



NEWS.....of the Tri-County area

Path thru Sandy Spring's history marked by Scout

By Deane Evans

Congressman Michael Barnes saluted "Chris Davies, the boy scouts of the Olney area, and scouting at large" as he dedicated the Brookeville/Olney/Sandy Spring Historic Trail Nov. 28. The trail is the Eagle project of Boy Scout Davies, a freshman at Sherwood High School.

"Chris is giving us all the opportunity to follow the historic path of this community," the congressman said, adding, "we can all learn from the community's past."

The young designer of the trail and Barnes were joined for the dedication and ribbon cutting by county delegates Michael Gudis, Rose Crenca and Neil Potter; GOCA president Ron Berger and past-president Carol Henry, the owners of several of the historic sites on the trail; and a group of scouts and area residents. After Barnes and Davies cut the ribbon to mark the official opening, the group hiked the Sandy Spring leg of the trail.

The 14-year-old scout directed the efforts of a dozen other scouts and several local residents in the development of the trail, including more than 1,000 hours of research, fund raising, editing, art work, patch design and printing arrangements.

Persons contributing efforts to the project included local artist Barbara Hails, who created the sketches of historic landmarks for the pamphlet; Dennis Nutt, who assisted with graphics and map; Louise and Martin Pre-doehl, the scout's parents; and other members of Troop 264, who helped with research. The Greater Olney Civic



Eagle Scout Chris Davies, left, and Congressman Michael Barnes cut the ribbon commencing the opening of the historical trail through Brookeville, Olney and Sandy Spring.

Assoc. sponsored the project with additional support from the Knights of Columbus and Shannon and Luchs realtors of Olney. Davies won preliminary approval of the trail project at the Boy Scout Board of Review Nov. 20.

Davies, in his trail pamphlet introduction, says that many of the homes and buildings that represent the unique history of Olney, Brookeville and Sandy Spring are

still part of the community. He adds, "The trail...provides an opportunity to visit these sites, and by so doing learn about the people and events which make up our local history." He also emphasizes that hikers must not enter private property unless the pamphlet description specifically indicates that it is allowed.

The eight-mile long trail features 36 historical sites and landmarks, beginning at the Sandy Spring, a clear water spring bubbling through fine sand that gave the community its name. Other points of interest near Sandy Spring include the Friends' Meeting House, the Savings Institution, Mont. Co.'s oldest bank, now the Sandy Spring National Bank and Savings; and the Sharp Street Methodist Church whose congregation included the county's largest free black population.

In Olney, the trail continues to historic Olney House and Finneyfrock's, the town's blacksmith where a new building includes much of the old shop equipment.

Featured sites in the Brookeville area are the Madison House that was the temporary capital of the United States when President Madison took refuge there in 1814, and the log cabin, one of three built in the late 1700s and still standing.

Interested persons may hike the trail and earn a patch by completing a questionnaire on some of the historical sites and paying a \$1.75 fee to Troop 264, BSA. The patch was designed by Farquhar student Andrew Pre-doehl.

The questionnaire and the trail pamphlet or more information on the trail can be obtained by writing Chris Davies, 3813 John Carroll Dr., Olney, 20832, and enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope.



Chris Davies, a local scout, developed the Olney-Brookeville-Sandy Spring historic trail, shown at right.

