

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

*Keeping an Eye on Local News*

*A Biweekly Newspaper*

February 10, 2017 • Volume XII, Number 20



*The Falcons played at QO for a good cause. See more in the Family Album on page 2.*



*This "pear" sang for their supper—that was a stretch, wasn't it? See Tidbits on page 8.*



*PHS athletic director, Ed Ross, shared some great news. What could it be? Tune in to School News on page 9.*



*Did these boxes of donated food predict the winner of the Super Bowl? Read School News on page 9 to find out.*

## *Poolesville's Overlay Regulations: What Are They and Why Were They Established?*

By Link Hoewing with Wade Yost

In the ongoing discussions regarding the Willshire Development on the Willard property on Fisher Avenue in the center of Poolesville, the overlay zone has been mentioned often, and questions have been raised about its application and meaning. Town Manager Wade Yost, who has been involved in the development of the overlay concept since its inception, explained what the regulations require, why they were developed, and their implications in the context of the Willshire Development.

Yost explained that the overlay regulations were adopted in 2015 and are a part of the town's larger zoning regulations. Zoning regulations set out the general parameters for the types of activities (i.e., commercial, residential) that can be permitted in a particular area of town, the size of lots allowed, and the types of buildings (i.e., single-family houses, retail buildings, commercial garages) that can be built on a



*How much do you understand about the Poolesville Overlay Regulations that involve the proposed-Willshire Community?*

particular piece of property. They also set out general requirements that apply to any development (i.e., setbacks from roadways that apply to the fronts of houses or buildings to be built), how roads are to be constructed, and what rules apply to forests and woodlands.

An **overlay** district is used to establish alternative **land** development

approaches and designs. It does not countermand existing zoning regulations and, in the case of Poolesville, establishes a voluntary process that can be used to consider different or innovative approaches to developing properties in Poolesville's Business District.

**Continued on page 13.**

## *Uncle Watty's Dilemma: A True Story of Civil War Times from Poolesville*

By Rande Davis

In our last issue (available online at [MonocacyMonocle.com](http://MonocacyMonocle.com)), we told a sad tale that connected President Lincoln to Poolesville. In this issue, we have a heartwarming piece about the hard work and dedication of an African American named Watty Owens from Poolesville and what happened to connect him with President Lincoln.

The story that follows is taken from a newspaper account written by Edwin Higgins, a caring Poolesville man who came to the aid of Owens and is written in the verbiage of the 1860s.

The Story of Watty Owens as told firsthand by Edwin Higgins:

Before the war, the village of Poolesville was tucked away from the busy world of trade and travel in one of the most fertile grain-growing and grazing regions of Maryland. At the Mouth of the Monocacy, the inflowing of its



*Downtown Poolesville would have looked very similar to this undated picture of Poolesville during the Civil War. Poolesville's Uncle Watty Owens was a beloved African American during that time whose entrepreneurship proved to be appreciated by President Abe Lincoln.*

**Continued on page 14.**



# Family Album

# —Austin Cohen Night— Poolesville vs Quince Orchard

Photographs by Phil Fabrizio.



Jack Drissel goes up for a three-point shot.



David Esser works his way under the basket for a reverse layup.



Stephen Lang drives against QO's Johnny Fierstein at Quince Orchard.



Poolesville fans flood the Quince Orchard Auditorium and help to support the Austin Cohen Night and efforts to fund research to find a cure for osteosarcoma, a cancer.



Dear Poolesville/Up-County Area,

THANK YOU!

Thank you from the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department.

Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts. The fund raising successfully funded the purchase of a new 6-wheel drive, ATV, all-terrain vehicle. UMCVFD uses the ATV for off-road rescues on Sugarloaf Mountain, the hiking path along the river, farm field rescues, or anywhere the ambulance cannot safely reach. Thank you.



What's is UMCVFD's next fund raising goal?

UMCVFD continually seeks to improve its fire suppression and emergency rescue capabilities. While priorities can change, UMCVFD currently has set its sights on acquiring a second Lucas CPR device. The Lucas CPR device provides constant and effective compressions during a cardiac arrest event. Effective and constant compressions are critical to sustain a blood pressure to move vital oxygenated blood around the body and into the brain while the heart cannot do it on its own. UMCVFD's existing Lucas CPR device supports the paramedic crew. A second Lucas CPR device placed on the ambulance allows UMCVFD to respond to a second cardiac emergency fully equipped.



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## Town Government

### Town Hears Ethics Commission Report on Allegations and Considers Poolersville Day Budget Request

The Poolersville Commission had a busy agenda at its February 6 meeting, hearing a report from the Ethics Commission, considering two budget requests, and hearing reports from its marketing company and town manager.

Leading off the evening, the Ethics Commission Chairperson Michelle Roche, accompanied by commission members Marcus Melton and Linda Bergofsky, presented to the commissioners its report regarding a conflict of interest allegation made against Commission President Jim Brown. In keeping with its statutory responsibilities, the Ethics Commission did not name the complainant in its report.

Chairperson Roche noted that the allegations were made at a public meeting on November 19, 2016 and a multipage complaint alleging ethical violations was filed soon thereafter. In essence, the complaint alleges that since Commissioner Brown makes most of his income from real estate sales in town, he has a "unique and exclusive opportunity to profit from building in town, and thus he has a conflict of interest because, as a commission member, he is involved in decisions that affect the amount and kind of housing developments that can happen in Poolersville." The allegation also says that President Brown has a relationship with the Willard family because he rents office space from them and "has not disclosed such relationship."

The Ethics Commission's mandate, Chairperson Roche stated, is to determine whether an allegation of an ethics violation against a town officer, if true, provides reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of the Ethics Ordinance exists. She listed the various ways in which a town officer could violate the town's ethics requirements, including participating in a decision in which the officer knows he or she "has an interest."

In applying the assertions made in the allegation to the statutory definitions in the ethics laws, the "Ethics Commission finds no conflict of interest exists." She specifically said that there has been no instance in which President Brown voted on a matter in which "he has a direct or specific interest." She added that being a commissioner and making decisions about various issues including development matters and selling real estate in town does not create a financial advantage for President Brown that is any greater than that of any other real estate agent in the area. She went on to say that this would be "the same scenario if the person subject to such a complaint was a plumber, store owner, landscaper, or funeral director."

She further said that the proposed Willshire Development was specifically cited in support of the allegation that Brown has a conflict of interest, but "the Willshire matter has not even been presented to the Board of Commissioners for action" and remains pending before the Planning Commission; therefore, President Brown has had no opportunity to vote on or participate in the matter. If and when the matter does reach the town's commission, "There is no bar for participation by Mr. Brown since he has no interest in the property or entity which owns the project."

With regard to the rental relationship between President Brown and the Willards asserted in the allegation, the commission investigated the circumstances regarding this assertion. Such a relationship is not illegal as long as the terms of the relationship are consistent with other tenants regarding particularly the market rates of the rent being paid. Roche said that Brown does rent office space from the Willard family, but, based on the rents paid by two other tenants who are in space owned by the Willards, the rents are comparable and reflective of the market rates in Poolersville.

The commissioners had few comments regarding the report. All thanked the Ethics Commission for doing a thorough job, and Commissioner Dickerson, in particular, remarked that the issue had created a "cloud" over some of the commission's work, and she was pleased to have the matter concluded.

In other items of business, the commission heard a budget request from Poolersville Day Committee Chairperson Faith Etheridge, accompanied by Cathy Bupp, the events coordinator for the town. Etheridge said that last year's Poolersville Day event was a "smashing success." She pointed particularly to increases in the number of vendors and the very large crowd as evidence, as well as new attractions that garnered very positive reviews such as the Washington Nationals' George Washington.

The committee is committed to "holding the best street fair" in Montgomery County in 2017. They aim to add to the event again, including adding a classic car show, increasing the number of bands at the stages, and expanding the number of children's rides. In order to put on an event of this magnitude,

Continued on 16.

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## Commentary

### A New Attitude

By John Clayton

"The time has come," the walrus said, 'to talk of many things: Of shoes—and ships—and sealing-wax—of cabbages—and kings.'" With apologies to Lewis Carroll, and with some regret that I didn't quote as far as the pigs with wings query, I find it necessary to write about something different from my recent efforts. There are some fine topics abounding, as a glance at our front page will show, and while I am sorely tempted to add to the discussion of overlay regulations, I am resisting that impulse. There are also some cheerful topics around, such as the remarkable temperate wave we have enjoyed, and the fact that the current snow storm is expected to be, as I write this, a piker, which is to say, small and ineffective. Other happy topics include the resurgence of the Washington Wizards, the imminent opening of baseball Spring Training, and the fact that the Montgomery County Council hasn't raised any fees all year; nevertheless, in order to keep some degree of consistency, I will write about something that annoys me. Additionally, in deference to the new powers that be, I will write with an all-new can-do, take-no-prisoners attitude. Truly, I have found my voice.

Driving around this area, and spending a fair amount of time on our local interstates, especially I-270 and I-495, I realize that I am the only driver not talking on my telephone. I'm not saying that I never talk on my cell, and I do have one of those hands-free Bluetooth things on my visor which actually works (the visor and device both work, to be specific), but everyone else is talking all the time. Yes, one hundred percent of them are talking, with the exception of those that are texting, and I know this is a fact because I believe it to be true. When I am not talking, I am the only one who is not talking. Bad!

I know the emails are flying in now telling me that I have no data to support this assertion, but I know for a fact that many people have said that it is true. I have also seen it on the Internet.

Clearly, this represents millions of people talking on their phones while they are driving. No one is listening; they're all talking. Not nice.

This is the only newspaper where you will see this reported, and that is because we are different, in that we are not liars. The media, as you know, are the biggest liars in the universe. Since they like to talk on their cellphones (many, many of which are made in China), they don't want to talk about this. They don't want you to know about this, and they have their reasons. Sad.

Where are the police on all this? They pass me on the left on I-270 occasionally, talking on their cellphones, but they're not doing anything about this. When you don't enforce the law, you have no laws. Don't get me wrong, I love the Police and the great Police Chiefs and Sheriffs for their leadership and service. My first impulse was to say I have no idea what these so-called law-enforcement officers are doing, but it's much more likely that that they are doing a lot but the lying media refuse to report it, and you know they have their reasons for that. There, I figured it out for you. I have an incredibly high IQ, and I'm much smarter than you, but don't feel bad about that; it's not your fault.

A lot of people also text and type on their cellphones while they drive. I can see them from five miles away. The car will be going slowly, and they're looking down at their, uh, lap. This happens a lot. It didn't used to, but now it does. I pulled up next to one of them one day, he was looking down at his phone, and I honked and waved. He made a very rude gesture back to me. Nice. A bad hombre, to be sure.

So that's it, folks. You shouldn't be talking on your phones and texting while you drive. It's dangerous; you could drive right into a wall before you know it. Even a bad high school student would know that I'm right about this, even if the lying media won't tell you about it. The police have better things to do than peek into cars for telephone users. Give the good guys a hand on this one. It will make everything—dare I say it?—great again.



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Keeping an Eye on Local News

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## Letter to The Editor Our Town: Your Voice

I was born and raised in Poolesville, second generation. When I was taking my first steps in the early nineties, the town was also growing and continued to grow to its present 5,100 residents.

On January 18, Miller and Smith (M&S) developers submitted a new plan for the 13.88-acre Willard parcel in the town center that threatened the rural town I grew up to love. They proposed seventy-five units instead of ninety-three, a reduction of only eighteen. The plan is still too dense with nearly *three homes per half acre*, and twenty-nine unsightly, three-story townhomes (starting in the \$400s—hardly “affordable”). We can visualize them in real time with the seventeen townhomes now being built next to the elementary school at the gateway to town: overwhelming! With such dense visual blight, the M&S plan threatens our small town’s character, adds traffic beyond our capacity, further taxes our groundwater, and forever changes our town’s feel. Simply put, M&S has failed to revise its plans to incorporate Poolesville’s small-town values. Thankfully, our Planning Commission has the power to decide if the Overlay Zone is allowed for this plan. This is a golden opportunity to get development within the town’s commercial district right for the first time in decades.

The Willard parcel, at the heart of our town’s center, is surrounded by important local landmarks, giving Poolesville a “sense of place” unlike Clarksburg or Germantown. The Planning Commission must ensure the preservation of our unique history; they must not put Clarksburg in Poolesville. Poolesville’s history is a real selling point for visitors and future homebuyers. In terms of open space, the plan fails to meet the

ten percent recreational parkland requirement made by the commission. Instead of 1.4 acres of parkland, there are .7 fragmented acres.

To better protect our historic assets and provide economic growth, the town should take advantage of the expertise freely provided by state and county planning and historic preservation agencies to get this right.

This dense plan also risks taxing our watershed during times of drought. I well remember the water moratorium placed on the town not long ago. With so much paved-over area, this plan does not promote the infiltration of rainwater to our aquifer, nor has the contractor figured out the details of its storm water management plan. So little greenspace and no detailed storm-water management plan raise red flags. The Planning Commission, and Parks and Recreation Board, must ensure the safety of our town’s water resources, demanding adherence to the regulations of the Village Overlay Zone.

More than anything, Poolesville’s small-town charm is the premier reason individuals decide to move to the area. With four developments under way (Westerly 7, Wesmond Woods, Brightwell Crossing, and Russell Branch), along with the potential seventy-five-unit development right in the middle of town, the population will increase, potentially near or beyond the 6,500 cap specified in the Master Plan. Traffic will worsen, and the aesthetics of the town will change forever, significantly impacting its value and desirability in Montgomery County. Without the charm, will the demand for housing in Poolesville truly exist?

I urge our citizens to reach out to our Planning Commission with emails, letters, and to sign the Protect Our Poolesville petition at [www.protectourpoolesville.com/petition](http://www.protectourpoolesville.com/petition) for a lower density plan we can all live with.

—Jacqueline Winning



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- \* A lower density of 35-46 homes (see illustration)
- \* Less traffic, less water usage, and more community green space
- \* A plan that honors the scale and aesthetics of our small town & its historic assets

New Willshire Plan as of Jan. 18, 2016



75 Dwelling Units, 29 of them three story town homes clustered in center. Much denser than surrounding neighborhoods. Traffic impacts are the first of many concerns. A Clarksburg style development is not appropriate for Town Center.

A Better Lower Density Plan: 35 - 46 Homes



Alternate Plan with 44 houses, zero town homes: much more in keeping with the existing scale of historic structures and neighborhoods in town center. Drafted by an architect with historic preservation experience who advocates for 35 - 46

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## Things To Do

**February 10**

**Poolesville Area Senior Center (PASC)**

*Pickle Ball, Poolesville Baptist Gym.*  
9:30 a.m.

**PHS Varsity Home Sports**

Basketball. Richard Montgomery:  
Boys at 5:30 p.m., girls at 7:15 p.m.

**February 13**

**PASC**

*Pickle Ball, Poolesville Baptist Gym.*  
9:30 a.m.

**February 12**

**Sugarloaf Citizens' Association  
Midwinter Garden Dreams**

Gathering of fellow gardeners to discuss varieties, techniques, and dreams of this year's garden along with the importance of soil health and seed-saving. Information: [sugarloafcitizens.org](http://sugarloafcitizens.org). *Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson.* 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

**February 14**

**Happy Valentine's Day**

**PHS Varsity Home Sports**  
Girls' basketball. Churchill. 6:00 p.m.

**February 15**

**PASC**

*Pickle Ball, Poolesville Baptist Gym.*  
9:30 a.m.

**February 16**

**Library Event: Storytime**

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

**Library Event: Book Club**

Enjoy and discuss *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion. Copies will be

available at the Circulation Desk.  
7:00 p.m.

**February 17**

**PASC**

*Pickle Ball, Poolesville Baptist Gym.*  
9:30 a.m.

**February 17, 18 and 19**

**The Blue Hearth Market Weekend**

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

**February 18 and 19**

**St. Mary's Antique Show and Sale**

Annual antique show sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. A limited number of antique and collectible spaces remain available for rental, starting at \$75 per space. For more information, contact Donald Patti, Knights of Columbus, at 866-478-8080 or [info@saintmarysantiques.com](mailto:info@saintmarysantiques.com). *St. Mary's Pavilion, Barnesville.* Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday: noon to 5:00 p.m.

**February 20**

**PASC**

*Pickle Ball, Poolesville Baptist Gym.*  
9:30 a.m.

**February 22**

**PASC**

*T'ai chi, Poolesville Baptist Gym.*  
10:30 a.m.

*Zumba Gold, Poolesville Baptist Gym.*

1:00 p.m.

**February 23**

**PHS Miss Poolesville**

Who will wear the crown? \$10 at door. *PHS Auditorium.* 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Have an event you'd like to list here?  
Email: [editor@monocacymonocle.com](mailto:editor@monocacymonocle.com)

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### WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday at 5 pm / Sunday at 8, 9:30, 11 am  
Confession Saturday at 4:15 pm

Monday - Friday Mass & Rosary at 9 am

Antique Show & Sale  
February 18 11 am - 5 pm  
February 19 Noon - 5 pm

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Great gift and décor ideas for home and office!!

2nd Market Weekend  
in February: Fri.-Sun.: 17, 18, & 19

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### History's Hot Ticket

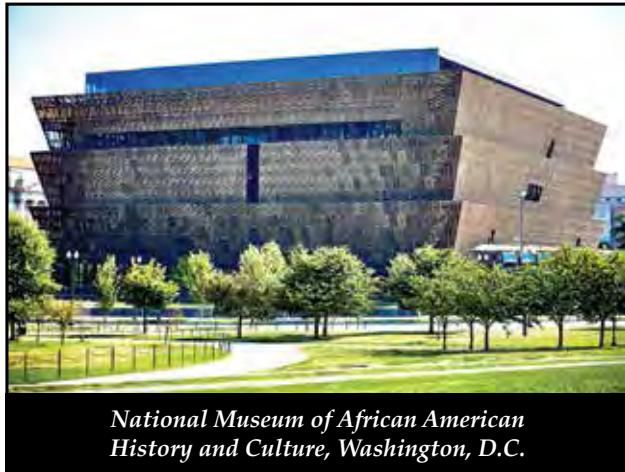
By Ingeborg Westfall

It's the nineteenth and newest of the Smithsonian museums, it's been decades in development, it opened September 24, 2016, and its mandate is "to commemorate, celebrate, provoke, and heal." Of course, you've likely guessed I'm describing the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC).

I seem to remember that some people questioned the need for a museum of African American history, pointing to other museums with similar information, but the history of African Americans is so much a part of America's history, the two intertwined since the country's early days, that it's vital to the development of our country as we know it today. Our past informs and forms our present, and the more information we have, the more we know, and the better off we are—at least, that's my take.

Be prepared: This museum is huge! There are five floors (galleries), three underground, two above, and the underground floors (Slavery and Freedom, 1400-1877; Defending Freedom, Defining Freedom; The Era of Segregation, 1876-1968; and A Changing America: 1968 and Beyond) entail more than a mile of walking and reading, listening to voice-overs, watching videos, studying photographs, looking at heart-wrenching artifacts like shackles sized for a child's ankles—but mainly reading, reading, and more reading. Its impact is exhausting. According to best estimates, between the years 1525 and 1866, more than 12.5 million Africans were shipped to the New World. As a friend of mine said of the Slavery and Freedom Gallery, "It tears at the heart."

Lunching at the Sweet Home café, where one can order individual dishes like collards and cornbread or hoppin' john, or a generously-portioned meal of a shrimp po' boy and all the fixins (for instance), showed yet again how food



National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, D.C.

crosses all boundaries. Prices are fair, the food tasty. I got to the museum at around ten, went through the security check, stood in line for about twenty minutes to tour the underground gallery, spent over two hours there, shared lunch with friends (not more than half an hour all told), and then

checked out the very good gift shop. By then it was past three, already time to leave—and I hadn't even seen/experienced half the museum! I can't imagine having the energy to do the whole thing in one day. I recommend planning two separate visits, at least.

It's probably not a good idea to bring children younger than ten or so; there's just too much that requires close attention for a long time, not to mention the amount of walking. Teenagers, though, seemed to be engaged in the experience.

No museum, as hard as it may try, can tell the whole story. Don't forget that Maryland has more than a dozen African American museums (*Frederick News-Post*, 12/3/2016). If you don't want the hassle of visiting the NMAAHC in these early days, go in search of one of the state's museums, perhaps the National Great Blacks in Wax Museum in Baltimore, the Harriet Tubman Museum in Cambridge, or the Doleman Black Heritage Museum in Hagerstown—or visit the Negro School in Boyds. The downtown D.C. museum gives one a broad, world-based perspective, and these small, more local museums balance that view by bringing the experience closer to home. Not only are there no lines and no waiting to get tickets, the local museums help us gain a fuller understanding of our state's and our country's history. History is out there, waiting to enrich us.

Have a day trip you'd like to share? Then let us know!  
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## Tidbits

### Heralded Home Renovation Project Scheduled for April

Do you know—or know of—a low-income family who cannot afford much-needed repairs to make their residence safe, healthy, and comfortable? If so, read on!

On Saturday, April 29, a fortunate homeowner in the Poolesville area will be the latest of over twenty individuals or families who, in past years, have watched in wonder as an industrious group of local volunteers corrected some very serious deficiencies in their residences. While the work performed during each year's project has varied—depending on the issues that affect health, safety, and quality of living in the house selected for repair and refurbishing—it often involves substantial carpentry, painting, plumbing, and electrical work.

Helping Hands Poolesville, an ecumenical community service organization comprised of members of all five Poolesville churches, is in the process of collecting applications for a house to repair. HHP works with a county charitable organization, Rebuilding Together, to qualify and select a home in our area. According to Craig Cummins,

president of Helping Hands, "We have been very pleased to sponsor houses for repair in the Poolesville area for the last several years. It has been a great experience both for the homeowner and the people who perform the renovation each year, and the best thing of all, the service is free to the homeowner!"

There is very limited time for homeowners to apply. "We want to encourage anyone and everyone whose home has problems that affect health, safety, and quality of living of its residents to apply," Cummins says. Eligibility depends on the level of income and the relative renovation that is required. If a *Monocle* reader feels he or she knows of a person or family, including himself, who may qualify, further information and the answers to any questions can be obtained by contacting Craig Cummins at cummins@avonel.com or 301-648-5508. All contacts will be strictly confidential.

### Fun and Fundraiser by SCA

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association hosted a one-time event, the Pear Concert. The event was held at St. Mary's Pavilion on February 4, with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres followed by a dinner catered by My Thyme catering of Rockville. After dessert (a combination of mostly-homemade goods from the board of

SCA), there was a lively performance by Pear. Pear is a duo composed of Curtis Brengle and Julie Ragins. Not only was the music great, the selections were interspersed with lessons about music including harmony and improvisation. Wrapping up a little after nine, the night was a huge success. The evening netted over \$3,000 that will help to protect the Upcounty.

### Local Girl Scouts Lead Foster Care Project

Lia Widenhofer and Erin Dower, two sixth grade Poolesville Girl Scouts, Troop 3032, led a service project on January 16, 2017 as part of the MLK National Day of Service. They hosted one of twenty projects offered at the Gaithersburg volunteer site. The project benefited kids entering foster care in the greater Washington, D.C.-area. There are currently approximately five thousand children in the state of Maryland living away from their families. When these children leave their homes, they often go with nothing more than the clothes on their back. If they are fortunate enough to gather a few belongings, those things are often

carried into their foster home in a black trash bag. In order to promote dignity for these children, Lia and Erin organized and supervised about one hundred community volunteers to make fifty no-sew fleece blankets. They added the blankets to duffel bags along with pajamas, stuffed animals, dental and hygiene kits, a book, and journal or coloring book. Most of the supplies for the duffel bags were generously donated through a supply drive held by the girls in the early weeks of January. They will give the duffel bags to Comfort



Girl Scouts Erin Dower and Lia Widenhofer.

Cases, a local organization that works to provide children with the essentials

Continued on page 16.



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## School News

### PHS Athletes Sign with Colleges

The Poolesville High School Athletics' 2016-2017 NCAA D1 and D2 Senior Signing Ceremony was held on February 6, 2017.

Athletic Director Ed Ross hosted the event to celebrate the "commitment of four of our finest senior student-athletes to their selected colleges and universities."

The ceremony was taped for broadcast during a future Falcons Media Show.

The students receiving the athletic letters of commitment were:

Filip Burnett, Boys' Soccer—St. Francis University

Austin Nichols, Boys' Lacrosse—Depauw University

Caroline Leng, Girls' Volleyball—University of Pennsylvania

Kat Creedon, Girls' Soccer—University of Maryland, Baltimore County



*PHS varsity athletes (with their parents) who have signed letters of commitment to their colleges of choice: Kathryn Creedon, Caroline Leng, and Filip Burnett.*

### Peruvian Exchange Students at Barnesville School

The Barnesville School of Arts & Sciences hosted middle school students from Leonardo Da Vinci School (LDVS) in Lima, Peru as part of its annual foreign exchange program. Visitors, Marianne, Swami, Enzo, and Ariana, will be staying with Barnesville host families and attending classes at Barnesville. Welcomed by the entire Barnesville community, the exchange students shared their culture with students through presentations and daily interactions with students in all grades.

In addition to attending classes, the exchange students are visiting historic monuments, museums, and other notable sites in and around Washington, D.C.

Each summer, Barnesville students in seventh or eighth grade have the opportunity to spend three weeks in Lima, Peru, staying with a Peruvian host, experiencing the Peruvian culture, and attending classes at LDVS. Barnesville students also enjoy field trips in and around the city and to Cuzco and Machu Picchu to explore the ancient Incan ruins and to learn about the Incan culture.



*Barnesville School students with visiting international exchange students in the Big Apple.*

Students from both schools form deep and lasting bonds with each other and continue to keep in touch long after returning to their respective homes.

Magdalena Veran, an English teacher at LDVS, is chaperoning for her sixth time. "This program offers so much to both school communities," Veran said. "The students build friendships and share experiences."

### Mindfulness Club

By Emma Whitehouse

"Essentially, mindfulness is being present in the movement, being truly present in the moment, being totally aware of what you're doing, and not thinking about the future," mused Michael Wink, thinking about how to explain what they actually do in Mindfulness Club. Created this year as his Senior Project for the Global Ecology Studies Program, Michael wanted to start a club to improve the quality of life for undeniably-stressed high school students. "I've been practicing mindfulness for about...three, four years in my life, and I know it's really changed my life—and I kind of wanted to show people how to manage stress."

Originally Michael wanted to create a study, but when MCPS didn't allow him to do one, he decided to create a club instead. Meeting once a week at lunch, Michael "[teaches] them the basics. Sometimes it's meditation, whatever the people there want to do, it's very fluid." Michael has three very simple principles in his club, the practice is based on doing things in a focused and attentive manner, with a focus on effectiveness. "You're not going to get everything perfect; you're never going to be totally mindful, totally present. Basically, it's doing what works, and, as long as you're trying, as long as you're doing something, that's being effective." Michael occasionally checks up with his club members to see how the club has affected their lives, hoping that the club helped them focus on the moment, and "helps them not stress so much about deadlines, really helps them not stress so much about projects."

Michael's end goal is to write a paper on the topic of mindfulness, and in the far future, he wants to get a Ph.D. in psychology.

### Monocacy Elementary School's Super Bowl Food Drive

The Monocacy Elementary School Student Government Association discovered that they could boost participation in its food drive for WUMCO by tying it to the Super Bowl. This is the second year for the Super Bowl Food Drive, and it's the biggest one ever. In years past, they might collect two boxes of donated food, but now the haul is many times those efforts.



*Monocacy Elementary SGA Vice President Matthew Singh, President Cayden Miller, Treasurer Sutton Wetcher, Secretary Payton Short, and SGA Sponsor Amy Soderstrum.*

The SGA, working with their sponsor and teacher Amy Soderstrum and led by SGA officers Cayden Miller, Matthew Singh, Sutton Wetcher, and Payton Short, set up a display where students could donate food to the team that they predicted (or hoped) would win the Super Bowl. Even some of the Montgomery County Public Schools bus drivers got into the act, buying cans of food at Dollar General and giving students on their buses a can each with which to cast their votes. Last year, the donations correctly indicated the winner of the game, but, this year, Atlanta won the food drive; nevertheless, it was a win for MES students and especially for WUMCO which will receive over a half-ton of food.



## Youth Sports

### Truppo, Carbonell, Dorsey Duals Highlight PHS Wrestling Season

By Jeff Stuart

"Our season is going well so far," said Coach Tim Tao. "We have had some tough losses. I think our schedule is one of the toughest in the county. We see some of the top teams. We just ended up losing to two of them, but we are 10-5, so that is a pretty good season."

Since its inception last year, the Dorsey Duals have become a highlight of the season. This year, PHS won the tournament, 9-0, overcoming Cosby, last year's champion team. Senior Brian Truppo won the outstanding lightweight wrestler award.

Truppo is one of more than a handful of outstanding wrestlers.

"We have a couple of kids that have won tournaments. Alex Carbonell (106) and senior Brian Truppo (120) both won the Damascus Tournament, a very difficult and prestigious tournament," Tao said. "Six or seven of our guys have put together real solid records and have a real good chance to do well at the states. We have a couple of very good freshmen: Xavier Kresslein (138) and Colin Savage (126). They have beaten some notable people. James Wiggins (152), a first-year wrestler, has been very impressive."

Before the match against Magruder, Tao had a few choice words to say about Magruder's coach. "I am always amped up for the Magruder match because my youngest brother A.J. coaches at Magruder. In nine or ten years of coaching against him, I have never lost...It is a big thing. My parents come out. It is brother versus brother, so I hope the streak holds up." Sadly, it didn't. On February 1 at PHS, brother A.J.'s squad surprised the Falcons, winning, 39-28, on the Falcons' Senior Night. Sam Hull (132) recorded the only pin for the Falcons, senior Aden Bhagwhat (160) had a major decision, and Kieren Barney (170) won 7-6.

"It was a good time," said Coach Kevin Dorsey about the duals tournament named for him. "The booster club did really good raising money for the school athletic activities. Anytime you have that many people in one spot, it is good for fundraising. I wanted to start this tournament years ago. Tim had done it before. Last year, he talked to the administration and they said go ahead, so he took the ball and

ran with it. He organized it and got the whole thing going. Now we are hoping it will be here for years to come." In true Kevin Dorsey fashion, he got right to the meat of it, "I have to say my favorite thing was the food in the tournament coaches' hospitality room. All our coaches agree that of all the tournaments we go to, ours was the best food around. I have been going to tournaments for fifteen or sixteen years, and ours is the best."

"For me, the highlight of the season was the Dorsey Duals as a team," said senior Captain Chris Danna (113). Chris won twenty-five matches last year.

"The Dorsey Duals was the season highlight," agreed Carbonell, a sophomore. "That was a pretty good tournament. We had nine teams come in. The Northwest match against Yonas Harris was definitely a tough match for me personally. I had wrestled with him previously, and the Blair match was a very close match. We won that one by one point. It went down to the last match. We were down by five points. I was the final match. We needed the pin, and I got it, pinning Muhammad Baig in the second period." Truppo and Ray Kinzie (145) also had pins against Blair. Savage (126) won a major decision.



Wrestlers Alex Carbonell, Chris Danna, and Emma Whitehouse.

"Honestly, I was just bored," said senior Emma Whitehouse (132), when asked why she came out for wrestling. "Wrestling seemed like a really cool sport, so my junior year I decided to come out and try it. I tried it briefly when I was seven. A highlight for me was winning by pin over another girl this year...The Dorsey Duals was a great team effort. It brought everyone together. I am looking forward to the rest of the season. Everyone has to just keep working hard." Other senior wrestlers are: Sean McCoy, Keila Alfaro, James Wiggins, Nic Killian, and manager Morgan Harney.

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## Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

### Present Crime

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

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

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

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

### Past Crime

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

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

thirteen-year-old daughter. Wilson was described as about forty years old and married.

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

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

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

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



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



Continued from page 1.

### Poolesville's Overlay Regulations

Traditional zoning regulations, Yost pointed out, protect both existing residents and landowners. They are intended to help ensure that any new development is not haphazard or significantly out of character with existing homes and buildings in towns. At the same time, the regulations allow landowners to improve their properties. This holds true for homeowners in town, too.

The zoning rules allow homeowners to add to their homes or to make other improvements on their property within the parameters of the rules, and they apply equally to all homeowners. For example, zoning ordinances can and do allow people to add a garage to their homes, put on a front porch or addition, or place a shed on their property. They need to get approval, but the regulations do not allow neighbors to stop such activity if, for example, they do not approve of the look or location of a garage or shed.

Yost said the same holds true for the Willshire Development. Miller and Smith, the developers of the property, could put approximately thirty-five homes on the over-eleven-acre Willard property based on the existing zoning classifications if they chose to submit such a proposal. About seven acres of the Willard property are zoned commercial, so the developer could also put a shopping center on the property or apartments, for example. Since the zoning regulations allow for such construction, the town could not prevent the developer from moving forward with such proposals, although the town does approve site plans for any development; however, site plans only include such things as reviewing and approving setbacks from roadways, approving road locations and street trees, and the general layout (including any parks) of a proposed development.

The town cannot respond to development proposals by rezoning property, Yost added. While the town can and has revised its overall zoning maps over the years, it would face serious legal obstacles if it attempted to "spot zone" or change the zoning on a single property or the property of one landowner.

The town recognized its traditional zoning regulations limit how it can shape and respond to proposals for development. It also recognized that, over the long term, one of the challenges the town faces is encouraging upgrading and renovation of many of the older buildings at the western end of Fisher Avenue. A number are in poor shape.

In this context, the town developed the overlay regulations. Yost explained the regulations are a tool the town can use to encourage developers to put together proposals that better respond

to the needs and desires of the town and its residents. The overlay rules set out a framework for negotiating towards the creation of a plan that may include innovative concepts and improvements that could provide significant benefits to the town and its citizens.

In order to encourage developers to enter into such negotiations, the rules allow them to propose an increase in the number of dwellings or structures that could normally be built within existing zoning regulations. In exchange, the town can rightfully expect that significant enhancements and improvements for the town and its citizens would be included in any overlay proposal offered by a developer. Yost said the town is under no obligation to accept any overlay proposal, and this puts a significant onus on the developer to come up with a balanced proposal if it expects to gain approval.

Yost said that Miller and Smith has already responded to some of the concerns voiced by citizens by reducing the proposed number of homes in the development, enhancing the walking paths and sidewalks in the plan, and adding more green space. While he could not comment on the merits of the plan in detail, there remain a number of areas where improvements could be added, pointing to the fragmented nature of the green space included in the current plan as one possible example.

He also added that the town is expecting that developments or renovations along Fisher Avenue would include other enhancements, such as improvements in the town's main roadway as contemplated in its Streetscape plan. The Streetscape plan includes such things as a center turn lane and bike lanes, and these are all areas where the town could benefit from enhancements to any overlay proposal.

Yost said the town was thinking of the longer term—the next twenty to thirty years—in conceiving the overlay regulations. Older parts of the town in particular will need to be renovated, and the town will need to work with property owners to enhance the town's main street (Fisher Avenue) as investments and improvements are made in the coming years. The overlay regulations could provide the town with some additional leverage it needs to bring more enhancements and improvements to the town's business district along Fisher Avenue.

It will require input from citizens as well as the town's commission and advisory boards to use the overlay rules to the town's greatest advantage. Yost said that citizen input has already been an important part of the consideration of the Willshire Development, and the overlay regulations helped create a process that has encouraged ongoing dialog. He hopes to see it continue.



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Continued from page 1.

### Uncle Watty's Dilemma

waters causes the Potomac River, like the side stroke from the hockey of a skillful player, to make a graceful detour. In the center of this attractive country, five miles from as many ferries across into Virginia, and about thirty miles north from Washington city, the village slowly grew, and the people prospered among themselves, enlivened by their weekly gatherings on Saturday afternoon for the mail, their singing and dancing schools, their literary society, an occasional "scrub race," with an appearance of a peddler, a lecturer, or a wandering musician.

This was a large slave-holding community. It was a pleasing and cherished custom among the colored people during holidays and on Sundays, after (church) meeting, to exchange greetings on the porches of the village stores. In their best clothes, clean and bright, free from the cares and burdens of everyday life, they merrily chattered like flocks of happy birds. Among the characters of the times and place was Watt Owens, a worthy old colored man, with a lame leg, along up into his sixties, of whom everybody was fond, for he was obliging to everyone. Uncle Watty, for so he was familiarly called, was an active member of the church, which has a "God's acre" about it, divided between the whites and colored people. He sat at the end of the front rows in the gallery, nearly opposite the pulpit. (Editor's note: St. Peter's old Rector's Office still has an outline of a doorway near the ceiling into the upper gallery where people of color joined in the service. It would have been a mixture of slave and free) He sang with fervor, and I well remember that the tears would glisten on his cheeks and beneath his spectacles when the exhortations of the preacher touched the sympathetic heart. The pews for the white folk were arranged on the ground floor, for the women on one side and the men on the other side of the aisle. Along the walls of the latter, dark spots marked the places where many weary saints rested.

Uncle Watty regularly appeared among the gatherings of his friends on the store porches, with a large square basket, with folding lids, filled with tempting cakes, fresh from the hands of his helpful wife.

When the war began, the village, by reason of its relative position to Washington city and the several ferries on the Potomac, naturally, and yet much to the surprise of the good people of the neighborhood, emerged from its seclusion into an important point for the defense of the national capital and became a center of army operations during the first and second years of the war.

What a mighty change the war made in the South. It was an upheaval—an earthquake. It marked an epoch. It rolled up the past into a completed scroll of history. The olden times and the scenes of the days before the war will never return. With the war, into this community, came thousands of brave soldiers, who became distinguished in its annals while the great conflict went on, and the mingled waves of sorrow and glory rolled over a distracted county.

The presence of soldiers singing "John Brown's Body" really gave the colored people of the neighborhood their freedom some time even before the Emancipation Proclamation was issued. In this abrupt change in their social condition, the colored people had to rely upon their resources.

Uncle Watty's amateur calling, by the stress of circumstances, became the means of support for himself and Aunt Polly. Every day, the honest, struggling old man could be seen busy with his basket of cakes in the camps. As a soldier would look in upon them with wistful eyes, he could almost hear them sing:

*We come from a home fragrant with sugar and spice,  
We are horses, diamonds, and hearts so sweet, so nice—  
Like old Santa used to put in stockings for thee,  
We would plead for hearts and hands that long to be free.*

Uncle Watty's business soon outgrew his basket and his lame leg. Fortunately for him, at this time, several condemned government horses were turned loose to die by a passing squad of troopers. He appropriated one of them. It had been the victim of rough service and was apparently on its last legs and followed with difficulty its delighted captor, who with rope in hand, Uncle Watty introduced it to Aunt Polly. "If we can make a genuine success of it, we can call it Flying Cloud, after Marse Fenton Audd's racer, which beat Mermaid in the old field last year." By his kind and careful attention, old Flying Cloud made a strong and healthy recovery and proved essential in helping Watty with his cakes business.

It was never quiet along the Potomac whenever Uncle Watty was on the road, for snatches of songs and hymns filled-in any interlude and sometimes even rose above the clatter of his original outfit, the outgrowth of necessity and poverty, ingenuity, and perseverance. Uncle Watty and Aunt Polly toiled on. He became the soldiers' favorite, and he prospered.

About this time, I left the village and did not return until my vacation the following summer. When meeting with him, in reply to my inquiry how he

was getting along, he said, "Marse Ed, I am all broke up. Don't you know that when some new soldiers came along on their way to Gettysburg, and saw the U.S. stamped on my horse, they took it?" I told him this was the first I heard of it. "Why, you made a good horse out of one turned away to die, and the government got him." The old man's face brightened up as he said, "What can I do?" I said, "Go down to Washington and ask the president for another. Do you not believe he will give you one?" The colored people had implicit faith in Abraham Lincoln, and it is scarcely exaggeration when I say they believed his shadow, like that of the Apostles, healed all on whom it happened to fall; and they learned he was kind and generous to the needy and the deserving. "I don't know him, and I couldn't see him if I went," he said. As he turned away, I lightly replied: "Well, I could give you a letter of introduction to him. Think about it."

It turned out he took me up on my words, as he called upon me the next day for the letter of introduction to Lincoln. We talked the matter over seriously. "Have faith, Uncle Watty, and do your best." Uncle Watty said, "I does believe the Lord will help. I feels it. He takes as good care of us on the rocks as he does on the pines on the Sugar Loaf, and wouldn't he care for me?"

I wrote the letter to the president. I gave Uncle Watty's story in full about the horse condemned to die; laid stress on the fact the he restored it, useful and valuable to the army in preparatory to the battle at Gettysburg—his contribution to the war for the Union; that he had been a faithful servant, and was a worthy man; and now, in his old age, without any fault of his own, was dependent on his own exertions and precarious calling for a livelihood. I asked the president to give him another horse. I enclosed the letter in a large envelope.

In a few days, Uncle Watty found his way to Washington and to the White House, with the letter in his hand, and gave it to an usher, who carried it upstairs to the president and later on brought it back with a memorandum and directed him to carry it to the quartermaster general's department.

Uncle Watty was delighted to tell his experience on his memorable trip to Washington and of the kindness he received, and he used to close his tale with the exclamation, "

The half of it can never be told. I bless the Lord."

Uncle Watty sleeps in the God's acre at the old church he loved so well. The representatives of another generation crowd the gallery, the dark spots on the wall and the boxes filled with sand on the men's side have disappeared. We indulge the hope that all the sinners have joined the saints in a happier world, and it is all quiet along the Potomac; but the story of Uncle Watty and his horse and the justice and kindness of heart of the great man, who burdened with the cares of the high office he filled and adorned in the perilous times in which he was the commanding figure, paused to give a helping hand to a poor, yet worthy, colored man, are remembered as a happy episode of other and trying days.

The United States are again the United States. If Uncle Watty could speak for his people today, he would say for them the U.S. brand stamped on the iron gray has a wider significance, for they include US.

The village has never returned to its old times' quietude, for within a few miles is a great railroad, its belts of steel spanning the continent and clasping the oceans. It has been noted by the faithful chronicler of the neighborhood that at the close of a long day, when the oldest residents have been reviewing the incidents of war, and the distant echoes of an approaching or receding train falls upon them, they are always reminded of the exploits of Uncle Watty and his horses through the village and along the Potomac.

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## Remembrances

### Johanna Maria Catharina Meijer Heeres

Johanna "Jopy" Heeres passed away peacefully at home on January 3, 2017 in Gaithersburg. She was born on July 9, 1923 in Jakarta, Indonesia. At that time, Indonesia was part of the Dutch East Indies. She was the daughter of the late Franciscus Johannes Gerhardus Meijer and Wilhelmina Nuijen. She was preceded in death by her husband Willy Heiko Heeres, born in Holland, her daughter Farida "Pita" Heeres Whitcomb of Connecticut, and her two sisters, Toni Blatt of Hawaii and Liesje Wilson of Washington state.

She lived a long, full life, having survived three years in a Japanese concentration camp during World War II in Indonesia, then three more years just after the war in an Indonesian concentration camp. She met and married her husband Willy, also a Japanese concentration camp survivor, in Indonesia in 1950. They had two daughters while in Indonesia, then immigrated to the United States in 1959. They lived in Hawaii for five years and had two more daughters, and then moved to Holland for one year. In 1966, they moved back to the United States. They lived in Poolesville for a few years. Her husband Willy passed away in 1984, and she moved in with her oldest daughter in Boyds. In 1998, she moved into an apartment in Gaithersburg where she thrived. At age 75, she became independent and taught classes in crocheting, exercise, and English language at her apartment building where she made a lot of friends. Several years later, she became president of the social club in her building where she met John Nazarian. They fell in love and were together for over ten years until her passing. She is survived by her three daughters: Muhany "Hany" Harner (Chuck) of Maryland, Fawzia "Schatzie" Heeres of Washington state, Aisha Heeres Zeigler of Virginia, Linda Baldwin of Maryland (who has been a member of the family since 1976); John Nazarian; six grandchildren, Chip Harner (Melissa) of Maryland, Tanya Pearce and fiancé (Marty) of Georgia, John Whitcomb III (Minnie) of Georgia, Kimberly Dunnuck (Tony) of Delaware, and Dylan and Kassie Zeigler of Virginia; and nine great-grandchildren, Jacob, Cameron, and Kayla Harner, Sadie Soots and Ari Petza, Aiden and Aubrie Whitcomb, and Alena and Zack Dunnuck.

Jopy had a kind and gentle soul and only thought about other people. She also loved animals and nature. She was cremated, and a celebration of life will be held at the home of her daughter Hany Harner in Boyds this June.



Johanna Maria  
Catharina Meijer Heeres

### Gabriella Molina

Gabriella Molina, 21, of Poolesville, died suddenly on February 6, 2017.

She was the beloved daughter of Carlos and Monica Molina. Gabriella is also survived by her sister, Alessandra; maternal grandparents, Sonia and Neno; paternal grandparents Sarita and Armando; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews.

The family will receive friends on Friday, February 10 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Hilton Funeral Home, 22111 Beallsville Road, Barnesville. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 11 at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 18230 Barnesville Road, Barnesville.

A reception will follow at the church's pavilion.



Gabriella Molina

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Continued from page 3.

### Town Hears Ethics Commission Report on Allegations and Considers Poolesville Day Budget Request

the committee is requesting \$20,000 for 2017. The commission will consider the request in the context of its upcoming budget deliberations.

Ven Eperen, the firm that supports the town's media and marketing activities, appeared next to make its annual report. The firm drafted and placed many news releases, provided event support and social media support, drafted and released press statements, and supported the town's economic development activities, including the placement of an article in several magazines devoted to grocery stores. They committed to increasing their press and media support activities in 2017, including work to promote the 150th anniversary of the town.

Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski asked that Van Eperen develop some metrics that demonstrate the impact of their activities.

Cathy Bupp next appeared before the commission to request funding for the special events that the town supports each year. In support of her request, she cited the many events the town sponsors each year, including the Holiday Lighting ceremony and Fridays on the Commons. This year, the town is focusing attention on celebrating its 150th anniversary. Enhancements to existing events, including the Holiday Lighting Ceremony, necessitated asking for \$44,000 for 2017, a larger budget request than last year. Again, the request will be considered in the town's upcoming budget deliberations.

Town Manager Wade Yost wrapped up the meeting by offering an overview of the town's annual report on the operations of its sewer plant. Taking into account the growth of new homes, annual rainfall, and water usage, the flows treated at the plant have consistently decreased, pointing to the success of the town's efforts to fix water infiltration into sewer pipes.

Continued from page 8.

### Tidbits

that they need on their journey to a new home. As part of their work toward earning their Silver Awards, the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can earn, Lia and Erin look forward to delivering the duffle bags to the Comfort Cases program in the coming weeks.

### Welcome to Carter Lawrence Hafner

Congratulations to Morgan Rae Howard and fiancé Jacob Lawrence Hafner on the birth of their son Carter Lawrence Hafner. He was born on December 21, 2016 at 4:08 p.m. at Shady Grove Hospital and came into this world at 7 lbs., 11 oz., and 20½ inches long. The proud grandparents are John and Annette Howard of Poolesville, Wayne and Sherri Eyler of Martinsburg, West Virginia, and Joel and Irene Hafner of Jefferson. In addition, there are numerous great-grandparents, aunts, and uncles. Morgan graduated from PHS in 2013 and Jacob graduated from Clarksburg High School in 2012. He is the first grandchild for both grandparents; Carter and his parents are doing great!



Our newest neighbor:  
Carter Lawrence Hafner.

### Poolesville Designated Tree City USA!

The Town of Poolesville is proud to announce that it has been named a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation. Through the efforts of our elected officials, the Sustainable Poolesville Committee, and in partnership with our local schools, Poolesville has achieved the honor of becoming a Tree City USA. It attained Tree City USA status by meeting four core standards of sound urban forestry management: maintaining a tree board or department, having a community tree ordinance, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, and celebrating Arbor Day.

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# Poolesville Veterinary Clinic

## *Valentine's Day: A Word of Caution about Dogs and Chocolate*

*By Dr. Peter Eeg*

Each year, poison control experts see a rise in cases around February 14, many involving chocolate or lilies, a flower that's potentially fatal to cats. Valentine's Day can be as much fun for pets as it is for humans—as long as dangerous items are kept out of paws' reach!

### **Pet-Safe Bouquets**

When sending a floral arrangement to someone with a cat, specify that it contain no lilies—and when receiving an arrangement, sift through and remove all dangerous flora. If your pet is suffering from symptoms such as lethargy, vomiting, or diarrhea, he may have ingested an offending flower or plant.

### **Forbidden Chocolate**

Seasoned pet lovers know that all types of chocolate are potentially life-threatening when ingested by pets. Methylxanthines are caffeine-like stimulants that affect gastrointestinal, neurologic, and cardiac function; they can cause vomiting, diarrhea, hyperactivity, seizures, and an abnormally elevated heart rate. The high-fat content in lighter chocolates can potentially lead to a life-threatening inflammation of the pancreas. Go ahead and indulge, but don't leave chocolate out for chowhounds to find.

### **Careful with Cocktails**

Spilled wine, a half a glass of champagne, or some leftover liquor are nothing to cry over until a curious pet laps them up. Because animals are smaller than humans, a little bit of alcohol can do a lot of harm, causing vomiting, diarrhea, lack of coordination, central nervous system depression, tremors, difficulty breathing, metabolic disturbances, and even coma. Potentially fatal respiratory failure can also occur if a large amount is ingested.

### **Life Is Sweet...**

...so don't let pets near treats sweetened with xylitol. If ingested, gum, candy, and other treats that include this sweetener can result in hypoglycemia (a sudden drop in blood sugar). This can cause your pet to suffer depression, loss of coordination, and seizures.

### **Every Rose Has Its Thorn**

Don't let pets near roses or other thorny-stemmed flowers. Biting, stepping on, or swallowing their sharp, woody spines can cause serious infection if a puncture occurs. De-thorn your roses far away from pets.

### **Playing with Fire**

It's nice to set your evening a-glow with candlelight, but put out the fire when you leave the room. Pawing kittens and nosy pooches can burn themselves or cause a fire by knocking over unattended candles.

### **Wrap It Up**

Gather up tape, ribbons, bows, wrapping paper, cellophane, and balloons after presents have been opened—if swallowed, these long, stringy, and fun-to-chew items can get lodged in your pet's throat or digestive tract, causing her to choke or vomit.

### **The Furry Gift of Life?**

Giving a cuddly puppy or kitten may seem a fitting Valentine's Day gift; however, returning a pet you hadn't planned on is anything but romantic. Companion animals bring with them a lifelong commitment, and choosing a pet for someone else doesn't always turn out right.



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