

# The Monocacy

# MONOCLE

*Keeping an Eye on Local News*

A Biweekly Newspaper

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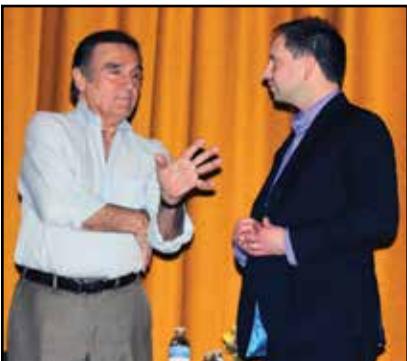
Super Bowl fun can be at home or out. See more celebration pictures in Family Album on page 2.



Photographer Martin Radigan with daughter Maisie hiking in Maine. Read more in Center Stage on page 5.



Susan and Charles Jamison joined together to form a law firm. Read about it on page 8.



PHS Drama Director Nathaniel Gordon welcomed renowned film and Broadway star, Tony Lo Bianco. Read about his visit on page 10.

## Ice Rink Decisions Remain in Limbo

By Rande Davis

The saga of what to do about a privately-owned ice rink on Sugarland Road in Poolesville moved to Poolesville's Parks Board meeting on February 3. The owner of the rink, Marc Kohn, named it Mel's Rink as a tribute to his daughter who passed away last summer and who had a great passion for hockey and ice-skating. He had hoped that the rink would become a free venue for skating enthusiasts young and old. Lacking the proper permitting from the county government, public use was suspended and the rink reduced to only allowing up to five participants at a time.

At a meeting with Mr. Kohn last month, county officials advised him that the rink was not properly permitted and in violation of county regulations not suitable for wide (more than five persons at a time) and had to be moved. They expressed interest in partnering with Mr. Kohn in that endeavor and also recommended that he approach the Town of Poolesville to



The owner of Mel's Rink, Marc Kohn, updated the town's Planning Commission on meetings with the county. The Planning Commission is looking into any viable locations for the rink within Poolesville.

see if they might be able to help in this situation.

The 2,100-square-foot rink is a series of sheets of polyurethane, high intensity plastic, on top of 200 wood

palates, and is connected with dovetail joints and is designed to be movable. The ice rink could be used year-round

Continued on page 6.

## The Old Town Hall Bank Museum and Exhibit Center

By Rande Davis

As the Town of Poolesville began the twentieth century, it was quite a thriving community. It is hard to imagine, but just a quarter of century earlier, in 1878, Montgomery County records showed the population of Poolesville to be 278, while the population of Bethesda was just twenty-five. Poolesville's population would remain around 300 to 350 until the early 1960s when construction on the new waste water treatment plant and the Westerly subdivision began.

In the early 1900s, one of Poolesville's leading citizens was H. W. Spurrier, an important merchant among the many important merchants in the bustling little town. His two-story 44,000-square-foot establishment offered consumers ready-made clothing, boots, shoes, hats, underwear, furniture, floor coverings, chinaware, and novelties, but he was not the only general store in town. Back then, the



The original Board of Directors of the Poolesville National Bank.

town had three other general merchandise stores: Wootton and Elgin's, Fletchall Hall's, and Thomas Hoskinson's. Additionally, Mr. J. E. Pyles had the town's drugstore, and E. D. Cruitt

specialized in harnesses. Isaac Fyfe was the town's butcher, and C. W. Morrison sold tin and hardware.

Continued on page 9.

# Family Album



The football fans at House of Poolesville were treated to a special chili cookoff menu!

# House of Poolesville..

# Cugini's...



Fans at Cugini's, wishing they had come to see the Redskins instead, still had a great time.



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## Town Government Report

### Snowstorm Report And Grant Request From MES

By Link Hoewing

The Town of Poolesville commissioners heard a summary report from town manager Wade Yost regarding the recent snowstorm at their February 1 meeting. They also considered a grant request from Monocacy Elementary School (MES) and reviewed a draft ordinance on tree planting and management in the town.

#### MES Grant Request

Kristin Alben, the principal of Monocacy Elementary School, and Annette Coates, a reading specialist at the school, presented a request to the commissioners for a grant to support the purchase of a license for a digital library and reading program children can access online via a variety of devices, including computers and iPads. Alben said she had had access to the program when she was on the staff of Great Seneca Creek Elementary School and, in her view, the program has great value for children; it not only allows access to a great number of important books for children almost instantaneously, but can also be used by those with vision impairments and includes important tools such as an online dictionary.

In her request for support, Alben remarked that out of the 168 students at Monocacy, 54 come from Poolesville; she considers MES part of the Poolesville community. She added that she had been able to negotiate the price of the license from \$6900 per year to \$4000 for a full year. For the balance of the current year, the price would be \$2000, and the PTA at Monocacy has agreed to pay \$1000 of the cost for this year. She felt that she could not put more of the financial burden on the parents since the county had not yet decided to fund the program.

The Poolesville commissioners all seemed sympathetic to the request and appeared to understand the value of the program to young readers; however, as Commission President Jim Brown said, "This is a sticky situation." The town does make grants to a variety of projects and has even included school projects in the past, but Poolesville residents paid taxes to the county to education, and it is the county's and PTA's responsibility to support programs such as the one Principal Alben had put forward. Similar comments came

from all of the other commissioners, and they decided to put the request on hold for further discussion at the next commissioners' meeting.

#### Snowstorm Report

Yost presented an overview of how well the town managed during the recent epic snowstorm. Advance preparation was key to managing the onslaught of the storm. Notices went out to employees notifying them that in many instances, in order to help operate equipment to remove snow, they might not be able to return home immediately. The town also had contracts with private companies to supply needed heavy equipment, like dump trucks to remove snow, front-end loaders, and skid steers. The town also posted notices for all residents about the pending storm and the importance of shoveling walks as soon as possible after the storm abated.

All six of the town's Parks and Streets staff plus staff from the Water Department were deployed to run plows and trucks in the early stages of the storm. By 6:30 p.m., twenty-four hours after the storm began (Saturday, January 23), every street in town had seen at least one plow make a pass. On Monday and Tuesday of the next week, town staff widened plowed streets and began loading snow that had piled high in some areas, trucking it to parks such as Campbell Park. The townhouses were especially challenging, and, although they consist of only a small portion of all homes in Poolesville, it took two days to dig out the parking lots in those areas. On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of the week after the storm (January 27, 28, and 29), efforts were concentrated on continued removal of big snow piles that blocked views, especially at intersections, and the snow removal from main public sidewalks.

According to Yost's report, citizens, by and large, did listen to requests to move cars off of streets as soon as driveways were cleared. The total cost of the storm to the town was in the neighborhood of \$7000, but that money might be recovered from the State of Maryland since Governor Hogan declared a state of emergency.

Town commissioners and the small audience in attendance were uniformly positive in their comments about the snow removal efforts. In response to a question, Yost said that the town did not need any more equipment for snow removal. Large dump trucks and front-end loaders, while needed in this storm, would not be utilized much during the balance of the

Continued on page 11.



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## Commentary

### Shared Experiences

By John Clayton

I was a little late to my Super Bowl viewing party, so I listened to the National Anthem on the car radio. While I didn't listen to the game, it reminded me that I always enjoy hearing big national sporting events on the radio. Listening to sports on the radio, and particularly baseball, is a topic in itself, but here I'm referring to those high-profile games like the World Series or the Super Bowl.

It's that feeling that we are all sharing something together, no matter where we are, almost anywhere in the world, thanks to the Armed Forces Network and the Internet. It's hard to describe, because it's just a feeling, but it is familiar to me and one I enjoy. Once many years ago my girlfriend (eventually to be wife) and I were driving up from Florida on Super Bowl Sunday—Dallas versus Denver, which would make it 1978. We made that trip a number of times, but what sticks that day in my memory is that we had the game on most of the time, more as background than as the focus of our attention, the way I keep baseball on the radio while I'm reading or doing something else in the summer, because I like the sound. The game would come in strong, then fade out—I'm sure I had to search the AM dial for the same broadcast on a new station any number of times, but I always found it. We were on I-95 where you get that monster AM band reception and the high-power stations from Chicago, Boston, and Fort Wayne, Indiana are always there. It's just a warm feeling for me; everyone everywhere was listening to the same broadcast, north and south, east and west, and on all the ships at sea, with apologies to Walter Winchell. The memory of that keeps other details alive—how cold it was on the way up, and how there was snow all around as we drove further north until we got to my parent's house in North Bethesda.

Our current presidential race is another shared experience and while it is entertaining enough, it doesn't trigger the same emotions as the Super Bowl. There is nothing I could possibly say that hasn't been said, but there are common threads of discussion. The topic comes up often, and I have heard many express similar thoughts.

For example, there are those who absolutely detest Hilary Clinton for a wide range of reasons who can't abide the thought of voting for her, and yes, there are Republicans who dislike her as well. Others feel she is by far the best qualified candidate in the race, on either side, but acknowledge they will vote with one hand and hold their nose closed with the other. Some I suppose like her across the board, but I haven't talked to as many of them. She might do better with younger people with shorter memories if not for Bernie Sanders, who owns the younger vote, but I seem to be too old to encounter many of his true believers. To me, and perhaps others, he is a lot like Rand Paul: two men who point out things that are legitimately wrong or of concern, and who have a deep moral foundation for their beliefs, but they don't seem to have any credible solutions for rectifying these problems, and don't display enough of the qualities we look for in a president. As for Sanders, Peggy Noonan, writing in *The Wall Street Journal*, suggested that younger voters who do not have a clear memory of what socialism meant in the twentieth century may find Sanders's Democratic Socialism fresh, exciting, and even plausibly practical. That might explain some of this amazing appeal along the age fault.

On the other side, Donald Trump has been declared dead so many times that even a Tom Sawyer reference is insufficient. I am not the only one who finds to their amazement that Ted Cruz could magically make us sympathetic to Trump, and even see Trump as the more reasonable alternative. Is this a strange campaign or what? John Kasich may have finally begun to build a head of steam, but can the Ohio guy keep his steam up in the South? Is Jeb! Bush finally finding his feet under him, moving steadily in the right direction? Is he more likely to thrive as the primaries move south? Can Marco Rubio survive his Robo-Boy characterization? History shows that when you get tagged with a quality and keep living up (or down) to it, it hurts. Ask George Allen, Jr., Al Gore, George H.W. Bush, and all those Massachusetts Democrats over the years how that works. Has Chris Christie figured out that it's not enough to be the voters' second or third favorite pick? Is there any chance he could beat up Rubio one more time before he leaves? Carly and Ben, are you still there, and why?

The good news is, pitchers and catchers report next week, and the groundhog did not see his shadow. There is always hope.

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### The Monocacy MONOCLE

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Published and Edited by  
John Clayton and Rande Davis

John Clayton  
Production  
Financial  
301.349.0071  
jclayton@monocacymonocle.com

Rande Davis  
Advertising  
Circulation  
301.509.9232  
rdavis@monocacymonocle.com

Dominique Agnew  
Copyediting  
dqagnew@gmail.com

editor@monocacymonocle.com  
advertising@monocacymonocle.com  
www.monocacymonocle.com

Monocacy Press, LLC  
John Clayton, President  
Rande Davis, Vice President  
P.O. Box 372  
Barnesville, MD 20838-0372  
301.349.0071

#### Contributing Writers

Dominique Agnew  
dqagnew@gmail.com  
Pam Boe  
pamboe@intairnet.com  
Link Hoewing  
linkhoe@aol.com  
Kristen Milton  
kmilton1998@yahoo.com  
Maureen O'Connell  
mafocconnell@msn.com  
Susan Petro  
bsusan424@gmail.com  
Heidi Rosvold-Brenholtz  
Heidi@HealthyEdit.com  
Jeffrey S. Stuart  
sark10@juno.com  
Jack Toomey  
jackt21262@aol.com  
Ingeborg Westfall  
ingeborg560@comcast.net

#### Contributing Photographer

Jonathan Hemming

#### Layout and Graphics

Anne-Marie Thomas • AnyArt Studios LLC  
Anne-Marie@AnyArtStudios.com

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## Center Stage

### It's a Radigan Sky Out There

By Rande Davis

There are so many high-quality and accomplished photographers in the Poolesville area, the town could consider fostering an inspiring new image as a photographers' colony. The *Monocle* has covered a few established photographers in the past and will be writing about some of the up-and-coming artists in future issues, and the one we start with this issue is Martin Radigan.

A native of Bethesda, Radigan and his wife, Abby, moved to Poolesville in September of 2014. They have a two-year-old daughter, Maisie. Moving to Poolesville was a perfect fit for the family. "The move here has been great for my family and me. It's such a beautiful town with a great community. Abby and I feel fortunate to have a really great group of friends in and around town who are some of the best people you could ever hope to meet." His love of outdoor photography has led to a wonder and love of the Ag Reserve and, consequently, he has become active with the Montgomery Countryside Alliance and was recently elected to its board of directors.

He has pursued photography as a hobby and avocation for more than ten years. He has long spent a great amount of time outdoors (he and Abby are ardent hikers and kayakers), so he found himself in inspiring and beautiful places evoking special meaning to him. "I thought, Why not capture this moment (place) on film (actually, I have always shot in digital)." While he does cover people, wildlife, and other things, his favorite is landscape and has become, as he would say, "my main focus." See what he did there?

Being an outdoor photographer has led to many unusual, dangerous, and often funny situations. Perhaps his scariest was finding himself only fifteen feet from a rather large grizzly bear. He recalls thinking that he had learned or remembered that you are not supposed to run from a bear, so he simply kept taking shots of the bear. "I did what I do, which is take pictures, and the bear did what it was supposed to do, which, fortunately, didn't involve eating me. The photos were very good!"

In asking about other highlights of his photography, he noted lots of moments that were especially satisfying. "Catching the perfect sky with an incredible landscape—those type



*In its natural habitat, the Radigan, as a photographer, sometimes takes on the role of contortionist.*

moments are great—and leading photography workshops/tours has been a lot of fun on several levels. Having an image published or otherwise recognized is always nice."

Martin published a beautiful outdoor calendar this year and had a show of his work at the Blue Hearth last December (he still has some of the calendars left to sell). He has a marked passion for dramatic skies and skylines. "The sky can be so interesting, and it's always different. I love the drama and mood that a good sky can evoke. Living in Poolesville, where the landscape is relatively flat, you get a lot of sky. There are so many types of what I would call good skies: colorful sunsets/sunrises, storm clouds, Milky Way, and so much more."

His sky shots have gotten so much attention by residents in the area, that one Facebook writer once wrote on her timeline about a beautiful sunset she was seeing and remarked, "It's a Radigan Sky out there."

Nearly as much as photography itself, he enjoys teaching photography. "I enjoy leading photography workshops/tours and taking people to these incredible places that I've come to know well. It's amazing to share with folks and help them create the images that they're looking for. I do several workshops/tours each year, some on my own and some with various co-leaders. Last summer, I co-led my first workshop/tour in Maine and that was a lot of fun. The Maine coast is so amazingly beautiful, and you never know what that coastal weather is going to do, so it keeps it interesting." Martin plans another Maine workshop/tour this summer, as well as some in the West Virginia Highlands and Pennsylvania Highlands. "I also will be doing a couple of local workshops with Montgomery Countryside Alliance," he added, "to help the organization."

You can see much of his work at his website, [martinradigan.com](http://martinradigan.com) or at his Facebook page.

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## Things To Do

### February 14

#### Valentine's Day

Consider taking that special someone to a local restaurant. Reservations are always advisable.

### February 16

#### Commissioners' Meeting

Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

### February 17

#### Poolesville Area Senior Center

*Tai chi.* 17750 W. Willard Road, Poolesville. 10:30 a.m.

### February 18

#### PASC Special Event

*Book Club. The Postmistress.* Poolesville Library. 7:00 p.m.

### February 19

#### PHS Varsity Home Games

Boys' basketball vs. Churchill. 6:00 p.m.

### February 22

#### PHS Varsity Home Games

Basketball vs. Kennedy. Boys at 5:30 p.m., girls at 7:00 p.m.

### February 24

#### PASC Special Event

*Tai chi.* 17750 W. Willard Road. 10:30 a.m.

#### PASC Special Event

*Zumba Gold.* 17750 W. Willard Road. 1:00 p.m.

### February 25

#### PASC Special Event

*Bingo.* Bring dessert or finger food. 17750 W. Willard Road. 1:00 p.m.

### February 26 and February 27

#### St. Peter's Annual

#### Used Book and Media Sale

Books, music, movies, and software. Bake sale and Easter things. Donations welcome. 20100 Fisher Ave., Poolesville. Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Continued from page 1.

### Ice Rink Decisions Remain in Limbo

as it can withstand a temperature range of -20° F to 110° F. The sixty-four plastic panels costing from \$300 to \$400 have a lifespan of up to twenty years.

The town Parks Board serves as the hearing panel and advisory board to the town commissioners, who have the final determination on any decision regarding the rink.

Doug McKenney, Parks Board Chairman, opened the inquiry focusing on maintenance and other related costs should the town take ownership of the rink. Unlike other parks in town like the skateboard park, an ice rink will require weekly maintenance of up to three hours of labor. That labor consists of cleaning the surface and spraying a topcoat with an environmentally-safe material that creates a slick surface for skating. Other probable costs related to operating the rink would include snow removal, and Mr. Kohn suggested that a rink should also have a shed for skate storage and a skate blade-sharpening availability. The location would most likely require restroom facilities.

Concern was raised over vandalism issues, and Mr. Kohn assured the board that anything spray-painted on the ice could be readily scraped away. As far as other damage by moving or disassembly parts, he suggested an encasement encircling the rink could easily be attached making it very difficult for vandals to do harm to the rink, and each panel, weighing ninety pounds, also would be very discouraging to would-be vandals.

A discussion opened as to possible sites. It was reported that the county might propose a location in the parking lot of the county pool, but the rink would have to be closed and taken down during the summer months to not interfere with the swimming activities. Another proposal was another private sector project that involved soccer fields and the placement of the rink. Mr. Kohn was not enthusiastic of it becoming a commercial rink as it his preference to keep it free to the public. The parks board brainstormed ideas such as: the parking lot of Halmos Park, near the upcoming dog park located adjacent to the skateboard park, and closing one of the underused town tennis courts.

Commissioner Brice Halbrook remarked that a county official did vaguely indicate the county had money available for the project, and Mr. Kohn also noted their general interest in advancing ice hockey in the county.

The meeting concluded with the board voting for a resolution to review all possible locations in the town for the rink, considering any other ramifications of hosting a rink, and to eventually making a recommendation to the town commissioners whether to move forward or not. In the meantime, the town commissioners, the Parks Board, and Mr. Kohn are awaiting further response from the county regarding its proposal of sites and usage ideas.

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Do you have some local history or points of interest you would like to share with our readers? Send it along to [editor@monocacymonocle.com](mailto:editor@monocacymonocle.com)

# The St. Mary's Antique Show & Sale

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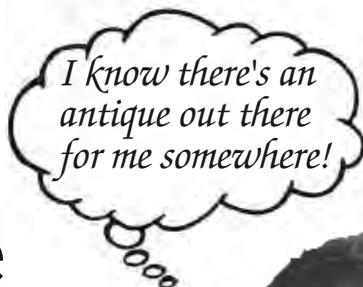
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## Focus on Business

### Mother and Son Law Firm Celebrates One-Year Anniversary

By Susan Petro

When one hears or sees the name Jamison in and around the Poolesville community, most associate the name with the Charles H. Jamison Inc. Real Estate Company. The family-owned business, founded by Charles H. Jamison in 1950, has been a familiar landmark located right in the heart of town near the intersection of Fisher Avenue and Elgin Road. The business continues to be run by family members, including Charles's sons, Robert (Bobby), Franklin, and William, plus daughter-in-law, Susan, and grandson, Charles (Charlie).

Charlie Jamison, like his father and grandfather before him, holds a real estate broker's license and can be found selling homes, farms, and properties from the Poolesville office; however, Charlie isn't limited to just the real estate business. This week, Charlie and his mother, Susan, celebrated the one-year anniversary of their mother-and-son law partnership: Jamison & Jamison LLC.

After graduating *cum laude* from Florida Coastal School of Law, Charlie went to work for a private law firm practicing general law until he decided that he wanted to become more involved with the family's real estate business. Although Charlie and Susan didn't originally plan to open a law practice together; they occasionally joked about the possibility in earlier years.

Susan Jamison, a mother of five, is a graduate of Catholic University's Columbus School of Law. She spent many years working in both the private and public sectors, including a three-year stint in the Department of Labor for a Special Litigation Task Force. In addition to her work in the public and private sectors, Susan also devoted many hours to the family-run real estate business. Today, Susan has another prestigious title added to her resume: grandmother of four. When not helping out with the law firm, she can often be found caring for her daughter's children.

The plans to open a firm fell together in 2014 when the former Roberson Plumbing building and home located in the heart of Dickerson came on the market. Charlie fell in love with the historic home that sits next to the large barn building that stands prominently on the corner of

Route 28 and Mount Ephraim Road. He thought the property, located directly across from the Dickerson Train Station, would be a perfect location to build a new law practice.

Charlie's dad, Bobby, an avid wood craftsman when he is not selling real estate or farming, helped to restore the home into law offices. A twelve-foot office table was handcrafted with hahogany; the walls in the main office are adorned with wooden panels custom-crafted from large local trees; and two wooden columns saved from another local historic home are mounted on both sides of an opening between the office and an adjoining room.

Jamison & Jamison LLC is a general law practice and handles many types of legal issues including real estate, zoning variances, probates, and wills, and other family law issues such as DUIs, and criminal and civil litigation. On a typical day, Charlie may be found in court in the morning and showing a home for sale in the afternoon.

Susan is clearly proud of Charlie's accomplishments in recent years, both as an excellent lawyer and real estate broker. Many awards adorn the walls of the office from his law school years. The award Susan is most proud of is Charlie's recognition for doing pro bono work for others. Susan said that clients frequently sought Charlie specifically due to his dedication and determination to help his clients. Even today, much of Charlie's work comes from word-of-mouth recommendations from other satisfied clients.

Helping families to plan their estates is one important aspect of what the law firm does. "I truly think a lot of young people need wills," said Susan. "They need estate plans, especially when they have children, and yet, the prices can be out of their budget. I believe we are in their budget, and I like to offer that service to our young people." Susan describes how a couple can go out on a date and never come home, often leaving a mess if a plan is not in place for their family. "Most people want to know their children will be raised by a certain person, or within a certain faith and a certain type of education," said Susan.

Charlie appreciates his mom's experience in the field. They share a common goal to meet the needs of their clients at affordable rates. "We strive to give our clients reasonable rates," said Charlie. "We do not overcharge." Many initial consultations are free depending upon the needs of the clients.

To learn more about Jamison & Jamison LLC, check out their Facebook page of the same name or their website at [www.jamisonslaw.com](http://www.jamisonslaw.com).

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Continued from page 1.

**The Old Town Hall  
Bank Museum and Exhibit Center**

With so much enterprise in the town, the twenty-mile trip to Rockville to do banking was an undesired burden on the many merchants and businessmen in town. Additionally, the small safes in each store did not adequately safeguard the capital of each merchant. Through the leadership of Spurrier, the business community joined together to charter a new national bank. Spurrier became its first president, and James Darby, Dr. Walling, William Griffith, John Jones, Furr White, and D. J. Willard made up the first Board of Directors of the Poolesville National Bank. (Can you spot the Poolesville street names here?)

Spurrier was not only a leading businessperson, but he was elected to the town commission and was also made its president. Under his tutelage, new sidewalks replaced old wooden sidewalks, which provided welcome relief from an often muddy, dirt road that ran right through the center of town. The installation of the town's four-foot-wide sidewalk, costing between \$1000 and \$1200, gave Spurrier much

pride since it was all paid with no outstanding debt.

Chartered on December 9, 1907 with just \$25,000 in capital, all the bank's stockholders lived within a five-mile radius of Poolesville. At that time, the bank paid four percent interest on savings accounts, which, except for just one other bank, was the highest paid in the county. By September 1908, resources versus liabilities netted \$89,595.95. By June of 1912, financial success reached \$125,843.12.

Despite careful and prudent management in the early days, the Poolesville National Bank faced its own challenges. On April 22, 1918, a liberty loan became oversubscribed and customers converged en masse to voice their concerns. The Board of Directors eventually was able to pay out twenty-three cents on the dollar and, through commitment and dedication, they were able to reopen the doors; it was like *A Wonderful Life* right in Poolesville. Eventually, the bank was acquired by the First National Bank of Maryland and continued to serve the community until 1966. It was in December of 1966 that the building's vault doors were officially closed for the last time.

You may wonder if the bank was ever robbed. This particular bank building was never robbed, but in 1971,

armed gunmen robbed the National Bank in the shopping center next to St. Peter's Church, taking \$6,604. One robber had a sawed-off shotgun while the other brandished a pistol. While no one was hurt, one shot was fired, possibly by accident. The entire event took just five to six minutes.

The bank eventually became the Poolesville Town Hall until the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed and, lacking adequate handicapped access to the second floor, could no longer hold public meetings. The town commissioners met at times in St. Peter's Church, then, before settling at its most recent location on Whalen Commons, temporarily resided in a retail location, now occupied by Mooney's Frozen Yogurt. All told, there are four old town halls since the Friendly Thrift Shop on West Willard Road held that title for most of the town's history.

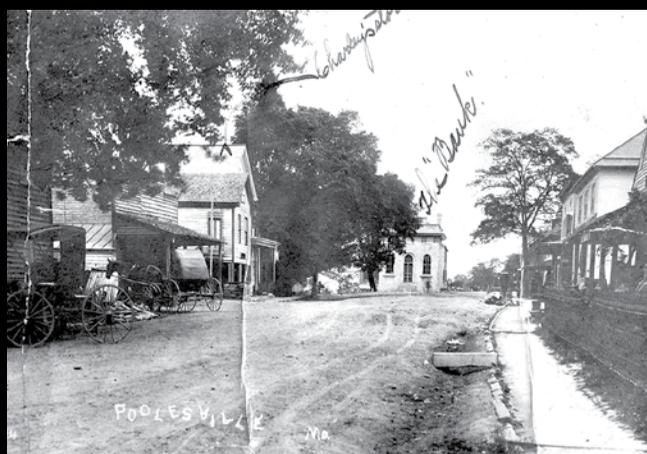
Today, the building is owned by the Historic Medley District, Inc., and the museum not only hosts Civil War displays but has hosted art and photo contests, tributes to the military and our African-American heritage, a writers' symposium—even a wedding!—and has hosted such community civic groups as the Poolesville American Legion, PACC, and the Poolesville Area Senior Center board of directors.

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One of the earliest pictures of the bank. Note the tree in this pictures was not in the BOD picture which was from 1912.



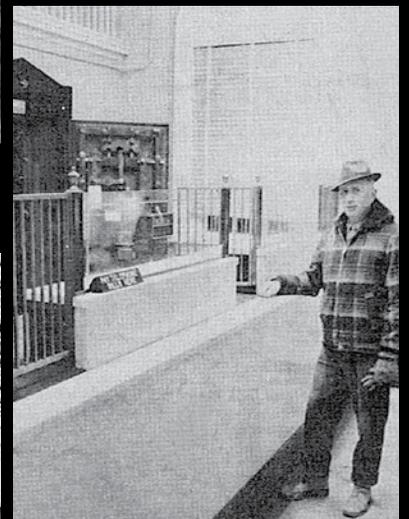
The third Liberty Loan meeting in front of the Poolesville National Bank on April 22, 1918 at which allotment was largely oversubscribed.



New sidewalks replaced the old wooden planking.



View from bank steps about 1936.



Former Town of Poolesville Commissioner Gene Halmos in a Sentinel newspaper picture showing the cashier bar. They were auctioned off; the buyer remains unknown.

## School News

### Star of the Silver Screen, Television, And Broadway Mentors Local Actors

By Rande Davis

The aspiring thespians from the Midnight Players drama team at Poolesville High School took a break from their hard work of rehearsing and preparing sets for the upcoming spring musical, *Bye Bye Birdie*, for a workshop by renowned actor Tony Lo Bianco.

Lo Bianco recently married Alyse Best Muldoon of Poolesville's Gone Away Farm. When asked by the PHS theater director if he would be kind enough to offer a workshop for student actors, he immediately agreed to do so.

Lo Bianco is a distinguished and multi-talented performer, writer, director, and producer appearing in over a hundred films, a multitude of television programs, and award-winning stage performances on and off Broadway.

He has won an Obie Award for Best Actor and, following his memorable performance as Eddie Carbone in Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge* on Broadway, was awarded a Tony nomination for Best Actor, winning the Outer Critics Circle award. The Emmy Award winner was born in Brooklyn, and as a youth was a golden glove boxer and all-star first baseman.

Some of his most memorable films were *French Connection*, *City Heat*, Oliver Stone's *Nixon*, and *F.I.S.T.* with Sylvester Stallone, another actor with a Poolesville connection as Stallone, at one time, owned a farm off of White's Ferry Road where his father Frank lived sporadically.

Lo Bianco starred in the television movie *The Rocky Marciano Story* about the only undefeated heavyweight-boxing champion of the world. He also was in the mini-series, *Jesus of Nazareth*, and appeared in many television

shows like *Police Story* and *Jessie* with Lindsay Wagner. He has won numerous awards recognizing his contributions to charities and a wide range of honorable causes.

Lo Bianco held the rapt, stone-silent attention of the students for over two hours as he shared experiences and delightful stories from a career spanning over sixty years. His dramatic rendition of an Italian father explaining to his embarrassed son the value and honor of hard work, despite having a humble job, was just one part of his inspirational message replete with tips in fulfilling their theatrical aspirations and, even more dynamically, sound and wise lessons about life.

Some of his most powerful one-liners included: "Get to work with enthusiasm to reap the rewards that life gives you," "There is no such thing as a small part," "Challenge is where you are going to grow, challenge is to be greeted as a welcome visitor," "Question everything, desire to learn everything, always be creative, and live life in wonder." In illustrating the value of learning from adversity, he said he became a successful ballplayer because he and his brother spent hours playing catch where the objective was to throw the ball to each other in the most difficult, near impossible places to catch. "That's how I became, despite being a bit short for the position, a city-wide All-Star first baseman in Brooklyn."

In urging them to be creative, he also warned them about trying new things that result in permanent changes that might not always be desired later in life. His example was getting a tattoo.

What is his secret to success as an actor? Understanding that acting is more than about expressing words, it's also about listening and reacting. He learned from an early teacher to come out of himself. He never let anything defeat him and, finally, he exhorted the students to remember that, "in America, you can be anything you want."



Renowned actor, Tony Lo Bianco, with his wife Alyse (center) recently mentored the PHS Midnight Players drama team.

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Continued from page 3.

**Snowstorm Report and Grant Request from MES**

year. He pointed to the standby contracts the town had with private companies who have large trucks and loaders as being the most cost-effective way to deal with large snow events.

**Proposed Tree Ordinance**

In the final piece of business, the commissioners reviewed a proposed ordinance on trees in the town. The ordinance was drafted to help the town meet its ongoing obligations as part of its Sustainable Poolesville initiative as reflected in the award it just received as a sustainable municipality. It also would comply with the Arbor Day Foundation's requirements and would help the town meet the requirements to be designated as a Tree City, U.S.A. by the foundation.

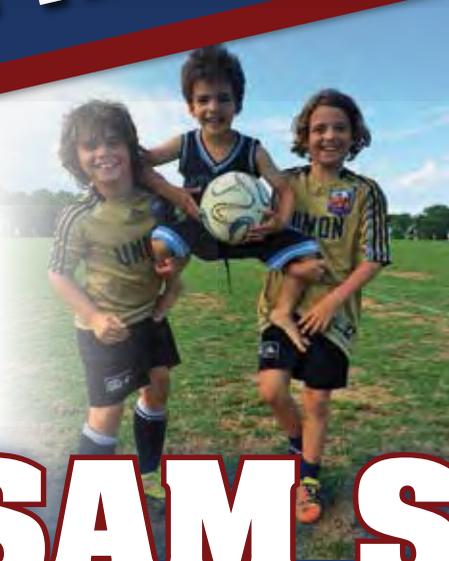
The ordinance would meet these requirements and obligations in part by establishing a "tree board" that would focus on ensuring that tree planting and management were ongoing objectives for the town. A revised list of approved trees that could be planted in town right-of-ways and parks is also a part of the new ordinance.

Tree maintenance guidelines would be formalized and included in the town's ordinances. Currently, the town follows maintenance procedures for public trees that are generally practiced by landscaping companies and experts, but the ordinance would include these procedures as part of the town ordinances.



The Maryland State and Town of Poolesville flags were lowered at sunrise, February 11, 2016 in honor of two Harford County Sheriff's Deputies who died in the line of duty on February 10, 2016.

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## Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

### Present Crime

*No incidents were reported by the Montgomery County Police.*

### Past Crime

**February 12, 1906** Two Rockville brothers were arrested and charged with trying to wreck trains on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Augustus and John Williams were said to have placed railroad spikes on the tracks between Rockville and Derwood in an attempt to derail trains.

**February 19, 1907** Information was given to States Attorney Robert Peter that may have led to an eighteen-month-old mystery: eighteen valuable head of cattle belonging to Oliver Henley, a prosperous farmer living near Rockville. A few weeks later, the homestead of Henley was burned down. Peter expressed confidence that the information that he had in his possession would lead to an arrest within a week.

**February 20, 1906** Deputy Mullican went to Burtonsville after receiving

information that an individual wanted for murder was hiding out there. Mullican located a man known as William Carter but was believed to be William Young. He was wanted for the murder of Capt. John Hoffman on the schooner Marshall at St. Jerome, St. Mary's County, Maryland. Mullican made plans to have Carter/Young taken to St. Jerome.

**February 22, 1905** James Bailey, also known as Con Shorty, was extradited from Cincinnati to Montgomery County to answer charges that he tried to rob the Sandy Spring Bank several months before. It was revealed that Bailey was also a suspect in the robberies of banks at Winchester and Westminster, but the evidence in the Montgomery County case was the strongest.

**February 25, 1905** Deputy Sheriff Mullican arrested well-known resident James Mount on a charge of polluting Mineral Springs Creek. It was reported that Mount operated a sawmill near the creek and allowed the sawdust to flow into the creek, turning the water black and killing the fish.

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

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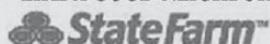
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## Garden

### A Capable Gardener

By Maureen O'Connell

The year 2016 marks the three hundredth birthday of the eighteenth-century British landscape designer Lancelot Brown (1716-1783). He was nicknamed "Capability Brown" for telling clients that their property had the "capability" for improvements. He described himself as a "place maker," not a "landscape gardener." Some people might not be familiar with his name, but you might recognize the names of many estates and parks in England designed by him: Syon Park in London; Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, birthplace of Winston Churchill; Warwick Castle; Althorp, ancestral home of Diana, Princess of Wales; Chatsworth House in Derbyshire; Hampton Court in Richmond; Kew Gardens; and the grounds of Highclere Castle, familiar to viewers of "Downton Abbey." Brown is remembered as "the last of the great English eighteenth century artists" and "England's greatest gardener." His style flowed from two practical principles of comfort and elegance. He believed that everything—the manor house, the gardens, the outlying buildings, the walkways and carriage routes, and trees and shrubs—should work together to create one united landscape look, both elegant and practical. To understand him, you must remember that his sense of garden designs was opposite the prevailing thoughts of the day; his gardens were the antithesis of the works of the much celebrated André Le Nôtre, the French landscape artist whose works include the gardens of Versailles. Brown made use of the nature of the ground and its surroundings; Le Nôtre imposed an architectural and very geometric pattern on nature. He was in charge, not nature. As I mentioned in a previous article, the grass lawns in French gardens are meant to be observed, not walked on. Of course, Brown's designs were adapted to the society he served, which was totally unlike the authoritative regimes of the seventeenth-century monarchies. He was honored that he had "improved" a greater acreage of ground than any landscape architect had done before him.

Brown was more than a Master Gardener. For his clients, he was an architect who could provide a survey and plans for buildings and landscape.

There was continuity and complete workings from house to gardens. He is best remembered for landscaping on an immense scale, constructing not only gardens and parkland, but planting woods and building farms for animal grazing, orchards, and vegetables. It is said that "every landscape designer and landscape architect since Brown's time, both in Britain and across the developed world, has been influenced one way or another by Capability Brown." Many people believe that the images he created are deeply embedded in the English character as are the paintings of J.M.W. Turner and the poetry of William Wordsworth. Quite a legacy.

Brown's landscape designs are best described by their natural, unplanned appearance. This is actually a contradiction in words because they were very well planned, but in a minimalist fashion. There were no carved stone Roman goddess statues; no walled gardens; no topiary trees; no perfectly-straight garden beds with flowers lined up like soldiers in a drill parade. No, there were acres of lawn, stretching from the grand house to the property's perimeters, and there were a limited number of species of trees with lakes, both large and small scattered across the lawn. If the ground was undulating, Brown worked this to the landscape's advantage. He worked with the land as he found it; nature was in charge. He believed in practical designs that were easy to maintain and renew. Now, that did not rule out the possibility of having to remove a few hills, if necessary.

What is the takeaway for us and our gardens here in Monocacy country? We don't live in castles or grand manor homes on hundreds of acres with a staff of gardeners, but I believe that Brown's basic gardening theories can be adapted to our suburban properties. Think of your home and garden area as one entity; match the style of your home to your landscape plans. A Williamsburg-style garden would not fit into a modern-style home and vice-versa. Use more trees and shrubs to flesh out the area. Don't mark out your flower beds in neat geometric shapes; shorten and widen the areas in a meandering fashion. Mix up the beds with a variety of flowers, tall and short, herbs, and small shrubs. A wildflower meadow is a good example of nature unplanned.

Happy Birthday, Capability Brown. Your legacy to the world of gardening and landscape design is well celebrated.



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**Tidbits**

**Cubs Get Fit**

The Webelos of Cub Scout Pack 694, with the help of Zach "Mr. Fit" Etheridge from E-Z Fit and Maria Briançon from Glad-I-Yoga, recently earned their fitness requirements on January 17, 2016. They reported having had so much fun that they hardly noticed they were really working out!



*Cub Scout Pack 694*

**MES Kindergarten Orientation**

The administration of Monocacy Elementary School wanted the *Monocle* to get the word out early about their 2016-17 kindergarten orientation meeting on May 4. Poolesville Elementary School parents may choose to enroll their children in MES, and transportation is provided for those students.



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## Remembrances

### Owen B. Laug

Owen Brede Laug died January 27 at his home in Barnesville. Born June 16, 1937 in Washington D.C., he was a long-time resident of Montgomery County, first living in Rockville and then moving his family to Barnesville in 1975. He attended the University of Maryland at College Park where he was part of the Gymkana gymnastic troop and received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, graduating in 1959. He interned at the National Bureau of Standards (NBS), now the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), during his college years and upon graduation continued employment at NIST from 1959 through September of 2015 as an Electrical Engineer in the Engineering Electronics Department. During his successful career with NIST, he was responsible for developing four U.S. patents, and his accomplishments made significant enhancements within the industry of Electronic Engineering. In his free time, he was an avid tennis player, enjoyed gardening, cruising the world, ballroom dancing, and was a dedicated member of the Monocacy Lions Club.

Owen is survived by his wife Bette B. Laug; sister Ruth P. Laug; daughter Cynthia J. Coon and husband



Owen B. Laug

Dan, son Eric C. Laug and wife Lena, son Brian D. Laug and wife Evie; and six grandchildren, Danielle and Bradley Coon, Julia and Brede Laug, and Eden and Tyler Laug.

Memorial services will be held at Hilton Funeral Home, 22111 Beallsville Road (Route 109) Barnesville, on February 13, 2016 at 11:00 am. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Arbor Day Foundation in memory of Owen Laug (shop.arborday.org/donate-general.aspx).

### Frederick O. Pruitt

Frederick O'Hara Pruitt departed this life suddenly on January 30, 2016, in Germantown. He was born January 19, 1959, in Greenwood, Mississippi, to Berley and Delores Pruitt. He and his family moved to Chicago and eventually to Beallsville, where he lived with his family. In 1987, he married Crystal Benita Honemond and from that union, Ebone' K. and Amber K. were born.

His school years included South Side and John H. Voha Elementary Schools; Frable and Montgomery Middle Schools; and Poolesville High School. He attended North Carolina Central University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. With this degree, he attended Maryland's Montgomery County Police Academy, graduating in 1982.

Fred worked as a community police officer, recruiting officer, and a Drug Awareness Resistance Enforcement (DARE) instructor, teaching in several elementary schools. He also sang in the Police Choir. He formed a close friendship with the team he worked with which he called his family. He retired in 2005. He worked in security for several years as Head Security for Northwest High School, the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Department of Homeland Security/Transportation Security Administration, and back to DOJ at a "desk job" for the Civil Division, Workman's Compensation Branch, 911 Victims, which he loved.

He led an active private life. He loved working for the Lord. In his youth, he became a member of Jerusalem United Methodist Church in Rockville, later transferring to the West Montgomery Charge, West Montgomery UMC in Beallsville. He loved working with the Men's Group and Choir, and the Hospitality Crew. He also worked as a Trustee. He loved church, but please don't hold him too long in service between the months of September and February!



Frederick O. Pruitt

He pledged Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and recently became Secretary for the Poolesville Odd Fellows. He loved all sports, especially football, which he played from youth through college. His favorite NFL team was the Cowboys. He loved cars and seemed to know every car there was. He loved his Corvette, 1984 Eldorado Cadillac, and his F450 Ford truck, but his favorite was the Electra Glide Harley. He could be in the wind with his best sidekick, Jeffery Morgan, and his brother, Tony, or just a lone rider. Fred was a master of many trades.

His heart was his daughters. He would try to be at every cheer/pom event and clap so loud that they would say they could hear his distinctive clap. He would jump when they asked, "Dad, can you...?"

Fred leaves to mourn his wife of twenty-eight years, Crystal; daughters, Ebone', Amber, and Lauren; parents, Berley and Delores Pruitt, loving them "100 billion x 2"; siblings, Antoinette Levy (Larry), Antonio Pruitt, and his "adopted" brother Jeffery Morgan (Jacki); aunts, Dorothy Wilson, Ernie McNeil (Charles), Patricia Lipsey (Lee), and Valerie King; uncle, Robert Robinson; and a host of in-laws, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Spence Beck and Emelia Roberson; and paternal grandparents, William and Ora Lee Pruitt.

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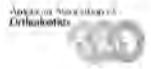
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## The Lyme Disease Plot Thickens

**Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVMN, CVLF, FASLMS**

What we know about Lyme disease in our pets and ourselves is continually evolving. Until very recently, we thought only one bacterium (the spirochete/bacteria associated with Lyme) was to blame for the clinical signs seen in humans and animals. It turns out that there is a second, related bug that can cause these signs also.

Researchers were looking retrospectively at blood samples from infected humans. They noted that there was a bacterium that was consistently seen with the *Borrelia burgdorferi* (Lyme organism) in the blood samples. Sequencing of the genome of this new bacterium found it to be different enough to be considered a new species which has been dubbed *Borrelia mayonii*, after the Mayo Clinic where it was first identified.

The new organism was found in six patients out of nine thousand tested in the Minnesota, Wisconsin, or North Dakota area. They found also that when they looked at the clinical signs of these patients, they were very different. Instead of a "bull's eye" red lesion around the site of the tick bite, these patients had a diffuse, chicken pox spotty appearance. Besides the commonly-found fever, headache, rash, and neck pains, these patients also had nausea and vomiting. Other anomalies in clinical signs were extreme sleepiness, vision trouble, and seeing double. Chronic arthritic changes continue to be the hall mark sign of both types.

It is most likely that this *Borrelia sp.* has just started to come into contact with humans and domestic animals as the range of the host ticks continues to expand and change. Researchers in Wisconsin found the new organism in black-legged (deer ticks). While still considered very rare, up to 3% of ticks collected across Wisconsin tested positive for the new *Borrelia sp.*

Doxycycline is still effective in killing both species of bacteria when diagnosed early, so if you or your pet travel to the Northern Midwest region of the country, be sure to protect yourself and your pets from tick exposure. No cross productivity tests have yet been done on the current Lyme vaccine. Zoetis animal health has just released a new DNA recombinant Lyme vaccine that has extended specific proteins to a number of Lyme variants currently seen in nature. Some cross productivity may be available based on the commonality of the genome found between the two *Borrelia sp.*

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