

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

*Keeping an Eye on Local News*

A Biweekly Newspaper

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*K of C photographer Melvin Washington had the tables turned on him. See antique show pictures in Family Album on page 2.*

## Rare Joint Session of Town Boards Discuss the Willshire Community Project

By Rande Davis

A very rare joint meeting between the Poolesville Board of Commissioners and the town's Planning Commission was held on February 15. The catalyst for this meeting was Willshire, the proposal by the Miller and Smith development company to build a new community of homes next to Poolesville's Town Hall.

The current proposal allows for up to seventy-four homes, forty-five single family and twenty-nine townhouses. This is a reduction from the original ninety-five-home plan.

All five town commissioners participated along with their counterparts from the planning commission: Chairman Cal Sneed, Kevin Schramm, Bryan Bupp, and Michael Tims. Town Manager Wade Yost and town attorney Jay Gullo were there to answer any questions. Link Hoewing, a former town commissioner and past member of both the planning commission and parks board, was the moderator of the event.

While the working session discussion was open to the public to observe,



*Rare joint session of Poolesville's Board of Commissioners and its Planning Commission.*

comments or questions from the audience were not taken, but moderator Hoewing assured those attending that there will be many opportunities going forward for additional public input. This meeting was targeted to allow each participant to raise concerns or questions, to hear from others from both boards of their priorities, and hopefully to obtain something of a general sense of direction. No votes or final decisions were made, but from the

discussion, a more narrowed focus on intention emerged that all parties hope will help facilitate decisions to come. Representatives of Miller and Smith, as well as Billy and De Willard, and members of Protect Our Poolesville were also in attendance.

Prior to entering the discussion process, Chairman Sneed reminded attendees that the primary role of the

Continued on page 14.



*Faith Etheridge and Val Dickerson at the annual PACC meeting. See more pictures on page 9.*



*Falcons Garrett Gularson, Andrew Lent, and Ryan Lockett. Were they fast? Hurry to page 10 for the answer.*

## Sugarland Forest—Where The Women Were as Sweet As Sugar

By Rande Davis

In this month of celebration and recognition of the contribution of our area's African American population, we share the rich story of upper Montgomery County's Sugarland Forest, a community of freed slaves established in 1871. They were a people bonded by their family ties, deep and abiding friendships, and their humble yet profound devotion to their lord as expressed within the historic St. Paul AME Church on Sugarland Road.

Legend supposes Sugarland got its name "because the men thought the women were as sweet as sugar," but, in reality, it was for the sugar maple trees in the region. Today, its history, as well as its cemetery, is safeguarded by the

Sugarland Ethnohistory Project, Inc. (SEHP), an organization founded by Sugarland's descendants to perpetuate an appreciation of the community's journey from slavery to freedom.

Sugarland freed slaves purchased the land from area families, Pleasants, Dawson, Allnut, and others, through a small down payment and continued monthly payments, settled with handshakes not written deeds. It became a self-sufficient community bolstered by



*The historic Sugarland community well. Children in the background are: Mary Smith, Marjorie Lee, Sarah Lee, Tilghman Lee, Jr., Idella Lee. The adult in the foreground is Samuel Jackson.*



*The last tango in Argentina? See Garden on page 17.*

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# Family Album



*Sugarland Ethnohistory Project's Phymeon Lyles was interviewed by the Knights of Columbus master of ceremonies.*



*JPMS eighth grader, Victoria Robinson, made a special presentation to the Poolesville Post 247 American Legion on a project she plans to do of recording the military experiences of members.*



*Mrs. Del' Erbe and her daughter Camille came from Clarksburg to attend the St. Mary's Knights of Columbus antique show.*



*Upper Montgomery County Republican Women's Club: Patsy Dillingham, Suzette Bizzarro, Carole Johnson, Dorinne Armstrong, Sharon Bauer, David Wilson (prospective State Senator candidate for District 15) and his spouse Sonnie Wilson.*



*These ladies were happy shoppers during the special Knights of Columbus event.*



*St. Mary's held its annual antique show on February 18.*

## Town Government Report

### Commission Meeting Takes Up Light Agenda

The Town of Poolesville commissioners had a light agenda at their February 21 meeting and dispensed with the items they had to consider in just over an hour.

First up was a report from town manager Wade Yost about the speed cameras at the east end of Fisher Avenue. The cameras are the property of the county government and were installed in 2008 due to concerns about speeding on Fisher Avenue. Revenues generated by the cameras from speeding tickets have been shared with the town under a Memorandum of Understanding or MOU. According to reports, just after the cameras were installed, average speeds along Fisher Avenue near the cameras did lower.

Yost reported that the county had submitted a revised MOU for the town to consider. The MOU was drafted in response to new legislation passed by the state that changes the way tickets are levied for violations detected by speed cameras. Under the new formula, tickets are issued on a flat-rate basis rather than on an individual ticket charge. The county proposed that revenue above and beyond costs for maintaining the cameras be shared with the town on a fifty-fifty basis. Yost added that revenues have been declining and, given the costs of the cameras, he does not expect the new MOU to generate any significant revenues. Given this assessment, there was little discussion among the commissioners who decided not to offer any comments regarding the MOU.

Yost next discussed a proposal to provide funding for the balance of the current fiscal year (which ends in July) to support the activities that are in the planning stages for celebrating Poolesville's 150th anniversary as an incorporated town. He said funds remain in the town's Unrestricted Reserve funds to support the 150th anniversary project through the balance of the fiscal year. A committee established to help plan activities to celebrate the anniversary during this year had already developed a number of events. They had also come up with costs to purchase a number of items that will be needed, included signage and display cases to showcase memorabilia from the town's history.

In discussion, the commissioners recalled that during last year's budget discussions, they knew there would be funding needed to support the celebration of the town's incorporation

but, at that time, no definitive plans had been developed. They had decided to defer action until plans had become concrete. The commissioners voted unanimously (with Commissioner Dickerson absent) to support the funding request by shifting monies out of the Unrestricted Funds account and into an account dedicated to the 150th anniversary celebration project.

Last year, the commissioners approved a proclamation declaring an Arbor Day in Poolesville. The special day was observed in 2016 on April 29. A proclamation identical to last year's was briefly discussed and approved by the commissioners. It includes the planting of trees at the three schools located in town. Arbor Day this year will be held on April 28.

In his report to the commissioners, Yost pointed to new legislation being considered by the state legislature. It imposes a number of requirements on local governments with respect to how unpaid water and sewer bills are to be managed. The legislation, HB 228, stipulates that notices must be sent to residents with unpaid bills twenty-five to forty days before a locality can shut off water service. It also requires an actual notice be posted on the doors of homeowners ten days ahead of any shutoff, notifying them that their water would be cut off by a certain date. It exempts certain homeowners, such as those who are disabled, from having their water turned off and mandates reports from localities to the state about their compliance with the law.

Yost said that the town already has its own policies in place to deal with unpaid water bills. The town does give advance notice to homeowners who have not paid their bills that their water could be shut off. He said about fifty water bills in any given month are past due, and the town contacts these homeowners to discuss their situations. This usually results in a reduction of unpaid bills so that, on average, only a dozen or so bills remain unpaid after the contacts are made. The town also is very sensitive to special situations such as cases where very young children are in the home.

According to Yost, the town has very few serious problems with unpaid water bills and its process works well. The commissioners agreed that the new legislation was likely aimed at large municipalities that have more chronic problems. They also agreed that the legislation imposed onerous reporting requirements that were excessive. As a result, they decided to send a letter opposing the new bill and explaining how the town's system works.

Continued on page 8.



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## Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department

### Earl Moore Annual Charity Golf Tournament

<b>Date:</b>	Monday, May 1, 2017	<b>Individual Prize</b>	Men's / Seniors' / Ladies'
<b>Location:</b>	Poolesville Public Golf Course	<b>Categories:</b>	Longest Drive / Closest to the pin / Closest to the line
<b>Sign in:</b>	9:45 to 10:45 AM	<b>Super Ticket:</b>	Includes Putting Contest / Mulligan / Dream Tee Shot / Free Throw from off the Green
<b>Tee Off:</b>	11:00 AM	<b>Price Includes:</b>	Buffet Dinner at the Fire Station
<b>Format:</b>	Shotgun Start / Four Person Scramble / Captains Choice		
<b>Registration Deadline:</b>	April 24, 2017		

**SPONSOR A HOLE\***

Have a business, family name or a name of a loved one posted at one of the golf course holes:

- ◆ \$25. for a shared post at one hole
- ◆ \$100. for a Corporate posting at one hole

**DOOR PRIZES / 50/50 RAFFLE / TEAM PRIZES**

**GOLF TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION FORM**

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<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Player	\$100	Name: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Shared hole sponsor*	\$25	Name: _____
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<input type="checkbox"/> Super Ticket	\$20	Name: _____

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For additional information, contact the UMCVFD Administrative Assistant at: 301-972-8716 or email: admin@umcvfd.org  
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 \* For online entry, go to: <http://umcvfd.org/earl-moore-charity-golf-tournament-order-form/>  
 \* For online payment, go to: <http://umcvfd.org/about-us/donations/>  
 To download the registration form, go to: <http://umcvfd.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Golf-2017-Flyer-UMCVFD.pdf>  
 For paper registration and to pay by check, send this form with your check payable to: UMCVFD.  
 \* UMCVFD, 13801 Bealville Road, Bealville, MD 20839.

## Commentary

### Winners and Losers, Groundhog Style

By John Clayton

It is said that "it's an ill wind that blows nobody good," or something like that. I'm not sure where I heard it, but I think it was in the *Lord of the Rings*. I haven't read the Tolkien trilogy in a couple of decades so I'm a little surprised this has stuck with me, but so be it. It means, of course, that pretty much everything that happens is good for some people, and not so good for others. That might be the case with this warm winter we are experiencing.

We are three weeks away from the groundhog and his forecast, which means we are three weeks away from the end of his prognosis of six more weeks of winter, in accordance with his time-tested analysis, but I think this clearly shows what a waste of time, whimsical factors notwithstanding, this groundhog business is. If more winter means six weeks of fifty-to-sixty-degree weather, then who cares how long it lasts? Buy the little varmint a smartphone, and let's get a decent forecast next time around.

There are winners and losers. My wife, for example is a winner this winter. She has to drive to work on most mornings, and one morning per week, late is not an option. In fact, she has to be there earlier than on-time on that day. We have a long steep driveway which means that if it snows, I have to get her down the driveway in one piece so she can fight it out the rest of the way. Last year, my pickup and snowplow and I were humbled by that memorable blizzard, and we went nowhere for some time—not a fond memory as we had places we wanted to be. I approached this year with a little tension, not wanting to let her down if it snowed, but to use a poorly-chosen metaphor, I've really skated this year: A win, to be sure.

Good news abounds all around. School systems can run out their schedules without having to add days or otherwise figure out how to make up time lost to snow. School systems, like counties, cities, and all sorts of jurisdictions with such responsibilities, can bank their snow removal budgets for next year. This would also apply to churches, private schools, apartment buildings, office buildings, and anything that has to accommodate cars or people. The people who have to get up early and make that difficult to-go-or-not-to-go decision for the rest

of us have had a fairly easy year. I have nothing but respect for people who have to make that call, and I've never wanted to be that person. I should note that even in this no-snow-day winter, we had one icy Saturday morning that was bad enough to postpone the Monocacy Lions annual Christmas basket and toy delivery for WUMCO. Lion Gary Burdette and others had to finish up during the week, so it hasn't been a perfect year, but it's pretty close; however, how many night schools, afterschool programs, basketball and volleyball leagues, yoga schools, and others have had nice, orderly, uncomplicated winter schedules in the absence of ice and snow? How many real estate agents have been spared shoveling driveways and sidewalks in their dress shoes so their listings could be shown? It boggles the mind.

Then again, as this wind blows happiness in one direction, it is an ill wind to those who count on snow and ice to make a living. Certainly ski resorts come to mind, but they can manufacture snow; others certainly cannot. I am sure there are grumpy cross country skiers around as well, who are just itching for a cold snowy day.

Hardware stores, or should I say home improvement centers, are sitting on pallets of snow melt, case after case of snow shovels, and rows of snowblowers—investments in inventory that will not pay off this year and will have to be stored for next year. Clothing stores are stocked up with winter clothes, and those impulse purchases of gloves, scarves, and boots probably aren't clicking at all. Snow plowing is also a huge business. All that money piled up in snow removal budgets was supposed to flow steadily to individuals moonlighting for extra money, landscape firms keeping their people busy over the winter, and other ventures who maintain the equipment and personnel needed to bail the rest of us out and keep our lives in order when it snows. Thanks, folks, we're grateful, but maybe next year. All kidding aside, this is a serious financial loss that has made this a tough year for many people who count on that income.

For once, perhaps our weather here will be just as nice as it is for baseball spring training in Florida. Ignoring the fact that this snowless, warm winter was probably good for ants, termites, and stinkbugs, we continue to accept the good with the bad. At least we are at peace with each other, and not staring at driveways plowed high with snow. It's only the weather. There is no one to blame it on, except maybe the Chinese, but we'll let that one go for now.

## Rande(m) Thoughts Poolesville through The Looking Glass: An Adventure into Our Future

By Rande Davis

Lately, I have been wondering just what business establishments would be good for Poolesville and our area going forward. The question seems to arise every time another business closes. Empty, unused commercial storefronts can be something of a dangerous harbinger for small towns. You don't have to travel far to see what I mean. Losing fine shops is always tough. It was especially egregious to lose Zaglio's Bakery and Mooey's Frozen Yogurt not only for the quality of their product line, but, perhaps even more importantly, for their exceptional community spirit, customer service, and contribution to making this a better place to live. Kicks Karate was another wonderful addition to the town in so very many ways.

John Speelman at Poolesville Hardware compiled a list of over fifty businesses that have failed over the thirty years he has been doing business here. He just recently celebrated that milestone. Be sure to congratulate him and

thank him for all the fine service he has provided.

So what do we need? What would work? As an upstate New Yorker, I am very partial to diners. Diners are to upstate New York what delis are to the city. I hear we will have a new café coming soon that will serve breakfast and lunch, but I haven't heard from the prospective owners yet, so I really can't tell you much more than that. I cannot explain the why-no-dinner-menu part, but each business decides its priorities.

In every little town I drive through, I always keep an eye out for a new kind of business that might do well here. For the life of me, I struggle to come up with any solid commercial ideas that fit our bill. Middletown has a delightful little ice cream store that's been around for many decades. Jefferson has a family butcher shop that packs them in every weekend from miles around.

Part of our problem is that many residents can practically drive back and forth to work and never actually come into town. I heard of a resident from Tama II who stated that he seldom comes into town due to a lack of need. Those living east of town can have the same experience. Sometimes, even when a good idea for a new business comes up, many fight it. Large and loud segments of the area's population

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## Tidbits

### Dickerson Selected for PACC Community Service Award

Valaree Dickerson not only was selected by the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce for her outstanding and broad service to the community, but she recently expanded her contributions by accepting a position as a board member, along with Joe Truppo, of Helping Hands Poolesville, Inc.

Helping Hands, an ecumenical community service organization comprised of members of all five area churches, is still looking for a viable candidate for home repairs and renovation for the 2017 project.



PACC president Gail Lee presented Val Dickerson with the organization's 2017 Community Service award.

While the work performed during each year's project has varied—depending on the issues that affect health, safety, and quality of living in the house selected for repair and refurbishing—it often involves substantial carpentry, painting, plumbing and electrical work.

HHP works with a county charitable organization, Rebuilding Together, to qualify and select a home in our area and, the best thing of all, the service is free to the homeowner. HHP reports that anyone whose home has problems that affect health, safety, and quality of living of its residents and a level of income that meets their requirements should apply.

If you or someone you know has a home requiring maintenance, and they cannot financially afford the cost of repairs, please have them contact Craig Cummins at 301-648-5508 or cummins@avonel.com. All inquiries are confidential.

### Living the Dream

What's better than a surprise gift? A double surprise. That's what George Coakley, longtime Poolesville resident, found out when he received Oriole Dream Week as a Christmas present then later found out it included both of his sons, Brian and Michael. Oriole Dream Week consists

of individuals aged thirty and over who converge on the Oriole training facility in Sarasota, Florida and play baseball for a week under the tutelage of ex-Oriole major leaguers: In other words, Living the Dream—Living the Dream with your sons? Priceless.



Orioles Dream Camp stars: Brian, George, and Michael Coakley.

In camp were Mike Boddicker, Al Bumbry, Steve Bumbry, Rick Dempsey, Mike Devereaux, Dave Ford, Jim Gentile, Leo Gomez, Ross Grimsley, Glenn Gulliver, Chris Hoiles, Dave Johnson, Gary Kendall, Tippy Martinez, Scott McGregor, Ryan Minor, Tom Niedenfur, Gary Roenicke, Don Stanhouse, Sammy Stewart, Bill Swaggerty, and Jeff Tackett, with guest appearances by Jim Palmer and Brian Roberts.

After first day evaluations, the "talent," ranging in age from thirty to eighty-four, was balanced out among ten teams with two ex-pros acting as manager and coach of each team. The Coakley boys were drafted by Stewart's Studs with Sammy Stewart and Glenn Gulliver at the helm. The team finished a respectable third place out of ten.

The atmosphere was competitive yet jovial with many friendships developing among teammates and competitors. Two players showed true grit and determination and were an inspiration to the other players and staff. One had a stroke less than a year ago and the other had Parkinson's disease. Both refused to let what life threw at them define them or stand in their way of achieving their goals.

In addition to personalized Orioles home and road uniforms, the package included daily breakfast and lunch served in the clubhouse, a clubhouse locker for each player, treatment by club athletic trainers (a necessity for most), and daily laundry service by clubhouse attendants. The final games against each of the teams that didn't play in Florida will be held at Orioles Park at Camden Yards on June 10, 2017. Living the dream on the field of dreams.

Continued on page 15.



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## Things To Do

February 24

### Poolesville Area Senior Center

**Pickle Ball.** Poolesville Baptist Church gym. 9:30 a.m.

### Library Lock-in Bowl-a-Rama

When the clock strikes six, and the library closes, stay and help turn the library into a bowling alley! We'll make our own pins and see who can bowl a perfect game. Best score wins a prize. Refreshments will be served. Space is limited, registration required. Grades 4 to 8. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

February 25

### Anytime Fitness Grand Opening

Open house with food, raffle drawings, and booths from other local businesses. Staff will be on hand to offer numerous fifteen-to-twenty-minute demos—including boot camp, yoga, Zumba, spin, and other routines—and to answer membership or personal training questions. All residents, whether members or not, are encouraged to take a tour of the facility. Center of downtown Poolesville at the corner of Fisher Avenue and Elgin Road. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

February 27

### PASC

**Pickle Ball.** Poolesville Baptist Church gym. 9:30 a.m.

### Poolesville Library Book Discussion Group

Enjoy and discuss *Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon. Copies available at the circulation desk. 7:00 p.m.

February 28

**PASC Special Event: Game Day.** Poolesville Baptist Church. 1:00 p.m.

### Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

\$5.00 per person, \$20.00 per family up to six. *St. Mary's Pavilion.* 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

March 1

**PASC: Zumba Gold.** Poolesville Baptist Church gym. 1:00 p.m.

### Community Dinner

Free at *St. Peter's Church.* 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

March 2

### Poolesville Library Storytime

Help your children develop early literacy skills. Join us for stories, songs,

activities, and a craft. For babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. 10:30 a.m.

March 3

**PASC—Pickle Ball.** Poolesville Baptist Church gym. 9:30 a.m.

### UMCVFD Auxiliary Bingo Night

Featuring cash and gift cards. Cost \$20. Refreshments are available for purchase only. Enjoy an evening of fun and help the fire department. *UMCVFD Fire Hall, 19801 Beallsville Rd., Beallsville.* Doors open at 5:00 p.m.; games start at 7:00 p.m.

March 3, 4, and 5

### The Blue Hearth Market Weekend

Great gift and décor ideas for home and office. *The Blue Hearth, Historic Dr. Thomas Poole Home, 19964 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville.* Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Sunday: noon to 5:00 p.m.

March 5

### Let's Make Maple Syrup!

Learn how to spot a maple tree, tap it, and collect the sap. The sap will be boiled to make sweet maple syrup. We will hike in the woods and spend time at the bonfire. Dress appropriately, this is an outdoor event. \$10/student. RSVP [garth@landandnature.org](mailto:garth@landandnature.org) or call 301-972-7266. *Landscape and Nature Discoveries (LAND), 21014 Big Woods Road, Dickerson.* 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

March 7

### Library Teen Book Club

March selection is *A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness. Copies available at circulation desk. Grades 9 to 12. 3:00 p.m.

March 8

**PASC: Tai chi.** Poolesville Baptist Church gym. 10:30 a.m.

**Zumba Gold.** Poolesville Baptist Church gym. 1:00 p.m.

March 10

**PASC: Pickle Ball.** Poolesville Baptist Church gym. 9:30 a.m.

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

Then let us know!

Send it along to [editor@monocacymonocle.com](mailto:editor@monocacymonocle.com)

**St. Mary's Catholic Church**  
Barnesville, MD  
[www.stmaryonline.com](http://www.stmaryonline.com)

**Rev. Kevin P. O'Reilly, Pastor**  
**Rev. David Cahoon, Deacon**



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**  
**February 28, 6 - 8pm**

in the Pavilion

\$5 per person / \$20 for a family,  
up to six people

To help us plan, call 301-972-8660



**Ash Wednesday**  
**March 1**

Mass with Ashes at  
9 am  
4:15 & 7:30 pm



*All are Welcome!*



Located in the historic  
Dr. Thomas Poole Home  
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[thebluehearth.com](http://thebluehearth.com)

### Old-Fashioned Love Meets New-Fashioned Detail

We at The Blue Hearth believe wholeheartedly that the sum of our parts is what sets us apart from other vintage stores. We've assembled the most creative group of re-purposers, artisans, craftspeople and home furnishing re-inventors out there, and we've provided them with a historic beauty as the setting in which to share their talents. There are many vendors that make Blue beautiful each month, and we love to think of them as the individual pieces to our own fabulous mosaic. To learn more about them and their home design outlook, stop in for a visit, enjoy the graciousness of our home and linger in each beautifully-decorated room for ideas and inspiration. For a peek at what is new at Big Blue, visit [thebluehearth.com](http://thebluehearth.com).

Great gift and décor ideas for home and office!!



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## Focus on Business

### Anytime Fitness Celebrates Grand Opening

By Susan Petro

After three years of consideration and over six months of planning and construction, Anytime Fitness will celebrate its grand opening on February 25. The ribbon-cutting starts promptly at 10:00 a.m., followed by an open house with food, raffle drawings, and booths from other local businesses. Additionally, staff will be on-hand to offer numerous fifteen-to-twenty-minute demos—including boot camp, yoga, Zumba, spin, and other routines—and to answer membership or personal training questions.

All residents, whether members or not, are encouraged to take a tour of the facility in the center of downtown Poolesville at the corner of Fisher Avenue and Elgin Road. The building was once occupied by Selby's grocery store and another fitness facility that moved to another location.

Anytime Fitness/Poolesville hails from a group of strategic partners who also own the Anytime Fitness/Kensington franchise location. Regional Director, Laura Burstein, said that the group began searching for a second location

opportunity, especially when the building became available.

Burstein has been a fitness trainer for sixteen years. She joined the Kensington franchise as a manager and strategic partner seven years ago. She plans to split her time between both locations.

Inside the expansive open area waits a large selection of modern cardio equipment, an area for stretching, a weight training area, and circuit weight training machines. "Our cardio equipment is very high-tech," said Burstein. "In addition to individual cable TVs, the same key fob that operates the Member Door will log you into your cardio session which can track your workouts and connect with your Hulu or Netflix account to play your favorite videos right on the screen!" Burstein adds, "Many workouts are pre-programmed including Lifescape, which takes you around the world through mountains, trails, etc."

Another exciting feature offered at Anytime Fitness is virtual, on-demand classes. "Anytime there is no live class in the studio, members may use a kiosk system to select from over three hundred classes," said Burstein. "A huge projector screen will drop down with an energetic two-dimensional instructor teaching you a private class."

A separate room is available for spin, yoga, and other available classes. An additional treatment room, modern restrooms, and office spaces complete the facility.



Anytime Fitness staff, Jen Peter, Laura Burstein, and Joy Hallfors, put the finishing touches on new facility before the grand opening.

after the Kensington location became the number one Anytime Fitness franchise. Over the years, the Kensington location grew and expanded to three times its original floor size. The staff has grown from five to twenty-four employees. There are over 3,200 Anytime Fitness locations worldwide.

As some members moved away from the Kensington area into more distant suburbs, many ended up in the Poolesville area, making a new facility in the community a desirable

Joy Hallfors is the manager of Anytime Fitness. She spent her youth playing multiple sports. In college, Hallfors played softball and ran indoor track. After Hallfors graduated from Gettysburg College with a degree in Health Sciences, she missed her daily sports practices and knew she wanted to stay fit. She discovered one of Anytime Fitness's Frederick locations. After college, Hallfors obtained

Continued on page 20.

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## Local News

### Valaree Dickerson Lauded

The Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce awarded Valaree Dickerson its annual Community Service award. Valaree has been a longtime resident of Poolesville and has been very active in volunteer efforts throughout the town. More recently, she is a volunteer elected commissioner of the town, chairperson of WUMCO Help, Inc.'s annual toys for Christmas drive, governmental liaison to the PACC, an originating volunteer for the Poolesville Area Senior Center, and has donated her services as a professional DJ to many charitable causes over the years to name just a few. Congratulations, Val, well done.

### Police Establish Exchange Zones for Online Purchases

By Jack Toomey

Because of an increase in robberies and thefts during sales of goods negotiated over the internet, the Montgomery County Police department has established several Safe Zones throughout the county where these transactions can be conducted.

Typically, citizens will make a deal over sites such as Craigslist and agree to meet the seller at a designated spot. Unfortunately, the seller will sometimes rob the buyer of his money.

*When selling or buying goods, the police recommend the following:*

- meet the other party at one of the exchange zones
- notify family about where you are going
- tell the other party ahead of time that you will not be alone
- trust your instincts: if the situation does not look safe, then leave the area
- do not invite strangers to your home.

*Some of the Safe Zones are:*

- 1st Police District police station at 100 Edison Park Drive, Gaithersburg (the former National Geographic building);
- 5th Police District Police Station at 20000 Aircraft Drive, Germantown;
- 6th Police District Police Station at 45 West Watkins Mill Rd, Gaithersburg.

The police will not participate in the exchange of goods or money or act as witnesses. If a crime occurs, call 911.

### Lost and Found, Lost Again—Perhaps You Can Help

By Rande Davis with William Price

Many *Monocle* readers have driven past Halmos Park.

Halmos Park was named after Eugen E. Halmos, Jr. Gene and his wife, Ann, moved here in 1961 and became very active in the Poolesville community. He was a Mayor of Poolesville, a member of the Monocacy Lions Club, a member of the American Legion, president of the Maryland Municipal League, an elder at Poolesville Presbyterian Church, and one of the founding members of the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce.

During World War II, Gene was an airplane navigator on a B-24 Liberator when it was shot down on June 24, 1944 during his first bombing run over Germany. He was able to parachute into Holland, but German occupation forces captured him, and he became a prisoner of war for ten months. As a POW, he used his civilian education and newspaper reporter background to write an underground camp newspaper and an extensive diary which he kept secret from the Nazis. The diary became the source of a book he wrote after the war, *The Wrong Side of the Fence*. You can help WUMCO by purchasing it from Amazon.

Now the lost and found part: While dipping ice cream at the Montgomery County Fair, William Price received a phone call from someone who asked if he knew where to find Gene's niece. Someone had contacted the caller and stated that they had found a set of dog tags while in Germany that had the

name of Eugene Halmos on them. It is assumed that at some point over Germany or in Holland, Gene had lost his military dog tags. Unfortunately, while being very busy at the fair, Price was unable to write down information, and when he tried to locate the number to call back later, he found he could not find it.

Here is the find again part: Does any of this sound familiar? Did you travel to Germany and find the dog tags, or did you call Price to ask about Gene's niece? Price received an email recently from Gene's niece, and he asked if she had received the dog tags. She had not. Now our hope is to find the dog tags again.

Price is also trying to find a gentleman named Bruce Larson. Mr. Larson helped Gene in his later years, and Gene's niece would like to send a gift to Bruce. Does anyone know where he is?

If you can help with either problem, please call 301-428-8191 or email at [wiliam@williamprice.com](mailto:wiliam@williamprice.com).

Hopefully, Gene's dog tags can come home to his niece and a gift of appreciation can be given to Bruce.

Continued from page 3.

### Commission Meeting Takes Up Light Agenda

Finally, it was decided that a special box would be placed at town hall where residents may place their worn-out American flags. The law establishes a process for the proper disposal of flags, and the Boy Scouts and American Legion will be working together to manage the process. All are urged to bring their worn or tattered flags to town hall.

Thank you... Poolesville

Dave Ashley

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# PACC ANNUAL MEETING



*PACC officers: Gail Lee, president, Cathy Bupp, secretary, and Eleanor Bateman, vice president.*



*Enjoying the network time at the PACC annual meeting were Suzanne Tallia, Stephanie Egly, and Kathy and Bernie Milhm.*



*The PACC annual meeting was a free event for members.*



*Gail Lee presented Alex Markoff with a certificate of appreciation for his many years on the PACC's board of directors.*



*Jennifer Singh, Roger Hayden, Anne-Marie Thomas, Heather Soskin, Martin Radigan, Christine Nanof, and Alex Markoff.*



*PACC vice president Eleanor Bateman presented the organization's accomplishments of 2016.*



*Gail Lee presented a certificate of appreciation to Jeff Stempler of Home Bridge Financial Services for his many years on the PACC's board of directors, from which he has stepped down.*



*The PACC annual meeting included a popular networking time prior to the meeting.*



## Youth Sports

### Shoes, Surfaces, and Hundredths of Seconds

By Jeff Stuart

Great performances by senior Andrew Lent and junior Ryan Lockett highlighted the Poolesville High School indoor track season. Lockett finished first in a memorable 3200m race in the county championship. Lent ran a personal record 4:34.60 in the 1600 to finish fourth. The indoor track team is coached by Prasad Gerard and assistant coach, Felicia Bergstrom.

"My personal highlight has to be going down to Virginia Tech and running in the invitational," said Lent. "I got to run in the two-mile against some of the best runners in Maryland and Virginia...Ryan and I together have scored a number of points for the team at various meets. The team had some good performances at the Smithsburg Invitational. That was probably our best performance as a team...Garrett Gularson broke the five-minute mark in the mile right off the bat at the first MCPS meet." Lent added, "We also had Josh Tiren, a sophomore, break five in the mile. He has really been working hard for us." Andrew ran a personal record of 9:39.22 in the two-mile at Tech.

The Maryland 5th Regiment Armory in central Baltimore was last renovated in 1933. The concrete and tile track has a film of dust on top. The 3A West Region championship was held there on February 9 because the Maryland 1A/2A and 3A/4A Indoor Region championships were being held at the same time at the Prince George's Sports and Learning Complex in Landover.

Freshman Gularson ran a PR 2.07.24 at the county championship, finishing ninth and a PR 4.57.70 at the MCPS practice meet on December 6. He was also part of the 4x800 relay team that took fourth place at the the Smithsburg Invitational on January 6, along with Lockett, Lent, and junior Patrick Wang.

"My personal highlight was at the county meet," said Gularson. "I set my personal best in the 800. I also ran the 1600, but I found out I was good at the 800. By the county meet, I decided I would concentrate just on the 800. I ran my first sub-five mile at the first MCPS meet. The actual county meet was on a Wednesday. The Saturday before was the county invitational. I dropped about a second between those. From the county invitational to my previous best [the difference] was about four seconds."

At the county championships in Hyattsville on January 18, Lent and Rohann Asfaw of Richard Montgomery, an outstanding runner, had to run in early heats. Lent went first and finished in 4:34.60, fourth overall. Asfaw went next and won his heat by 18 seconds in 4:29.56. In order to win the 1600, Lockett had to beat that time. Ryan did beat that time by nearly four seconds, but on the final stretch of his heat, Richard Montgomery's freshman Garrett Suhr kicked past him and won in a race decided by the automatic timing camera. Suhr became the first Montgomery County freshman male to ever win an individual county title, finishing at 4:25.91 to Lockett's 4:25.92, a hundredth of a second difference.

"In the mile, I ended up losing to Suhr who is a good runner," said Lockett. "Rohan was in the previous race, so I was running to beat his time and wasn't really paying attention to my heat, and it kind of cost me when Garrett passed me at the end. He had a good strategy. I expected him to get a PR because I was going to push him, but I didn't expect him to get that much of a PR. I don't think anyone did. He ran a great race. If he keeps improving like he is, he is going to be an amazing runner. Apparently I lost by .01 of a second. I am still not too happy about that race. At the last second, I saw him to my right, and I leaned and I thought, 'I got him.' In my past two races, I had lost by barely anything. My PR was at the Montgomery Invitational just five days earlier. It just came down to a really fast last 400 and 200 meters...so in the two-mile at the county meet, I came motivated. I had a lot of confidence in myself. I just really wanted to win that race. I fell behind a little bit in the middle of the race, but I just thought back to the previous races. That lit a fire in me, and I went after it with a pretty good kick." Ryan ran the race in 9:33.81, beating Asfaw's time of 9:37.50.

At the 3A West Region championship, Lockett had to run through a wardrobe malfunction. "Someone stepped on my shoe, so I had to kick it off. I had to kick my other shoe off, too, because I didn't want to run the rest of the race with just one shoe on, so I ended up running the last third of the race in my socks. The surface of the Armory track was slippery, so it felt like I was running in place with my socks on. After the race, my feet were all bloody, but I was really happy because, despite of that, I still got second—and it is a really good story to tell."

"Yeah, it is a race that will become a legend," said PHS track coach Prasad

Continued on page 14.



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## Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

### Present Crime

**Assault:** 18200 block of Beallsville Road.

**Burglary:** 20300 block of Darnestown Road, 19300 block of Peach Tree Road.

**Theft:** 19800 Beatriz Avenue, 19600 Fisher Avenue, 21200 block of Martinsburg Road.

**Theft from auto:** Westerly subdivision. Numerous cases of unlocked cars being entered.

### Past Crime

**February 16, 1921** A fire of unknown origin destroyed the barn, corn crib, and other outbuildings on the farm of Carson Pope near Redland. Also destroyed were eight hundred bushels of wheat, a large quantity of corn, and many bushels of clover seed. The loss was estimated at \$6,000; it was partially covered by insurance.

**February 18, 1919** Charles Burriss, a man who worked on the farm of James Wood, near Garrett Park, visited Rockville to swear out a warrant. He charged that Samuel Wilson of Layhill had made a serious offense against his thirteen-year-old daughter. Wilson

was described as about forty years old and married.

**February 19, 1922** James Kaheel and Harry Salem of Baltimore were arrested by Deputies Rogers and Cawood at Bradley Hills on a charge of assault with intent to rob. Kaheel had reported that he was conducting his business at Bradley Hills when the two men attacked him and beat him severely. They were lodged in the county jail awaiting court action.

**February 23, 1921** Floyd Ball of Potomac appeared before a judge at the Rockville courthouse and swore out a warrant against his wife charging her with bigamy. He alleged that she was married to another man when the couple married in Rockville in 1918.

**February 24, 1919** Sheriff Aud thwarted a jailbreak at the Rockville jail when he discovered that Ralph Bolling had broken a window and was attempting to pry back the bars. Bolling, an eighteen-year-old farmhand, had been charged with the murder of Elizabeth Beckwith of Rockville. Bolling had said that he killed Mrs. Beckwith because she was trying to poison him.

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



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**"And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive your sins" - Mark 11:25**

Continued from page 1.

### Sugarland Forest

skills learned in slavery of farming, raising livestock, masonry, carpentry, blacksmithing, and stone cutting. Their employment was primarily on nearby farms, the Seneca Quarry, and the C&O Canal. They were even skilled in the medicinal use of herbs. Their pool of talent included midwives, those assisting local doctors, and others working with and becoming morticians.

Central to the town was its church, post office, and school. The town's core was its church, physically and spiritually, with everyone pitching in when building houses and caring for the children. One of the SEHP archives has the oral history of one ancestor, Bill Lyles. The report reads: *In Sugarland, you had a large extended family. Bill Lyles recalls "them old folks," as he fondly referred to them and their discipline. He talked about his "foolish escapades" growing up in Sugarland. He marveled at how them old folks, not having any telephones, always managed to stay abreast of their children's whereabouts and deeds. He was especially amazed at how the news of their behavior and discipline would reach their homes before they did. He told of many occasions when he and his friends were disciplined by their neighbors. He couldn't remember the details of what they did, but he would never forget the punishment. He commented, "Them old folks did not play. They made us go into the woods and pick out our switch, and not just any switch, it had to be the right flexibility (springy), and if it was not right, you had to march back into the woods and get another one. What made it so bad was that no matter whose house you were at, they had the right to measure out discipline to you as they would to their own children, the way they saw fit. When you arrived home, the look on your parents' face would let you know you were in for another trip to the woods for another switch. They would usually wait until you were changing for bed and come in switch in hand. It was not so much to hurt you physically, but to sting your bottom and give you something to think about."*

A local store was owned by Isaac Bell. Mr. Bell would travel to Frederick every week to purchase an inventory of household goods and food which included fresh meat. In earlier days, candy sold two for a penny and sugar cost three cents per pound, and residents could even get ice cream once a month. An early resident, Mary Beckwith recollected about making ice cream:

*I'm reminded of the times my Mom would make ice cream out of snow. It could never be made from the first snow because we were told the first snowstorm fails to kill the germs that are in the atmosphere, this snow brings purification and is good for our health. After the first snow, we would take pots or whatever was handy and scoop up*

*snow, always packing the snow to gather as much as we could with each trip outside. After settling in, we would eagerly watch with anticipation as Mom added vanilla extract, Carnation Evaporated milk, and sugar to the snow. Then there was that first taste and it was perfection straight from heaven, and at that moment we too were in heaven, caught up in the tantalizing delight and sheer joy with each spoonful. I wonder if in our excitement we missed seeing all that was added to the snow by mom for when we became daring enough to make our own snow cream, it never tasted as good as when she made it.*

Gwen Reese, president of the Sugarland Ethnohistory Project wrote: *The church provided the basis of unity of the community—a faith-based people—with a mutual trust in God and determination to establish a family environment in which to live and raise their children. Each family was an extension of the community family at large, whether gathering fruits and vegetables for canning, butchering, fishing, hunting, gardening, quilting, crocheting, or doing other work to maintain homes, farms, and families.*

The community even formed its own band and created the Cornet Band Association which, with raised money through things like pie sales, built their community center in November 1899 for \$7.00 to be used for practices and performances.

It was St. Paul's Church that was the heart of the community, though. Land purchased for \$25.00 resulted in the church being built in 1893. A fire took the original church in 1930. The church was used for worship, music, community meetings that were sometimes about secular issues, even a place to settle disputes, a courthouse, if you will.

Notes from meetings told how they would meet to deal with disagreements. On January 16, 1885, the notes read: *Jan 16th the subject of the organization was discussed whether the white race is better to the colored race than they are to themselves. It is decided that colored race is better to themselves.*

Again, on June 23, 1885, a dispute between Phillip Johnson versus defendant Lewis M. Garnett illustrated how the building was used as a courthouse. In May of the same year, school board elections were held as well as a discussion on hiring a teacher.

On June 14 of 1885, the report in the church ledger told of "one of the delightful days ever known." It tells of that day's special Children's Day program, wherein all children "dressed nicely and spoke well" and teachers were "nicely prepared and had their classes arranged beautifully."

The importance given to education was apparent as the school was one of the first buildings constructed in the community.

Gwen Reese, in recalling her grandfather, wrote: *There were many Sundays*

*when we sat in the front of the church. Granddaddy had many important jobs in the church. He kept most of the church records. Every June, we would go to Sugarland for Children's Day. We would be dressed in our Sunday best. Then we would line up in front of the church and recite our bible verses. We would all try to find the shortest verse we could.*

Other historical stories include the military service of Basil Dorsey, a black confederate soldier, of Phillip "Uncle Sammy" Johnson, who volunteered in World War II and followed the invasion in Gen. George Patton's 3rd Army. Sugarland Forest made history when Tilghman and Josefa Lee became the first legally-wedded biracial couple in Montgomery County in 1967.

As time moves on, it is bittersweet to note that the population has moved up and out. Reese concluded, "During the 1940s, fifties, and sixties, rural Americans, especially blacks in the South, began to migrate toward cities and away from their historic homes. Today, there are few descendants of the original families who settled Sugarland Forest left, and the cost of maintaining properties has become harder every year. With every family member's passing, what is known about the past becomes even more remote. Yet the emotional and spiritual bond to the land remains



Poolesville's Philip Johnson, a former slave, pictured here as freed man.

strong. Yearly family reunions and Heritage Day celebrations inspire grandsons, granddaughters, removed from the earlier generations' experience of a rural life, return, discover, and reclaim their past. It is a history that can only strengthen what we know of ourselves in Montgomery County."

Contributions to the Sugarland Ethnohistory Project can be made by contacting Gwen Reese at SEHP, Sugarland Ethnohistory Project, Inc. c/o Gwen Reese, 1 Blue Ribbon Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20878 or gwenreese21@msn.com.




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Continued from page 1.

### Willshire Community Project

Planning Commission is to develop a town master plan for the future of the town, and then they are tasked to meet the responsibility of developing that plan. He likened the master plan to a road map to the future, a document of objectives residents can anticipate, and on which businesses and investors can rely. The State of Maryland requires each local government to provide a master plan every ten years to help the state more accurately anticipate future needs and requirements of the state.

Commission president Jim Brown, in welcoming attendees, voiced his confidence in the collective professional expertise and ability of the groups to identify the best needs of the town. Chairman Sneed said that the planning commission should focus on a sincere attempt to find “a prevailing balance between the needs and desires of the community with the desires and rights of the individual property owners.”

George Coakley, who has been a sixteen-year member and chairman of the Planning Commission and has participated in and helped steer past and present Master Plans, was asked to provide a historical review of processes and intentions involved in creating a master plan. He remarked that the current Master Plan, filed in 2011, went through a nearly two-year process of discussions, investigations, surveys, focus groups, and public hearings to reach its conclusions. He observed that nothing the town has done involved more concerned citizens, required more time, and resulted in such detailed consideration and investigation than the creation of the latest master plan.

The next master plan, due in 2021 will have its initial work begin in 2019. While it is the Planning Commission that does most of the highly-technical reviews and lifts the heaviest load, their work results only in a final recommendation. The final approval comes from the Board of Commissioners after another lengthy and tedious process of review. Public input is encouraged at each step along the way.

The current plan caps town population growth to the current capacity of its sewer system of 6,500 homes. Prior to the introduction of the more recent village overlay zoning change, the property in the discussion was designated approximately half commercial and half residential development. Original zoning could include up to thirty-five to forty-five single family homes or other commercial development usage.

As oft-stated, all parties agreed that decisions about this property have a much higher degree of importance due to the location of the property which will help define the image of the town and can impact the town center ambience for decades to come. Everyone agreed with the mantra, “We have only once chance to get this right.”

Sneed considers the decades-long farmland as a significant opportunity to meet the key objectives of the master plan’s goal of bringing more population into the center of town to help create a more appealing village ambience, augment the historical nature of the town, help improve the financial foundation of local retailers, and through the use of the village overlay zoning process, gain valued outside financial and architectural assistance from developers, allowing the town to move forward with more of its master plan’s streetscape goals.

Each participant was asked to state his/her specific priority of concerns or issues relating to the Willshire development. The most often-voiced concerns were about density, townhouses, parking, congruent green spacing, and traffic issues as being the key matters needing to be worked out.

Commissioner Valaree Dickerson voiced support for the Kentland-like aesthetic appeal of the single-family homes, especially the layout with front porches facing Fisher and Fyffe Roads. She raised some concerns over the townhomes and adequate parking both within the community and possible usurpation of town parking spaces on Fyffe Road. She wants to see more green space and, while lamenting that dedicated senior living facilities are not viable for the location, welcomed the builders’ promise to make available floor plans more suitable for adding space.

Commissioner Stump observed that issues of density, especially townhouses, need to be addressed sooner than later since those decisions could make or break any deal to move forward. “No point in stringing the developer along. We need to resolve those two issues (density and townhouses) as soon as possible.”

Newly-elected Commissioner Martin Radigan, and one of the originators of Protect Our Poolesville, an ad hoc group created to challenge the developer’s original goals, offered that the feedback he has gotten from participants in the group and citizens overall, and through a recent poll, is against townhomes, and should the decision be made to build them anyway, better to put them near back of the property. He does not like the three-story concept. He offered that the thirty-five

to forty-five single family home limitation would meet with more approval. With the higher number homes his key objection, he welcomed any opportunity to improve the green space of the plan and to improve Willshire’s benefit of impact on the historical properties in town.

Bryan Bupp of the planning commission expressed his excitement at being part of the process and remarked that the historical value of the town has been overshadowed for too long. He recalled attending zoning meetings with his father as a boy and noted that through the decades, every proposed change was met with intense concern about losing the small-town character of the town. “Through it all, we still have a wonderful small town to this day despite previous concerns and fears about changes and growth.”

Michael Tims, planning commissioner, voiced key concerns about density and traffic at key times during the day, but pointed out the recent loss of two businesses in town and the potential benefit of development of the property. He particularly liked the walkway from the town hall to the John Poole House as being very attractive.

Commissioner Klobukowski emphasized his desire to build thoughtful and attractive homes but stated he did not support any town homes whatsoever. He did not like the shared-wall detached garages concept as offered in the current plan.

Kevin Schramm, the final planning commissioner to offer his concerns, asked that more attention be given to the sidewalks along Fisher Avenue, offering that he would like to see a more open space facing the John Poole House and to possibly expand the parking lot near that facility. Schramm voiced his concern over what he called the use of “zoning fear mongering” to reject a notion that less desirable commercial development might happen should this proposal fall through.

Jim Brown, while not recommending any specific number of homes to be built, placed his one-hundred percent

trust in the Planning Commission. He added that the new project can help improve the town’s link to its historical facilities but warned that should a decision not to accept townhomes be concluded, that could break the deal. He had total confidence that the park and green space issues can be well managed by the planning commission through the process. “Of course, our guys will protect greenspace, they will get it right.” He said that traffic issues, while one of the most-stated concerns he hears, can be addressed in various ways, including a third turn lane on Fisher Avenue, which will keep pass-through traffic moving, especially during key times of high traffic.

Brown reiterated the town’s commitment to the Ag Reserve, observing that the town does not have any short or long term appetite for annexation, so growth and density beyond the current master plan is not something on the table. He challenged all participants to explain to him how the current plan of bringing infill into the center of town to augment the business environment of the town and provide outside funding to help in the beatification goals of the streetscape plan does not still make sense.

Brown warned of the dark side if the current owner and developer determine not to move forward and ultimately sell the property to someone who might have plans less suitable for the property. The property could have a warehouse, car wash, manufacturing facility, or any number of other commercial uses.

Armed with a better understanding of the objectives of the Master Plan and with appreciation of where all participants currently find agreement, the task now returns to the planning commission to provide alternative adjustments for consideration of Miller and Smith before making a recommendation to the town commissioners. No groundbreaking activities are anticipated before the second quarter of 2018.

Continued from page 10.

### Shoes, Surfaces, and Hundredths of Seconds

Gerard of the Lost Shoe Race. “Meher Kaur advanced to the finals in the 55m dash. The girls’ 4 x 200m relay of Juanita Jaramillo, Loren Fernandes, Anjali Kalra, and Kaur finished in a great time of 1:56.98. The boys’ 4 x 200m relay of Charlie Brill, Sertac Er, Zed Tejada, and Michael Payne ran a good time of 1:43.61. Zach Widenhofer had a massive personal record by almost two feet in the shot put for thirty-six feet even. Lockett and Lent finished second and third in both the 1600 and 3200 to qualify for the state meet. Ryan decided the 3200m was not challenging enough, so he ran half the race in socks.”

Continued from page 4.

**Poolesville through the Looking Glass**

were in opposition to the very notion of a Dollar General here. Yet, lo and behold, it is one of the more successful businesses—a testament to the true sentiment of most residents. The new townhomes near Poolesville Elementary School have caused many to voice strong opposition as well, yet eleven of the eighteen units thus far have been sold to town residents. Even with public hearings and surveys, it is still hard to tell for sure what the area residents would support. Public proclamations for or against something do not necessarily tell the whole story.

For all the retail space now empty and those property lots still open for commercial development, do you have any ideas for what retailers or shops would be good for us to have? Adding more retail locations won't be high on any investor's list anytime soon, but what are we to do with the empty spaces we already have now? The commercially-zoned property that is still open for build-out will surely sell some day. What would it look like? Would a row of small professional office spaces work for us? We almost had a distribution warehouse open at one time that might have had potentially a deli attached to it, but that fell through. It has been reported that an apartment building developer once looked at our town. Guess we didn't fit their model. We had a dilapidated carwash at one time, would a new more modern one succeed now? How would that look? There is a lot to think about. In coming up with ideas as to what new businesses might be a successful fit for Poolesville, my mind keeps coming up blank. I am apparently not alone.

Continued from page 5.

**Tidbits**

**Iditarod in Poolesville?**

Well, not exactly, but weekend hikers on the C&O Canal pathway at White's Ferry got an exciting surprise a few weeks ago, when teams from the Chesapeake Siberian Husky Club (CSHC) sprint racing teams used the trails to train for dogsled races this winter.

The club is an American Kennel Club (AKC) sanctioned specialty club with members coming from Maryland, Northern Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

Members range from the one-dog pet owner to the multiple showing/racing kennels. Most members participate in conformation, obedience, or agility training, and many run their dogs on sprint racing teams in the winter.

On March 4 and 5, the club hosts an all day special dog show featuring various categories of competition, vendors, and refreshments. It will be at the Catoclin Kennel Club Training facility in Point of Rocks. For more information, visit the CSHC Facebook page.



*Siberian Huskies training on the C&O Canal pathway near White's Ferry.*



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## Musings by Mama Boe Death By Ducks

By Pamela Boe

I have become the consummate sloth. I'm not bragging, but if there were awards given out to the most slothiest of winter sloths, I would be a total contender. Dr. Duggirala at Poolsville Family Practice is sadly disappointed in me. He looks at me with his anxious and troubled big brown eyes and wonders where he went wrong. He informs me that my blood pressure is up, my weight is up, my blood sugar is up, and my life expectancy is down. I'm making him look bad. It's not his fault though. I have bad genes, extreme holiday spirit, a fabulous kitchen and absolutely no discipline. It's a deadly combination, so don't judge.

He begged me to get some exercise, and to cut down on the McDonald's Sausage Burritos. The poor guy looked so genuinely distressed that I *promised* him I would go back to walking. I had to throw him a little morsel so he wouldn't be cast into a fit of despondent, impotent frustration with me, his worst patient. I didn't really mean it, of course. Walkies just aren't my thing anymore, you see. The lazy boy wing-back chair, with its chenille, over-stuffed, cat-hair enhanced upholstery, is my thing now. But my husband, Troy, turned his powerful dark brow onto me and informed me in his indisputable way that he needs me to LIVE, and that if I truly loved him, I would take better care of myself. He laid it on thick, I tell you. And who can resist the plea of such a beloved mate? No one, that's who.

It was on this particular guilt trip that I found myself meeting a few friends to begin an hour long, two-mile-stretch of walkies. I was in hell. Pure, unadulterated hell. Never mind the fact that it was sunny and gorgeous. Never mind that our walk lead us through land so idyllic it was reminiscent of something you'd see in a Disney movie. Never mind the fact that my friends Linda and Cheryl provided me with hilarious banter and loving encouragement as distraction. It was hell because I decided it was hell, Bambie, Thumper, and butterflies notwithstanding.

As I wheezed my way up and down the rolling hills, I pondered my need for an attitude adjustment, in addition to my inhaler. When my thighs

chaffed and rubbed with a friction strong enough to spark fire, I admitted that I require fresh perspective, in addition to Vaseline for rug burn. But all of this self-reflection changed nothing in my mood. The fact of the matter is that I'm tired, and I've been tired for a while. I'm raising two strong-willed, intelligent, determined teenaged life-force-sucking entities, and it's a task that has unceasingly eroded my own strong-willed, intelligent, determined self. Parenting is most emphatically NOT for wimps.

You see, for those of you who have children who will eventually become teenagers, you cannot possibly know what is coming down the pike. I certainly didn't. In the eyes of my once-adoring babies, now nothing I intend is right, nothing I say is intelligent, nothing I do is cool or acceptable in the hip world of NOW. To them I am an unceasing cause for embarrassment. I've gone from being the center of their universe, to being antiquated and obsolete. It's enough to send the meeker parents to counseling. Thank the Good Lord I was never accused of being Meek.

But after a while, even the strongest of parents' force fields begins to erode under this constant judgment and censure, and at least in my case, one starts to believe the derision these life-force suckers bombard you with. It's like being pecked to death by ducklings. Seems like it wouldn't hurt, until you suddenly realize you're missing a limb or two. The whole "define-yoself" philosophy begins to weaken, and you realize that they ARE right, and that you actually ARE a dork, and you ARE a moron, and you actually should just sit there in your wrongness and be WRONG. This, of course, leads to longer and longer periods of sitting in your lazy boy wing-back chair, with its chenille, over-stuffed, cat-hair enhanced upholstery, which in turn leads to your blood-sugar, weight, and blood pressure being up, and your life-expectancy being down. Which then leads to your husband guiltling you into actually fulfilling your promise to your poor doctor, which then ends up in a pissy-attitudinal walk with awesome friends in a beautiful place.

To sum up: My darling children are slowly killing me.

So if you see me around town, looking duck-pecked and missing a limb or two, give me a pat on the back and encourage me. And if you see me in the McDonald's drive-thru, please don't tell Dr. Duggirala. I worry about him.

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## Garden

### Argentina: Land of the Tango, Glaciers, and Wine

By Maureen O'Connell

Argentina, the second largest country in South America, dominates the southern part of the continent. It is bordered in the north by Bolivia, the northeast by Paraguay, the east by Brazil, Uruguay, and the Atlantic Ocean, and to the south by Chile. While the United States is four times larger, Argentina is still a large country with very diverse geographical and climatic areas. Flying from Washington to London to Buenos Aires is a long trip, approximately twenty-two hours. It is only thirteen hours from Dulles, but I stopped in London first to meet my daughter. I recommend a minimum of two weeks touring in order to see and savor a country's distinct landscapes and its people and culture.

Buenos Aires is the capital of Argentina, and one third of the country's forty million inhabitants live in or around the city. With its grand tree-lined boulevards, abundant parks, and leafy gardens, it successfully combines European glamour and architecture with Latin American verve and passion. Many parts of the city echo Paris and

Barcelona. It is home to the tango, beef, world-class shopping, restaurants, and museums. The tango and modern Buenos Aires were born in the same place: the tenement houses of the port neighborhood of La Boca in the late nineteenth century. The dance eventually travelled from the immigrant-quarter brothels and cabarets to the rest of the city. *It is the dance of Buenos Aires.* You can't come here and not see a tango show. The tango is more than the gymnastic-like body and foot movements; it is more about the music and lyrics and the often sad and passionate love stories acted out.

From the fifteenth century until today, Argentina has experienced and suffered through many political upheavals and economic booms and busts. There are clear memories of cruel dictatorships, state terrorism, the good and the bad of the Juan and Evita Peron period, and the dispute with the United Kingdom over the Falklands.

Three and a half hours by plane from Buenos Aires, I arrived in El Calafate in the area called Patagonia. Located at South America's southernmost tip, Patagonia (named after the word patagon used by Magellan in 1520 to describe the native people of the region), spans both Argentina and Chile and is an altogether different geographical species. It is home to awe-inspiring mountain peaks that rise to the snow-capped Andes, vast and empty steppes,



Perito Moreno Glacier in Los Glaciares National Park, Patagonia, Argentina.

glaciers and ice fields, and extraordinary national parks. It is sparsely populated. There are probably more rabbits, sheep, cattle, small and large birds, and guanacos (a larger, woolier version of the llama), than hardy humans.

Patagonia has an almost surreal quality to it. I have never seen such a diverse geography in one region. Two hours by car through arid desert-like flat fields to evergreen forests of pine trees, you arrive at the Perito Moreno Glacier in the southern region of the Los Glaciares National Park. It is a unique vision of the impressive contrast of ice against the greenery of the Andean Patagonian forest. Thirty kilometers long, five kilometers wide, and sixty meters high, it is constantly moving and is one of the world's few glaciers that is still growing. The weather near the glacier is incredibly unpredictable. I was there in February which is their summer. I arrived wearing a lightweight sweater; I then changed to a heavyweight down jacket and woolen hat and gloves for the very short boat ride to the wind-swept glacier. There were a series of loud, booming sounds as the glacier internally shifted and broke off large pieces of ice from its brilliant white surface. About one hour from El Calafate is Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city and a busy port for cruises and tours to nearby Antarctica. I traveled by car from the glacier to the Estancia (Spanish name for large farms) Nibepo Aike. I was back to a vista of windswept, semi-arid plains filled with cattle and sheep with the view in the distance of the snow-capped Andes—unbelievably awesome and beautiful. My daughter and I rode for three hours with a gaucho on the native Argentinian horse, the Criollo, through the grasslands around the nearby lake. The saddle was quite different from my English saddle! Some say that Patagonia is the end of the world. There is quite a bit of truth in that.

Five and a half hours northwest by plane from Patagonia is another totally different geographic and climatic area, Mendoza and the wine regions. Argentina is currently the fifth largest wine producer by volume after France, Italy, Spain, and the United States. In 1556, Jesuit missionaries crossed the Andes from Chile to plant the first grape vines, but it is only recently, over the past ten to fifteen years, that the industry developed the methods, attitude, and will to become a serious player in the international wine market. Low-quality vines are being replaced by premium varieties, and vineyards are experimenting with growing grapes higher into the Andes. Twelve miles south of Mendoza City, along the foothills of the Andes Mountains, Lujan de Cuyo is home to Argentina's most well known wine, Malbec. It is here that this variety first started showing great potential. The area's extreme altitude provides for warm days which impart concentration to the grapes and the cold nights give natural acidity. The wineries have undergone extensive, high-tech improvements to the processing plants which allow them to produce wine of the highest quality. Most of this region has a semi-arid desert-like climate which would be very unsuitable for growing and maturing grapes. It is only through the careful management of snowmelt from the Andes that this land has large green areas and through irrigation that this area is able to produce around ninety percent of the country's wine. You can buy in the United States very good quality Argentinian wine, especially red wine, at reasonable prices.

Experience Argentina. It is one of the most fascinating, diverse, and enjoyable countries I have ever visited. Beef, wine, football, and the tango provide Argentina's life's blood and give definition to its daily rituals and culture.

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## Remembrances

### Jacqueline G. Bylsma

Jacqueline G. Bylsma, 70, of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, died on Saturday, February 11, 2017 at the Gettysburg Hospital.

She was born December 5, 1946 in Queens, New York the daughter of the late John F. and Catherine Ryan Gunner. Jacqueline is survived by her husband, John T. Bylsma.

Dr. Bylsma was a graduate of Marywood College, Scranton, Pennsylvania. She earned a master's degree from American University, Washington, D.C., another master's from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, and her Ph.D. in special education from the University of Maryland, College Park. For thirty years, Jacqueline was employed as an English and special education teacher in the Montgomery County Public School System. Following that, she was the principal at the Katherine Thomas School for children with Special Needs in Rockville for five years. After the family moved to the Gettysburg area, Dr. Bylsma was an Educational Advisor at Gettysburg College for eight years while also serving as a volunteer for SpiriTrust Hospice. She enjoyed crocheting, reading, boating, and spending time with her family.

In addition to her husband, Dr. Bylsma is survived by two children: Jessica Behera and her husband Shiva of Arlington, Virginia, and Jake Bylsma of Coeur D'Alene, Idaho; a granddaughter, Adeline Sluger of Fairfield, Pennsylvania; a brother, John Gunner, and a sister, Jeanne Gunner. She was predeceased by two sons, Rein Patrick Bylsma, infant, and Jed Ryan Bylsma.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Salvation Army at [salvationarmy.org](http://salvationarmy.org). Online obituary and condolences available at [monahanfuneralhome.com](http://monahanfuneralhome.com).



Jacqueline G. Bylsma

### John "Jack" Yates

John R. Yates of Dickerson, 86, passed away peacefully on January 30, and a memorial celebration of his life was held at St. Peter's Church on February 12.

Jack was preceded in death by his wife Sally in 1994. He was the son of John R. and Isabel Yates.

He graduated in the class of 1948 at Landon School and Randolph Macon College. He was a special education teacher with Montgomery County Public Schools and a part-time farmer and member of Rockville Growers' Market. He was an avid tennis player and boogie-woogie piano enthusiast.

He is survived by five of his children, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Do you or someone you know have  
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# Monocacy Critters

## Serendipitous Pet and Animal Pictures\*



This albino deer was featured on Dr. Chet Anderson's photo wall at least 14 years ago! Looks like his offspring are still around.



We present this picture of an albino deer, that was just recently photographed and placed on Facebook with our apologies to the photographer for not remembering his/her name.

\*Do you have an unusual or funny picture of a pet or animal? Mail or email the picture to [editor@monocacymonocle.com](mailto:editor@monocacymonocle.com) or P.O. Box 372, Barnesville, MD 20838

Continued from page 7.

### Anytime Fitness Celebrates Grand Opening

her personal training certification. She is looking forward to coming to the Poolesville community.

Jen Peter is the fitness director for the Poolesville location. She will help new members with fitness evaluations and help them get set up with a fitness plan or trainer.

Burstein, Hallfors, and Peter have extensive backgrounds in the fitness arena, offering years of experience helping their clients of many different age groups with a myriad health goals and challenges including weight loss, weight gain, back and neck problems, and shoulder tightness. They each come with their own ideas, experiences, and goals to help Anytime Fitness meet the unique needs of the each member. Member input is also an important component of the center. Every year, members complete a survey to suggest improvements, new equipment, and ideas for the club.

Burstein enjoys bodybuilding competitions which she learned after many of her clients expressed an interest in training for the field. Hallfors participates in power-lifting challenges. She recently attempted 300 pounds and was able to achieve 290 pounds. Hallfors was inspired to stay physically fit by her mother who suffered a variety of back and neck issues. She recognizes the importance of properly using core muscles to become stronger and more functional. Peter is a triathlete.

In addition to Burstein, Hallfors, and Peter, there will be additional local instructors on-site to teach a variety of classes for all skill levels. The facility will also offer on-site physical therapy, chiropractor services, and massage therapy. The minimum age to join the facility is fourteen.

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*Dr. D. Timothy Pike is an Associate Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry ([www.AAID-implant.org](http://www.AAID-implant.org))*

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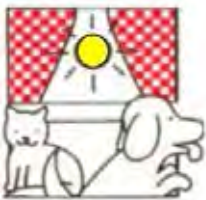
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