogs

Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVMN, CVLF, FASLMS

This most recent snowstorm transformed your backyard into a winter wonderland, and you and your best friend can't wait to get out there and play in the white stuff.

Most canines can't resist rolling in fresh snow and refereeing a good snowball fight, but you need to be the parent when it comes to your dog's snow play. Just like a kid, your dog might not know when it's time to come in from the cold, and it's up to you to manage the snowballs that form on your dog's coat.

Ice Is Not Nice: Ice clusters are the bane of medium- to long-haired dog owners. Not only do these frozen orbs make a mess in your house as they melt, the hard balls that form between your dog's toes can feel like rocks under his feet, making him very uncomfortable.

So what's the best way to cope with your abominable snowdog? You can use a warm, moist towel to help melt the balls and then use a dry towel, or even a hair dryer, if your dog will let you, to warm and dry your dog's coat. Many dogs with "advanced self-help skills" will try to pull the ice balls out themselves using their teeth. Before you let your dog do that, be sure he didn't play where he could have come in contact with de-icer chemicals. Be gentle as you remove ice balls. You shouldn't try to pull the ice balls out of your dog's fur because it can cause pain and some dogs will nip in defense. Instead of tugging away, speed up the melting process using a washcloth soaked in warm water and lightly massage the ice away. Pay particular attention to paws and pads and check them for lacerations.⁵

Ice-prevention Strategies: Although there are several techniques to get rid of ice matted into fur, preventing ice from forming in the first place is a good strategy. Before venturing into the snow:

- Apply petroleum jelly between the toes and on pads.
- Use products specifically made to protect dog feet, such as Musher's Secret paw wax. You can find a dealer at www.musherssecret.net.
- Use clippers (not scissors) to trim excess fur on medium- to long-haired dogs (e.g., Poodles, Portuguese Water Dogs, Salukis). Pay particular attention to fur between the toes.
- Periodically brush snow off your dog's fur while playing to prevent the formation of ice balls.⁵⁵⁵

Have Fun, Play Safe: You and your buddy enjoy playing in the snow, but you also need to keep safety in mind. Consider these potential risks:

- Running in deep snow is hard work—especially for small breeds or overweight dogs—which can lead to exhaustion or heart failure in a dog that has heart disease.
- Although you might be snug as a bug in your Michelin Man attire, remember that damp air and cold snow can be painful for a dog with arthritis.
- Extreme cold poses a frostbite threat to your dog's nose and ears.
- Ice is more dangerous than snow, because a dog slipping on an icy surface can rupture a cruciate ligament or hyperextend and sprain a limb.⁵

While any dog worth his salt wants to investigate his frozen terrain, pay attention to your pet's explorations. Some antifreeze products are deadly if ingested, and road salts can irritate his sensitive skin. Most dogs love snow, but if your pet starts to shiver from the cold, tires, or is hesitant to continue playing, or if you notice the conditions are too icy, it's time to call it quits and huddle by the fire indoors.

Avoid Deep Snow: Even if your dog loves running and jumping into a big soft pile of snow, it's best to not let him. Even athletic dogs can quickly become tired out when running through deep snow, and you don't want to deal with a dangerous case of exhaustion. Stick with your dog when you're outdoors, and don't let him sink into deep snowbanks.⁵

Only Stay Out for Short Periods: The general rule for cold weather is to not stay out too long, and it applies to your dog as well. Keep outdoor time to a few minutes to completely avoid the risks of hypothermia or frostbite. Bathroom breaks and exercise time shouldn't last any longer than 10 or 15 minutes.

Watch for Ice: Not only does ice present a slipping hazard, it can be irritating to your dog's paw pads. Small chips or chunks of ice can get lodged in the pads or in between the toes, becoming painful and irritating. Do your best to avoid patches of ice.⁵

Beware of Chemicals: Chemical de-icers may be applied to ice to speed along the melting process. If your dog decides to lick the ice, he could be poisoned. Even if he simply walks over the treated ice, he might lick his paws later and ingest something hazardous. Simple road salt can also be dangerous, as it will upset your dog's stomach and may be mixed with chemical compounds. Call your veterinarian immediately if your dog ingests something he shouldn't have.⁵

The Wipe-Down: Every time your dog comes in from the wintery outdoors, wipe down his entire body with a large, soft towel. This will remove all ice chunks, chemicals, bits of snow, and any other debris your dog's coat may have picked up along the way. Don't forget to pay attention to the paws and paw pads, and continually check for any wounds or abrasions.



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