

Eagle Scout rank and Governor's Citation for Brookeville teen

Boy Scout **Justin Stine** was honored Sunday for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. While achieving the rank is always a notable feat, Stine was recognized at his Court of Honor for going above and beyond in his efforts to restore a local historic cemetery not once but twice.

Only four weeks after completely restoring a local historic cemetery last fall, vandals struck, negating all of Stine's efforts. Although he was frustrated, Stine, along with the help of a cemetery restorationist, got right back to work on it, repairing the extensive damage done by the vandals.

"We went back and restored it, and now everything is back in order," Stine said. "It looks great."

Del. **Anne R. Kaiser** (D-Dist. 14) of Calverton attended the Court of Honor and presented Stine with a Governor's citation.



PEOPLE & PLACES
TERRI HOGAN

She said "more than a few" people had sent her The Gazette article from last fall about Justin's project and having to re-do it after the vandalism.

"I was so impressed at what he did," she said. "While many of the Eagle Scout projects are impressive, I was awed by how vested he was in his heart, and that after the vandalism, he started all over again."

The Riggs family cemetery is nestled in the woods off Bordly Drive near Stine's **Brookeville** home. He, along with fellow scouts, friends and family, spent more than 150 hours on the project, which included removing dead trees and brush, installing wood chips, restoring a gate and building two benches.

Stine, a member of Troop 264 and a senior at Walter Johnson High School, capped off his work with a wooden sign he had hand-carved and attached to the gate.

Then, vandals struck — smashing nine out of 10 tombstones and tipping over a marker. They kicked a hole in the gate and attempted to pull the gateposts out of the ground.

While planning his project, Stine worked with the Coalition for the Protection of Maryland Historical Burial Sites. Through that organization, he had met Robert Mosko, owner of Mosko Cemetery Monument Services. Following the vandalism, Mosko, who was an Eagle Scout himself, repaired the tombstones at no cost.

The organization also honored Stine at the Court of Honor.

The cemetery is part of Pleasant Hill, the ancestral home of the prominent Riggs family, according to research compiled by Stine. John Riggs purchased the property in 1751 and left it to his son, Samuel Riggs, who married Amelia Ridgely. Four of their 12 children are buried there. Their youngest, Remus Riggs, inherited Pleasant Hill and lived there until his death in 1867. He married Catharine Adams and had six children. Their son, William, inherited Pleasant Hill and in 1906 was the last member of the Riggs family to be buried there.



PHOTO BY BRET STINE/

Members of the Coalition for the Protection of Maryland Burial Sites honored Eagle Scout Justin Stine for his continued work in restoring the historic Riggs family cemetery in Brookeville. Pictured left to right are Betty Becraft, Leonard Becraft, Justin Stine, Robert Mosko, Jeff Nesmeyer, Diane Nesmeyer, Amanda Becker.

Re/Max Realty Centre named Top Brokerage in Region

Re/Max Realty Centre, with offices in Olney and Clarksburg, has been named the 2012 Brokerage of the Year for the Central Atlantic Region from among nearly 200 Re/Max franchises.

Broker/owners **Joe and Bette Buffington** and **Joe Buffington II** accepted the award Feb. 12, when Re/Max headquarters staff surprised them during an office meeting.

"This is a tremendous honor for the Buffington family, Re/Max Realty Centre and more than 100 professional agents within the Olney and Clarksburg offices, who are now recognized as being among the best in their profession," **Kevin Northrup**, vice president of the Central Atlantic region, said in a press release. "This award represents trust, integrity and community leadership that the entire team encompasses — a win, win for this market."

Amid a downturn in the housing market, agents at Re/Max Realty Centre increased their volume more than 20 percent during the past 12 months, averaging more than \$3 million each in total sales volume for the year.

The organization offers its Olney Community Room, in the **Olney** location, for community meetings and gatherings. Employees participate in events such as Olney Community Night and conduct toy and food drives. For the past five years, they have joined with the Children's Miracle Network to conduct an annual golf tournament and silent auction. More than \$25,000 was raised in last year's event.

"As a proud member of the office

for 19 years, I have watched Bette and Joe build their offices from the ground up," **Jenni Davies**, a Re/Max Realty Centre associate, said in the release. "They work hard to educate us on new industry laws and trends, top tech ideas and so much more. They've made a real difference in a lot of lives and are truly deserving of their award."

Be part of Tuskegee Airmen presentation at museum

"The Fighting Ninety-Ninth," the story of the Tuskegee Airmen, will be presented at 1 p.m. Feb. 23 at the Sandy Spring Slave Museum.

William Fauntroy, a Tuskegee Airman pilot and Gold Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, will be there, along with The Bradford "Red Tail" Ensemble, who will perform Tuskegee Airmen marching songs.

There also will be an exhibit of Tuskegee Airmen memorabilia and an opportunity for questions and autographs.

Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for students. Reservations are required, as seating is limited. To make reservations, call 301-774-5032.

The museum is at 18524 Brooke Road in Sandy Spring. For more information, go to www.sandyspringslave-museum.org.

Flipping flapjacks for Lions Club, Knights of Columbus

Mark your calendars for the 37th Annual Pancake and Sausage Day, conducted by the Olney Lions Club and the Knights of Columbus.

The all-you-can-eat fundraiser will take place from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 23 at St. John's Episcopal Church, 3427 Ol-

ney-Laytonsville Road. Free vision testing will be offered from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Admission is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6 through 12 and free for children 5 and younger. Tickets are available at the door.

Proceeds will help support community activities and college scholarship funds.

Museum conducts encore at The Winery

The Sandy Spring Museum is adding an "encore" to its Masters of Music Concert Series performance Feb. 24.

Enjoy a program of specialty songs by soprano **Mary Bonhag** and pianist **Jeffrey Chappell** at the "Crossroads of Classical and Cabaret" from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the museum. Then join fellow concertgoers from 5 to 6 p.m. at The Winery at **Olney**. Enjoy mingling with the artists over select tastings of wines, cheese and crackers. The Winery at Olney is in the Fair Hill Shopping Center, 18127 Town Center Drive.

Concert tickets are \$23 for non-members, \$20 for members and \$8 for students. Encore tickets are \$10 and will be sold at the concert and at The Winery.

For more information on other concerts and events, go to www.sandyspringmuseum.org or call 301-774-0022.

Chamber accepting scholarship applications

Each year, the Olney Chamber of Commerce sponsors scholarships for high school seniors in the greater Olney area. To encourage participation from all students, the chamber has two separate applications — one for students with learning disabilities and one for all

other students.

Scholarship packets are available in the career centers of area high schools, including Sherwood, James Hubert Blake, Col. Zadok A. Magruder, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Washington Christian Academy and Sandy Spring Friends School. Applications also are available on the Chamber of Commerce website, www.olneymd.org.

Completed applications must be postmarked by April 20.

Award amounts are based on donations from the Greater Olney business community. In past years, there have been up to four scholarships, with amounts ranging from \$750 to \$1,500. The chamber will recognize recipients at their school's award ceremony and at the chamber's awards reception in June.

Campus congrats to Laytonsville grad

Mary Sanford of Laytonsville was named to the dean's list at the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio. To achieve this recognition, a student must achieve a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher. She is the daughter of **Russ** and **Betsy Sanford** and is a 2010 graduate of the Academy of the Holy Cross.

If you have an interesting note or photo to share about the people or an event in the community, please send it to Staff Writer Terri Hogan, The Olney Gazette, 9030 Comprint Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20877, or email to hogan@gazette.net. Our fax number is 301-670-7183. Photos should be 1 MB or larger. Deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday for consideration for the following week. All items are subject to space availability.

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