

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

January 27, 2017 • Volume XII, Number 19

New Plan Offered for the Willshire Community

By Rande Davis



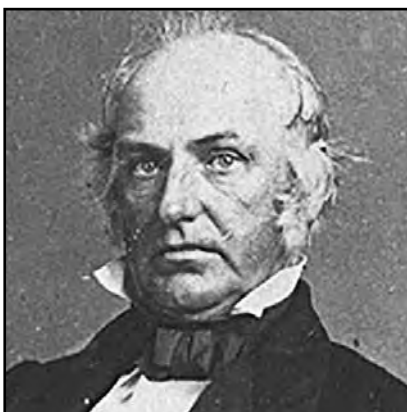
Jerry Klobukowski and Barbara Davidson demonstrated considerable dancing prowess during the Barnesville Inaugural Ball. More pictures are in Family Album on page 2.



Former PHS athlete Andre Butler received special recognition. Read the details in Tidbits on page 7.



The Falcons are heading into another winning season. See Youth Sports on page 9.



This best friend of Abe Lincoln has a unique connection to Poolesville. See Mystery History on page 10.

On January 18, Miller and Smith, the developers of the proposed Willshire Community on the fourteen-acre site adjacent to the Poolesville Town Hall, returned to the Planning Commission (PC) with a revised plan of seventy-four homes, down from the original ninety-five homes that was first publicly released last April. The new plan is a result of input from the builder's team meeting with the PC last fall, representing the project to the community at large at the Poolesville Baptist Church and meeting with various civic groups in the community.

After their last meeting, the planning commissioners compiled a list of twenty-four recommendations, including: lowering the density, and adding an independent senior living component and more parkland. Additionally, they recommended that townhomes be limited to interior, less-visible lots, height not to exceed thirty-five feet, and that a homeowners' association (HOA) be established to maintain the mutually-owned property within the community.

Regarding parkland, the PC reminded the builder that ten percent of the

property must be reserved for usable recreational park space. Walking paths from town hall to the John Poole House and from Glass Way to Fyfe Road were recommended to be included. Specific issues of park space will become the responsibility of the parks board at a later date.

It was recommended that all homes on Fisher Avenue and Fyffe Road face the roadway and that roadways, alleyways, and turning radii accommodate fire department equipment. The plan will obscure the development from public view with a tree-lined periphery on the west and north sides of the community with single family homes facing forward on the eastern and southern (Fisher Avenue) sides.

The newest proposal allows for forty-five single-family homes and twenty-nine townhomes. The previous ordinance (pre-village overlay) would have allowed up to forty-five homes and/or commercial use. Of the twenty-four points raised by the PC, Miller and Smith reports that they can adhere to twenty, three have been modified, with one asking for a variance. The variance was a request that they be allowed to



The new plan for Willshire features 74 homes, a reduction of 22%.

build detached garages that share one wall to provide more storage space for the homeowners. They have asked for a modification in parkland to five percent of the property by augmenting the parks in lieu of the ten percent specification. The builders did not agree to a suggestion that townhomes not be more than two stories, stating that a full-sized living space on the

Continued on page 11

13th Barnesville Inaugural Ball: Spirit of Community Unity

By Rande Davis

Despite a rancorous campaign season on both sides of the political spectrum, local voters of all stripes came together to celebrate their mutual pride in the American constitutional process and the remarkable peaceful transfer of power at the Thirteenth Barnesville Bipartisan Inaugural Ball on January 20.

It was during the 1968 presidential campaign that St. Mary's Father George Reid, a robust republican, and Barnesville's mayor, Lib Tolbert, a dynamic democrat, who shared a deep and abiding friendship despite their differing political proclivities, conceived the notion of organizing an inaugural ball for the community no matter who won the election.

Continued on page 13.



A portion of those in attendance listening to celebratory toasts.

Family Album



Jack Shea, Steve Seeger with wife Beth Daly, and William Price.



Inaugural Ball organizing committee: William Price, Cherry Barr, Elizabeth Hillard, Barbara Davidson, Frank Jamison, and Sharon Bauer.



Roger Brenholtz, Gary Burdette, Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz, and Chip Dunn.



Ray and Reva Hoewing with former Republican state senator Jean Roesser and her daughter Mary Roesser.



For the first time ever, Rande Davis with Laura and John Clayton with Vickki appear together in the Monocle by attending the Ball.



Honorary Ball chairperson Audrey Prichard was surprised with roses from her husband Walter for their 66th wedding anniversary.



Lori Thomas, Arden Jamison, Octavia Jamison, and Joan Gallo.



Brian Jamison and the Eclectic J-Men Band performed at the Inaugural Ball.



Jim Brown and Gabi, Angelo Bizarro with Suzette, Patsy Dillingham, and Joyce Brown.



Bill and Sally Lermond, Hammet Hough, George and Cora Coakley.

Town Government

Commissioners Vote to End Skating Rink Project

By Link Hoewing

After several months of intense study and negotiations with the county government, the commissioners voted unanimously to end further work on the proposed artificial skating rink.

The vote came after the county suddenly decided to back off from further discussion about a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding how it would work with the town on the project. As recently as the last commission meeting, the county had been working with the town on an MOU that would establish how the various parties who had indicated interest in the project would work together. The county had suggested that it would not only contribute up to \$140,000 to the project but would also work with the town in identifying contractors who build artificial ice rinks. The town, under this scenario, would support ongoing maintenance and do the site work for the project. The town's overall financial contributions to the project were not expected to exceed approximately \$20,000 with additional monies to come from the Washington Capitals and a state bond.

Town Manager Wade Yost explained that he had been called just a day before the commission meeting, and the county's Department of Parks and Recreation said an MOU was not needed because it would simply provide a lump sum grant to the town for \$140,000 that it could use for the project as it deemed best; however, it was not clear that the money was truly immediately available because it may have required action by the County Council as part of its new fiscal year budget.

In discussing the county's action, Commissioner Chuck Stump remarked that the project had always had a large number of unresolved variables. He said that the Parks Board had found that "almost no other towns" it surveyed had built year-round rinks or had facilities that were not monitored by staff. The idea had seemed good at the time that it was proposed, in part because of potential substantial support from the county.

Parks and Streets chair Doug McKenney was asked to offer his views. He said he could not speak for the entire board but pointed out that the project's focus had changed a great deal over time. Initially, it appeared the idea was simply to build a small artificial rink for use during the winter or around the time of the Holiday Lighting Ceremony. Then, the project had become much larger in scope including consideration of both larger rinks (up to 9000 square feet in size) and rinks that were made of real ice. He said the Parks Board did find, in its review, that many towns had struggled to make the rinks successful.

McKenney added that the commissioners seemed to want to move ahead with a proposal if a viable approach could be identified. In this light, the board had attempted to come up with a project proposal that would merit commission approval. Given the county's apparent unwillingness to act as a true supporting partner in the project, in McKenney's view, the case for the rink was far less strong. At one time, the county had suggested that it might build a number of artificial rinks around the county once Poolesville had built its rink. It was not clear whether the county any longer has such a desire.

Commissioner Martin said that the idea seemed like a "neat one" initially but without monitoring by town staff on a continuous basis, it did not appear to be viable. Commissioner Dickerson said that she was "really torn" on the idea, but it has become clear that the project has a number of issues, including ongoing maintenance.

The commissioners voted unanimously to end further work on the project.

Earlier in the evening, the commissioners heard a proposal for a "rain garden" to be built on a corner of Dillingham Park down the hill from the existing dog park. The proposal is the senior project of two Poolesville High School Global Ecology students, Delaney Cecco and Carmela Wasilik. The two students said that rain gardens, consisting of extensive mulch and plant beds designed to absorb rainwater runoff, can help the town recharge its aquifers. They also pointed out that the proposed location for the park would help absorb runoff from the dog park.

The two students said they had applied for grants from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Piedmont Foundation. They included a design for the park

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Monday - Friday Mass & Rosary at 9 am

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Commentary

Hot Buttons

By John Clayton

My utmost thanks and gratitude go out to the Upper Montgomery County Bi-Partisan Inaugural Committee for its Barnesville Inaugural Ball at St. Mary's Pavilion, which my wife and I were honored to attend. Special kudos go to Honorary Chairperson Audrey Prichard, and to Barbara Davidson and Frank Jamison, who delivered eloquent addresses and toasts to the new president, representing the Republican and Democratic perspectives, respectively. The event is to honor the new president and vice president, a gesture I firmly believe in, even if I was chauffeuring protest marchers downtown the very next day. What a difference a day makes.

I did not plan to write about our new president again, but he keeps hitting my hot buttons. Following all the excitement of last weekend, I was relieved that on his first weekday in office he started signing executive orders and doing some of the things he promised when he took the job. Yes, enough already; just get on with it. This is a little selfish of me; I just wanted to be freed of the compulsion to write another Trump column. It's an obsession. I'm tired of writing columns in my head all day long. I have other things I need to be thinking about, so please stick to running the country and stop pushing that hot button that makes me think I have to say something.

Elections have consequences—things are going to happen—rightly or wrongly depending on one's point of view. It is not my calling to sift over the rights and wrongs of public policy. Many others do it so much better, they do it for a living, and God knows they even interact with some of the people they write about. I may drift into policy on some things, and will almost certainly do so on the topic of healthcare at some point, but I will have the courtesy to wait for the ruling party to actually come up with a cohesive plan, if indeed it can. This is another hot button for me. Obamacare was a stab at universal healthcare, and I am a firm believer in universal healthcare, as is President Trump, who has extolled "insurance for everybody." The Republicans have no interest in universal healthcare; this is not what they

want to pursue. "Access" to healthcare or health insurance is something else entirely, and we will all wait impatiently to hear just what that really is. Then, perhaps, I will feel compelled to offer a few thoughts, but that particular hot button can wait.

In the meantime, the hottest button of all burns brightly. The lying thing really drives me crazy, and it scares me. It scares me that Trump and his minions think it doesn't matter what they say if they can spin it, dance around it, change the subject, blame it on the media, and so on ad nauseum. If you say something often enough it will become true. We will get numb to this, and it will weaken our spirits. This is not healthy.

I listened to presidential assistant Kellyanne Conway on three of the Sunday talk shows discuss her boss's and the press secretary's whoppers about the size of the crowd on inauguration day, versus crowds at other inaugurations and the Saturday protests. She is clearly as smart, forceful, and articulate as one can be. She was asked in various ways, Why is the administration making such a big deal of crowd size with so many other important issues to discuss, and why are they telling obvious lies? After deflections and changes of topic, her answer always came back to: Why are you asking about such a trivial topic when there are so many other important topics to discuss? It was pretty amazing, considering that Trump brought up the subject first. It is the role of the press, perhaps their most critical role, to question untruths. The idea that challenging a lie reveals bias in the questioner disturbed me at the time.

A few days later, *Wall Street Journal* columnist Brett Stephens, who writes under the caption "Global View," demonstrated just how disturbing this is. His column of January 24, "Trump: The Reader's Guide," referenced Conway's Meet the Press interview with Chuck Todd, featuring her infamous "alternative facts" defense. Stephens pulled a quote from Hannah Ardent, in her book *Origins of Totalitarianism*, which reads, "One of the great advantages of the totalitarian elites of the twenties and thirties was to turn any statement of fact into a question of motive."

That did lend some clarity to what is happening in this beautiful country right now. I'm hoping things will settle down somewhat, and for more important reasons than my own peace of mind, not that I couldn't use some.

Rande(m) Thoughts

My Bequest to You

By Rande Davis

I have been a positive thinker by choice most of my life. The fact is there is no other way to be a positive thinker since it won't happen by accident and, quite frankly, it takes a lot of work. Those close to me know how much of a disciple of the power of positive thinking I have tried to be throughout my life. Friends and family are aware of the symbol of my publisher's consultant company, RSD Marketing, which is a triangle holding the positive sign above the negative, a symbol connoting the importance of being positive. I created it when I was still in my twenties and made it into a lapel pin for it to be a constant, daily reminder that being positive was essential to my happiness and success. Unfortunately, it seems that with the daily wearing of a sport jacket now on the outs, so too is the wearing of the lapel pin.

I have always believed if there was only one thing I could wish for or bequeath to my children and grandchildren, a magic-wand kind of thing, it would simply be blessing them with a perpetual positive attitude. With it, they can do whatever their hearts

desire; without it, life's tribulations will surely crush them in anxiety, fear, and frustration. Put another way, there is nothing more powerful than a grateful heart. Grateful hearts never lose.

The problem is that even as a life-long apostle of Norman Vincent Peale (go ahead millennials, Google him), I find that staying positive takes work every day. It's not easy. As I am growing older, I sometimes sense the curmudgeon coming out of me, and images of a grumpy old man are the vision on the ceiling at night that frightens me. Maybe you have seen him in me at times yourself. I have seen him show up in aches, pains, needless anxiety, curtness toward others, and even in my waistline—not a pretty sight.

I think 2016 had a rather unique way of bringing out the negative. A year of that has had its toll, not just on us as individuals, but on us as a people. I don't know about you, but I am so very weary of being weary, and gripping about it has afforded no relief—so here is my wish for you as we start 2017: I bequeath a positive attitude upon you, one that will lead you back home to where you are most happy, to your family, to your friends, and a place in which peaceful minds can be nurtured. I wish you a life of hope to

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editor@monocacymonocle.com

Local News

Upcounty Prevention Network Moves Forward with Grant Application

By Susan Petro

On January 12, 2017, members of the Upcounty Prevention Network (UPN) met at Poolesville's Town Hall to discuss updates since their previous meeting and to plan their next steps. Previously, the network distributed an informational survey to which approximately fifty youth responded. The results of the survey, even though from a relatively-small sample size, indicated that the Poolesville community would benefit from intervention programs and services aimed at local youth. The mission of UPN is to prevent the expansion of the use of illegal drugs or other forms of substance abuse within the community by youth.

To best serve the community, UPN is in the process of applying for a grant from SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration). In order to qualify for the grant, UPN would need to find matching funds from the community. If successful, the funds could be used for a variety of programs and services with the primary goals of reaching out to our local youth to lower instances of drug or substance abuse. Specific goals include obtaining measurable objectives to engage the community and to reduce usage.

The group discussed many possible uses for the grant money, if received, including the creation of a youth group to be located at an area church since the town is one of the few local communities without a youth center. Tutoring or mentoring programs were also discussed. Some of the grant money may be used to purchase drug prevention programs or set aside to hire outside professionals with experience in interventional and outreach services for youth.

During the meeting, the group also discussed how to best reach members of our youth, whether it be through in-school educational programs or after-school activities. Members of the group plan to meet with representatives from the schools, the PTA, and local area churches to determine where their outreach goals might be most effective.

The Upcounty Prevention Network is applying for a nonprofit 501(c)(3) status.

As there is only a limited number of grants available and competition may be considerable, the group is focusing on drafting a complete, comprehensive, and focused application that describes exactly how the funds will be used for their intended purpose. Each grant has very specific criteria that must be met in order to be considered. The application must show how the moneys spent will impact the targeted group.

The relatively-small sample size of survey responses makes it difficult for the committee to determine whether the community's youth has a significant drug or substance abuse problem; however, since the high school draws students from all over Montgomery County, members discussed whether to seek countywide data to determine and compare what the local needs may be.

Although the team recognizes that the challenges are significant as they move forward in their quest to develop a multi-faceted program for Poolesville area youth, they recognize the significant importance of reaching our youth before they fall into the often-deadly trap of drug and substance abuse. The team also understands that drug abuse is not limited to just low-income or at-risk communities. Drugs have entered the lives of all socio-economic levels of society. With the efforts of the UPN group, the goals to help youth make the right choices before deciding to use drugs or illegal substances could become a reality.

Stay tuned as the group progresses with its goals and plans. Input and volunteers from the community are welcome. To learn more about the Upcounty Prevention Network, please contact Charlotte Boucher at charlotte.w.boucher@gmail.com.

Continued from page 4.

Rande(m) Thoughts

which you grasp and cling—and not hope given to you by others. Take ownership of hope by proclaiming it for yourself through a positive attitude, so that, if nothing else, it makes you great again.

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Business Briefs

Who Pays the Bill?

When the electrical charging stations were installed at Whalen Commons and Poolesville Hardware, it was done to make Poolesville a welcoming and convenient town to visit by owners of electrical cars. There was no cost to the town or residents, but the question remained: Who pays the electrical bill? Joining the town government, a number of concerned businesses stepped forward to fill the bill, including: Jim Brown Turning Point Realty, Nobis Engineering (John Strong, town consulting engineer), Kettler Forlines Homes (Tom Kettler), and Poolesville Family Practice (Dr. Amar Duggirala).

Poolesville Barbershop Opens with Modern Look

Congratulations to Gini Stave and the Odd Fellows on the grand reopening of her shop on January 21. The location has a long and sometimes tragic history with its devastation in the 1953 fire. It is great to see it now so beautifully renovated with an entirely modern look, although the knotty pine will be missed nostalgically by some.

Getting Ready to get in Shape

Anytime Fitness, the new physical fitness facility in the old Selby's Market, is making strong progress on its preparations and reports being on schedule to open in about a month. Excuses for remaining overweight or out-of-shape are quickly losing steam.

The PACC: Dues and News

The Poolesville Chamber of Commerce has a new website up and operating—and just in time for its annual dues drive. The increase in dues to \$95 will be offset by some of its standard events being offered free down the road. The annual meeting on February 9 and the Upper Montgomery Fire Department in Beallsville will be free to one person from each member of PACC, and guests are just \$20. A networking hour starts at 6:30 p.m.; appetizers, beer, and wine will be offered. The annual meeting will honor BOD members leaving the Board and will welcome their replacements.

Members and guest businesses are welcome to the PACC's monthly Networking Breakfast on February 2 at 8:30 a.m. at the Poolesville Town Hall for helpful and informative presentations, and a time to share conversation, coffee, and refreshments with fellow members.



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Tidbits

Leggett Seeks to Name Library for Maggie Nightingale

Executive Isiah Leggett has proposed renaming the Poolesville Library to the Maggie Nightingale Library. Maggie passed away on November 11 and was highly regarded as "the voice of the library." A tireless and effective advocate for the county's building of the library, expanding its hours, and fostering awareness with the general public to all of its needs, she was also a key leader with the Friends of Poolesville Library for decades.

The public is invited to submit comments on this proposal to Michael Subin, Office of the County Executive, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850 or via e-mail to michael.subin@montgomerycountymd.gov. Comments must be received by Tuesday, January 31, 2017.

Poolesville's Butler Recognized

West Virginia's Bethany College senior Andre Butler (Poolesville High School graduate) was named Track Athlete of the Week by the Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) on January 16. Butler took second place in the 200-meter dash and the 400-meter dash at the

Otterbein Invitational on January 14. In the 200, he finished with a time of 23.07 seconds, while crossing the tape in the 400 at 51.50 seconds.

Embrey's Welcome New Family Member

Poolesville's Adrienne and Danny Embrey welcomed Penelope Grace Embrey to the family on January 8 at 2:32 p.m. at Shady Grove Hospital. The young lady weighed 5 lbs., 13 oz. and was 18.85 inches long. Both parents are graduates of Poolesville High School.



Penelope Grace Embrey.

Klobukowski Offers Testimony to BOE

Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski submitted testimony to the Montgomery County Public School's Board of Education on January 11. He asked the members of the BOE to provide funding for more robust course offerings at John Poole Middle School, restoration of the position of second assistant principal and the restoration of a full time attendance secretary at Monocacy Elementary school.

Scouts Visit

Local cub scouts visited the Historic Medley District's two historical sites for a presentation by John Poole, Jr., the builder of the 1793 trading post and helper Rande Davis, about the history of Poolesville. After learning about family life and the commercial needs of those who settled during the first part of the century (1800s, that is), they then received a lesson on life in Poolesville during the Civil War and the unique history of Poolesville's first

Continued on page 11.

Have something you'd like to share in Tidbits? Then let us know! Send it along to editor@monocacymonocle.com

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Things To Do

Poolesville Area Senior Center

17750 West Willard Road
Every Monday and Friday, Pickle Ball at 9:30 a.m.
Every Wednesday: Tai chi at 10:30 a.m.; Zumba Gold at 1:00 p.m.

January 27

PHS Varsity Home Sports
Basketball, Watkins Mill, boys at 5:30 p.m., girls at 7:15 p.m.

January 28

PHS Varsity Sports
Swim Team, BCC at Kennedy Shriver Swim Club, 9:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

January 31

PHS Varsity Home Sports
Basketball, Damascus, boys at 3:45 p.m., girls at 7:15 p.m.

February 1

Free Community Dinner
Menu includes chicken and dumpplings, tossed salad, and homemade dessert. To request meal delivery, a ride, or more information, contact Lori Kocur at 204-994-8011. *Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church.* 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

PHS Varsity Home Sports
Wrestling, Magruder, 6:15 p.m.

February 2

Library Literacy Program
Help your children grow by developing early literacy skills. Join us for stories, songs, activities, and a craft. For babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. *Poolesville Library.* 10:30 a.m.

February 3, 4, and 5

The Blue Hearth Market Weekend
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February 4

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Dinner and Music
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February 6

Town Commissioners' Meeting
Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

February 7

PHS Varsity Home Sports
Basketball, Seneca Valley, boys at 5:30 p.m., girls at 7:15 p.m.

February 10

UMCVFD Bingo
Featuring cash and gift cards. Enjoy an evening of fun and help your local fire department. Bring a friend. 20 games, specials, door prizes, and raffles. Refreshments available, no outside food or beverages. Doors Open: 5:30 p.m.; Games Begin: 7:00 p.m.

February 10

PHS Varsity Home Sports
Basketball, Richard Montgomery, boys at 5:30 p.m., girls at 7:15 p.m.

February 11

Wine and Chocolates Dinner Dance
Sponsored by the Poolesville Area Senior Center. Catering by Bassett's Restaurant. Cash bar (must be 21 or over to attend). \$55.00 per person, \$100.00 per couple. Live and Silent Auctions. *St. Peter's Church.* 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Have an event you'd like to list here?
Email: editor@monocacymonocle.com

Proposal to Rename the Poolesville Library to Maggie Nightingale Library

Pursuant to Administrative Procedure 5-19 regarding Naming of County Facilities, Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett is proposing to rename the Poolesville Library to Maggie Nightingale Library. The public is invited to submit comments on this proposal to Michael Subin, Office of the County Executive, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850 or via e-mail to michael.subin@montgomerycountymd.gov. Comments must be received by Tuesday, January 31, 2017.

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Youth Sports

PHS Girls' Basketball Team Has Ten Wins — But Two Got Away

By Jeff Stuart

The Poolesville girls' basketball team won twenty games last year and is likely to post twenty wins again this year, but it's the two games that got away that get much of the emphasis. They know they have room to grow.

"I really liked how we played in our Holiday Tournament in Boonsboro," said 6'1" junior center forward Julia Hobbs. "They were great games for me personally. As a team I liked our game against Quince Orchard. Our offense didn't do too much, but we played really well defensively. We knew that QO was going to be a good team. We executed well and I liked that. Everyone got a chance to show their stuff on the court...We don't have as many seniors as last year. We are more evenly-balanced between grades. Everyone gets along. It is a great atmosphere. I am more of a defensive player, but I am trying to score more points and get more movement offensively. I am

looking forward to our rematch against Damascus...I think it is pay-back time. I think that we can do it. I think that we can deliver."

Julia scored a season-high ten points against host Boonsboro. The girls play Damascus at home on January 31 at 7:00 p.m. Senior Night is February 7 against Seneca Valley.

"My best game was against James Wood because I had a career-high twenty-seven points," said 6'3" center Erin Green. "I just played really well in the first half offensively and defensively, and overall the team did a good job. I think we are doing our best defensively; it is really improving. We are holding all these teams to twenty or thirty points. We are scoring a lot more than that. We didn't let Quince Orchard score at all during the first half and held them to fourteen points overall. They were supposed to be a really good team. I knew a couple of the girls because I played AAU with them.

"I am looking forward to getting revenge on Damascus. I really want to win that game. I think we should have beaten them easily. We need to get out on their three-point shooters because they really killed us on three-point shots, so we need to close out on them and get a hand up when they are trying to shoot.

"I think that the fans should come and support us equally and not just come for the boys' games. We are doing as good a job as they are, and we think they should come out and support us.

"As a team, our strength is that we have a really strong bond. A lot of us have played together over the summer, and we have been able to bring the other girls into that. We move the ball around well. We have a lot of assists."

Erin, who leads the team in scoring, scored twenty points at Damascus. PHS beat QO, 49-14, on January 12 at home. The Falcons led, 26-0, at the half.

"I think our Boonsboro game was a great game," said senior guard Kenydi Cross. "We worked great as a team. We won the championship game as well, beating James Wood. We had great teamwork and played great defense. I think they were my best games as well. I am looking forward to the Damascus game. I think we can do a better job of defending them, especially their three-point shooters.

"It was a close game, and it's pay-back time. I would like a big crowd for that game. It is gonna be a home game."

"I think we have done well," said Coach Fred Swick who has taken over the reins with Jamie Jamison on maternity leave. Jamie had a baby



Seniors: Hailey Khalil, Sammie Mullikin, and Kenydi Cross.

girl over the holiday. "The biggest disappointments are obviously the two games that we lost, but we didn't play very well in either game. They gave us some opportunities. We didn't take advantage of them, but give the other teams credit, too. They were the two of the best teams we have played this year, Paint Branch and Damascus. Highlight-wise, the Holiday Tournament was a good two-game stretch for

Continued on page 17.



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Mystery History

Abe Lincoln and Poolesville: Surprising Connections

By Rande Davis

Did you know that Poolesville has historically-special connections to President Abraham Lincoln? I think the word Poolesville not only crossed his mind often but spilled from his lips in ways very painful and, at other times, lightheartedly, sometimes leaving a smile on his face.

In this issue, we begin a series of Mystery Histories that give life to the town's sesquicentennial (150-year anniversary) by telling a tale connecting ol' Abe with Poolesville. Our next issue does the same but in a way that will truly warm your heart, make you proud to be from Poolesville, and give you just one more reason to appreciate Lincoln's beloved heart and profound wisdom that were the pathway to his greatness.

We begin:

Abe Lincoln: Baker's Man

It was in the evening of October 21, 1861 when President Lincoln, perhaps as he prepared to retire for the day, anticipating another restless night, stoically read the telegram that was like a thunderbolt to his heart.

Much of the war news came to Washington via a telegraph from Poolesville. At times, the president was so anxious to get news of the war that he couldn't remain at the White House and would leave to go to the telegraph office to personally be there when it arrived. It's not a stretch to imagine him asking daily, "Is there any news from Poolesville?" It was here in our town that the telegraph line could finally be safeguarded against saboteurs. Telegrams, straight from Poolesville to Washington, D.C., and then on to points north to all the major city newspapers, had a dateline listing Poolesville, and then the day it was sent. Our town was very famous throughout the nation by all who read the newspapers, and, during wartime, that was nearly everyone.

Poolesville hosted Union troop garrisons, at times 15,000 strong. They were here as a first line of defense guarding against a potential Confederate raid on Washington across the low-flowing Potomac River which, at times, could easily be accomplished on foot at White's Ford. The idea was to cause rebel raiding parties to have to fight their way through Poolesville, and then again at another garrison in Darnestown. Eventually, the raiders would have to face any one of seventeen forts surrounding the capital.

On that fall night in 1861, the heartbreaking news came from McClellan's Headquarters via the Poolesville telegraph reporting the death of one of President Lincoln's very closest friends and one of America's premier orators and statesmen, Senator/Colonel Edward Baker—a man so well-admired nationally that, but for his British birth, he might even have become president himself. This man with two titles was killed at what became known as the Battle of Balls Bluff near Conrad's Ferry (today White's Ferry) between 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on October 20. At the time of his death, Colonel Baker was also the sitting senator from Oregon, having taken that oath of office less than a year before.

The battle was conceived as an easy victory for Union troops, intending to be welcome news for the president and the northern states. After the shocking and humiliating Union defeat a few months before on July 21 at the Battle of Bull Run (also known as the Battle of First Manassas), the idea of routing and capturing the Confederates near Leesburg held great appeal. The hoped-for victory and feather in the Union cap were not to be. The Confederates drove the Yankees over the bluff where many drowned or were cut down by rifle and artillery fire. Of nearly 1,900 Union soldiers, 1,002 were killed, wounded, or captured. Baker, although very brave, was cited by his superiors in an inquiry for mismanaging the battle. Could it be he pushed too recklessly for a promotable victory for his friend, Abe Lincoln, at a time when some good news from Poolesville might be most welcome to the president?

While his battle-management judgement might be questioned, his courage could not be. During the battle, the warrior-politician, finding himself not much more than ten paces from the Confederates, with one hand in his breast shirt and holding his sword in the other, shouted to his artillery team: "Lower boys, steady then. Keep cool. Now fire low and the day is ours." The day was not his, and the lithograph depicting his death proved shocking in the newspapers from Philadelphia to Boston.

Although, at times, Lincoln and Baker were political adversaries, especially when they were competing for a coveted nomination for a congressional seat, the



Colonel/Senator Edward Baker was killed in the Battle of Balls Bluff.

lesson learned from their decades-long personal friendship is a good example for all Americans. In the same way Baker was invited by the Oregon legislature to move to Oregon from California to become that state's senator, Abe Lincoln was invited to become the new state's governor. Baker agreed, Lincoln did not.

Their close friendship resulted in Lincoln naming his second son, Edward, after Baker. The young boy died at age four in 1850.

On the afternoon of October 19, the day before the fatal battle in Virginia, Lincoln and Baker lounged on the front lawn of the White House in repose and reflection on their friendship. As Baker rose to leave, while holding young Willie Lincoln in his arms, he kissed the young boy who was himself to die of thyroid fever in February, and then shook Lincoln's hand. Mrs. Lincoln presented Ned, the nickname given to him by his father and used by Lincoln, with a bouquet of flowers as a token of their esteem. The man of eloquence who was called the "lone grey eagle" in honor of his exploits during the Indian Wars, replied in gratitude, "These flowers and my memory will wither together." He mounted his horse and then rode to Poolesville and to his death.

His body was brought back to Poolesville from Virginia and laid to rest in the Frederick Poole House (currently occupied by Reva Hoewing's Crafts-a-Plenty). Union re-enforcement troops from Rockville arrived in town too late to be of assistance at Ball's Bluff. They marched through the town at 2:00 a.m. on roads deep in mud, filled by heavy rains. One soldier, slopping through town in the pouring rain, later wrote home of his march through Poolesville reporting that he saw some very special guards at one house. Not knowing the reason for the unusually-impressive guard posting, wrote, "I don't know why or whom the guard was for, but it had to be for someone very important." Yes, a very important man, indeed, the best friend to the president.

As Lincoln read the awful telegram from Poolesville, his reaction was chronicled in a newspaper report: "Five minutes passed silently after Lincoln learned of Baker's death. The president, unattended, with bowed head, and tears rolling down his furrowed cheeks, his breast heaving, left the room, almost falling as he stepped into the street."

The man who rested in peace in Poolesville, the same man who was best friends with Abe Lincoln, and was someone who rode with him in his presidential carriage during his first inaugural, and who introduced Lincoln to the nation at the president's first inauguration, the only sitting member of Congress to die fighting in the Civil War, lay dead in a house in Poolesville.

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Continued from page 1.

New Plan Offered for the Willshire Community

third level is a requirement in the marketplace today. The townhomes will not exceed the town's limitation of thirty-five feet high from ground level.

The request for distinct senior independent living was rejected as not being economically feasible, according to their consulting spokesperson, Debbie Rosenstein of Christopher Companies. She offered that such facilities require other supporting facilities that do not exist in Poolesville. She did report that the builder would be offering homes with first-floor master bedrooms with full baths to better accommodate seniors' need for that arrangement.

Also speaking on behalf of Miller and Smith was Roger K. Lewis, professor emeritus of architecture at the University of Maryland and Washington Post columnist. He spoke regarding the design of Willshire, emphasizing its modern design as a "community" rather than the more outdated and traditional format of a simple subdivision.

The meeting took questions from the commissioners prior to accepting public comments or questions from the audience.

The commissioners' queries were primarily concerned with the townhomes and their height, additional park space and location, and other more specific details like setbacks, public safety, etc. No general consensus seemed to emerge other than their appreciation for the presentation and that they required more time now to absorb and fully understand each aspect of the proposal.

Of the attendees, who filled the room to overflowing capacity (over fifty), only one offered support for the general aspect of the proposal. This supporter opined that the plan would offer a more affordable townhouse (by Montgomery County standards) and that the alternative of no townhomes would put single-family homes exclusively in the range of \$900,000. The builder was not asked nor offered a price break per house of a single-family-only community and could not confirm if the smaller number in the new proposal altered previously-given starting prices of \$400,000 for townhomes and \$600,000 for single.

The town's village overlay ordinance was designed to provide the town leverage in seeking benefits to the town when approving plans to build on certain properties in town. For example, the Planning Commissioners spoke of

ways that the project might benefit the community through support of the Historic Medley District's John Poole House, and the Old Town Hall Bank Museum through walkways, infrastructure improvements and repair, parking space, etc. The water services hookup fee is \$18,165 for single-family homes and \$12,117 for townhomes.

Caroline Taylor warned the commissioners of not losing sight of the potential for water shortage anticipated by the year 2030, when a reduction of up to thirty percent is estimated to be the norm. Wade Yost, town manager, confirmed her estimate and supported the need for the town to be vigilant in planning regarding water usage. Currently, the town has up to six hundred gallons a day available per household, with the current average usage at 180 gallons. Land planners in the region use 325 gallons per day as their guidelines.

Stated opposition ranged from not allowing any residential building to eliminating the townhome component to building a forty-five single family unit project promoted by Protect Our Poolesville (PoP), an organization created and led by Abbey Clouse, spouse of commissioner Martin Radigan.

Both the plan by Miller and Smith and the suggested plan by PoP can be seen in their entirety at

www.WillshireCommunity.com and www.protectourpoolesville.com.

Solutions regarding anticipated traffic issues were not discussed at this meeting. The process will continue, and traffic and other issues will be given further consideration.

Continued from page 7.

Tidbits

national bank, former town hall, and now museum exhibit center. The boys provided a robust cadence as they marched from one building to the next in strict single file order.



Local cub scouts visited the John Poole House and the Old Town Hall Bank Museum for a tour by John Poole, Jr.



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Youth Sports

Poolesville Wrestling Wins Second Annual Dorsey Duals

By Jeff Stuart

Poolesville High School hosted the second annual Kevin Dorsey Duals wrestling tournament on Friday and Saturday, January 13 and 14. The event is named for eleventh-year head coach Kevin Dorsey who was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS, or Lou Gehrig's Disease) during the summer of 2014.

Poolesville senior Brian Truppo (120) earned Outstanding Lower Weight Wrestler for the host Falcons, going a team-high, 9-0, to pace his squad to a first-place finish ahead of Cosby High of Virginia.

Among Truppo's teammates, Colin Savage (126) was 8-0; Alex Carbonell (106), Chris Danna (113), and Xavier

Kresslein (138) were 8-1; and James Wiggins (152) and Dillon Trent (195) were 6-2.

Bullis senior Aryemis Brown pinned six opponents in a combined four minutes and twenty-three seconds and scored a 16-0 technical fall in another of his nine victories without a loss to earn Outstanding Upper Weight Wrestler honors. South Carroll's two-time defending Class 2A-1A state champions Joey Thomas (126) and Jamar Williams (170) both went 9-0 in the tournament. Thomas set the public school total victory mark with career-win number 177 when he pinned Bullis's Liam Handel, surpassing the 176 career victories by LaPlata's three-time state champion Marty Margolis that was established in 2015.

"It was the last match of the night," said Poolesville coach Tim Tao. "It was a pretty special moment."

Ten teams participated in the tournament, including PHS: St. Paul's, Bullis, St. James, Oakdale, South Carroll, Cosby (Virginia), Calvert Hall, Great Mills, and Martin Luther King (Pennsylvania).



Participants in the second annual Coach Kevin Dorsey Wrestling Tournament surround the man who is an inspiration as he faces the challenges of Lou Gehrig's Disease.



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Continued from page 1.

13th Barnesville Inaugural Ball: Spirit of Community Unity

The celebration has survived both of its founders with the success of the ball being attributed most of all to the willingness of the losing side in each election to set aside disappointment and join with its more joyous friends. This year was no different. Nearly one hundred area residents came to the ball in what has become a traditional demonstration of patriotism and pride, with this year's republican winners voicing profound appreciation to their democrat neighbors for setting aside their disappointment by coming to this nearly-fifty-year-old, truly American bipartisan celebration.

Honorary Ball chairperson, Audrey Prichard of the Upper Montgomery County Rural Women's Republican Club (UMCRWC), in being recognized for her leadership, received robust applause when she opened her remarks by lauding the late Barnesville mayor and democrat Lib Tolbert for her wide-open-to-all leadership and all that she meant to the community. "Speaking about community, I am getting a little bit weary of always hearing we have to come together. This community has always come together. We can't be anything else. No fear, no problems, so please have a good time tonight. Just know we love each other."

Barbara Davidson, master of ceremonies and also a member of UMCRWC, welcomed all by describing her struggle to determine what she and her neighbors were trying to say in this election. She said that she relished the notion of perhaps putting this election cycle in focus, but it wasn't until her son piped up and gave her the answer by saying you should put the focus on listening. With that, the bipartisan crowd applauded profusely. "We are all allowed to express our own opinions, but we don't really listen to what people are saying, and we often just talk over each other.

"I was thinking of my feelings about this historic electoral upset, and, in deep humility, tried to figure out what Americans were trying to communicate, and what did I, in my comfy, little, cute house in this darling little community of Barnesville, miss—and I resolved then and there to be more curious and understood that listening might have a lot to do with it.

"As I was watching the events on television today, I was struck by the words of the National Anthem, 'Land of the free and the home of the brave,' and I thought about the bravery that we will be called upon to demonstrate in the weeks and months ahead as we go through what will be an unprecedented and, maybe, depending what side you are on, a very welcome change. A good result will be dependent mostly upon our willingness to listen to the authentic expression of what our neighbors, friends, colleagues, and even our political opponents are saying through our sacred freedoms we have been given."

Then Frank Jamison, calling himself the Designated Democrat, was called upon to make a toast to the new administration of President Trump and Vice President Pence.

He noted that "we witnessed today the transfer of power from one person to another, from one party to another. The pomp and circumstance today touches us all. The time to question why or why not is over. We have a new president and vice president, so please join me in a toast:

"To President Trump and Vice President Pence
 Keep us safe and prosperous,
 Keep us strong and resolute,
 And bring us together as a people."

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

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

Then send it along to editor@monocacymonocle.com

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Present Crime

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Past Crime

January 28, 1917 Paul Hinsley, a young man of about 21, was approached on the street in Washington by a stranger and asked to be driven to Frederick. Hinsley agreed and, while they were traveling down the hill approaching the fairgrounds at Rockville, the man began to argue about the agreed upon price for the ride. The passenger then pulled a revolver and forced Hinsley to pull over onto a side street where he bound and gagged him, robbed him of his money, and stole his car. Hinsley managed to break out of his restraints a half hour later and went to the home of Charles Bean where he called the sheriff.

January 29, 1917 The tale of Paul Hinsley and his missing car became more exciting. Hearing of the crime, several citizens of Rockville formed a posse and began tracking the stolen automobile along the lonely roads of Montgomery

County. Due to the newly-fallen snow, the task was rather easy, and soon the men found Hinsley's car sitting in the road near Germantown. A set of footprints led to the B&O train station at Germantown, and it was learned that the fugitive had taken the train for Washington. A telegram sent to police at Union Station arrived too late, and the suspect had left the station.

February 2, 1917 The editor of the Gaithersburg Journal made a startling admission while on the witness stand at Rockville court. Phillip Franklin had charged that three boys had stolen \$500 worth of checks from his office. While on the stand, he admitted that it was a lie. He said that he was an ex-convict who had been released from the penitentiary and had decided to enter the newspaper business. He had been trailed by two of his former cons who managed to extort money from him to not reveal his secret. Franklin apologized to the court and promised that he would make a full explanation in the next edition of his paper.

February 2, 1917 A fire at the home of Annie Fisher in Kensington proved to be fatal. Ms. Fisher was said to be a long-time resident of the town.

February 8, 1917 Much excitement was caused after the report that the four-year-old granddaughter of Frank

Moore had been kidnapped from in front of her home near Rockville. She had been playing in the yard when a car drove up, and two men asked her if she would like to have a ride in their auto. The girl accepted, and they drove off down the dusty lane. Moore and others saw the whole thing from the house and set off in pursuit of the car.

An hour later, the same car pulled into the driveway of Moore's home, and the little girl got out. It turned out that the men were friends of Moore.

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

Continued from page 3.

Commissioners Vote to End Skating Rink Project

that included twelve different varieties of plants including Bee Balm and Black-Eyed Susans. They said they would build the park with help from ninth grade Global Ecology students. They needed approximately \$6200 for the project and were seeking site-clearing help from the town and a grant of \$1000.

The commissioners were enthusiastic in their comments about the project and the initiative displayed by the students. Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski, however, expressed some concern about ongoing maintenance for the park. There is no way to secure a commitment from the school or future Global Ecology students to help maintain the park, although upkeep should be minimal. The grant was approved on a unanimous vote.

In his town manager's report, Wade Yost cited ongoing concerns about the quality of the trash pickup service provided by Unity Trash Company. There were about 120 complaints last year regarding Unity's service. Yost said he was finally able to secure a meeting with an owner of the company and had gotten a commitment that a management monitor would be present onsite whenever Unity was making trash pickups. So far, the company was living up to its promise. The contract for Unity has run for five years and is up for renewal in the new fiscal year.



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January 27, 2017

Thank you Poolesville/Upcounty!

The special WUMCO fundraising campaign of the past four months has been hugely successful! The total amount raised or pledged to date slightly exceeds \$39,000.

Very significant: Over 150 contributors enrolled in our new annual membership program, producing ninety percent of all funds raised or pledged. These new members will, of course, be asked to renew this fall, and we are confident that a very high percentage will do just that.

The drive was undertaken with the purpose of ending annual deficits of recent years that wiped out most of our reserves (our “rainy day” fund).

Our projections are that these deficits should be eliminated—or greatly reduced—for the next few years at least.

For our part, we pledge to all of our contributors that the WUMCO board and staff will do everything possible in each and every program that serves the low-income community to justify this vote of confidence in our work.

A more comprehensive accounting will be available in the next few weeks.

And, yes, contributions are still being accepted!

**Sincerely,
WUMCO Board of Directors**

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Continued from page 9.

PHS Girls' Basketball Team Has Ten Wins—But Two Got Away

us. We beat a Virginia team, James Wood, that beat us last year. I thought we played very well. We played well against Quince Orchard. We played extremely well defensively in that game. Defense has been our most consistent asset. We have struggled a bit on offense. We are getting good shots. It has been up and down—more up than down—but in the two losses, we didn't shoot well. We didn't finish in the post. It is something that we are working on every day. I think we are capable of winning every game remaining on our schedule. We play some good teams, but if we get our stuff together, we can have a really nice year.

"Erin and junior Kelliann Lee are, of course, really standout players. Probably the person who has improved the most is junior guard Maddie Thompson. She has had a couple of twenty-point games. She has made a big step forward. That's not really a surprise because I thought she played well in the summer and fall."

Maddie scored twenty-one points against James Wood.

Other seniors are forward Sammie Mullikin and guard Hailey Khalil. Other juniors are guard Haley Harkins and forward Brooke Hamm. Sarah Mullikin is a sophomore. Makayla Lemarr is the only freshman on the team.

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Protecting Your Dog during the Winter Months

Peter H. Eeg, DVM

We have been blessed with some milder-than-usual winter weather this year, but we can never be sure that Mother Nature will not give us a big blast of frightful winter weather. By taking steps to protect your pet, you can enjoy the wintery weather and keep them safe and sound.

It is well known that cold weather is harder on our older, arthritic canine friends and those with chronic metabolic diseases like diabetes, thyroid disease, kidney disease, and liver disease, so the simplest step you can take is to get a senior pet exam. Go to your veterinarian and discuss the current living conditions of your dog and what danger signs to look for from your dog if the weather becomes inhospitable.

Simply put, if you are cold outside, your dog is also cold. Even dogs with thick natural winter-type coats can develop hypothermia in extended cold, wet, and windy conditions. If you would not be outside in the conditions present, your dog should not be either. Dogs with lighter or shorter hair coats will benefit from sweaters and coats, but even these weather protectors do not change the fact that in severe weather conditions your pet would be better off inside.

Dogs' feet are the most exposed to the elements. Snow, ice, Ice melt, mud, and hidden debris in the snow can all play havoc with their toes and pads. Snowballs can develop in the hair and be cold and painful, causing your dog not to be able to walk. Dog boots can be very effective in keeping your canine pals' feet clean, dry, and safe.

Snowblowing equipment, snow shovels, tractors, truck plows, and other snow moving equipment all have sharp edges and can be heavy. Cuts and broken bones are possible if your dog is around you when you are clearing snow. Heavy snow also makes it less possible for your dog to get out of the way and avoid objects.

Don't throw snowballs at your dogs. It can hit them in the eye and damage the cornea, or a piece of ice in the snowball could break a tooth.

Try to prevent your dogs from eating snow and drinking out of puddles. It seems like fun, but there can be compounds in the snow or water that are dangerous or deadly to your dog. Bring fresh cool water on a walk. It can be used to drink or wash an area where an injury has occurred.

Inside, let your pets pick the places where they would like to lie down. Do not place heaters directly on your dog and do not place a cage or crate directly next to a fireplace or woodstove. Dogs know when they are too warm or cool and should be allowed to regulate their body temperatures themselves.

Enjoy the winter, but be ever aware of you and your pets' surroundings and distance from a safe, warm environment.



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