

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

January 11, 2013

Volume IX, Number 18.



Who's on the roof? Commission President? No. Town Manager? Yes. Any questions? More holiday pictures are inside.



Who says we can't work together towards a common goal? PHS students (all of them) show us how. The story is on page 6.



This issue features, in addition to a walking walking taco, a number of 2012 Year in Review Photo Collages. They're all inside, and we hope you enjoy them.

Death of 2007 PHS Graduate Shakes Community

By Rande Davis

From the earliest moments of reports that Michael Poe was missing in the early morning hours of January 1 to the massive funeral at St. Mary's Church in Barnesville on January 8, the heartfelt outpouring of public concern has been reflective of the popularity of the 2007 PHS graduate and the love, empathy, and concern felt for his family.

In learning that he was missing, a group of people, made up of friends and even some who did not know Michael, rallied in an effort to find him through a mobilization effort organized through Facebook. With the tragic news of an inexplicable accident resulting in his death, the community then united in support of his family, parents Steven and Leslie

Bringing History to Life

By Dominique Agnew

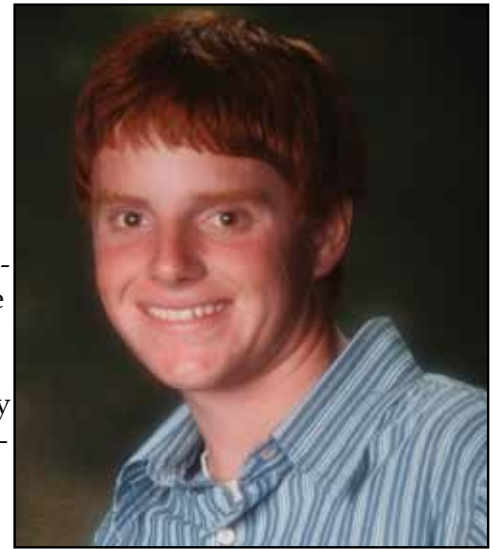
An early December front moving slowly across the Alleghenies stalls and drapes a heavy gray pall of clouds over the National Park Seminary. Cold rain falls incessantly and strips the trees of most of their remaining autumn color. Wet leaves blanket the manicured lawns and fill the basins and roof gutters with impressionistic splashes of shimmering

Poe and his beloved brothers, Matthew and Mitchell. St. Mary's Church convened a round-the-clock prayer vigil with the Blessed Sacrament for Michael and his family from Friday, January 4 until the start of his funeral.

At an evening reception in the sanctuary of the church in Barnesville on January 7, an astounding turnout of people resulted in a double-line of mourners that maintained its length from within the sanctuary, stretching between the church and old rectory, and winding its way to the parking lot. As people came and went, the line maintained its length for nearly a full four hours and only diminished a few minutes prior to the announced ending time. The mourners that night numbered over one thousand. As the hundreds came to share their

orange, red, and yellow. Shrubs and perennials, carefully tended in majestic beds and a multitude of stone vases and urns, are lashed by the storm, their stems bowed and roots exposed.

So opens the debut novel of Andy Johnson, resident and former commissioner of Poolesville. A forbidding and bleak beginning it is—a typical D.C. December, even—perfectly fitting for a historical mystery, *Incident at Forest Glen*. What is the incident, you may ask? Indeed, a part of the mystery perhaps—and a good reason to read the book. The setting itself

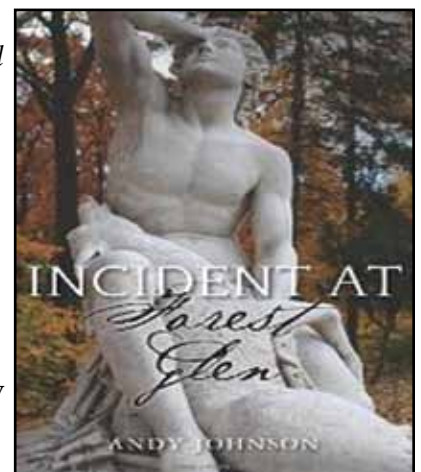


Michael S. Poe

love and concern to and for the Poe family, many lingered in the sanctuary and center aisle to comfort one another as well.

Michael rested in a beautiful, handcrafted casket made by Deacon David Cahoon of St. Mary's. A carpenter and owner of St. Joseph's Carpentry Shop, Cahoon was selected to make the altar, papal chair, ambo,

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Author Andy Johnson

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Family Album



Santa Claus and St. Nicholas were out and about this Christmas season, and we were all better for it.



Area cub scouts joined with the Marine Corps to gather toys for Christmas for those in need.



Merritt Edne, Pastor of Boyds Presbyterian Church, leads the lighting of the Christmas tree in front of the Boyds Post Office, right before the hayride to the parish hall.

Letter to the Editor

Dickerson House Fire

To the communities of Poolesville, Barnesville, and Dickerson:

On November 11, 2012, we experienced a total loss house fire that consumed our home of thirty-one years on Beallsville Road in Dickerson,

This was a devastating event in that we built our home, raised our eight children in it, and helped raise many more through the daycare provided there.

As we helplessly watched our home and everything we owned turn to ashes in the inferno, we felt thankful to all be there, together and safe.

Since the fire, we have experienced the most incredible support from all parts of the community. This support has come in many forms, gifts of all sorts, including: much-needed clothing, meals, offers of housing, pictures we thought to be irreplaceable, and

various monetary forms.

We never could have imagined our home burning, and just as unimaginable has been the tremendous support we have felt from our friends, our communities, and people we have never even met.

Our deepest and most sincere thanks to all those who have helped us. We look forward to the opportunity to help others who may be in need.

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The Worthington Family



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Commentary

The Year in Review

By John Clayton

The year 2012 may not have been an extraordinarily memorable year in the Upcounty, but there were some events that stood out.

The year ended most unfortunately. There is no limit to tragedy in the world, and it never hits us in the heart so hard as when it involves someone from our own community. All of us at the *Monocle* offer our deepest condolences to the Poe family on the untimely end to the young life of Michael Poe. We join the community in praying for him, for his family, and for his friends and acquaintances who must deal with this sudden void in their lives, and the tragic loss of a young life filled with such promise.

The year began with two well-known Poolesvillians going on network television to receive all sorts of abuse on the show *The Biggest Loser*. There was universal agreement that these were in fact two of our biggest winners, and braver by far than most of us. Around the same time, the sad rumors became true, and Selby's Market closed, leaving a hole in the community much larger than a basket of convenient groceries. The tributes to the civic contributions of Roy and Betty Selby, their family, and their staff went on for some time. The greater Poolesville community is still the worse off for their absence.

House and barn fires seem to be inevitable, and we were sorry to have to report a number of them this year. The historic Spates Farm barn and the homes of Karen Young in Beallsville and George and Dana Worthington in Dickerson were all covered in our newspaper. Gratefully, no lives were lost.

In the Town of Poolesville elections, incumbents Jerry Klobukowski and Brice Halbrook, and newcomer Valaree Dickerson rode to victory, quite possibly aided by their presence on social media. Veteran commis-

sioner Eddie Kuhlman was not returned to office, and I'm sure I speak for many when I say that his unequivocal championing of Poolesville will be missed. Commissioner Jim Brown had quite a year, riding a float as Grand Marshall of Poolesville Day and being elected Town Commission President. Locally-popular State Senator Rob Garagiola made a move on the U.S. Congress seat for the sixth congressional district, and the Upcounty voted for him, but Potomac's John Delaney carried enough down county votes to win the primary, leaving Upcounty Democrats with that peculiar inconsequential feeling that, as my colleague Mr. Davis pointed out, Upcounty Republicans already know so well.

There were more events. Barnesville and Dickerson residents got reacquainted with some of our rustic road detours while a bridge over Bucklodge Creek along Barnesville Road was repaired, on time and under budget by the Montgomery County Bridge Team. Clarksburg-area development continued along the Ten Mile Creek watershed, but the creek proponents won some battles to ensure that this precious water source remains unsullied. The Poolesville Community Economic Development Committee (CEDC) stayed active with a regular stream of events, and PHS and the town celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of a state basketball championship. A derecho (a what?) clobbered us during the summer, but unfortunately it did little to stem the annoying return of the loathsome stink bug. In a dramatic departure from our staid existence over the last nine years, we also printed a picture of an NFL cheerleader (Ravens) on the front page. This could become an annual feature, you never know.

In other sports news, PHS baseball team twirler Thayer Seeley pitched a perfect game, the first in these parts as far as we know. Chase Weaverling of PHS won the county cross country meet and set a new course record

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to boot. Clarksburg's Will Bertrand came in second. The Upper Montgomery County Athletic Club (UMAC) U12 baseball team, composed of Upcounty players, won a national championship and represented the U.S.A. in the Cal Ripken World Series.

At the end of the year, just to prove it isn't over until it's over, the Global Mission Church of Silver Spring received approval for a complex to be built along the Frederick/Montgomery County border near Interstate 270. Local land preservation groups in op-

position have not cried "Uncle," however. Expect to hear more on this story.

That's just the nutshell version of some of the stories that occupied us in the *Monocle* during 2012. For more in 2013, you'll just have to stay tuned. Thank you very much for reading. This beginning-of-the-year issue has several photograph sections of 2012 highlights, and we hope you enjoy it.

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Town of Poolesville

State of the Town Review

By Rande Davis

The January 7 Commissioners' Town meeting featured the annual State of the Town review whereby town department heads and committee chairpersons present their accomplishments from 2012 and preview anticipations for 2013.

In opening remarks, Commission President Jim Brown praised the extraordinary dedication of the town employees overall and cited specifically, as an example, the work by the Water and Sewer employees for their rapid response to water line breaks in cold, dark, and early morning hours.

The three-and-half-hour meeting opened with a report by Sam Miller, from Rager, Lehman, and Houck, PC, an indepen-

dent outside accounting firm that audits the town's financial matters and procedures. Mr. Miller's presentation compared 2012 versus 2011 in revenue and expenditures, updated the commission on upcoming Maryland State requirements, and reported a clean bill of budgetary health for the town.

John Strong of Huron Consulting, the town's engineering advisory firm, reviewed the various tasks and projects in which they were involved throughout 2012, emphasizing Infill and & Infiltration remediation in Westmond and plans for I&I remedial work in the Westerly subdivision in 2013.

Cathy Bupp, town events coordinator, and Marci Calantonio, chairperson of the Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC), had a joint presentation on town recreational, promotional, and special event programs for 2012. Bupp's responsibilities include organizing all town special events from Spring Fest through the Holiday Lighting Festival. She also

reported on the results in helping to coordinate a recent food and supplies drive for victims of Hurricane Sandy that resulted in a delivery of over six thousand pounds to those in need.

She reported that the state-wide Geocache program has expanded to a second site in Poolesville. Geocache is a scavenger hunt-like activity designed to bring tourists to participating towns and localities. Geocache visitors use GPS in a search for hidden "treasures" and, as they find the locations, receive prizes and are also required to leave behind prizes of their own. The additional site drew seven visitors within its first week.

Bupp reported that the town handed out fifty-three newcomer welcome bags to new homeowners and stated that local businesses are invited to include items promoting their businesses.

In reviewing the work of the CEDC, Marci Calantonio reviewed the activities and upcoming goals of the CEDC, emphasizing its joint work with the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce in producing an annual business fair and the success of last year's introduction of Spring Fest, especially its joint work with the Poolesville Elementary School's annual carnival that was part of one of the summer's Farmer's Markets. She reported that last year's Big Flea on Whalen Commons was very successful, and there is the possibility of offering the event twice a year.

The director of the Parks and Street Department, Preston King, a seventeen-year town employee, has supervised the department for the past ten years, reviewed the seasonal priorities of his four-man crew. Under his leadership, he has developed a rapid response team to handle the impact of weather events hitting the town. As an example, he reported that downed trees from Hurricane Sandy were removed within twenty minutes to clear roads and sidewalks to secure town emergency routes. With the new Perkins Park in Stoney Springs and Elgin Park in Brightwell

Crossing, he requested at least the expansion of his part-time support and suggested that it may be time for a new full-time person in the future.

Matt Warfield, the Water and Sewer Department supervisor, reported on an accelerating rate of water line breaks do to forty-year-old piping (twelve breaks in the past year). The most significant break came this past December when the fifteen-inch piping under the town's water tower near the high school cracked due to pressure from an adjoining manhole vault that shifted and was leaning on the pipe, resulting in the complete draining of the 500,000 gallon tank in fifteen minutes. Alerted to the problem by an internal alarm system, the department quickly shut valves to the tank and switched town supply to the second town water tank in Tama II. The ultra-rapid drainage of water resulted in a large, open crater under the water tank. Inspection proved the tank stable, and more detailed investigation in the days following reported no shifting of the tank due to the crater. The only noticeable impact to residents was lowered water pressure for a short period of time.

The Water/Wastewater Department, headed by director Craig Warfield, described the standard activities of the department with the level of rainwater reaching a total of forty-three inches by year's end. The largest anticipated new expense for the water treatment plant will be to replace the belt filter press at the plant at an estimated cost of \$350,000.

Of special note for both water-related departments was the impact of the derecho of 2012 and Hurricane Sandy. During such events, to maintain the integrity of the water and sewer systems, town crews worked around the clock, literally working a thirty-hour shift without rest. It should be noted that water main breaks or unusual water events place

-Continued on Page 19.



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Local News

Kettler Forlines And PHS Win Environmental Award

By Rande Davis

The annual Maryland National Capital Building Industry Association (MNCBIA) Environmental Awards recognize builders, developers, land planners, and engineer firms throughout the greater Washington region for their diligence in complying with a broad range of environmental regulations and for their commitment to preserve, protect, and enhance the environment.

Kettler Forlines Homes and 2012 PHS graduate, Alex Pike, who led the project that included a team of students, received the 2012 award in the category of

Partnership with an Environmental or Civic Organization in recognition of their work with the Global Ecology House Magnet Program at Poolesville High School and the American Chestnut Foundation (ACF) last spring.

Working with Kettler Forlines, Pike's project established a demonstration orchard of chestnut trees at Kettler Forlines's development, Brightwell Crossing, in Poolesville. American chestnut trees were virtually wiped out by blight in the early 1900s.

The ACF developed a new hybrid tree that resists the blight. ACF provided Pike with ten seedlings and technical advice. Pike and representatives of Kettler Forlines toured orchards around Maryland to learn the techniques and procedures for a successful orchard. A Global Ecology class participated in the soil sampling



Alex Pike (center) proudly holds an environmental award for his work in planting an American chestnut orchard at Brightwell Crossing. Joining him are PHS teacher Joyce Bailey and Tom Kettler of Kettler Forlines Homes.

and in running lab tests to determine soil types, pH levels, etc.

At the new orchard, signage identifies the orchard and the history of the American chestnut tree. The orchard is enhanced with a trail that allows visitors to

see the trees close up and monitor their progress. The orchard is a helpful step in restoring the American chestnut tree to its former glory.

School News

Massive Mosaic Mural Unveiled

By Rande Davis

The Poolesville High School Parent-Teacher-Student Association, through the leadership of its cultural arts coordinator Beth Poss, sponsored an ambitious and highly-unique art project last spring: a twenty-eight-by-six-foot mosaic mural that symbolically portrays the meaning of Poolesville High School to its students. The grand unveiling of the mural was part of this year's alumni day on December 22.

Remarkably, the school's entire 1200-student body along with school staff participated in the mural's creation. This was done by having the students place a mosaic piece of ceramic of their creation or

selection onto the mural.

Multimedia teaching artist-in-residence Carien Quiroga, who directed the project, working with student leaders, teachers, and parents, described the location as an amazing space for a mural. She described the level of student enthusiasm for the project as most extraordinary and evident in their excitement in participating in the seven-day project.

The faculty sponsor for the project was English teacher and Head of the Humanities House, Emily Sigman, who met with student leaders in planning the project last spring. Julia Howard, then a senior at PHS and now a freshman at Emory University, came up with the design for the mural while on an airplane coming home after a visit to a prospective college. "I like to doodle and, while on the plane ride home, started doodling ideas on a napkin."

Her design begins with

two uplifted hands at the base of the mural, releasing bubbles into the air. The two hands open toward the sky are made of metal circles engraved or embossed by students that symbolically express what PHS has meant to each of them.

The nurturing and loving hands symbolize the school's care for its students. The hands are releasing mosaic bubbles (the students) to their future. These "bubbles" are ceramic and glass discs constructed of colors representing each of the houses of educational study at Poolesville High School (Global Ecology, Humanities, Independent Study, and Science, Math, and Computer Science).

Returning alumna and last year's Student Government As-



PHS faculty sponsor Emily Sigman, mural design mural artist Carien Quiroga, with PHS student worked on a special mural.

sociation president, Kyria Danna, described the mural as a "great reflection of the closeness of the student body despite the school's diversity."

Local News

Parker Hamilton, Director of the Montgomery County Library System, Visits the Poolesville Library—Almost in Person!

By Ralph Hitchens

There was a scheduling mix-up at Library Central in Rockville, so what we had in Poolesville was Parker Hamilton's disembodied voice floating out of an iPhone dock. Still, it was an enjoyable discussion for those in attendance, including four girl scouts from Troop 4762 who had taken on a service project to promote renewed awareness of the library as one of the centerpieces of our community by creating flyers to distribute, encouraging people to patronize the Poolesville Library. The girl scouts were motivated by concerns, expressed by some people in the western county, that our library might be closed, but Ms. Hamilton, in expressing her appreciation for what Troop 4762 is doing, assured her listening audience that there are no plans to close the Poolesville Library.

Library usage does seem to have declined somewhat in recent years, which may come as no surprise given the prolifera-

tion of new technologies that offer both reading and general entertainment in-home and on personal video devices, but as Ms. Hamilton pointed out, the public library has not been standing still in the face of these new technologies. E-books may be checked out through the Maryland Library Consortium if you'd rather not pay Amazon or Barnes & Noble; the library maintains a robust collection of DVD videos, both recent and classic; the many computer terminals in each library offer full internet access; and the library has subscriptions to a multitude of information and entertainment resources; plus—it has books! There are not as many as it used to have, thanks to the fifty percent cut in the acquisitions budget over the last couple of years, in response to disproportionate cuts imposed by the County Council on the library budget, but Parker Hamilton told us that she believes the corner has been turned, and further cuts will not happen in the next fiscal year. Ms. Hamilton entertained more questions from the Library Advisory Committee and the local book group before signing off. It was an informative session, and I'm sure Ms. Parker regretted not being here in person, if for no other reason than not getting to enjoy the brownies, banana bread, and hot cider set out for those in attendance.



Girl scouts from Troop 4762 gathered at the Poolesville Library to hear Parker Hamilton, Director of the Montgomery County Department of Public Libraries. Back row, Ralph Hitchens, Chairman of the Poolesville Library Advisory Committee; Lois Neuman, member of the Montgomery County Library Board; and Chris Borawski, Manager of the Poolesville Library.

Local News

Man Exposes Self In Whalen Commons

This is a special alert to the Poolesville community. On Monday, December 31 at approximately 12:30 a.m., a man, whom the witness describes as in his early twenties and lean, was exposing himself in Whalen Commons near the bench in front of Town Hall. After

being spotted, the individual ran from the park area toward Tama II.

The description matched that of an individual whom the witness had seen peeping in a window of a house on Beall Street a few weeks ago. The Montgomery County Police have been notified of the incident.

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Youth Sports

Falcons End Long Gaithersburg Win Streak

By Jeff Stuart

The Gaithersburg High School girls' basketball team had not lost a regular season game since February 16, 2010 at Wootton. They finished 23-4 that year, losing again only in the state final. The Trojans went undefeated the next two seasons, claiming two state titles, and they won their 2012-2013 home opener against Blair on December 6, running their winning streak to fifty-three straight. The streak did not reach fifty-four. On December 8, at Poolesville, the Falcons defeated the Trojans, 32-30.

"It was a good win," said PHS Head Coach Fred Swick. "It was fun to beat a team that had had that much success over the past couple of years, but, to keep it in perspective, too, for us, it is

just one game. Gaithersburg was obviously not the same team that had won the fifty-two in a row going back to last year, but they are still going to be a very good team. I think we have a good team. We are still in the learning stages. I thought we could have done better on offense. We were 0-14 from the three-point line, and these are girls who normally hit those shots. I thought we did a real nice job defensively, holding them to thirty points. We are a work in progress, but we are going to get there. Gaithersburg is a real physical team, so we did a nice job competing with them on loose balls and rebounds. Rosie Barry had a great game with thirteen points, nine rebounds, and nine steals."

"It was a very close game," said Barry, a junior forward. "We pulled out the win by two points in the last thirteen seconds. It was good competition because they have been so good for the last few years, but we wanted to win for ourselves. Gaithersburg scored the first basket. They were ahead by a little at first. We were very close the whole time. The last few minutes or so we pulled out on top. Kelsey Carnahan hit a long

shot. Kelly Hughes hit a long one, too. Jocelyn Bodmer hit her foul shots, and we won the game."

"We fought really hard," said senior guard Hughes, who scored eight points. "Our defense was really good. We kind of struggled on the offense, but we were disciplined. I think losing to them by so much last year put a little fire under us. We really wanted to show them that we are not the same team as last year."

"We started off kind of slow," added senior guard Carnahan, "but once we went to our press, we just destroyed them. I think it was 15-8 against them at one point. We led 21-15 at the half. In the second half they came out in a different defense. They were tight on us, so we kind of got flustered. It was tied up at one point. Towards the end, we missed a lot of foul shots. I don't know how we did it, but we stuck it out in the end and won. It's a good win for us. It gives us some momentum. Our main goal is to win. I do want to win, obviously. I think it would be huge for us to beat Damascus this year. They are such a big time size-wise and we will be a big underdog. They are tops in the *Gazette* right now, so hopefully we can pull out a win against them."

"They are a really good team," said Jocelyn Bodmer of Gaithersburg. "We did have more turnovers than we should have, but we shut them off. We hustled. We were a little off our game, but we just played so hard, and we put it together at the end and put up a win. I knew we had a real good chance. I go into every game thinking we can win. Last year, we lost to them by a lot. We really did not want that to happen again. We wanted to come back stronger this year and beat them. I really don't think we have played our best game yet. Our first two games were definitely rough. I think we have a really good season ahead of us. This year we have so much depth. We pass so much more. It's all around. Everyone shoots. Everyone scores. It is not like one person scoring a lot of points. It is all of us together."

"We beat Whitman in the first game, 50-42, when Hughes scored fourteen of her nineteen points in the fourth quarter," said Coach Swick. "Carnahan and Barry also scored ten points each." The Falcons lost at undefeated Wootton (4-0) on December 14, 42-40. Wootton senior Sophie Ellis made a layup with 5.4 seconds remaining in the game to give the Patriots the victory. Bodmer took the lead this game, scoring sixteen points for PHS.

"I feel like we've got a very balanced team," Swick said. "Any of our five starters can score in double figures. I've seen a lot of good things. We are a very good passing team, and the starting five really play well together."

Junior guard Whitney Carmack rounds out the starting five. Seniors Tara Beaton at guard, Jamie Baker at forward, and Shannon Hemp at center provide experienced depth. Freshman Karyn Comfort and sophomores Ana DeSoto, and Anna Murgia will see playing time.



Things to Do

January 18

The House

Youth coffeeshouse and meeting place.

Snacks, socializing, and music featuring the Smoke n' Mangos. This is a Mutual Ministries event intended to offer local teens some entertainment at Poolesville places of worship. Admission is free.

St. Peter's Church Parish Hall, 20100 Fisher Avenue. 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

January 19

Barnesville Inaugural Ball

The Upper Montgomery County Bi-Partisan Inaugural Committee and Honorary Chairperson Elizabeth Tolbert request the pleasure of your company at the Barnesville Inaugural Ball honoring the President of the United States and Mrs. Obama, and the Vice President of the United States and Mrs. Biden.

Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Black tie optional. Admission \$35 per person.

7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. St. Mary's Pavilion, Barnesville.

Please call 301-972-7636 at your earliest opportunity for reservation details, as the RSVP date is imminent.

January 22

Commissioners' Meeting

Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

January 24

Pre-School Storytime

Poolesville Library. Stories, music, finger play. 10:30 a.m.

Local News

Candlelight Vigil as Tribute To Newtown Families

By Rande Davis

With young children at home and living in Poolesville, Heather Soskin identified with the families of Newtown, Connecticut and wanted to answer the national call for a special vigil of spiritual support for those families scheduled on December 21.

Heather posted a call out on Facebook for others who felt the same way to join together on the Whalen Commons stage in Poolesville in the evening to participate in a short, candlelight vigil on the one-week anniversary of the horrific tragedy. Among those responding to Heather's call for support was Rev. Tom Purdy of St. Peter's Parish in Poolesville. A plan began to take shape.

Heather contacted a friend who had previously lived in Newtown and personally knew many of the families there and understood the character of the residents well. The friend was touched by those in our area wanting to

show spiritual kinship with those in Newtown and sent a thank you letter that described the kindness, generosity, and warmth of those living in Newtown, a town so much like Poolesville.

As the time approached for the event, the wind reached a strong bluster, and the temperature dropped precipitously. The plan for all to hold a lit candle had to be adjusted, and the candles were lined up against the back wall of the stage. By using plastic cups donated by McDonald's, the candles were covered and shone brightly throughout

the short ceremony. Despite the blistering cold, over three dozen people braved the frigid night air and huddled together as Heather read the letter from her friend, and spoke of her heartfelt ache for the victims of madness. Rev. Purdy offered a prayer of remembrance, of hope, and of promise, and a half dozen young people led the gathering in singing "Silent Night."

As the festivities came to a close, the cold wind and heartache of participants subsided just a bit by this small but meaningful step toward healing.



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19564 Fisher Ave.-Summerhill	\$185,000	3	2.5	\$1,780	1	None	None	6
17514 Kohlhoss Rd.-Wesmond	\$198,000	3	2.5	\$0	0	None	Finished	33
19014 Wootton Ave.-Seneca Chase	\$443,000	5	3.5	\$0	1	2 Car	Finished	208
19924 Spurrier Ave.-Westerly	\$485,000	4	3.5	\$0	1	2 Car	Finished	90
17028 Hersperger Ln.-Sumner Ridge	\$515,000	5	3.5	\$5,000	1	2 Car	Finished	68
19503 Conlon Ct.-Hunters Run	\$537,000	4	2/2	\$10,000	1	2 Car	Finished	43

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Civic Organizations



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American Legion Poolesville Post 247 on Veterans Day



The Historic Medley District



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Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce



The Sugarloaf Citizens' Association



The Rural Republican Women's Club hosted a symposium on the Maryland Dream Act.



Relay for Life

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Festivals

Upcounty Activities: Spring Fest, PES Carnival, Concerts, Farmers' Markets, Chicken Dinners, Fox Hunts, and the County Agricultural Fair



Poolesville Day



Top News Stories



Lauren and Gail Lee teamed for the network television reality show *The Biggest Loser*.



Fred Swick and Gina Grubb were two of the first inductees into the newly established PHS Sports Hall of Fame.



Valaree Dickerson, Brice Halbrook and Jerry Klobukowski were elected. Jim Brown was voted president and Eddie Kuhlman ended fourteen years of public service.



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**"Michael Poe" Continued
From Page 1.**

and lecterns for the Outdoor Mass officiated by Pope Benedict XVI in 2008 when His Holiness visited America. The family noted in a public statement that knowing that the casket was made through his loving hands gave them much comfort and peace. For the family, it became more of a cradle than a casket.

At the funeral, mourners filled the sanctuary, the balcony, and even lined the walls around the church. To accommodate the overflow of people in the church, a live video feed was available in the church's pavilion where more than another 150 people were in attendance.

Father Kevin O'Reilly pointed out that the selected scripture readings were chosen for their message of joy, friendship, and hope as being examples of the faithful spirit that reflects Michael and the Poe family. He referred to Michael's love of life, kind spirit, and his loving smile as very special gifts, gifts that were recognized over and over again by others at the funeral and reception when speaking of him.

"He was such a good guy, a great guy" was the most oft description offered by those who knew him.

A gathering of close friends from PHS joined Colin Monday and Matthew Knauss as the two shared their thoughts and remembrances of Michael. Matthew recalled a number of stories that demonstrated Michael's good humor and also expressed a deep appreciation of those who had supported the family in searching for the young man during the early hours of the crisis. The scholar-athlete, who played varsity golf and basketball at PHS, was laid to rest at St. Mary's Cemetery.

The loss of life of someone so young, so kind, and so promising is always especially painful. Even for those who did not know the young man or the Poes, the shared sense of loss in the community was palpable. Michael's friend Matthew Knauss, in his eulogy, sought to comfort funeral attendees in expressing his gratitude for having had Michael as a close friend by quoting an observation made by General George Patton: "It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived."



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**"Town of Poolesville"
Continued From Page 5.**

abnormal pressure on town crews whereby they often end up working through the night only to have to report to work the next day with little or no sleep. The meeting ended with presentations by Planning Commission president George Coakley and Parks and Streets Board chair Doug McKenney. McKenney reported that the town has ten parks of one acre or more, totaling fifty-six acres. New playground equipment has been installed at Dillingham, Stevens, and Perkins Parks (Stoney Springs subdivision), a new batting cage was built as an Eagle Scout project by Robert Winning, and there was extended use of parkland by outside organizations.

School News

PHS Student Research Conference Simply Astounding

By Rande Davis

The Science, Math, and Computer Science House (SMCS) at Poolesville High School held a two-day research convention that presented the results of internship research done by fifty-six of its students last summer.

The students, through internships with various companies, colleges, and government institutes, participated in a wide variety of scientific research projects. Each student

was given fifteen minutes to present his/her work and to take questions from attendees about his/her project.

SMCS, as an educational course of study, strives to empower its students to build an extraordinary foundation in all subject areas, to better understand their interrelationships, and to participate in unique research opportunities. The presiding faculty are: Head of SCMS House Mark Curran, Erin Binns, Mark Estep, Kevin Lee, Dr. Patricia Miller, and Dr. Teresa Patralli-Mallow.

Senior Chris Comfort exemplifies the level of difficulty and quality of projects presented by the students. His internship was with Emergent Biosolutions of Rockville, a global specialty pharmaceutical company specializing in products to healthcare providers and governments to address medical needs and emerging health threats. Chris's internship project sought to answer the question: Does addition of an immunostimulatory oligode-

oxynucleotide adjuvant to an anthrax vaccine cause background immune response?

His fellow presenter, Mohammad Mahad Ahmad, studied a question in muscular dystrophy research, wanting to know if "mutations in S100A211 alter cell response to membrane injury."

While the scope of these studies is beyond this writer's ability to fully explain in detail, suffice it to understand that both projects are representative of the high level of accelerated study available to PHS students in the SCMS program. This program of study, which attracts students from throughout the county, as with all magnet programs at the school, is open to all students at the high school who currently live in Poolesville.



PHS senior Chris Comfort.

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**“Andy Johnson”
Continued From Page 1.**

is not a secret and, to some extent, is another character in the story.

Many readers probably know the general geographical area of Forest Glen in Silver Spring. Many may also know about the U.S. Army installation, an annex of Walter Reed Hospital. For those with more in-depth knowledge of the area, the existence of the National Park Seminary may not come as a surprise. For Andy Johnson, walking along Rock Creek through the woods of Forest Glen as a teenager in the 1970s and coming upon Greek-like statues and buildings of varying architecture from a Dutch windmill to a Spanish-style house to an Oriental pagoda, the experience “was jaw-dropping,” he says. “My first question was: What’s this?”

This began as a hotel in the late 1880s. The developers hoped that Washingtonians, attempting to escape the heat, would flock to this new inn in the cool elevation of Forest Glen. Unfortunately, most people bypassed the train stop along the B&O Railway line and went further west. The inn added heat for year-round comfort and casinos but failed regardless. Enter the select, preparatory school for women, National Park Seminary,

in the late 1890s. The most famous and wealthiest families of the day sent their daughters there as it was a prestigious finishing school as well as a preparatory school. During the Great Depression, National Park Seminary became National Park College, and young women were prepared for the world of work. In 1942, the U.S. government took over the property for the war effort, a hospital annex where wounded soldiers recuperated and rehabilitated.

The heyday of National Park Seminary, the 1920s, provides a perfect timeframe for Andy’s setting. In 1921, the end of the Great War had occurred three years prior, as well as the Spanish Influenza. The U.S. was undergoing an economic boom accompanied by an increase in technology, the arts, and there’s the added element of the Suffrage Movement—the nascent seeds of feminism and female empowerment, says Andy. In this setting, Andy stirs in four young women, seniors at the seminary, who are all affected by the Incident. He “puts them in conflict with that which might threaten their existence,” he explains. “Four people see the same things and react differently to what they saw.”

Andy started imagining the story some years ago but didn’t put

it down on paper until he recently retired from the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee. In the Senate, he had done plenty of writing, but that was work. “It was liberating writing in the fictional realm,” he says. He spent a lot of time on research of the school and the area, he has original copies of some of the school manuals from the 1920s (found on eBay, of course), he visited the school, and he closely studied the language of the day and how students spent their days at the seminary (elocution, piano, Latin, Greek, for example). “I tried to avoid words not in use yet” to accurately portray how people spoke.

The writing of *Incident at Forest Glen* was very much a solitary project for Andy. While his two children, Haley and Chris, attended school, he would write for five hours. His wife, Carrie, read it, liked it, but not until completion. “I wanted them to read the finished project,” he says. “The writing process can be time consuming but ultimately satisfying.”

Andy has also been pleasantly surprised by the connections he has made since publication. Through two or three degrees of separation, someone will have a link to the seminary. A former classmate (Wheaton High School) contacted him recently. After graduating from college, she had worked at the Walter Reed Annex. When she learned from a mutual friend that he had written about the seminary, she had to contact him. She

wrote, “I have such vivid and fond memories of working at the Walter Reed Annex.”

Locally, Caroline Taylor of the Montgomery County Alliance was also taken back in time. “I was moved by the photograph chosen for the cover,” she says. She used to hike through the property in her youth and had always been struck by the expression of grief on the face of the statue depicted. “For many of us in the area, I think it’s going to be a very interesting read,” she adds. “What a better feel-good story than local guy trying to make good on writing.”

National Park Seminary was—and still is—famous for its statuary and unusual mélange of architectural styles. Each chapter in the novel is named after a statue on the property and opens with an original quote from the school manual. As the property began to fall into disrepair, Save Our Seminary was founded in the late 1980s to combat the decay. Tours and events are scheduled throughout the year.

Andy Johnson grew up in Rockville and has lived in Poolesville for the past twenty years. He served as Poolesville commissioner from 1996 to 2004.

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