

The Monocacy

MONOCLE

Keeping an Eye on Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

February 7, 2020 • Volume XV, Number 22



HMD board member Abby Radigan with Maureen O'Connell, HMD president, at reception for new town manager. See more pictures in Family Album on page 2.



They came, they saw, and they kicked donkeys! The PHS Bocce 2020 Division Champions: Read more in Tidbits on page 4.



PHS girls' basketball is closing out another great year. Read more on page 11.



This stone shows the markings in the process of splitting the stone from the Johnson quarry. Read about the quarry on page 12.

Ed Brown, Owner of White's Ferry, Passes Away

By Rande Davis

R. Edwin Brown died peacefully at the age of 99 at his home in Dickerson surrounded by his family on Sunday, January 26. The owner of White's Ferry was also a renowned lawyer who practiced from 1941 through 2019 and was a long-standing community servant and philanthropist.

Mr. Brown served in World War II with the 8th Army Air Corps posted in England where he met Winsome, his wife of more than seventy-three years. He was a charter member of the Monocacy Lions Club, ultimately achieving the distinction of becoming the longest-serving active member in the history of Lions International. He also was a founding member of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department of which he at one time served as its president.

He was a lifelong member of Poolesville's St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Friends and family remember

Continued on page 9.



R. Edwin Brown's life spanned nearly two-thirds of the town history of Poolesville.

The Grand Women of the Monocacy

Lib Tolbert: Barnesville's Mayor Emeritus (1925-2014)

By Rande Davis

Ever notice how nearly every successful team has a go-to guy? You know, the kind of person who always seems to come through in the clutch. The truly great teams have more than one go-to guy. In Barnesville, however, they had one who really stood out. For over half a century, the residents of Barnesville knew just who was their "go-to guy," the one they trusted the most to "git-er-done." In that town, the guy wasn't a guy at all. It was the mayor emeritus (serving for more than thirty years), Elizabeth Hays Tolbert, known affectionately as Lib. Before her passing in 2014, we had a chance to chat with her about her life.

That someone from the Hays family was a key leader in Barnesville would

not be surprising to anyone who had lived in the town anytime within the last 270 years. Barnesville was, historically, a rich tobacco farm region that was originally identified and surveyed in 1747 by one of Lib's ancestors, Jeremiah Hays. The town should have been named Haysville. William Barnes, the namesake, actually grew weary of the place and moved to a place in Ohio and subsequently got Ohio to name an area in Belmont County after him as well. When Lib Tolbert's dad lived in Barnesville, practically every house in town was owned by a Hays.

When Lib's parents passed on, she got the house in which she was born, and her sister, Mary White Lok, got the

Continued on page 15.



Elizabeth Hays Tolbert, Barnesville's Mayor Emeritus.

Family Album



Town engineer, John Strong, Bobbi Evans, town clerk, and Jay Gullo, town attorney.



Monocle town government reporter Link Hoewing, Chuck Stump (former commissioner), and Martin Radigan, town commissioner.



New town manager Seth Rivard with commissioner Valaree Dickerson and MCP Community Liaison Officer Tara Bond.



Phyllis Brown Swensen, daughter of Ed Brown, received a commemorative flag from the American Legion Post 247's Nick Markoff. Mr. Brown was one of our area's last living World War II vets.



Team Monocle at annual party, celebrating fifteen years of publication: Jon Wolz, Anne-Marie Thomas, Rande Davis, Jeff Stuart, John Clayton, Maureen O'Connell, Terri Pitts, Dominique Agnew, Laura Muncy, Link Hoewing, and Susan Petro.

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Town Government

Town Hears Petitions to Change Zoning of Two Properties

By Link Hoewing

The Town of Poolesville commissioners heard from petitioners who want to change the zoning on two properties located across the from Poolesville High School on West Willard Road. Both properties are currently zoned residential, and the petitioners asked that the zoning be changed to commercial.

The first petitioner to appear was Dr. Hector Asuncion who ran a medical practice in a house turned office building he owns for thirty-five years. The house sits adjacent to the Baptist church, and Dr. Asuncion reluctantly closed his practice a couple of years ago when his medical services partner, Adventist Health, decided it could no longer support his practice.

In offering support for the petition, Dr. Asuncion's lawyer, Susan Jamison, noted that the property had a special exception that allowed the house to be used as an office, but that exception expired when Asuncion closed his practice. She said that the area around the property has changed, and it no longer fits with residential use. She pointed out the dearth of medical services in the Upcounty and said that changing the zoning might encourage the property to once again be used to provide services to benefit the community.

Dr. Asuncion added that he has owned the property for forty-eight years. He said he had practiced for over thirty-five years in Poolesville and would like to see an urgent care facility opened in his building. In order to encourage interest in offering such a service, he said, the building's zoning needed to be changed.

Appearing after Dr. Asuncion was Charles Jamison, an attorney representing John Fyffe who owns a house next to the Asuncion property. He also said that the area around the house has changed dramatically and it no longer fits in the residential category. He urged support for adopting a zoning change to make the property commercial.

The commissioners will consider the petitions at a later meeting.

In the open forum segment of the meeting, Caroline Taylor of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance appeared to offer comments about a bill to allow solar installations to be placed on land in the Ag Reserve. The bill is sponsored by Councilmember Hans Riemer, and Taylor said that the bill could well allow for significant portions of the Ag Reserve to be used for large solar panel facilities. She said the legislation does not address "loss of farmland nor how it advances the Ag Reserve's master plan." She said the county has established a special committee on climate change that is doing a comprehensive examination of policy initiatives to help address the problem. She argued that that committee is the proper place for the solar panel idea to be reviewed.

Taylor argued that Poolesville and other towns in the Ag Reserve have a vested interest in speaking out on the issue. She urged the town to take a stand by writing to Riemer and offering views. The commissioners did appear interested in the issue but made it clear they need to know more about the issue before deciding whether to do anything.

Taylor next talked about state legislation that is pending that would change rules governing deer hunting. The legislation is under consideration because of the significant surge in the deer population in the state. It was unclear exactly how the legislation would work, but Taylor said she has concerns that it might change the caliber of weapons that can be used and the range of the guns that can be employed. It appears it could also extend the days for hunting and the "bag limit" allowed for the number of deer that an individual hunter can kill. She said that with the strong effort to encourage agri-tourism in the county, this appears to be an initiative that needs to be carefully considered. Again, Taylor urged the commissioners to be aware of the legislation given the possible impact on the Ag Reserve.

As with the solar panel legislation, the commissioners expressed an interest in learning more about the issue but deferred any specific action.

The commissioners next considered a proposal first mentioned by Commissioner Martin Radigan at the previous town meeting concerning twenty-four-hour businesses. He said he had heard from constituents about the possible impacts of such businesses on the community and wanted to propose legislation to address the issue. The draft proposal would ban businesses from operating on a twenty-four-hour basis and would require them to be "shut" for at least three

Continued on page 6.

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Rande(m) Thoughts The Passing of a True Living Legend

By Rande Davis

For the third time since November, I am regrettably reflecting on the impact of a death that burdens me. My mother always said things come in threes, so hopefully this unfortunate circumstance will take a rest for a while after this issue.

On January 26, R. Edwin Brown departed life, leaving us as a man whose spirt, while in life, gifted our community for ninety-nine years—and even in death, will continue to have a significant impact on us for many decades to come. Just consider that this one man alone has been a major contributor to the Poolesville community during two-thirds of its history.

Every once in a while, someone comes along whose persona and life achievements beckon the term legendary. Ed fits that description. For most of his life, whenever his name was brought up, it was most often followed by the term “the owner of White’s Ferry.” He was so much more than that.

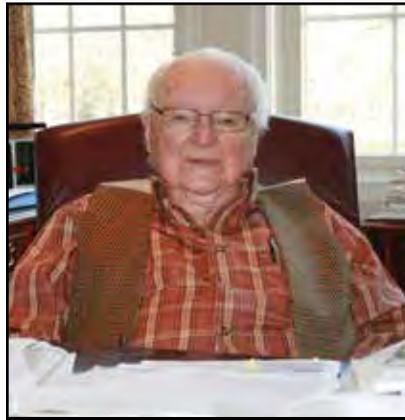
A man wears many hats for the varying roles played in life. For him, his roles included: a loving patriarch of a proud family, philanthropist, visionary, shrewd businessman, and barrister supreme. Most of all, he was a grand and devoted friend and servant.

The Servant

As a boy, he served St. Peter’s Church, stoking the fire for its boiler on Saturday nights, so parishioners could be warm on Sunday morning. A member of the Greatest Generation, he served in the Army Air Corps in World War II. He was a member in the establishment of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department. He was a member of the Monocacy Lions Club, active in the club right to the end, becoming the longest living serving Lion in the entire planet.

Iconic Lawyer

Respected and feared by the powerful. When Route 270 was being built, word spread quickly the Ed was the man for the farmers and land-owners to turn to to keep the government and developers in line. In the 1950s, when the Coast Guard dared challenge him on an unjust accusation, he brought them to heel after a 150-day, \$1,000-a-day standoff with them agreeing to settlement for \$150.00 (imagine that amount in the 1950s). A



Ed Brown in his Peachtree Road home office. He practiced law from 1941 to 2019.

true, shrewd country lawyer, he could stand his ground before the bar influencing judges by his slow, dignified, southern drawl and a head of hair he wore like a lion’s mane. I told him once that he was the kind of lawyer that made me want to get in trouble, just so I could watch him up close in action.

Visionary Businessman

When others had abandoned the ferry service on the Potomac as outdated, he led partners with a vision for its historic importance and potential for success that continues today, becoming the last such service in the state. He always proclaimed its mission was its role as being “a convenience for the public.”

Philanthropist

As a young man, he practiced law seven days a week, receiving paying clients at his front door on Sundays, so they didn’t have to travel to Rockville, and receiving his pro bono clients at the back door, aiding those who otherwise could never afford a lawyer. He shared his economic success generously with St. Peter’s (living long enough to pay for a church parking lot twice), his Lions Club and fire department, numerous other civic groups, the school through donations to classes and many other local causes, reaching out to the full community by being a major donor to save Charity Hall, the project of the Historic Warren Church in Dickerson.

Friend and Family Man

I have known the man for over forty years, but it has only been within the last ten that he became to me something only a World War II vet would properly understand: buddy. While I came to see him as my very special buddy, that feeling was anything but unique. It’s a testament to him that there are scores of us so-called “special

Continued on page 6.

Tidbits

PHS Bocce Takes Division Championship

The Falcon bocce team, in just its first season of competition, won three straight matches over Seneca Valley (11-4), Quince Orchard (5-3), and defending division champ Northwest (2-0) to capture the MCPS Division IV title at Quince Orchard. Coach Tom Lang’s Falcons now move on to

the MCPS Championship on Saturday, February 8 at Paint Branch High School.

Local Sculpture Featured in Zenith Gallery Exhibit

The work of Beallsville’s stone sculptor, David Therriault, is the focus of the Zenith Gallery’s new exhibit, “Carved in Stone, Painted with Light,” showing at the sculpture space at 1111 Pennsylvania Ave., NW in Washington, D.C. The exhibit, which runs from January 24 to April 4,

Continued on page 5.



Rear: Nico Carillo, Justin Fisher, Peyton Reed, Sean McCue, and Coach Tom Lang. Front: Nicole Davis and Hallie Maytin. Not pictured: Bradyn Bliss, Alex Quigley, and Alaina Shields.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

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Tidbits

features nineteen pieces of David's original sculpture.

The Zenith Gallery celebrates over forty years in the forefront of the Washington arts scene. Therriault creates sculpture from stone reclaimed from commercial use. His work is found in private collections, gardens, and public spaces. Therriault's sculptures are an abstract take on ancient symbols. "My carving represents external influences that wear on the

soul of an object but never take it all away," Therriault explained. "I'm excited to show in the nation's capital, allowing so many people the opportunity to enjoy my work."

DAR Youth Citizenship Award

Andrew Parsley, a sixth grader at John Poole Middle School, was awarded the Daughters of the American Revolution Youth Citizenship Award by the Hungerford's Tavern Chapter DAR for his leadership as President of the Hungerford Resolves Society of the Children of the American Revolution. Andrew is the son

of Joanne and Chris Parsley and grandson of Diana and Ben Snouffer, all of Barnesville.

The Hungerford's Tavern Chapter DAR has a number of members from Poolesville and the Upcounty. Guests are welcome to attend the next meeting on February 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the Nancy Dacek Center in North Potomac. The DAR is a nonprofit, non-political volunteer women's service organization open to any woman over eighteen years, regardless of race, religion, or ethnic background, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution.

For information about membership, please email HTRegent1776@gmail.com.

PHS Graduate Earns Honor

Dmitri Agnew of Boyds has been named to the Dean's List at West Virginia University for the Fall 2019 semester. Agnew is a junior majoring in Mining Engineering. West Virginia University is the premier land-grant institution in the twenty-first century and delivers high-quality education, excels in discovery and innovation, models a culture of diversity and inclusion, promotes health and vitality, and builds pathways for the exchange of knowledge and opportunity between the state, the nation, and the world. Founded in 1867, WVU is home to more than 30,000 students and has nearly 200,000 graduates shaping our world each day.



Ben and Diana Snouffer, and Andrew, Joanne, and James Parsley.

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Continued from page 3.

Town Hears Petitions to Change Zoning of Two Properties

hours each day. Exclusions would apply for such things as ATMs and self-operated gas pumps.

Commissioner Jim Brown said he viewed the legislation as a “thinly-veiled attempt to shut down” the 7-11 before it is even a firm proposal. He called the ordinance “anti-business” and added that he is not necessarily for or against the 7-11 at this early stage in the process.

Town Lawyer Jay Gullo said, in response to a question, that in its current form, the legislation is legitimate because there are no pending issues or proposals that it would affect. He also said that since it would cover all businesses, it could not be considered an inappropriate proposal.

Town Manager Seth Rivard said that this proposal should go through the proper procedure and be referred to the Planning Commission for its review. The commissioners agreed.

Finally, the commissioners once again debated the proposal they had previously adopted by a 4-1 vote to restrict commissioners from spending more than two hours during the business week in town hall when staff are working. In passing the proposal, the commissioners said they wanted to allow the new town manager to “get his sea legs” without undue interruption. It was clear in the discussion, however, that a key reason for the initiative was concern that Commission President Jerry Klobukowski’s extensive presence at town hall was affecting the work atmosphere for town staff.

Commissioner Valaree Dickerson argued that the commission had voted 4-1 to enforce the two-hour rule and that Klobukowski had agreed to the limitation, even though he had voted against it. Dickerson said she did not want to keep raising the issue, but Klobukowski has consistently refused to honor the agreement.

While Klobukowski argued that the limit is “misguided” and asserted that he “does not stand in front of anyone’s office” when he is in town hall, he said he would accept the policy.

Continued from page 4.

The Passing of a True Living Legend

buddies left in this world.” The man knew how to make friends, and I watched him do so right up to the last few months of his life. How great it was to sit in the guest chair in front of his desk in his home law office, listening to him tell story after story. Each new thought was preceded by his famous baritone chuckle, alerting the listener to pay attention because this next story was sure to be a doozy. It was a high honor to be invited on his annual buddy boat excursion on his fabulous yacht, sailing the Chesapeake to dock at his favorite crab restaurant.

Devoted

Of all the words that best apply to R. Edwin Brown, the word I consider the most apt is devoted; devoted to one and all; married to his “flower of the village” for seventy-three years, and living in the same home nearly as long, only a few miles from the location of his birth; devoted to his large family; devoted to the community by volunteering in so many ways and sharing his success financially with so many people, groups, and causes. He was truly a devoted patriot to his beloved country.

As I say goodbye to him now with these final comments, I hold an imaginary glass of scotch in hand and mimic his baritone chuckle, with a sly smirk on my face, as I raise my glass to R. Edwin Brown, “Good bye, good man, God awaits the joy of your stories and the honor of your presence.”

Fun Fact...

February comes from the Latin word februa, which means “to cleanse.” The month was named after the Roman *Februalia*, which was a month-long festival of purification and atonement.

Originally, February was made the last month of the calendar year. Eventually (c. 450 BC), February was moved to its place as the second month.

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Finally, with outstretched arms and eyes looking up to heaven, she told me she was the Immaculate Conception.
 - St. Bernadette Soubirous,
 The Message of our Lady of Lourdes



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Continued from page 1.

Ed Brown, Owner of White's Ferry, Passes Away

him as a passionate hunter and yachtsman, the latter a passion he shared with his wife. He was a member of the Annapolis Yacht Club and was once the Commodore of the Classic Yacht Club.

His most heralded accomplishment of so many was the purchase and restoration of the abandoned historic White's Ferry in 1946, the last of many ferries in Maryland, operating it for the convenience of the public successfully over seven decades.

Ed Brown was the son of John Herbert and Elizabeth Oxley Brown. He is survived by loving children, Malcolm Brown (Carol) of Charleston, South Carolina; Herbert Brown (Joyce) of Dickerson; Neal Brown (Colleen) of Barnesville, and Phyllis Brown Swensen (Paul) of Towson; ten grandchildren; and eleven great-grandchildren.

Ed Brown was preceded in death by his brother Thomas C. Brown and sister Erwin Staggs.

(For more detailed information on Mr. Brown's life, refer to Rande(m) Thoughts on page 4.)

Things To Do

Poolesville Area Senior Center

All events at 17750 W. Willard Road, Poolesville

Pickleball: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 8:30 a.m.

Zumba Gold: Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.

Mahjong: Thursdays, Room 129, 10:00 a.m.

Chair/Slow Flow Yoga: Mondays, 11:00 am in the café

The Blue Hearth is open every weekend.

February 7

UMCVFD Auxiliary Bingo Night

Featuring cash and gift cards with door prizes. Admission is \$20 which includes a game card with three chances to win in each game. Doors open: 5:30 p.m. Games begin: 7:00 p.m. UMCVFD Firehouse, 19801 Beallsville Road, Beallsville.

PHS Varsity Home Games

Girls' and boys' basketball. Walter Johnson. Boys at 5:30 p.m.; girls at 7:15 p.m.

February 8

PHS Bocce County Championships

Paint Branch High School. 10:00 a.m.

PHS Varsity Sports Home Game

Wrestling. Damascus and Blair. 2:30 p.m.

PASC Special Event: Heart-N-Soul

The Fifth Annual Gala fundraiser, a community event to benefit the Poolesville Area Senior Center, featuring Gina's Soul Party. Dance and silent auction; dinner catered by Bassett's; cash bar (beer and wine). Dress to impress. Must be 21 or over to attend. \$75 per person. For tickets, call 301-875-7701. St. Peter's Parish Hall. 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association Informational Meeting

Briefing on Ash Removal from Incinerator by GenOn, the Dickerson

Power Plant. No RSVP needed. Please join us. Beverages will be provided. SCA Headquarters, Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson. 10:00 a.m.

February 9

SCA Special Event: 8th Annual Mid-Winter Dreams

Join with other garden enthusiasts in shared discussion of gardening, favorite veggies, techniques, and dreaming about this spring's gardens. Tea and light snacks. 20900 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson. 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

February 11

Nightingale Library Special Event: Pajama Storytime

Ages: Preschool and kindergarten, babies and toddlers. Read to a dog. 7:00 p.m. to 7:40 p.m.

February 14

PHS Varsity Home Games

Girls' and boys' basketball. Paint Branch. Girls at 5:30 p.m.; boys at 7:15 p.m.

February 15 and 16

St. Mary's Antique Show and Sale

Buy antiques and collectibles; bid in the live and silent auctions; obtain appraisals from professionals; win in our antique raffle. Admission: \$5.00. St. Mary's Pavilion, Barnesville. 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

February 17

Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Poolesville Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

February 20

Nightingale Library Special Event: Family Storytime

Ages: Preschool and kindergarten/babies and toddlers. 10:30 a.m.

February 21

PHS Varsity Home Games

Girls' and boys' basketball. Gaithersburg. Girls at 5:30 p.m.; boys at 7:15 p.m.

Have a meeting, club, or upcoming event to announce in Things to Do?
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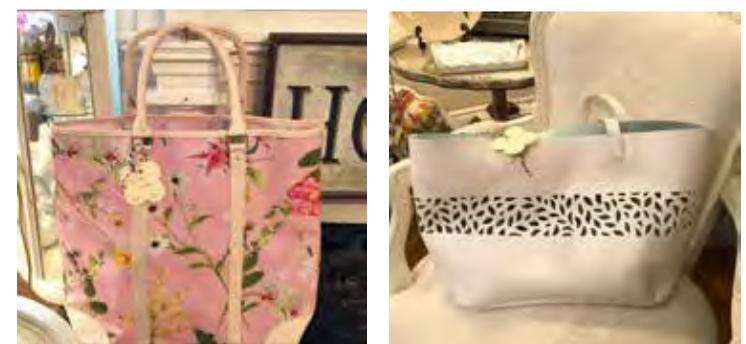
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Fun Fact...

February is Black History Month! Since 1976, every American president has designated February as Black History Month and endorsed a specific theme. The Black History Month 2020 theme, "African Americans and the Vote," is in honor of the centennial anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment (1920) granting women suffrage and the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) giving black men the right to vote.

Youth Sports

PHS Girls' Basketball Ties Rockville for Division Lead

By Jeff Stuart

At home on the last day of January, the Poolesville High School girls' basketball team defeated Rockville, 49-36, to tie the Rams for the Division 3A/2A title. It was size versus speed. The Falcons, who trailed by six after one period and by three at the half, dominated in rebounding, but, led by quick and pesky 5'1" guard Naila Newman, the Rams' pressure created many turnovers. An underhand scoop layup by sophomore guard Erin Cherian and a subsequent foul shot tied the game at twenty early in the third quarter. A diving save of an errant pass by senior guard Logan Rohde at the baseline and flip to senior forward Makayla Lemarr for a layup as time ran out in the third gave the falcons a seven-point lead.

"We definitely played well at the beginning of the season," said Rohde, "and toward the middle, we kind of struggled a bit, and I think now we are kind of back on the track. The Quince Orchard game was a pretty tough game. I actually had just sprained my ankle and wasn't supposed to be playing, but I played anyway. It was kind of scary because they were winning late in the game. We had a lead. We kind of thought we had it. Then we kind of fell apart a little bit. They came back, and in the end it's a good thing we went on a run and pulled it out. I just feel that the first time we played Damascus we struggled with rebounding. We did an awful job. We did a good job defending their drives, and the second time we played them, a few days ago, at Damascus, we did really well defensively and so much better rebounding. I think that helped us a lot."

Logan scored eight points against Quince Orchard in a 52-47 victory that came down to pressure free throws at the end from senior forward Mary Hobbs. Poolesville had a two-point lead at the half and pushed the lead to twelve in the third, but QO scored twenty in the fourth quarter. Logan scored fifteen in the second home game against B-CC and sixteen at Watkins Mill. The Falcons beat rival Damascus twice, 45-13 and 57-33.



Falcon basketball: Mary Hobbs, Logan Rohde, Mahi Ganatra, Sammi Kellogg, and Makalya LeMarr.

"Please don't miss," said senior forward Mary Hobbs, talking about what was going through her mind while she was attempting those big free throws at QO. "The foul shots are really what win the game. It is all you out on the court trying to make two single shots. I think for myself—and as a team as a whole—QO was our best game. That was the first team we came across that very much equaled our skill set. We are going to continue to play our hearts out. We have got a different team each season. A couple of us have been playing on travel teams together for a long time, so we have that background chemistry. We have a good mix of seniors and underclassmen. I am looking forward to playing out the season and playoffs with my teammates."

"I think our best game was probably against B-CC," said junior forward Mackenzie Magaha, "even though we lost by three. Altogether we held them pretty tightly on defense, and I thought we worked really well on offense..."

Continued on page 13.



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In Your Own Backyard A Walk to the Johnson Quarries

By Jon Wolz

In a couple of previous "In Your Own Backyard" articles, I wrote about Rock Hall Manor located in the Monocacy River Natural Resources Management Area that borders Route 28 and Park Mills Road. The manor house was built in 1812 by Roger Johnson using gray and brown stones quarried on the property. Last summer, Steve Horvath and I parked at the Trailhead parking lot by the Monocacy River bridge that crosses Route 28. We walked on the blue trail where we crossed Furnace Branch twice, once by crossing a wooden planked bridge and the second time by carefully stepping on stones to cross the stream. The leaves on the trees made it difficult to see where we were walking. When we made it to a lime kiln, we decided to turn around and head back to the parking lot. That was the hike where we got lost. We agreed to go back in the winter to look for the quarries I had read about when the leaves were off the trees and the undergrowth had died back.

A couple of weeks ago, Steve and I went back and invited our friend Doug Zveare. We obtained permission to park at Rock Hall Manor where we began our walk down the path that was once used by the C&O Canal Company to move stones on a primitive wooden railroad that were cut at the Johnson quarry for use to construct the Monocacy Aqueduct and the B&O Railroad viaduct across the Monocacy River. We walked down the hill from behind Rock Hall. As we arrived at the bottom of the hill, we had to cross a small stream, stepping on stones as we crossed. In the stream sat a large, cut, abandoned white stone. Ahead of us on the path was the magnificent stone lime kiln that had been built in the late eighteenth century. We stopped and marveled at its construction and continued our walk in search of the quarries. Our path was covered with a thick carpet of leaves. In low lying areas, the leaves had been trampled by horses and were incased in ice. The ice and leaves crunched under our feet as we walked. The path took a turn up a hill. Here the path resembles a trench with green moss covering the shoulders on both sides of the trench. A thick layer of leaves lines the bottom of the trench. As we got to the top of the hill, to our left, we saw a quarry. From the color of

the rocks, we realized this was the quarry used in the building of Rock Hall Manor. There were interesting drill marks left in the sides of the rocks that indicated hand tools were used. There was one rock that had eight drill holes going across half of the rock and the other half did not have any holes. For some reason, the stonecutter stopped work on this rock over two hundred years ago. Walking farther, we came to the white rock quarry. This quarry went from the top of the hill and wrapped around it to the Furnace Branch.

When the C&O Canal Company began building the aqueduct, they first considered using the red Seneca sandstone from the Seneca quarry but realized that boating it up the Potomac River from Seneca Creek would be impracticable. Instead, they decided to use stone quarried from land leased from Mrs. Eliza Nelson who had property at the base of Sugarloaf Mountain. Work began in 1829, and the stones were brought down from the quarry where they were floated down the Monocacy River to the aqueduct construction site. In 1829, it was discovered that the stone from this quarry proved to be defective, and three piers that had been constructed for the aqueduct were torn down. By 1831, the

Canal Company contracted with Joseph Johnson, the owner of Rock Hall Manor, to begin using a quarry on his property that contained white quartzite rock that was found to be superior and would be very durable as compared to the stones quarried at the Nelson property. The Johnson stones were very heavy and had to be lifted by inserting a Lewis tool into a Lewis hole in the center of the stone. Doug, Steve, and I noticed some abandoned stones along our walk that had Lewis holes cut into them. The stones were cut and blocked at the quarry and were pulled by oxen, using the crude wooden railroad or by wagons, down a hill and then back up a hill where they were then pulled to the aqueduct construction site by horses. Over two hundred laborers quarried, hauled stones, and constructed the aqueduct.

The aqueduct was completed on April 1, 1833 and watered by the end of October 1833. In 1972, the aqueduct received significant damage from Hurricane Agnes and was restored by 2005.

From 1869 to 1873, stone was again quarried at the Johnson quarry and used in building the B&O Railroad bridge over the Monocacy River, about two thousand feet upriver from the

Continued on page 14.

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Continued from page 11.

PHS Girls' Basketball Ties Rockville for Division Lead

I thought that we held Damascus really well. Their leading scorer, Clare Bradshaw, one of the county's premier three-point shooters, hardly scored against us. I think Mary has buckled down and played with authority for us. We want to continue to play well for Coach Swick. Honestly, I hope we can make it all the way for him. He isn't here for us right now, but he is in our thoughts." Mackenzie scored twenty-one points against B-CC and followed that up with a twenty-one-point effort at Wheaton three days later.

"We are doing really well and working together," said Lemarr, "on fast breaks and on defense with our press. We have a lot of seniors, and this whole team has been playing together pretty much since seventh and eighth grades. I think our best game as a team was against Seneca Valley here. They gave us a fight, and it was a really good game. Logan played really well, stealing the ball and leading our fast breaks. My best game personally was at QO. Coach Swick told me to just look for my shot, and I did what he told me to do, and I made quite a few baskets that game." Makayla scored fourteen points against QO and thirteen in a losing effort against Williamsport and thirteen in the win over Seneca Valley. She had eleven at Damascus.

"This season is going well," said acting coach Katie Hackey. "We have a great group of girls who really work well together. Logan controls our game as the point guard, averaging eleven points and six assists a game as well as bringing down boards. Mary and Makayla are playing solid as well, both averaging eight points and six rebounds a game. Mackenzie Magaha, a junior, has been playing well for us inside, averaging twelve points and eight rebounds a game. We also have some of our younger players stepping up. Erin is averaging seven points and five rebounds a game. Our defensive game is solid. We have always been tough on D."

Head coach Fred Swick was at the victory over Rockville.

Other seniors are guard Mahi Ganatra and forward Sami Kellogg. Forward Taylor Rohde is a junior. Guard Jess Rothenberg is a sophomore. Forwards Allison Howell and Lauren Hopkins are freshmen. As of January 31, the Falcons were 12-3 on the year and on an eight-game winning streak.



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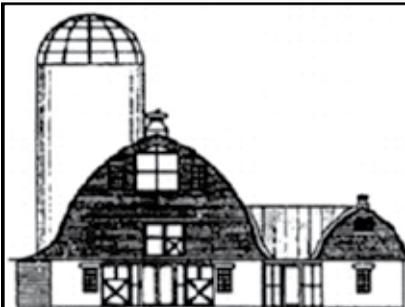
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Questions?

Please write Adam DeBaugh at wumco2@gmail.com or call the WUMCO office.



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Proposal for Commercial Solar in Ag Reserve

Montgomery County Councilmembers Hans Riemer and Tom Hucker have proposed a zoning change that would allow commercial solar energy production on up to 1,800 acres in the Ag Reserve. Currently, county rules prohibit commercial solar in the Reserve.

While we understand the motivation for such a proposal—and support the shift to renewable sources of energy as part of the county's move to "100% elimination" of carbon emissions by 2035—this proposed measure is premature and misguided.

Why? Because:

(1) County agencies and civic groups, including SCA, have been involved in a year-long effort to develop a comprehensive plan for a shift to renewable energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

(2) Maryland state officials have also been studying the issue and are scheduled to release recommendations this spring.

(3) Riemer and Hucker describe their proposal as promoting "community solar." As drafted, however, it would allow producers to sell energy credits to buyers in other jurisdictions (in Maryland or other states) and those jurisdictions would then get the carbon credits for "clean energy," not Montgomery County.

For 40 years, the Ag Reserve has been protected from development—to preserve farming and open space in the county. In the face of climate change, the role of the Reserve will become even more critical as a crucial source of locally-produced food for our region and a major vehicle for carbon sequestration.

To this end, Montgomery Countryside Alliance and SCA have been collaborating with farmers, the county's agricultural extension office, and other entities to promote and expand agriculture methods in the Reserve that foster soil enrichment, good land stewardship, and reforestation.

The growth of solar energy production in Montgomery County is essential, but how it's done matters a great deal. For example, "community solar" must actually serve the local community.

Rather than starting with full-scale industrial solar, we might begin with a demonstration project of small-scale solar installations in conjunction with pollinator habitats and animal agriculture—as Riemer and Hucker's proposal envisions.

Any zoning changes must protect the Ag Reserve's integrity as a center for farming, food production, and carbon sequestration. Targeting vulnerable farmland because it's cheap and easy to develop would only be a win for the developers not the long-term interests of county residents.

To express your views, you can write to the Council at county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov. A hearing on this proposal is also scheduled for Feb. 25 at 1:30pm at the County Council Office Building in Rockville. We urge you to oppose the bill as it is written.

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Continued from page 12.

A Walk to the Johnson Quarries

Monocacy Aqueduct. By that time, the Rock Hall Manor and surrounding lands had been purchased by the Belt family from the Johnson family. McGill Belt remembered that the railroad used about seventy-five men to quarry and move the stone for construction of the viaduct. Every day, they walked to and from the quarry, passing Rock Hall Manor.

Finding and seeing the 1812 quarry and the white quarry used for the Monocacy Aqueduct and the B&O Railroad bridge gave me a sense of awe and accomplishment that I was able to experience history that seems to have been lost. There are no signs that describe what is in the woods that was once known as Furnace Forge. Maybe Maryland Parks will do something to help identify and recognize the magnificent history that occurred there almost two centuries ago.

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Continued from page 1.

Lib Tolbert: Barnesville's Mayor Emeritus (1925-2014)

farm. Over the centuries, important civic meetings have been held in the living room of Lib's 1797 farmhouse.

When Lib's grandfather, Ennis Ray, was a lieutenant colonel in the D.C. National Guard in the mid-1860s, he took his militia over the Potomac River to join the South. He ended up in prison for treason, and the only reason he wasn't hanged was because the patriarch of the Blair family (Blair House is adjacent to the White House) intervened on his behalf. Lib's namesake and grandmother, Elizabeth, was very dear to her. Grandmother Elizabeth was twenty years old when she and her husband, who was sixty years old at the time, got married. Lib shared with us that her grandmother's direct approach to life taught her everyday lessons of life (like learning to drink like a lady) and this is the woman from whom Lib most likely inherited much of her renowned straight-to-the-point demeanor.

Lib first attended school in Barnesville in a structure across from the present Barnesville Baptist Church with six grades at which her mother taught. Discipline in her mother's classroom was simple. "Mother always made the students who misbehaved clean the privies as punishment." The privies in those days were two outhouses, one for the girls, one for the boys. This cleaning duty was all they needed to maintain control. Whoa! What a concept! We need to bring this one back.

When the Barnesville school closed after her fourth year, she was sent to a school in Poolesville. As a senior, she was sent by her parents to board at St. Mary's Female Seminary in Leonardtown (today's St. Mary's College). Lib became a cadet in a nursing program in Garfield Hospital but didn't practice that career very long since she met the cousin of a close friend, Sam Tolbert. He was an air force major from Atlanta, Georgia stationed at Bolling Air Force Base. With a wry smile, she noted that she could not be sure if it was his rank or his uniform, but whatever it was, he certainly "set the barracks on fire."

In 1945, this twenty-year-old got married in the house of her birth. When they moved to Germany in the 1950s, Sam continued his service to the country as an intelligence officer whose group became renowned for Operation Paperclip, a project after WWII ended in 1945, where victorious Russian and American intelligence teams began a treasure hunt throughout occupied Germany for military

and scientific booty. After serving in Germany, London, and other various stateside duty stations, they returned to the Pentagon and Barnesville.

Family was always the most important thing in Lib's life. You could still hear her heartstrings strain when she spoke of her brother Fred who left George Washington Law School in service to his country and was killed in the Korean War. "He always had plans to become a farmer, a lawyer, and then governor of the State of Maryland." Lib and Sam had four children, Eleanor, the oldest, and brothers Fred, Richard, and John. When Lib spoke of their successes, she spoke with the excitement found only in the voice of a mother's love.

Lib's political life began in the 1930s when her Uncle Shirley ran for the House of Delegates. "I had a bumper sticker on my bike: R. S. Hays for Delegate." He won, of course. From there, her political interest was honed at the family dining room table over family discussions. She always proclaimed herself to be a proud Roosevelt Democrat, one who exuded a warm sense of bipartisanship in acknowledgement of relatives who went the other way. Her husband, Sam, finally registered to vote just so he could cast a ballot for Barry Goldwater.

It surprised no one that she, a Democrat, and Fr. George Reid, a Republican, who were lifelong best friends, together organized a Barnesville Inauguration Ball, a bipartisan tradition maintained even today.

She served the community as president of the PTA and on the board at Prospect Hall. She started out as a Democrat precinct chair and was twice elected as a delegate to the Democrat National Convention in 1992 and 1996. Her participation and leadership in countless committees and civic organizations are just part of the public record.

A highlight as mayor came when she was invited to the White House in the 1980s as part of a mayoral conference on transportation funding for cities. After arriving at the 17th Street White House entrance, she was escorted into a room filled with mayors from large cities like San Antonio, Kansas City, and Atlanta. When she met the mayor of Atlanta, they got to talking, and he asked her about the size of her staff. She informed him that she had a staff that pretty much consisted of one person: herself. The Atlanta mayor was a bit confused but asked about Barnesville, saying that he "knew of Baltimore in Maryland but had not learned of Barnesville." He then asked how large it was, and she told him one hundred and fifty-four. He thought

about that and concluded that 154,000 was quite a nice-sized city. "No," said Lib, "just 154 people." With that, an awkward silence fell on the group, but Lib just smiled and told them to just enjoy the moment because "she knew she did."

For thirty-four years, when Barnesville needed trusted leadership, the town turned to Lib. When various conservation groups sought leadership they turned to her. In more recent years, she chaired the committee on Rustic Roads in the county. Most people who knew her acknowledge that she spoke her mind directly and provided guidance with timeless wisdom and integrity.

Even in her eighties, when most others would be quite happy to simply

spend their days quietly, Lib didn't shy from the call of her community. When the Montgomery County Council needed a chairperson of an ad hoc advisory committee to research, discuss, and come up with suggestions to preserving the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve, they went to the leader they had learned to count on in the past. They turned to Lib. Uncertain as to whether she wanted to do it or not, a friend encouraged her by saying she should do it, if for no other reason than to have fun.

In Montgomery County, after decades of service the go-toguy was always Lib Tolbert. As the song by Orleans said, "We're still having fun, and [she's] still the one."

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Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

Past Crime: 1972

Lieutenant Donald Robertson was shot and killed by a robbery suspect who had hidden inside the getaway car that had been used in the robbery. After the robbery of the Hahn's Shoes Store in Silver Spring, an officer spotted the getaway car on Georgia Avenue. He pulled it over, and the driver matched the description of the robber. The car was towed to the Silver Spring garage, and while officers were inspecting the car, a shot rang out and fatally wounded Robertson who was in the backseat. Officers then returned fire, and the suspect was found dead in the trunk; however, the medical examiner ruled that the suspect had shot himself with his own gun.

A man armed with a rifle went to the Belmont Home for Girls in Ashton looking for his girlfriend. He forced three teenaged girls to go inside the house where he held them captive for over an hour. The other occupants of the house managed to escape by jumping out of the windows. In the meantime, about twenty-five officers converged on the scene and surrounded the house. Eventually, the armed man came out of the house with the girl, and an officer shot him in the shoulder, ending the standoff.

A twenty-four-year-old Wheaton man was arrested and charged with plotting to kill three Montgomery County officers who had investigated a case in which the man had been found guilty and sent to prison. Upon his release, he called the police department and

the Washington Post and told them of his plans and demanded to meet the officers at the Pancake House on Hungerford Drive. One of the officers who had been threatened was sent into the restaurant while the other two were kept away. In the meantime, a K-9 dog and handler entered a wooded area across from the Pancake House and surprised the man who was hiding in the woods with a rifle. It was later revealed that two officers armed with sniper rifles had had the man under surveillance the whole time.

An eighteen-year-old man was shot to death when occupants of the car in which he was riding threw firecrackers out of the window at a crowd of black residents who were standing around a store in the Kengar section of Kensington. The car had passed the residents, then the car came to a dead end, and several black residents converged on it. One occupant was beaten while another was shot and killed. Later, the shooter was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to ten years in prison.

A thirty-one-year-old Rockville woman was killed after her car went out of control and struck a building in downtown Rockville. Police said that the woman had been pulled over for a minor traffic offense and then refused to sign the ticket. She took off and led police on a five-minute chase before she crashed. The woman had just served an eighteen-month sentence for threatening officers with a meat cleaver in a dispute over a towed car.

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

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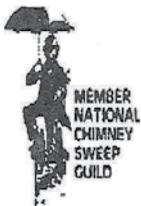
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Fun Fact...

February's full moon, called the Snow Moon, reaches peak fullness at 2:34 a.m. EST on Sunday, February 9, 2020. Traditionally, the Moon we see in February is called the Snow Moon due to the typically heavy snowfall of February. On average, February is the USA's snowiest month, according to data from the National Weather Service.



Look skyward on Saturday night to catch the best view of this full moon!

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Celebrating 31 Years of Service

Dog Park Dos and Don'ts

By Peter H. Eeg, BSc, DVM, CVLF

Our town is very fortunate that, due to hard work from several residents and the commissioners of Poolesville, we have a well-designed and -managed Dog Park. Here's what you should know for you and your pet before joining the fun.

It is a great idea to discuss your plans to take your canine pal to the dog park with your veterinarian and/or your dog's trainer before you go. Getting an idea of how your dog friend will interact with the other "crew" of dogs at the park can be very helpful in limiting dog-to-dog and dog-to-human issues.

Aggression is not uncommon at a dog park. This is true because dogs use aggression as a tactic to determine the motives of other dogs and to provide insight to other dogs about what they are representing. It is important that you have an idea of where your dog falls on the Big-Dog-on-Campus spectrum. Discussing with your veterinarian or your favorite trainer about the potentials for fights, bites, and potential disease sharing is a very good first step to a safe and happy outing to the dog park.

Talking about your pet's temperament, age, size, and health can determine whether your furry canine is ready to be introduced to other dogs and humans. It is okay if your dog is not a dog park dog. Not all dogs are dog-park-ready dogs. Some are too afraid, and some are too aggressive to have a safe and fun time.

Make sure that your buddy is current on all vaccinations and preventative health measures, like flea/tick protection and internal parasite protection. Dogs that are frequent dog parkers should have fecal exams done at least two to three times a year to help avoid unexpected problems.

Most importantly, have your veterinarian and/or trainer help you recognize signs of aggression that may be evident from another dog or your own canine friend. Simple visual cues from another dog's body language allowing the identification of fear or anxiety that can trigger aggression are important things to understand. This can give you great insight into their plans during a meeting with your canine pal.

Make sure you have consistent simple obedience commands well set between yourself and your dog friend. It sounds silly, but "Sit Means Sit, Stay Means Stay, and Leave it Means Leave it" until otherwise commanded are critical to safety for you and your K-9 kids. These obedience commands can often be the difference between a great day at the park and a bad day visiting your favorite veterinarian to get medical attention for your dog.

Lastly, check the dog park out without your dogs before you bring them for a visit. Talking to other human dog parkers can give you greater peace of mind that you and your canine will have fun and be safe at the dog park.

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