

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

January 13, 2017 • Volume XII, Number 18

Proposed Ice Rink Advances Prospects

By Link Hoewing



This Poolesville in History Day picture shows just one of many great events from 2016. See more pictures from last year in Family Album on page 2.



Thomas Wilbur is our newest Eagle Scout. Learn more about him in Tidbits on page 6.



Post 247 Commander Bob Hernandez recognizes support of the American Legion by Barbie Stull of Cugini's. See the Pulse on page 9.



Jake Drissel scores one for the team. See Youth Sports on page 9.

Photo credit: Phil Fabrizio.

At the December 19 town commissioners' meeting, a report and recommendation regarding the proposal to build a synthetic skating rink at Dr. Dillingham Park was received by Parks and Streets Board Chair Doug McKenney. Parks Board member Jeff McIntyre joined in presenting the research conducted by the board about how other towns manage and operate synthetic rinks and what problems have been encountered. They also offered recommendations to the commission based on their findings.

McIntyre said that the board had first considered the idea of a synthetic skating rink after Marc Cohn, who had constructed his own artificial rink outside of town in honor of his daughter, decided to dismantle his equipment in response to pressure from the county. McIntyre said the county eventually decided not only to support the idea of building a synthetic rink in Poolesville but, in late summer, agreed to provide \$120,000 to help build the facility. During the fall, the board continued to meet with the county about the project and eventually the Washington Capitals agreed to provide \$50,000 to



Will Dr. Thomas Dillingham Park be the site of a town ice rink?

construct walls needed for the facility.

Initially, the size of the park was set at 2,500 square feet, but as the proposal developed—and particularly when the idea of potentially charging for use by certain groups such as teams was surfaced—4,000-square-foot and 9,600-square-foot facilities were included in the discussions.

McIntyre noted that by the time of the last Parks and Streets Board meeting on December 7, some issues remained outstanding, including the

ultimate size of the park, the ultimate costs of maintaining the park, and the funds that might be required of the town.

McKinney provided an overview of the findings of the Parks and Streets Board based on its research regarding how other towns that have synthetic rinks have managed them and what issues they have had in operating the facilities. One of the most notable

Continued on page 17.

Brown Re-Elected President

By Link Hoewing

As their first order of business at the December 19 town meeting, the commissioners had to choose a president to lead the commission for the next two years. Commissioner Jim Brown was nominated by Commissioner Chuck Stump and seconded by Commissioner Valaree Dickerson. Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski nominated himself with a second from Commissioner Martin Radigan. Commissioner Klobukowski pointed to his many years of service as a commissioner and deep knowledge of the pressing needs of the town and "the things that matter," including improving the town's infrastructure. Commissioner Brown highlighted what he said has been a very successful four years under his leadership as president and pointed

with pride to the "harmonious" manner in which the commission operated during his time in office. Commissioner Brown was reelected by a vote of three yeas (Brown, Dickerson, and Stump), one nay (Klobukowski), and one abstention (Radigan). Commissioner Stump was the only nominee for vice president and was elected by a unanimous vote.

Following the election of the president, the commission turned to the appointment of commissioners to serve as liaisons to various committees and organizations. The appointments are made by the president but usually are confirmed only after consultation among the members of the commission. The only significant change this year occurred when Commissioner



Jim Brown was re-elected by the Town of Poolesville Commission to another term as president.

Dickerson said that after four years of leading the Events Committee, she

Continued on page 11.

Family Album

One Last Look at 2016



The blizzard of 2016 dumped nearly two feet of snow in our area.



JPMS cheerleaders sharpened their routines by practicing in Whalen Commons on many evenings.



The first Poolesville in History Day celebrated regional life from the Indians through the Civil War.



The proposed Willshire community in the field next to the town hall was a major story in 2016 and promises to continue to be one in 2017.



Hundreds of bicyclists bivouacked at the fire hall as they traveled south to raise funds for good causes.



The Poolesville Day crowds jammed Whalen Commons for the day of entertainment.



The PHS band, although still not a marching band, provided music for the parade and during events on Poolesville Day.



Poolesville Moms met at Whalen Commons for a picnic and conversation.



Electric car charging stations in town were approved by the commissioners and sponsored by Kettler Forlines Homes to encourage electric car owners to visit Poolesville.

Town Government

Takeover of County Roads and Buyout Of Cellphone Tower Leases Discussed

By Link Hoewing

The Town of Poolesville commissioners heard a report on December 19 from Town Manager Wade Yost about a proposal to “take over” ownership and maintenance of certain county roads in town, particularly sections of Hughes and West Willard Roads and Westerly Avenue. Yost explained that the county, unlike the state, is willing to cede ownership but is unwilling to do anything to upgrade or improve the roads before they would be transferred to the town. The roads are so poorly maintained that they would have to be completely resurfaced within five years of any takeover, and the total costs could come in at around \$1.3 million.

The commissioners noted the extremely high costs and deferred a decision. They asked the Parks and Streets Board to review the roads and their conditions and recommend priorities for repairs. They also pointed out that if the situation regarding the proposed takeover of Fisher Avenue from the state is clarified, that would help in determining whether to seriously consider a takeover of the identified county roads.

Finally, the commissioners reviewed a set of proposals for a buyout of the existing leases of the town’s water tower by cellphone companies. The issue had been discussed at a previous commission meeting and it was noted then that factors such as technological change (which could make the cellphone facilities on the water tower obsolete and push the cellphone companies to cancel the leases) and the need for major infusions of cash in the near future for possible projects have convinced some local governments to sign lease buyouts. In these buyouts, companies pay a lump sum of cash to the governments in exchange for taking over the revenues from the cellphone lease agreements which usually pay out over many years.

In the discussion surrounding the proposed lease buyouts, it was pointed out that all bidders proposed to pay the town a lump sum of between \$2.4 million and \$2.7 million in exchange for ownership of the leases for between thirty and fifty years. The four leases from the major cellphone carriers have twenty years to run and total payments would be around \$5.7 million and these payments would go to the lease buyout companies.

After extensive discussion about the likelihood of technology changing and affecting the leases, the need for short-term capital, and the merits of the submitted proposals, the commissioners decided that the idea might have merit but that there is currently no real need to push forward with the idea. It was shelved for possible future discussion.

Letter to the Editor

I am not a Poolesville old-timer, but I have lived and worked in Poolesville since 1984. During that time, there have been many additions to our town. New developments include:

Seneca Chase Hunter’s Run, Elizabeth’s Delight, Tama 1, Hersperger Lane, Woods at Tama, Spurrier Lane, Stoney Springs, and Brightwell Crossing.

I have also seen the addition of many businesses, parks, and other establishments, including:

CVS, Zaglio’s Bakery, Bassett’s, McDonald’s, two veterinary clinics, two nice pizza places, Tractor Supply, a nice Mexican restaurant, a real public library, Whalen Commons, John Poole Middle School, Halmos Park, Stevens Park, Willard Road’s soccer/lacrosse field, and Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic Church.

In my opinion, these developments and establishments have greatly improved the quality of life in Poolesville. The “new” developments are filled with great, friendly people who help make Poolesville an excellent place to live and work.

It is important to note that most of these places were fields or woods when I moved here in 1984. Equally important is that most of these improvements faced opposition from those who claimed that these improvements would “ruin” Poolesville and its small-town character. This turned out not to be the case at all.

I would suspect that the new Willshire Development and its new residents will also improve the quality of life in Poolesville. I am not advocating for a specific number of homes and townhomes, but I am instead relying on our very competent Planning Board and commissioners to carefully review the plans and make the correct decisions based upon our Master Plan and zoning ordinances.

Bernie Mihm




12/07/16

Hi Brian
I want to take this opportunity to thank you for selling our property on Slidell Rd in Boyds.
But more than that - to start, you helped me rent a 30 yard dumpster which was a must, for cleaning out the house. You hired two young men to help and you physically helped also, and you used your Bobcat to help load and pack the dumpster.
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Joe & Mary Zito

PS. I will refer others to you!

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Commentary

Is This What You Voted For?

By John Clayton

Since the election, I notice that I'm occupying a new political identity. Writing about the presidential race, there is no denying that anything I said was leavened by the underlying belief that Clinton would win. I am sure this had an effect on the tone of my writing. No matter what I thought of the GOP's chosen candidate, I didn't think he was a credible threat to win. Who did? While I did not see his victory coming, I did notice the attitude of conservative friends changing: It was not a matter of them arguing for Trump but becoming very quiet about Trump. I went to lunch with a business acquaintance the week before November 8, and he felt confident that the Republicans were going to do a lot better than people thought, although he did not call it for Trump. I did not argue his point; I was beginning to think he might be right.

As a result, I am a different person now; politically speaking. I'm part of a political minority. The presidency, the congress, the governor of Maryland, governors all over the country, state houses, county commissioners, sheriffs, dog catchers, elementary school student councils—it's a GOP house party. Adam Sandler should follow up his classic Hanukkah song ("Put on your yarmulke; It's time for Hanukkah") with one celebrating Republicans: "Put on your boots again, we're all Republican." I'm freed, liberated, and unfettered as a political minority, part of the loyal opposition and all that, and I expect everyone to be more tolerant of what I have to say. I'm also ready to go along and be supportive, but I need to hear that call of inclusiveness from the big guy, of all for one and one for all, an acknowledgement that I'm something more than a loser who backed the other candidate. Perhaps, in time, he will radiate inclusiveness and solidarity. Perhaps he will celebrate his former adversaries as his new allies in making the country great again. Perhaps his White House and cabinet picks will take on that old team-of-rivals aura. Perhaps Robert Griffin III will come back to Washington and close out games for the Washington Nationals.

I see a new dynamic repeating itself. Trump tweets something outrageous causing furor on all sides. The next day, Kellyanne Conway or Reince Priebus explains what he really meant. Two days later, Paul Ryan and other congressional luminaries come out with talking points blaming the entire issue on Obama and the Democrats. Repeat as needed. I'm not ready for four years of this. Is this what you voted for?

I'm not ready for a president who is an apologist for Vladimir Putin, to say nothing of an apologist for Julian Assange. A display of strength might include standing up to people that are spitting in your country's face—even if it might have been to your benefit—not sparring with Meryl Streep. Is this what you voted for?

There is no evidence that Russian meddling materially affected the result of the election. Anyone who says otherwise is just blowing smoke. By the same token, anyone (Trump, Ryan) who says it had no effect whatsoever is also blowing smoke. Where is the evidence for that statement? Is this what you voted for?

I'm not ready for a president who refuses to acknowledge complex issues, preferring simplistic attacks. Say something intelligent about the future of healthcare beyond "Obamacare is bad. Really bad." We're all waiting to see this amazing new plan with lower costs, better care, lower deductibles, and higher participation to spread the risk. That's what you voted for, right?

I'm not ready for a president who reacts like a thin-skinned adolescent every time he gets criticized. Name calling isn't, to me, presidential. Is this what you voted for?

Back during the campaign, in August, Peggy Noonan wrote a column in the Wall Street Journal: "The Week They Decided Donald Trump Was Crazy." It was an excellent column, as hers tend to be, about a time when Trump's antics were off the chart and he appeared unmanageable. Obviously, he pulled it together enough since then, but I remain wary of the next time, in the midst of his presidency, when cooler heads again decide, or realize, that this really is the best he can be, that this is going to be the best we can get, and that maybe he is crazy.

That might be just me worrying, or maybe having trouble adjusting to my new life as a political minority in the World of Trump.

Rande(m) Thoughts

Truth Is: You Don't Need a Reason to Party

By Rande Davis

Are you ready to party? This coming year has all the reason we need to party—all year long—and we know our readers love a party. After all, the events calendar for the Town of Poolesville has been full, even without any special reason, and 2017 happens to be the 150-year anniversary the town was incorporated. For the record, that's called a sesquicentennial.

So the town is already formulating a committee to focus on special events and fun ways to celebrate and to party even more than it normally does on any given nothin'-special kind of year. Having said all this, there remains one amazing thing about our sesquicentennial that separates it from any other town's 150th anniversary. This is the second time we had this celebration. It so happens that in 1954, Poolesville had a grand celebration of its 150th anniversary, parade and all, and we have the pictures to prove it. What we cannot prove or determine is why the residents back then decided 1954 was the right time to celebrate a century and a half of existence.

We know the John Poole House was built in 1793 and was the first commercial building in the area, serving as a trading post to the local inhabitants with a large line of assorted goods and sundries meeting the immediate needs of an agrarian, isolated community; however, the town was called Poole's Store. Pure speculation suggests that in 1954, they marked 1804 as the date the Poole's Store began handling postal services, but Historic Medley pegs 1810 as the start of postal services. We know old Ben Franklin was the nation's first Post Master General, predating even the position of Secretary of State. We know the first stamps came about in 1847, prepayment for postal services began in 1855, and the Pony Express was launched in 1860; however, verification of when Poolesville was first designated a post office remains to be clarified.

This is only half the story: I also saw an article in a newspaper that headlined the date of the origination of Poolesville as 1888! This means that in 2038, we can celebrate a third sesquicentennial.

Regardless, we know precisely the date of township incorporation, so we are going to have a party starting March 13 with a special birthday cake celebration at town hall and continuing

Continued on page 7.

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Local News

Commissioners Congratulate Holiday Decorating Winners

By Link Hoewing

In their January 9 meeting, the first of the New Year, the commissioners congratulated the winners of the holiday house and business decorating contest and gave further consideration to the idea of building an artificial skating rink at Dr. Dillingham Park.

Town Events Coordinator Cathy Bupp and a committee of local residents, including Gayle Partain, Jennifer Singh, and Christina Nanof, announced the results of the annual holiday decorating contest. The town is split into halves for the contest in a line running along Fisher Avenue. Categories for the awards include: Townhouses, Contemporary, Traditional, and Business.

Winners this year were: Dana Mowell of Beatriz Avenue, and Ricky and Chrystal Scheetz of Kohlhoss Road for the Townhouse category; Mike and Barbara Greene of Hartz Pond Court, and Brooks and Maggie Martin of Selby Avenue for the Traditional segment; Mark and Jennifer Kasten of Bliss Drive, and Jason and Ashley Elliott of Spurrier Avenue for the Contemporary category; and Drs. Pike and Valega for the Business segment.

In the business segment of the meeting, the commissioners, in a continuation of extensive discussions in December, considered further the proposal to build an artificial skating rink at Dr. Dillingham Park. At the December meeting, the commissioners asked for further information about not only types of artificial skating surfaces but also mechanically-frozen ice skating rinks.

Town Engineer John Strong reported that there are differences in the hardness of the ice used for hockey and figure skating. He also said that the types of skates used for these different types of skating put different strains on the surfaces whether artificial or frozen. The costs of a permanent ice skating rink using pipes embedded in concrete to freeze water could be in the range of \$470,000, while the costs for a rink using an artificial surface would be in the neighborhood of \$234,000. The commissioners appear to have agreed to a rink sized at 4,000 square feet, far smaller than a full-sized hockey rink, in part because the potential for generating revenue from an artificial rink to offset costs has been largely discounted.

The commissioners discussed the merits of the different types of surfaces but seemed to be settling on the notion of building a rink using an artificial surface. They noted that, in the draft agreement with the county, which has agreed to pay approximately \$140,000 towards the construction of the rink, a key issue is what type of specs are needed to ensure that a good quality surface is purchased. Since the town is going to be responsible for contracting and for site preparation for the rink as well as long-term maintenance, it must come up with a viable set of specs for the surface to be purchased, and the commissioners tasked town staff with developing draft specs for further consideration.



Dana Mowell lives at 19855 Beatriz Avenue.



Ricky Scheetz and his wife live at 17632 Kohlhoss Road.



Brooks Martin and his wife live at 19719 Selby Avenue.

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Tidbits

Barnesville Class of 2015 Grad Earns Eagle Scout Award for Greenhouse Planting Stations

Thomas Wilbur (Barnesville School Class of 2015) was recently awarded the Eagle Scout honor from the Boy Scouts of America. Thomas started scouting as a first grader at the Barnesville School in Cub Scout Pack 1241 and was in Scout Troop 829 throughout middle school. He received the Eagle Scout honor in December 2016 as part of Poolesville Scout Troop 496. Thomas is a sophomore in the Global Ecology Studies Program at Poolesville High School.



Eagle Scout project participants Thomas Kaminski, Thomas Wilbur (Eagle Scout awardee), Tucker Hall, Seth Don and Barnesville teacher Tara Barnhart.

For his Eagle Scout Project, Thomas conceived, designed, built, and installed planting stations for Barnesville's Middle School greenhouse. Barnesville's Arts & Sciences Coordinator Tara Barnhart served as his mentor and school liaison. Thomas collaborated with Ms. Barnhart and middle school science teacher Erin Farah to design the work area and planting tables. Local contractor John Hegarty of Craft Remodeling was an instrumental advisor for Thomas throughout the design and construction. Calleva Farm donated all of the wood chips, and Mr. Markoff offered additional advice. In addition to local businesses, Thomas received support from his current and former Scout troops. "After everything that Barnesville has done to help me," Thomas explained, "I wanted to be able to give back, and the eagle project was the perfect opportunity to do so."

To help with the final installation, Thomas recruited former classmates he's known since preschool and kindergarten: Thomas Kaminski (Our Lady of Good Counsel High School), Tucker Hall (St. John's Catholic Prep), Seth Don (Maret School), Marshall Hegarty (Poolesville High School), and Marshall's younger brother Luke who is in the eighth grade at Barnesville. Marshall is planning an addition to the project in 2017. The greenhouse was built in the spring of 2016 by another Barnesville graduate, Trey Valenta, Barnesville Class of 2013, for his Eagle Scout project.

The planting stations have already been put to good use by starting vegetable seedlings that are currently growing in the greenhouse.

Continued on page 12.

Have something you'd like to share in Tidbits?

Then let us know!

Send it along to editor@monocacymonocle.com



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Business Briefs

Shear Elegance Announces New Hairstylist

Tracey Cabrera of Shear Elegance has announced that they have hired a new hairstylist to replace Nancy Grubb who retired late last fall after thirty years of serving the local customers. Sophia Stubbings, a PHS 2005 graduate, recently graduated from the Frederick School of Cosmetology and is excited about starting her new career in her hometown. Shear Elegance is a full family hair salon offering styling and haircutting for everyone. While appointments are appreciated, they also welcome walk-ins.

Zaglio's Bakery Closing

Amanda Bochain, the talented baker and owner of Zaglio's, has announced



Shear Elegance's newest employee, Sophia Stubbings.

she will no longer be operating the bakery in Poolesville. She expressed her appreciation for all her customers and support for her over-three years of operation and hinted at a possible replacement business but did not elaborate on that prospect.

Tidbits of The Past

By Jack Toomey

January 2, 1925 The annual meeting of the Past Masters Association was held at Poolesville. Virtually all of the past masters of the various Masonic Lodges were in attendance.

January 5, 1925 The first wild turkey to be killed in Montgomery County in many years died at Seneca. A young man named Burroughs was hunting along the shore of the Potomac when he came upon the bird that weighed twenty-seven pounds.

January 9, 1919 Three more residents died of influenza. Oscar Burdette, of near Boyds, Jennie Loy of Clarksburg, and Earnest Padgett of Dickerson all succumbed to the disease.

January 14, 1928 Twelve members of the Rockville auction pitch group traveled to Poolesville to take on the town team (auction pitch is a card game). Dr. Byron Walling, captain of the Poolesville team, picked players from the surrounding area. After a three-hour match, Poolesville won 42 games to 40.

January 14, 1917 Miss Anna Mary McCullough of Gaithersburg traveled to Poolesville where she was temporarily employed as a substitute teacher at the Briarley Hall Academy.

January 19, 1923 A delightful wedding was held at Ellerslie, the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Wallace Poole, near Poolesville. Their daughter, Nannie Dickerson Poole, was united in matrimony to Mr. Harvey Jones White of Poolesville. Mr. and Mrs. White then motored to Washington where they boarded a train for a tour of the southern states.

January 22, 1923 After being closed for several months for extensive improvements, St. Mary's Catholic Church at Barnesville was reopened. Fr. Michael Riordan, formerly the pastor of the church, delivered the sermon, and the choir of St. Martin's Church at Gaithersburg sang several hymns.

January 25, 1924 Mr. E. K. Ruble of Poolesville was appointed forest ranger for the Poolesville district.

January 26, 1921 The will of the late Captain Anderson, a Confederate veteran and former clerk of the Montgomery County court, was submitted for probate. His estate was valued at \$50,000.

January 27, 1927 Takoma and Poolesville met on the basketball court. Takoma prevailed, 20 - 9. Beall and Bell played well for the Poolesville team.

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

Continued from page 4.

Rande(m) Thoughts

that theme throughout the year for our events. We are currently looking for candidates who fit the description as a verifiable blowhard to extinguish the 150 candles on the cake. You might even have a candidate to nominate, but don't bother sending in my name, it's already on the list.



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A MONOCACY MOMENT

Lost in Time



**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC
1959**

The top photo depicts the residents of Poolesville posing for the *National Geographic*. The photo represented the population growth of the USA each minute.



What has not received much publicity is a picture of the same crowd from the ground looking up at the helicopter used to take the renowned picture. Are you in it? Let us know.

Things To Do

Poolesville Area Senior Center (17550 West Willard Road)

Every Monday and Friday: Pickle Ball at 9:30 a.m.
Every Wednesday: Tai Chi at 10:30 a.m.; Zumba Gold at 1:00 p.m.

January 13

Ballet Gala Performance

Hope Garden Ballet Academy studio is sponsoring a gala performance. Come and support these young dancers. Cost: Donation of one can of food for WUMCO. 7:00 p.m.: wine and cheese; 7:30 p.m.: performance.

January 13 and 14

Second Annual Dorsey Duals

Eleven competing wrestling teams to benefit the family of Kevin Dorsey, a wrestling coach of many years battling ALS. \$10.00. Poolesville High School gym. 9:00 a.m.

January 17

PHS Varsity Home Games

Girls' and boys' basketball. Seneca Valley. Girls at 3:45 p.m., boys at 5:30 p.m.

January 18

Poolesville Planning Commission

Presentation by developer of Willshire Community. 7:30 p.m.

January 19

Storytime

Help your children develop early literacy skills. Join in for stories, songs, activities, and crafts for toddlers and preschoolers. Poolesville Library. 10:30 a.m.

PHS Varsity Home Games

Girls' basketball. Northwest. 7:15 p.m.

PASC Special Event

Book Discussion Club at 17635 Kohlhoss Road. 7:00 p.m.

January 23

PHS Varsity Home Games

Boys' basketball. Clarksburg. 7:15 p.m.

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

January 25

PHS Varsity Home Games

Girls' basketball. Gaithersburg. 7:15 p.m.

January 26

PASC Special Event

White Elephant Bingo. 17550 W. Willard Road. 1:00 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Games

Wrestling. Quince Orchard. 6:15 p.m.

January 27

PHS Varsity Home Games

Girls' and boys' basketball. Watkins Mill. Boys at 3:45 p.m., girls at 5:30 p.m.

Have an event you'd like to list here?
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The Pulse

American Legion Post 247: A Band of Brothers For a Band of Brothers

By Legionnaire Jerry Klobukowski and Nick Markoff

Why should a veteran become a member of the American Legion, and especially Poolesville Post 247? The answer is in the Legion's purpose/mision. It is a veterans' organization devoted to mutual helpfulness, not only to each other, but to the community in which we now reside; and Pride, Pride in having not served just your community, but your nation.

Since its founding in 1919, hundreds of local American Legion programs and activities strengthen the nation one community at a time through: American Legion Baseball, one of the nation's most successful amateur athletic programs; educating and mentoring young people about the importance of sportsmanship, citizenship, and fitness, including scouting, high school oratorical contests, and college

scholarship programs; Operation Comfort Warriors program supports recovering wounded warriors and their families; a Family Support Network providing immediate assistance to those whose lives have been directly affected by the war on terrorism; helping active duty members transition to civilian life by having someone to talk to about the trials, tribulations, experiences, heartaches, moans, groans, and every emotion imaginable experienced while serving; the American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program; honoring those who have served and passed by placing flags on their graves on Memorial Day and Veterans Day; Legion Riders for those motorcycle enthusiasts.

In our community, Post 247 has given out awards to Poolesville elementary, middle, and high school students. It has sponsored and judged oratorical contests at the high school, contributed to the Wounded Warrior Program and Fisher House, planted flags on graves, and much more.

As the nation's largest veterans' organization, the Legion's most important function is to help ensure that

Continued on page 18.

Youth Sports

PHS Boys' Basketball: Drissel Buzzer Beater, Fan Support Lift Falcons Basketball

By Jeff Stuart

The Poolesville High School boys' basketball team won its first two home games, beating first Walter Johnson, then Wootton. They beat WJ on December 12 behind sixteen points by senior guard and captain Jake Drissel, and ten by senior guard and captain Stephen Lang. Two days later, Drissel hit a three-pointer with just 1.8 seconds left to lift the Falcons past a heavily-favored Wootton team before a large and appreciative crowd. That was certainly one of the most thrilling wins in Falcons basketball history.

"My expectations are that we come out and play as hard as we can every single game," said coach Kenny Kramek. "For the most part, we have done that. I tell them every day, we've just got to play and try to get better. This is high school basketball. This is going to prepare you for life. You are going to have adversity in basketball, but you have got to grow up and continue to respond. As a whole, we have been very competitive against bigger programs. We are two plays away from being 4-2. The shots didn't go our way, so we are 2-4, but we are looking forward to the rest of the season. The games against Damascus are always fun. It's a cross-town rivalry between two rural county schools, but I am looking forward to Seneca Valley and Quince Orchard. They are two teams that have pretty much handled us the last couple of years. I am ready to see if we can go up against the best that the county has to offer and be competitive—and not just to be competitive but to see if we can win a few of them."

Not much has surprised the coach. "I pretty much knew what I was getting from a lot of people. Ryan Haddaway had a successful JV season. I knew he was going to be a big scorer. Jack Tyler is in his second year. Tucker Ross has really improved in the off season. I don't think anybody put in more work than Tucker did. He went from barely playing last year to playing a critical role in what we are doing this year. I think Pete Barry is going to be a key for us going forward. He is a very smart kid and fundamentally sound. You can put him in the game and there will not be much of a drop off."

The players and coaches appreciate

the fan support. "Absolutely, the school has done a phenomenal job. Our SGA and the Falcon Social Media have done a great job in promoting school spirit. We have seen an increase in attendance at football and basketball games and during spirit week, so the school is really starting to embrace that small-town Poolesville atmosphere. That has kind of been missing for a few years."



Falcon basketball captains, David Esser, Stephan Lang, and Jake Drissel.

The Falcons play Damascus at home at 5:30 on January 31.

"We have played pretty well," said Haddaway, a junior guard. "We are not shooting as well as we want to, but we are executing pretty well against 4A schools. Our best game was against Wootton. We shut down Kevin Ayissi-Etoh, their top scorer. He only had three points. We shot the ball pretty well. We had a big crowd. It was a great atmosphere. I loved it. I am looking forward to the Damascus games. They have always been our rival. We are really undersized, but we have come together as a team."

"I think record-wise we are not where we want to be," said senior guard and captain David Esser, "but in terms of game style, we are pretty much on point. We are one to two points away every single game. That's good. We just have to figure out how to overcome that last thirty seconds of a game...Wootton was a good team, and we beat them. It is really nice having a much larger crowd this year. It psyches up the team...Seems like that last two years we would be losing by twenty, so it is good to see that the hard work of the last two years has paid off. I am looking forward to the Quince Orchard game. They are the bad boys. I definitely want to show that we can compete with them and not lose by forty this year." His favorite moment at Poolesville? "I had a thirty-two-point game last year against WJ. That was my career high. That was

Continued on page 17.

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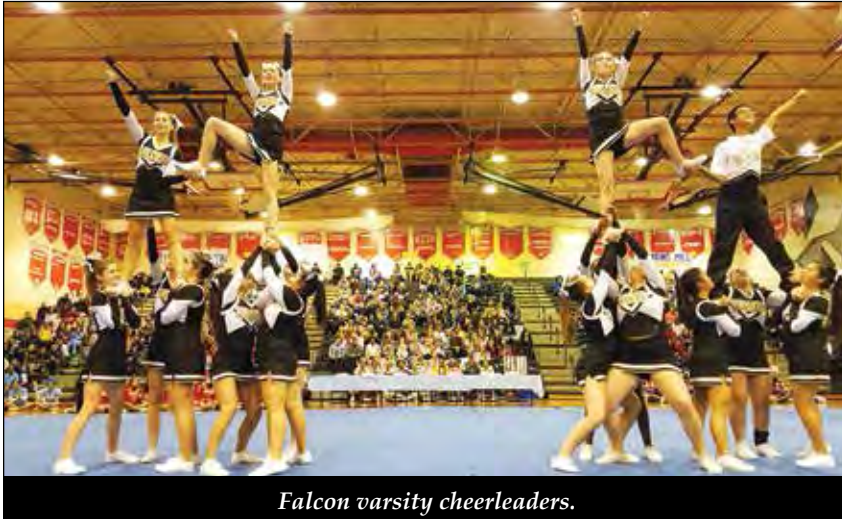
Youth Sports

Multifaceted PHS Cheerleaders Place Second at County Competition

By Jeff Stuart

The Poolesville High School cheerleading team placed second in Division III at the 29th annual Montgomery County competition held at Blair High School on November 12. Whitman placed first, Seneca Valley placed third, and Wheaton took home the Spirit Award. The competition is but one aspect of cheerleading which overarches the fall and winter sport seasons.

The *Monocle* recently caught up with busy cheerleading coach Christine Dabbondanza who answered questions about the competition and cheerleading in general. "Throughout the season, the girls work tirelessly to improve their skills," said Dabbondanza. "On top of trying to work on their own craft, we support many of the sports teams at the high school. The girls attend every home and away football game, they attend two girls' and two boys' soccer games, two volleyball games, and two field hockey games, all while trying to get themselves ready for their own competition. In the winter, they will cheer at every home boys' and girls' basketball game as well as two wrestling matches. The team works very hard to support as many teams as possible and to boost school spirit. I am extremely proud of this team and where this program is going."



Falcon varsity cheerleaders.

MM: Discuss the difference between pompons and cheer squads.

CD: Poms and cheer are very similar yet also very different. Poms focus more on dance and combine all the different styles of dance. Poms require a lot of technique and dance knowledge. Cheerleading has dance components in it, but our other areas are stunting, jumps, and cheering (using their voices to get the crowd involved).

MM: What goals do you set?

CD: Each year is different, and each team has different goals. They each set individual goals for the year, and then we set one for the team to work towards. This year, their goal was to place at competition. With that being our goal, it meant that we needed to work towards increasing our stunting difficulty.

MM: Are there a set of basic jumps or moves that all cheerleaders must know?

CD: The basics in jumps are a toe touch, front and side hurdler, and a pike. We increase these by doing two or three of them consecutively. There are basic motions that they must know for our cheers and chants, and we do have basic stunts that we start with. With stunting, we start with the basics and then as they perfect them, we increase the difficulty.

MM: What is the difference between chants and cheers?

CD: Cheers and chants are very similar except chants are usually shorter, and you repeat them two or three times. They are designed to really get the crowd involved.

MM: Who are your leaders?

CD: I have always relied heavily on the seniors to really lead the team. This year I tried something new by having them sign up for different jobs and roles on the team to try and get all involved. I do have two captains this year, Kira Wathen, a junior, and Alyssa Dinh, a senior. They really helped me with choreography and music and anything else that I needed.

MM: What do competition judges look for in determining their vote?

CD: There are many different things the judges look for at competition. They look for overall routine perfection, crowd appeal, difficulty, tumbling, stunting, and jumps. Each part is broken down and looked at individually. Not only are they looking at how difficult and unique your routine is but how well you perform it. On competition day, it is anyone's game. You could have the most difficult routine, but if you don't perform it perfectly, then you could face deductions from the judges for things like a dropped stunt, someone tripping, etc. They look at each thing to make sure the timing is together, that the girls are smiling and have great energy, and that they know exactly what they should be doing at any given moment. If any of that is off, then you risk not getting the maximum points. The biggest thing that I tell them before they perform and the only thing I want them to focus on is that at the end of their routine they should feel satisfied. They need to walk off the mat (run if they hit it) with the feeling that there was not anything else that they could have done better. We can't control what any other team does or what the judges ultimately decide, all we can control is the way that we perform our routine.

Seniors are Gabrielle Marsh, Isabella Lawbaugh, Asya Love, and Heather Books. Other juniors are Breanna Young, Anna Morrison, Nahbama Gana, Jordan Allentuck, Stefanie Beltran, and Cassandra Campbell. Sophomores are Nathaly Portillo, Amanda Hu, and Vincent Chim. Remy Anderson is the lone freshman.

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Garden

A New Year In the Garden

By Maureen O'Connell

The new year brings with it a mixture of emotions: perhaps relief that the old one is past; questions about the future as you get a year older; concerns about the health and direction of the country and the world. These are the big issues, but as we get out of bed every day, we face the mundane facts of everyday living that revolve around our family, our friends, our job, and our home. I love the house in which I live and the gardens that surround it.

I have said many times that a garden lives in a state of constant evolution, as does every sentient being. I recently bought a book, *The Education of A Gardener* (1962) by Russell Page, that embodies this belief in beautiful prose. Page (1906-1985) was a British gardener, garden designer, and landscape architect who worked in Britain, western Europe, and the United States. In 2015, the London newspaper *The Telegraph* published an article about him entitled "Russell Page: The Most

Famous Garden Designer No One's Ever Heard Of." In his book, Page wrote movingly of "spirit of place," but he had no garden of his own. He had a glittering client list, but he lived in a one-room bedroom flat in Cadogan Square in London, furnished with monastic simplicity. He was one of the legendary gardeners and landscapers of the twentieth century, designing gardens great and small.

I mention this book now as I think about my gardens for the new year and remember the successes or failures of the past year. To quote Page: "Gardens are an expression of faith and the embodiment of hope." He believed that if you were lucky, you start with a blank slate and, years later, it may become something that you sort of had in mind. Gardens grow like children to adulthood, but along the way they may be hobbled by disease, outside influences, or be destroyed. Seasonally, they go from young sprouts to glorious flowers or shrubs to autumn's fading foliage and to the barrenness of winter—impermanence and constant evolution. Gardens remind us of our own mortality.

My 2016 garden was, generally speaking, a success. I did not use any chemical sprays, and my flowers, even my one last David Austin rose,

flourished, despite the heat and drought. The Japanese beetles were not too numerous and the deer were not too hungry for my garden offerings. I have tried for many years to grow delphiniums, but every year the heat was too much for them. For some unknown reason, this year, they bloomed spectacularly until mid-October. My one-year-old lab, Spencer, did not eat or trample too many plants, and his older lab sibling, Tom, sort of grew to love him or, more honestly, to put up with him.

Happy New Year to all of my readers. Onward and upward to our 2017 gardens.

Continued from page 1.

Brown Re-Elected President

wanted to broaden her focus and be assigned as liaison to the Parks and Streets Board. President Brown concurred with her request. He went on to assign Commissioner Radigan as the liaison to the Events Committee. Commissioner Klobukowski was re-appointed as the education liaison, and Commissioner Stump will once again serve as liaison to the Planning Commission.

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Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

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Continued from page 6.

Tidbits

Local Veteran Needs Room/Apartment

We are aware of a local veteran who is in need of a room or apartment to stay in and prefers the Pool-essville area. He has a beloved dog and is praying that the pet will be able stay with him. Arrangements can be quite flexible, such as farmhand with room. If you think you might be able to help, even temporarily,

please contact Rande Davis, editor of the *Monocle*.

Welcome Addition to Rice Family

Carey Griffith and Brendan Rice, along with daughter Ella, are the proud parents and sister of newborn Everly Reed, born on December 24, coming into the world at 6 lbs., 11 oz. and measuring 19 inches long. The proud grandparents are Linda and Victor Lundberg, Terry and Maureen Griffith, Ann McManus Rice, and James and Susan Rice. Mom graduated from PHS in 1994 and Dad in 1993. The family currently resides at Farmington, Minnesota.



Newborn Ella Griffith Rice.

New Jamison in Town

Congratulations to Jamie Jamison and husband, Frank Jamison, Jr., on the birth of their new baby, Addison Jean Jamison, born December 21 at 9:07 p.m. at Shady Grove Hospital. She came into the world at 7 lbs., 10 oz., and 20 3/4 inches long. The proud grandparents are Steve and Ranae Morningstar of Hersperger Lane, and Frank and Octavia Jamison of West Hunter Road in Beallsville. The father graduated from PHS in 2002, and Mom is a PHS graduate of 2005. Their first child, it is also the first grandchild for both sets of grandparents. Everyone is doing great!



Addison Jean Jamison

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Remembrances

Larry Dean Benes

Larry Dean Benes passed away peacefully on December 1, 2016 after a heroic three-year-fight with cancer; he was seventy years old. He is survived by his beloved wife of thirty years, Stacie; his sisters and brother-in-law Devereaux Raskauskas, Darcy Bonfils, and Jim Bonfils (Andrea); cherished nieces and nephews, Jenn, Joseph, and Carolyn Raskauskas, Alexandra and Lindsay Bonfils, and Sara Sluhan Baer and John Sluhan. He was preceded in death by his parents, Betty and Jerry Benes; his sister, Maryann Benes Sluhan and her husband, Elliott.



Larry Dean Benes

Larry lived life to the fullest. He was gracious towards all, the nicest, fun-loving person in any room. He approached everything with vigor and enthusiasm. He is remembered for his enjoyment of the Potomac Hunt Races, teaching the kids how to place a bet, on the golf course at Farmington, and fishing in the Florida Keys. He was an entrepreneur whose interests were varied and included broadcasting and real estate. Larry's family thanks the doctors, nurses, and all caregivers at Hopkins Oncology, Inova Fairfax, Sibley, Suburban, and the Washington Home Hospice. They took wonderful care of Larry which he appreciated so much. Special thanks to Larry's wonderful aide, Sam, who took beautiful care of Larry's every need while at home. All are living proof that there are truly angels on Earth. A memorial service will be announced later.

Ella Mae Wynne

Ella Mae Wynne, 94, formerly of Poolesville, passed away quietly on December 11, 2016, at Homewood at Crumland Farms in Frederick, Maryland. She was the loving wife of the late Edward Buford Wynne, Sr., of Poolesville.

Born February 12, 1922, in Bluefield, West Virginia, she was the daughter of the late James Thomas and Nora Lester. She was a homemaker and provided daycare service to many children in the town of Poolesville. In later years, Ella Mae worked for First National Bank. She was a lifetime member of Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church where she was a member of the Crafty Ladies and Gents and always helped with apple butter making. In addition, she was a lifetime member of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department Ladies' Auxiliary and of the Rebekahs of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. She was an active participant in many activities at Homewood at Crumland Farms, specifically her work at the Country Store. She enjoyed her fifteen years living at Homewood, and particularly loved the staff employed there.



Ella Mae Wynne

She is survived by her three children, Betty Jean Selby of Adamstown, Frances Noffsinger of Newport News, Virginia, and Eddie Wynne and wife Dinah of Adamstown; nine grandchildren, Lin Selby and wife Leslie, Michael Selby and wife Corrine, Bruce Selby and wife Amy, Lisa Selby, Wesley Noffsinger and wife Caroline, Stephen Noffsinger and wife Brandi, David Noffsinger, Jason Wynne and wife Sarah, and Natalie Wynne; thirteen great-grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. She is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and sons-in-law, Roy L. Selby Jr. and Martin W. Noffsinger.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in memory of Ella Mae Wynne to the Memorial United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 358, Poolesville, MD 20837.

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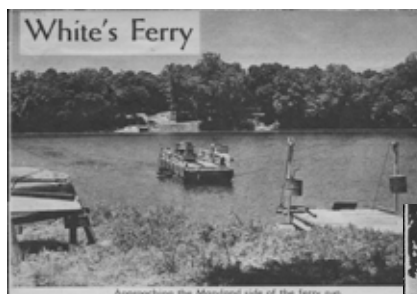


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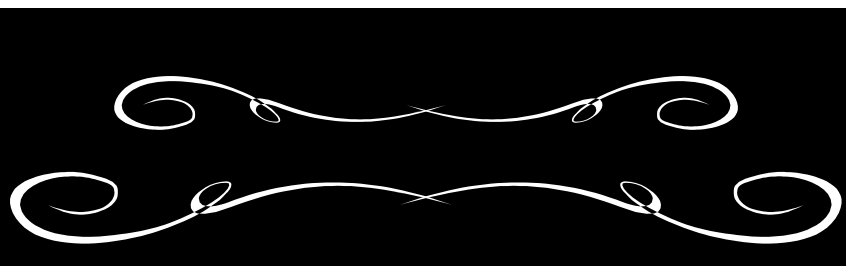
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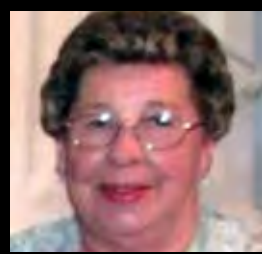
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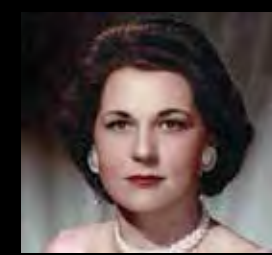
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Continued from page 1.

Proposed Ice Rink Advances Prospects

findings was that the board could not find any examples of synthetic rinks operated by towns that charged rental fees for their use. Most did seem to require that skates be rented from the town for use on the rinks, and most had staff managing the facilities. None of the towns contacted had the rinks open year-round, and most also closed the facilities at night. The rinks were seasonal in most cases, used only in the warmer months and not in winter. All had lights and many had surveillance cameras, as well.

McKinney went on to summarize responses and ideas the board received from hockey coaches both in this area and in other towns outside of Maryland. While there seemed to be some interest in conducting practices on the artificial surface, it was not strong, and there was no interest in paying the fees that are normal for indoor ice rinks—as much as \$300 to \$500 per hour.

Based on its research, the board recommended that a 4,000-square-foot facility be constructed, partly because there seemed to be no interest in paying high rental fees even for a larger facility and partly because reactions from some town residents indicated that a large facility would be “out of character” for the town.

Reaction to the recommendations and findings was mixed. While the board members said that citizen interest in the idea had waned, a number of citizens interested in the rink were in attendance to hear the board discussion. They seemed to generally agree with the recommendation for a smaller rink, but they thought that with over 1,300 ice hockey players active in the county, a rink would be used even if largely for small practices.

Commissioner reaction was also mixed. Commissioner Klobukowski seemed most skeptical about the demand for the park and the uncertainty regarding maintenance and construction costs. Commissioner Dickerson said she heard the board recommending that a park be built but that it “fit our town” and be largely for the use of our residents.

Commissioner Stump suggested that there remained too much uncertainty about the concept. He recommended that the Parks and Streets Board be asked to talk with the county about moving ahead with a specific park sized at 4,000 square feet. He said the board should make sure that all involved understand exactly who is paying for what and how much. The board should also work to get very firm estimates on maintenance, but, in addition, they should look into and develop firm numbers around the idea of building a real ice rink of 4,000 square feet with a concrete base. Such a facility could conceivably be used for more than just hockey and figure skating. Commissioner Stump’s recommendations were approved by acclamation by the commission.

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PHS Boys’ Basketball: Drissel Buzzer Beater, Fan Support Lift Falcons Basketball

pretty cool.” David is second on the team in scoring and has definitely been a force. As a 6’1” guard, he has routinely taken on the opposition’s big man defensively, and often he brings the ball up court on offense.

Lang tied a career-high twenty-five points in a hard-fought game against Hylton in the Northwest Christmas tournament. He was also named to the McDonald’s list of one hundred best area players. “The Montgomery County Representative for McDonald’s Basketball is the coach for Quince Orchard. I came up through the QO system in middle school. He knows how I play. I have played against him, and he felt I was deserving. The twitter picture was taken at Verizon center. That was an honor.

“We got off to a pretty good start,” said Lang. “We lost some close games. We were doing a good job executing. We have been playing well for the most part. We just couldn’t seem to put a full game together. We should have won some of those games. Once things click, we are going to be fine. We are going to go on a winning streak. The win over Wootton was awesome. The team was playing well, working the ball, and playing great defense—and then we capped it off with Jake hitting that buzzer beater. We spread the floor for Jake, and he took it one on one.”

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Continued from page 9.

American Legion Post 247: A Band of Brothers For a Band of Brothers

veterans, especially those who bear the visible and invisible scars of conflict, receive the care and benefits they deserve by lobbying Congress. In other words, we stand up for them, as they stood up for us—a Band of Brothers helping our brothers.

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Stop procrastinating and just do it by being at the next meeting at the Old Town Hall in Poolesville on 2 February 2017 or any first Thursday of the month. For more information, contact Post Commander Bob Hernandez at 301-704-9944.



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All Animals Poop; Some Like to Eat It—WHY!!

Dr. Peter H. Eeg, D.V.M.

Coprophagia is the word for eating feces which is frowned upon in most cultures. Canines dominate this category for most of our personal pets. Rabbits may be seen eating their “night feces” which is high in B vitamins and needed for normal health.

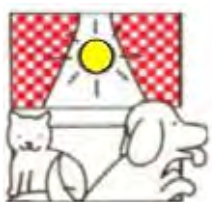
When our pets engage in this behavior, they are not trying to gross us out (although I often say feline feces is a delicacy in most dog-speaking countries because cat feces is higher in proteins than their regular diets), they are trying to communicate something important about the health, biology, or behavior.

Reasons for this behavior include;

1. issues with problematic training, including overcrowding, bowls too close to pooping areas;
2. pancreatic insufficiencies, blood imbalances, or other metabolic issues;
3. rebalancing the normal bacterial flora;
4. components missing in homemade diets;
5. abnormal habitual behavior or unintended acceptance of the behavior by owners.

If your pet is practicing Coprophagia, have it examined by your veterinarian to discuss diet, to have metabolic laboratory panels done to discuss blood results, and to have a thorough conversation about possible behavior-triggered reasons for the feces eating.

Many times, the answer is simple and the solution effective.



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