



This picture was followed by at least a thousand words at a recent Board of Education meeting. More pictures are in the Family Album on page 2.



Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Girl Scouts collected food for WUMCO. How much? The answer is in Tidbits on page 8.



Poolesville's American Legion Post 247 paid tribute to our veterans. The story is in Tidbits on page 8.



The up and coming PHS field hockey team. Read all about it in Youth Sports on page 10.

The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

November 22, 2013

Volume X, Number 16

BOE Votes Not to Delay PHS Modernization

By Rande Davis

After a dramatic show of force and concern at the Montgomery County Board of Education meeting on November 11, the Montgomery County Board of Education rejected Superintendent Joshua Starr's suggestion to delay modernization of Poolesville High School until 2024.

Area parents, numbering between eighty and a hundred citizens, marshaled community support in asking the BOE to reject Starr's request to once again delay the modernization of Poolesville High School from 2022 to 2024.

Individuals who offered testimony to reject the proposed delay in modernization were Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski, Poolesville Cluster Coordinator Donna Lowell, Joyce Breiner, and students Zachary Ransom,

Daniel Lowell, Ethan Rolls, Connor Ransom, Grace Clark, Maureen Hueting, Ali Ransom, Maddy Peek, Chelsie Pennello, Marie Jankowski, and Mackenzie Gross.

Jerry Klobukowski, who has been the Poolesville Commissioners' liaison to the school cluster committee for seventeen years, coordinated the community response with the help of Donna Lewis, Kathy Jankowski, and PTA leaders Kevin Schramm and Lynne Rolls. Also present to show support was PHS PTSA president Lucy Lock and Doug Robbins, principal of Poolesville Elementary School. Upon learning of the favorable vote by the BOE on Monday November 18, Klobukowski stated his appreciation for the decision and gave credit to everyone who joined in to attend the BOE meeting and to additionally write letters to the BOE.

At the November 11

The voices of Poolesville area citizens were heard at an MCPS Board of Education meeting.

BOE meeting, Klobukowski noted that the 1953 PHS building, while receiving some renovation in 1978, is in immediate need for modernization so as to make it fully compliant with the American Disabilities Act, improve exterior security problems, an adequate auditorium, gymnasium, and cafeteria that can accommodate the whole student body.

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The "Beast" Arrives Late, But Falcons Fall at State

By Jeff Stuart

The Poolesville High School girls' volleyball team fell to the Patuxent Panthers, 25-21, 25-22, 20-25, 24-26, and 15-13, on Saturday afternoon, November 16. It was a hard-fought, back-and-forth match before an energetic crowd at Maryland's Ritchie Coliseum. One Poolesville supporter carried a sign that said, "Release the Beast" in reference to the

Falcons' knack of coming back strong in big matches all year when their backs were against the wall. They definitely needed the Beast after losing the first two sets, and when she showed up, she carried them to victory in games three and four. Poolesville trailed 23-20 in game four and faced match point before rallying to tie at 24-24. Sophomore Emily Benedict served it out for the Falcons. A big hit by senior Emily Agate was the match point. The Falcons, at one point, led, 11-8, in the tie breaker before finally falling, 15-13. Senior Rosie



The 2013 girls' varsity volleyball team took second place in the state, making the finals for the first time since moving to Division 2A. Photograph by Jeff McIntyre.

-Continued On Page 18.

Family Album



This is part of the over eighty people rallying to support the modernization of PHS.



Poolesville Cluster Coordinator Donna Lowell, Commissioners Jerry Klobukowski and Valaree Dickerson.



Takisha Brown and her sons, Aaron and Desmond, came to make their voices heard at the MCPS BOD meeting.



Fifth grader Ethan Rolls addresses the MCPS Board of Education. Student Board member Justin C. Kim, senior at PHS, is to the right.



For Poolesville High School, the future is now.



PHS seniors Marie Jankowski and Chelsie Pennello with Kathy Jankowski.



Members of Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre previewed selections from their upcoming performance of A Christmas Carol at a meeting of the Monocacy Lions. Tickets for the December 14 performances are going fast. Back row: Brooke O'Connell, Carly Johnson, John Foster. Front row: Bubby Roland Jones, Suzanne Creedon, Lizzie Phelps.



The students made the parents and community proud with their call for modernizing PHS.

Things to Do

Odd Fellows Holiday Fruit Sale

Delicious fresh fruit for the holidays! You may order directly by calling 301-349-5450 or 301-349-5103 to place your order. Another way is to watch for their street vendor displays in front of Poolesville Barbershop. They offer bushels and half bushels of navel oranges, juice oranges, red grapefruit, and tangelos. They also have crates and half-crates of apples and tangerines. Great fruit to help a great group of civic-minded citizens who so much to help those in the area.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings in Poolesville

Tuesdays: Poolesville Presbyterian Church, 8:30 p.m.; Thursdays: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 8:30 p.m.

November 22

Entertainment Night: Asian House of Poolesville

DJ. 8:30 p.m.

November 23

Entertainment Night: Asian House of Poolesville

Gina Soul Party Band. 8:30 p.m.

November 22 and 23

Yearbook

The John Poole Middle School Phantom Players. John Poole Middle School, 7:00 p.m.

Adults: \$7.00; Students: \$5.00

St. Peter's Annual Christmas Attic Sale

Ornaments, decorations, lights, trees and greens, vintage linens, silver, and more. Bake sale, pecans, and sand tarts.

9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

November 21, 22, and 23

Nicholas Nickleby

PHS Midnight Players. Based on the novel by Charles Dickens that tells the story of one man's response to other men's lust for money. November 21: 7:00 p.m.

November 22: 7:30 p.m. November 23: 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: Reserved Seating: \$11.00;

General Admission: \$7.00. Tickets are on sale forty-five minutes prior to show times.

November 27

Entertainment Night: Asian House of Poolesville

Paul and Holly plus DJ Slim Pick-ins. 8:30 p.m.

Entertainment Night at Cugini's

A Thanksgiving Eve party with DJ Valaree. \$3.00 fireball shots and \$10.00 Domestic Buckets. 8:00 p.m.

November 29

Black Friday Super 7 Bingo

Carroll Manor Fire Co. Aux. Station 14, Adamstown. \$20.00 per person. Extra games available. 7 games Coach purses; 7 games Longaberger; 7 games cash; 3 specials; 2 raffles, King Tuts. Doors open: 5:30 p.m.; Games start 7:00 p.m.

November 30 and December 1

Buddhist Temple Hosts Annual Holiday Bazaar

Enjoy an afternoon of fun, food, and gifts at the annual Holiday Bazaar hosted by Kunzang Palyul Choling (KPC) Buddhist Temple. The theme is fashioned after an Old European-style out-

door holiday market of vendors, children's activities, with music and a bonfire. Snack on BBQ, hot drinks, and home-baked goods, and participate in a raffle. Free admission. 18400 River Road, Poolesville. 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.tara.org.

December 1

Live Nativity in Urbana

The story of the birth of Jesus portrayed by a cast of many, including a live donkey, sheep, goats, and camels. Urbana Fire Hall parking lot, 3602 Urbana Pike, Urbana.

Free admission, parking, and refreshments. In case of inclement weather, call 301-663-4956.

www.WesleyChapelinUrbana.com

Shows at 6:00 p.m., 7:00 p.m., and 8:00 p.m.

December 4

Family and Pet Portraits

No sitting fee and walk-ins

Continued on Page 15.



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Commentary

The Importance Of Remaining Thankful

By John Clayton

I worked for the same company for over twenty years. Early on, probably my first Thanksgiving there, all the employees received a Thanksgiving letter from the president of the company. It was a nice letter, addressing the requisite themes of hearth, home, tradition, and gratitude for those things for which one should be grateful. This made perfect sense to me; after all, the President of the United States issued a Thanksgiving proclamation, and the *Washington Post* always prominently reprinted Art Buchwald's hilarious column explaining Thanksgiving to the French ("le Jour de Merci Donnant" as he humorously translated Thanksgiving), so this was just one more entry into the observance of the holiday.

The next year, a Thanksgiving letter from the boss came out again, and I noted that it was the same letter; however, it came with a grocery store gift certificate to help finance each employee's Thanksgiving turkey, so what the heck? Besides, the *Post* printed the same Buchwald column (not that there was any comparison) and no one seemed to mind. It was the thought and the twenty-five bucks that counted. It seemed ungrateful to harp on the negative.

Over the next fifteen years or so, I became pretty inured to this letter; I actually looked forward to it. The familiar words were comforting, like hearing *The Night Before Christmas* every year, or telling your kids "The Three Little Pigs" for a thousand or so nights in a row. When the company changed hands from the boss to the sub-boss, I waited to see what Thanksgiving would bring, but it was the same letter, maybe tweaked a little, I can no longer be sure. I was in a high enough position by then to suggest that maybe something new was in order, but I suspect I let it go, preferring to

preserve whatever influence I had for a more substantive issue. By the time the next change of ownership took place, I was definitely in a position to say something, and I think I did, and I think the answer was "Why? What's wrong with the one we have?" The company eventually got sold to outsiders, I left soon after, and will never know if the Thanksgiving letter survived the transition.

I think my fatigue over this repetitively maudlin message is why I've been hesitant to crank out The Thanksgiving Column over the years of the *Monocle*, although admittedly it would have been nice to trot out the same piece of work each year and be done with it. Having said that, I feel I should say something about the holiday before us. After all, Thanksgiving has to be the one holiday everyone can agree on and that hopefully everyone has a chance to enjoy. It is not specific to any one religion, and while it references our history and our patriotism, like the Fourth of July, the concept of taking a moment to be thankful for what we have, and to remember those less fortunate, is universal. Thanksgiving Day is also not heavily commercialized, with perhaps the exception of turkeys, crescent rolls, and those little marshmallows. Perhaps by virtue of also serving as the launching pad for our Christmas buying binge, it has been somewhat spared from our excesses.

I have read several articles concerning the sesquicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. They have served to remind me we that we should be thankful for this country, our freedoms, our abundance, and our relative security. Some writers have specifically reminded us that history doesn't have to turn out the way it does. One hundred and fifty years ago, the idea of our form of government and our individual rights was still an unproven and not entirely popular experiment. We see tragic examples around the world of countries still struggling painfully for even a small measure of prosperity and safety. We should be thankful indeed. We at the *Monocle* wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving celebration.

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Rande(m) Thoughts

The Secret Grocery Store in Poolesville

By Rande Davis

We just need a grocery. I think if I were paid a buck for each time I have heard that in the last year or so, I would have enough money to open one. I have been looking around town, and I am beginning to see something I hadn't seen before: a grocery. Now I know I suffer from what some might call a weirdly-convoluted mind and this might be, to put it very mildly, a big stretch, but as to a grocery store in Poolesville? Most of one is already here.

Before elaborating, let me step back a bit and explain how I arrived at this thought. My wife, Laura, is an immigrant from Holland. She came here at nine years old and remembers a time when supermarkets and big refrigerators didn't exist—at least not in her family.

Grocery shopping in The Hague meant visiting a host of specialty stores to accomplish the shopping needs of the household. The result is that back then, they had such wonderful and quaint shops for baked goods, meats, cheeses, and, of course, everyone's favorite, sweets, especially chocolates.

Coming back to Poolesville and our reality, I think of Selby's Market (the store not the people) and ask, What part of the store have we lost? Close your eyes. Do you remember the store layout? For the basics of milk, eggs, and simple breads and rolls, we are covered at CVS and some of the other shops in town. To the right was their produce. Produce? Half the year, at least, we have the best and freshest from Lewis and Kingsbury's and, of course, for the organic fan, Mixed Greens (some of their produce comes fresh from the local orchards). To the left was their bakery. Bakery you say? Zaglio's just opened in town, and, man, will we have pastries, muffins, cakes, and pies—and if you have a

-Continued on Page 21.

Letter to the Editor

Clean and healthy drinking water is something that most of us take for granted, and rightfully so. When we turn on our faucets, we have no expectations other than to be greeted by pristine, wholesome, and sanitary water; however, what if I told you that this indispensable resource that so many people rely on for sustenance could be in serious jeopardy? According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Stage 4 in the Clarksburg Master Plan could degrade the water of vulnerable Ten Mile Creek in Clarksburg and the drinking water supply for the entire Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve via the Piedmont Aquifer (which is the sole source of water for those outside of the WSSC) because it includes new development and construction implementing porous pavement technology. "The use of porous pavement does create risk of groundwater contamination," the EPA said in a fact sheet published on storm water technology; "therefore, it is not advisable to construct porous pavement near groundwater drinking supplies," which is precisely what is hap-

pening in the Clarksburg plan. As a resident of the Reserve, I am alarmed, troubled, and concerned for my health and the health of fellow residents. Progress and development, like what is going on in Clarksburg, that meets certain critical needs of citizens are very important. People deserve and require the benefits of development, but we must ask ourselves, at what cost are these giant steps coming in their current manifestation? Is this development worth the environmental and health costs that are an inescapable byproduct? Strictly environmental concerns like protecting trees, creeks, streams, ecosystems, and habitats is largely a personal choice—but when it comes to the potential harm of humans, there can be no deliberation. The EPA says there is a "risk." No, risk does not imply inevitability, but that risk is something we cannot afford to take. I, for one, will not stand to have my health endangered. Let's move forward with development that is based on the health-centered needs of those in the community.

Corey Ahearn
Poolesville



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Police Blotter

By Jack Toomey

Current Crime

Assault: 19900 block of Martinsburg Road, 20700 block of Slidell Road.

Burglary: 22100 block of Dickerson Road.

Theft from vehicle: 21300 block of Beallsville Road, 16400 block of River Road, 16400 block of River Road.

Disorderly conduct complaints: 24200 block of River Road, 24800 block of White's Ferry Road, 19800 block of Beatriz Avenue.

Past Crime

November 26, 1938 A Rockville jury found a thirty-eight-year-old Washington man guilty of the robbery of a seventeen-year-old New York debutante. The girl testified that she had run away from a prestigious New York high school and was driving on the Rockville Pike when her car struck the rear of Edward

Jackson's. When both of them got out to inspect the damage, she offered him one dollar in compensation. He refused, and she became frightened and ran into nearby woods. Jackson testified that he waited at the scene for half an hour and then took money from the girl's purse which was lying in the back seat of her car. When a police car approached, he jumped into his own car and fled, and stopped only when a hail of police bullets whizzed by his head, and he crashed into a tree.

November 27, 1938 Poolesville's Detective Roy Bodmer was leading an investigation into a series of burglaries in the county. A shabbily-dressed man had been knocking on doors begging for food or work. However if no one was home, he would go around back and break into the house. Bodmer said that he had a good description of the man who always wore a dark slouch hat.

November 29, 1937 A seventeen-year-old boy who had run away from a Civilian Conservation Corps camp in upstate New

York was found sitting on the front porch of a house in Glen Echo. The boy told the police that he had left the camp because older members had hazed and bullied him by playing practical jokes on him, giving him "hot foots," and placing lighted cigarettes in his pockets. The young man was taken care of by county police who fed him and found a place for him to sleep until it could be determined how to return him to his home in New York. He said that he had been on the road for three weeks looking for work.

December 7, 1937 William Welch, a special deputy sheriff assigned to teach students about traffic safety, was himself struck by an auto in front of Bethesda High School. Welch had been assigned there to assist students crossing East West Highway. He was in the street directing traffic when run down. He was reported to be in serious condition at a Washington hospital.

December 16, 1936 Montgomery County Police had put all

other investigations aside in their quest to find the notorious outlaw Lawrence Gingell, who had been accused of killing Elwood Matthews, an elderly farmer in the Colesville district of the county. He was also suspected in the robberies of two general stores. Meanwhile, the West Virginia state police were seeking Gingell and two of his pals for the murder of a traveling salesman that had happened near Sutton, West Virginia.

Gingell was arrested a week later crossing the Highway Bridge into Virginia. When brought to Montgomery County, he admitted to killing Matthews, the elderly farmer, and to a host of other crimes.

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

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Rev. Kevin P. O'Reilly, Pastor
Rev. David Cahoon, Deacon

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday at 8, 9:30, and 11 am

Thanksgiving Mass - Nov. 28 at 10 am

Advent Confessions - Dec. 11 at 4 & 7:30 pm

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Town of Poolesville

Poolesville Town Meeting

By Rande Davis

Westerly Relining of Sewer Lines on Track

John Strong, the Poolesville town engineer, updated the commissioners on the progress for the relining of the water and sewer lines in the Westerly subdivision at the November 18 meeting.

Work on the main lines in the development is almost done and should be completed by December 1. After the holidays, work on the lateral lines (those lines that connect a residence to a main line) will begin with extra crews being brought in. The anticipated completion date is by March.

As work was being done on the main line, unanticipated issues came up that resulted in minor delays. Those issues included some repairs done in the past that did not hold up over time, and in other cases included things like mismatched piping combinations. The problems have been repaired the workers have come upon them.

Anecdotally, Strong was pleased to report that during the recent heavy seven-inch rain event, the town water crew reported that they did not have the pump station go into high alarm, indicating that the recent work has had a positive effect on the system. They will have to wait until spring with all the work complete and additional rain events to verify this report.

As residential lateral line work progresses, the town will post weekly reports listing the schedule of progress so homeowners can determine a relative time frame for when the work will begin at their address.

Verizon Requested Lease Amendment

Verizon has submitted a lease

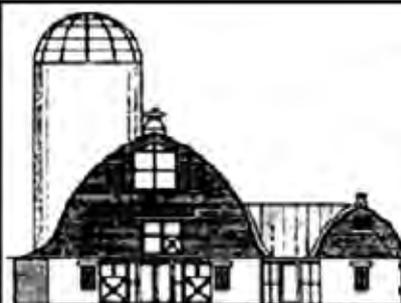
amendment request for rental of space on the town's water tower. They are seeking additional space to more adequately serve the larger demands from 4G phone capabilities. A decision was not made as Commissioner Klobukowski requested additional time to further read the details of the lease request. Town manager Wade Yost recommended that this is a good time to consider expanding further testing on radiation exposures from the antennas. The most recent test verified the safety of the antenna system, but after the past testing, some residents voiced concerns that were not specifically addressed in the report. Wade recommended the additional test to further clarify the issue.

What to Do in the Event of a Disaster

Montgomery County provides a Hazard Mitigation Plan of several hundred pages in length that makes recommendations to townships and has requested some zoning changes by Poolesville to comply with the plan. The county also raised the issue of determining the need to identify in town an all-season shelter in the case of a natural disaster. By complying with the request, the town would then be eligible for FEMA funding in either pre-disaster adjustments or post-disaster recovery. The town manager will be drawing up a resolution to meet the county's specifications, and a discussion and vote will be scheduled at a later meeting.

Congratulations to Halbrook for Completion of MML Program

Through a program sponsored by the Maryland Municipal League, Commissioner Brice Halbrook completed a course of study in local government and was awarded a certificate as Fellow for the Academy of Excellence in Local Governance by the University of Maryland.



SUGARLOAF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER November 2013

"Protecting our rural legacy"

How to contact us:

Sugarloaf Citizens' Association

James Choukas-Bradley, President

Linden Farm, 20900 Martinsburg Road

P.O. Box 218, Dickerson, MD 20842

Visit our Web site: www.sugarloafcitizens.org

AN URGENT ISSUE

THE SAGA OF TEN MILE CREEK

First the Bad News: The Montgomery County Planning Board **did not accept its own staff recommendations** to limit proposed development on the headwaters of Ten Mile Creek. The Planning Board's recommendations to the County Council increased both the number of houses and the impervious surface (shopping malls, multi-storied buildings, etc.) that had been proposed by the staff.

The Good News is that we can still stop this destructive plan by contacting our County Council. Please write a letter and/or email the County Council **today** at countycouncil@montgomerycountymd.gov and tell them that the entire DC metro area needs a reliable, clean, back-up reservoir. Tell them that we have only one clean creek, one drinking water reservoir and one sole source aquifer. It is essential that they protect all three. For background and details, visit the Save Ten Mile Creek Coalition's web site: www.savetenmilecreek.com.

Consider signing up to testify at the County Council's Public Hearing on December 5 at 7:30 pm.

SUGARLOAF's STEWARDSHIP

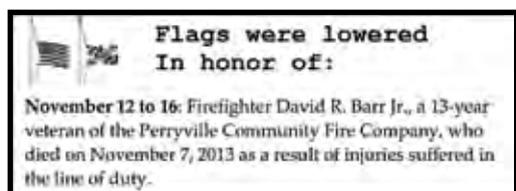
At its headquarters Linden Farm, SCA is proud to be creating new opportunities for stewardship of the land and new ideas for education:

- The Anne T. Sturm bluebird trail has been established for 3 years.
- The wildflower meadow is home to many varieties of pollinators.
- The Montgomery County Beekeepers Association will be locating beehives at Linden Farm, hopefully this spring.
- The Poolesville High School Global Ecology junior class has been visiting Linden Farm for learning and stewardship activities

And, coming next year: The first ever joint SCA Plant Swap and Monocacy Garden Club Flower Show – all together at Linden Farm! Mark your calendars NOW for our **Saturday, May 12** festival of growing plants which will feature local plants for swap or sell, displays of local horticulture and flower arrangements, music and refreshments.

Sugarloaf's POT LUCK on October 27: Did you miss it? If you did, we sure hope you'll join us next fall. A really good time was had by all!

Jim Choukas-Bradley, President
Sugarloaf Citizens' Association



Tidbits

Federal Employees Can Designate WUMCO

Did you know that federal employees can designate a specific charity when they donate annually through their United Way drive? If you are a federal employee or know someone who is, the United Way participation number for WUMCO is 8473. This is an easy way to help this most worthy of charitable organizations.

Two and a Half Tons of Love

Poolesville Boy Scout Troop 496 and Cub Pack 694 received strong support for their annual Scouting for Food initiative to restock WUMCO's food pantry at a critical time of the year.

On November 9, the door-to-door campaign had approximately forty-six Boy Scouts, Webelos Cub Scouts, and Girl Scouts, along with a handful of former Scouts collecting the food.

Thanks to CVS, the Scouts were able to sort the food into shipping bins borrowed from the retailer, which was used to transport the food to Western Upper Montgomery County Help, Inc. (WUMCO). When the Scouts arrived at WUMCO, the shelves were literally bare—so bare, that the organization was considering using some of its funds to purchase food to help the needy; however, by early afternoon, the Scouts had collected, sorted, transported, and placed on WUMCO's shelves five thousand pounds of food donated by the residents of Poolesville and the immediate surrounding areas. As a result, WUMCO's shelves are now overflowing.

Scoutmaster Doug McKenney wants to especially thank the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter of the Izaak Walton League, who sponsor the Boy Scout Troop and the Cub Scout Pack, and all the good people in the Poolesville area.

Veterans Day Festivity Draws Appreciative Residents

The Daniel-Jeffers American Legion Post 247 held its annual

Veterans Day event at Whalen Commons on November 11 at 11:00 a.m. In 1918, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the armistice was signed ending World War I and was memorialized as Armistice Day. After World War II, Armistice Day eventually became Veterans Day.

Commander Bob Hernandez provided a statement of appreciation for those who served or serve in the military and called upon residents present at the ceremony to share the reasons why they chose to attend. Many were there to show support for military personnel, past and present, and often, cited a family member who served.

Post 247, in conjunction with the Commissioners of Poolesville, has created a poster giving tribute to those from the area who have served in the military since the advent of Desert Storm (2001). The list is not complete, and if anyone knows of others who need to be added, they can contact Rande Davis at rdavis@monocacymonocle.com.

Breiner Selected by Leadership Montgomery

Joyce Breiner, Executive Director of Poolesville Green, has been selected for the Class of 2014 of Leadership Montgomery Core program. A nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, Leadership Montgomery brings together current and emerging leaders and offers them a unique opportunity to increase their understanding of the complex social and economic issues of Montgomery County and the region. Through a series of interactive sessions, participants are challenged to learn about and experience leadership by evaluating issues, considering thought-provoking viewpoints, and examining leadership styles.

Leadership Montgomery, a member of the Association of Leadership Programs, has over two thousand graduates and participants from its Core, Senior, Executive, and Youth Programs, actively involved in the community serving on state, county, and nonprofit boards and committees.



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Focus on Business

Dreams Really Do Come True

By Rande Davis

Amanda Bochain has been baking and cooking “ever since she could hold a spoon.” As far back as she can remember, she has dreamed of opening her own bakery, and on November 18, Amanda’s dream came true when Zaglio’s Bakery and Café opened its doors in the corner space near the Poolesville Library. Zaglio’s is a family Italian surname.

The twenty-eight-year-old grew up in Colchester, Connecticut and loved cooking with her mom, learning the secrets of her mother’s Italian recipes while at her side. Her fondest memory is of using the hand mixer, especially when her mom let her lick the sweet delights off the beaters. She was sixteen when she first began working in kitchens outside the home, the only type of

work she has ever pursued. Her passion was so focused that upon graduating from high school, she applied to only one college: the Culinary Institute of America. She graduated in 2007 with a degree in Bakery and Pastry Arts Management.

Since then, Amanda has worked in restaurants, hotels, for caterers, and, most recently, has been specializing in wedding cakes at Fluffy Thoughts Bakery in McLean, Virginia.

Late last winter, when she found Poolesville, she fell in love with the town and a house, which she bought and moved into last February.

Amanda describes herself as an early-to-bed-early-to-rise kind of person and hopes to entice the early commuters with her selection of breakfast muffins, bagels, and cinnamon rolls along with coffee, teas, espresso, cappuccinos, and lattes (she will have pumpkin spice latte on the menu going into Thanksgiving).

Of course, Zaglio’s will feature the standard fare of cakes,

cupcakes, cookies, tarts, pastries, and pies (nine and four inch). She encourages special orders with a forty-eight-hour advance notice. The shop will be open every day starting at 6:00 a.m. weekdays, 7:00 a.m. on Saturday and 8:00

a.m. on Sunday. She has plans to respond to public requests and will start by offering a specialty bread daily. You can check out the menu and specials at her website: www.zaglios.com.



Amanda Bochain, Culinary Institute of America pastry chef and owner of Poolesville's Zaglio's Bakery.

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Youth Sports

Young Falcons Return To Region Final

By Jeff Stuart

Victories over rival Damascus in both the regular season and in the playoffs highlighted the 2013 season for the Poolesville field hockey team. Both games were at home. The Falcons advanced to the region final for the ninth straight year, and were state finalists the last two seasons.

The region playoff game went to double overtime, where the score was 1-1, then the deciding factor went to strokes. "Our goal was scored by Sarah Onderko (junior) and assisted by Casey Harkins (sophomore)," said Head Coach Regina Grubb. Both teams scored in the first half. The second half became a tug-of-war between the teams with furious attacks and thrilling saves. For the game to be decided by strokes, each team chose five players

to stroke. After junior Amanda Chasin and Onkerko made their strokes, the stroke score was 2-1. Because Damascus had chosen to stroke second, the outcome possibly hinged on the last Falcon stroker, junior Christina Hilton: If she made the stroke, the game would be over. "She steps up and puts the ball in the right hand corner of the goal to win the game," enthused Coach Grubb. "It was a very intense and exciting game, and a great team win for us."

The 2013 team could definitely be defined as young. All but two starters graduated from the team. Many talented players met the high bar and filled the void. "Anna Murgia stepped up, as did Madison Lamanna in the goal," said Grubb. Both were mentioned in the *Gazette's* preseason list of players to watch. "Jamie Gerdes (sophomore) ...made some strides. A lot of players did. The team has really done well as a whole, particularly toward the end of the season. We took it one game at a time." Going into the playoff, Coach Grubb was not looking too far ahead. "You can't

think ahead because you have to win that first game."

"We couldn't really go into this year based on the expectations we had last year," said senior goalkeeper Madison Lamanna at practice prior to the playoffs. "Every team is different. Some teams that we destroyed last year put up a really good fight this year. There is a lot more talent in Montgomery County—and we are different, too. This year's team is unique. We are a young team, but that gave the older girls a chance to share their experience and step up as leaders." Her best game? "My favorite moment was in my junior year when my best friend, Julia Duncan, scored the winning goal in the state semi-final against Century. We won, 1-0."

"Because we are a young team, a lot of us hadn't really



A winning season for PHS varsity field hockey 2013 ended at 9-6, and 3-0 in its division.

played with each other before the season started," said junior Anna Murgia, a center midfielder, before the playoffs. "Now we are starting to connect on the field and work really well with each other. Everyone contributes. I expected to go far this season because we have a lot of athletic girls on this team who really want

-Continued on Page 11.

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**"Young Falcons" Continued
From Page 10.**

to win. We have skill. I kind of expected us to come together and step up, and we have done that." Her favorite game prior to the playoffs? "I really liked playing Damascus. It was one of our best games of the year. We played really well against them."

The Falcons' record stood at just 5-4 on October 4 after a 4-0 loss to a very good Walter Johnson team (12-2-1). They finished at 9-6 and 3-0 in the division. They had an opening round play-off win at home against Wheaton on October 24. The Falcons faced a familiar opponent in the region final, Century, having beaten the Knights in each of the past two years. On October 30 at Eldersburg, however, Century prevailed. The Knights took the lead with just two minutes gone in the first half. They scored again with just four minutes gone in the second half. Lamanna had seven saves.

Century went on to de-

feat Glenelg (another familiar Pooleville foe) in the state final, 2-3, in two overtimes, ending a string of three straight championships for Glenelg.

Graduating seniors for the Falcons are Lamanna, Jennifer Grimes, Olivia McAleer, Kaitlin Aaby, Lacey Williams, Eleanore Ritter, Katelyn Thomas, Olivia Jackson, and Mackenzie Fields, but you can be sure the torch has been effectively passed. Nothing less than success can be expected next season from other returners including Haley Wilson, Anna Desoto, Mary Hall, Emily Conway, Gillian Case, Carley Kenly, Mollie Bodmer, Jolee Raines, and Casey Harkins. Coaches are Regina Grubb and Rachel Stream.

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Local News

Citizens Raise Concerns on New Businesses in Poolesville

By Rande Davis

The November 13 town planning committee meeting developed into an impromptu public forum to voice opinion regarding the opening of retail locations in Poolesville by Tractor Supply Company and Dollar General. Both entities were there to request variances to their site permits.

Gary Dobbs, property manager for First Washington Realty, owner of the shopping center where Selby's was located, requested acceptance of a proposed design on behalf of Tractor Supply Company for acceptance of an outdoor holding area for lawn equipment and other large products. The design featured an 11,000-square-foot fenced-in area in the front parking lot area. Dobbs proposed that rather than using their standard chain link fencing to encircle the area, they would instead place an eight-foot-high wooden fence with equally high pine trees surrounding it to obscure its visual impact. Additionally, they would landscape the area in front of the trees with flowers. Mr. Dobbs reported that the marketing footprint of TSC is a twenty-five-mile radius from its location; subsequently, they anticipate the store will bring additional business into Poolesville to the benefit of other servicing retailers and firms.

After discussion, the commission suggested that a location along the side of the building would be preferable and asked that they come back with a plan more in line with that location.

Gary Biales, principal executive vice president of Zaremba Group, the developing contractor for Dollar General, requested a reduction in the total number of parking spaces required from the current code. Since his request for

thirty-eight spaces is in line with the upcoming zoning ordinance change in January, the commission voted unanimously to approve the request. The store, to be built opposite the Poolesville Town Hall on the southern side of Fisher Avenue, will have parking in the front of the building and to its western side. Mr. Biales also addressed issues of trees in the back (they are planning to keep most) and moving a proposed swale up front.

In discussing storm water drainage issues, Biales revealed that his company has agreed to allow a drainage system coming from the property of Delmar Deli Provisions, LLC, to cross their property to reach the Fisher Avenue storm water drain. Delmar Deli is the Boar's Head meat and cheese distributorship that hopes to relocate to Poolesville and eventually open a retail meat and cheese deli in conjunction with the distributorship warehouse. The draining system will help Delmar Deli meet county drainage requirements.

Dollar General presented its newest proposed design for the store which has a brick façade, windows with shutters, and a peaked roofline similar to that of the Selby's Market and the roofline at the Poolesville Library.

Of those attending the meeting, the overwhelming opinions expressed were negative to both Tractor Supply Company and Dollar General coming to Poolesville. In the case of Tractor Supply Company, the primary objection was its impact on Poolesville Hardware; however, other speakers opposed the pending retailers on grounds that the proposed businesses were, in the speakers' opinions, not acceptable to their image of Poolesville.

George Coakley advised the audience that the role of the planning commissioner is not to make decisions based on usage (image) but only on restrictions already in place in the town's ordinance (proper setbacks, parking lots, safety requirements, etc.).

Resident Frank Austin asked which town government body is legally able to address (accept or reject a permit) based on the

issue of usage or impact on town image.

Planning Commissioner Cal Sneed explained that the commission members have an obligation to protect the interests of the town by preventing potential lawsuits. Town attorney Jay Gullo explained the legal ramifications should the town refuse a permit to an otherwise legal business which meets all other requirements and is in full compliance with town zoning laws.

Mr. Gullo noted that the company rejected on the basis of opinion would appeal the decision to Montgomery County Court of Appeals, and the decision would be overturned as being "arbitrary and capricious." He observed that all the speakers that evening were addressing issues of usage and emphasized that zoning restrictions cannot be made on a case-by-case basis. Such a practice is called spot zoning and is illegal. Denying a company a building and occupation permit on the grounds that it is competitive to another business in town is not a legally permis-

sible restriction; therefore, no governmental entity may reject a permit request by a firm that otherwise meets the zoning requirements of the town.

The Planning Commission will schedule an official public hearing on December 11 at the town hall prior to making its recommendations to the Board of Zoning Appeals.



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Tidbits of the Past

By Jack Toomey

November 2, 1929 Poolesville High, the champions of the northern division, and Rockville High, who had won the southern division, met in the first game of the county championship. Rockville won, 4-2. Some of the Poolesville players were W. Jones, Hough, Darby, Bell, Fyfe, and Blythe.

November 3, 1925 The Barnesville Community Hall was dedicated in ceremonies held at the hall. Recitations were given by pupils of the Barnesville School, an address by States Attorney Cissel, a piano recital by Miss Elizabeth Jones of Dickerson, and others.

November 6, 1971 Development International Corporation of Maryland announced plans to build townhouses on 161 building lots in Poolesville. The townhouses were expected to sell in the \$28,000 range.

November 10, 1912 Mrs. A.

P. Fletchall was the hostess of the November meeting of the Poolesville Women's Club. A presentation about the life of Queen Elizabeth was given by Mrs. Estelle Hodgson.

November 14, 1915 Bishop Harding officiated at the 11:00 am services at the St. Peter's Church in Poolesville. He confirmed a number of candidates and then traveled to Barnesville where he officiated at the ceremonies at the Christ Church.

November 16, 1913 Gallaudet College of Washington traveled to Poolesville and gave Briarley Hall a 50-6 thrashing. The game was played in a downpour of rain which caused sloppy play. The visitors resorted almost exclusively to straight play, causing the academy boys to fall back. Gallaudet used their reserves for most of the game.

November 17, 1918 The Montgomery County Public School Teachers Organization was formed, and Robert Stout of the Poolesville School was elected

as treasurer.

November 19, 1931 Miss Alice Darby of Boyds was selected as Miss Montgomery County by the Montgomery County Farm Bureau. She was scheduled to represent the county in a state competition.

November 22, 1922 As a result of the extraction of several teeth, Arthur McFarland, a veteran of the World War, died at the home of his parents at Rockville. The funeral was held at the family home followed by burial at

the Union Cemetery.

November 27, 1930 The bridge at Furnace Ford on Route 28 north of Dickerson resulted in a lengthy detour for motorists. Northbound traffic from the vicinity of Beallsville had to go south to Lee's Corner, then turn left at Bucklodge through Boyds, then turn left again at Route 240 (present-day I-270), and then proceed north to Frederick.

Material for this column was obtained from the archives of The Washington Post.



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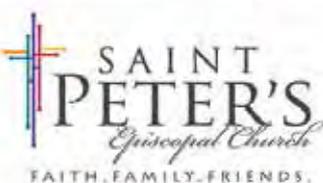
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**"Things to Do" Continued
From Page 3.**

welcome. Holiday Hearth background plus preview holiday shopping at Blue Hearth. Located at the Blue Hearth, 19964 Fisher Avenue. 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

December 5

PACC Businesses Helping Business

Networking event for members and those interested in joining. Bassett's Restaurant. 8:00 a.m.

December 6

Annual Holiday Lighting Ceremony

Whalen Commons turns into a winter wonderland. Join in the family fun. Santa Claus will take gift requests (he comes at 6:00 p.m.). Holiday kiddie railroad, ice sculpturing, singing choirs from local churches, festive music, refreshments, gingerbread decorating at the Old Town Hall, park lights lit at 7:30 p.m.

PACC First Friday Holiday Night

Many shops and businesses will be open including Crafts A Plenty, Historic Medley's Old Town Hall Bank Museum, Hearthsides Gardens and Antiques, the Blue Hearth, and more along the way. Ride the Poolesville Polar Express sponsored by Calleva Farms from Whalen Commons to the old center of town. Visit the Old Town Hall for gingerbread decorating and the new Town Hall for the JPMS Christmas tree and music singers and players.

December 6, 7, and 8

Countryside Artisans Tour

Fourteen artisans and crafters and an award-winning vineyard open their studios and places for a self-guided tour. Get details and maps at www.countrysideartisans.com Friday and Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday: noon to 5:00 p.m.

December 7

Odd Fellows Annual Seniors Christmas Party

This traditional event for widows and widowers has expanded its outreach to all senior citizens, so bring your spouses and friends. Feast on turkey and ham din-

ner with all the fixins free of charge. There will be door prizes, entertainment, and surprises. It's helpful to reserve space but not required. For those who can reserve, call Richard Norwood at 301-349-5103. Poolesville Memorial United Methodist Church. 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

December 7

UMCVFD Annual Santa Claus Breakfast

All-you-can-eat pancakes, juice, sausage, bacon, eggs, coffee, and fruit salad. Delight the kids with the model railroad visit to Santa. Bring a toy for Toys for Tots. 12 years of age and older: \$8.00; 3 to 11 years old: \$6.00; Under 3: Free.

Boys Presbyterian Church Annual Christmas Shop

Offering wonderful crafts by local artisans. Quilts, photography, gift boxes, needlework, jewelry, scarves, collectibles, and more. 19901 Whites Ground Road, Boyds. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Calleva Horse Adventure Programs (CHAPS) Open House

Bring the whole family for pony rides, hayrides, holiday treats, hot chocolate, bonfire, and a whole lot of holiday spirit! We will share how you can enjoy our horses. Free. 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

December 13, 14, and 15

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December 14

A Christmas Carol

Hope Garden Children's Ballet Theatre presents Dickens's classic, *A Christmas Carol*, as an original ballet by artistic director and choreographer Fran Ichijo. Matinee: 2:00 p.m.; evening: 7:00 p.m. PHS Auditorium. Adults: \$14.00; Youth \$11.00.

Breakfast with St. Nicholas

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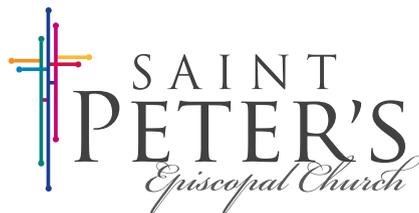
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School News

Midnight Players Presenting Nicholas Nickleby

By Halley Nathwani

From the renowned author of *The Christmas Carol* and *Great Expectations*, Poolesville High

School's Midnight Players drama club is proud to present Charles Dickens's comedy *Nicholas Nickleby*, based on the novel of the same name.

Nicholas Nickleby's father died after losing stocks in a bad investment. He, along with his mother and his sister, make their way to London in the hopes that their relative, Cornelia Nickleby, will take pity on them. Will Cornelia take pity on Nicholas Nickleby? Will Nicholas find a

job? Will Nicholas ever be able to save his family from the fangs of poverty, or will they forever be in the debt of those around them? What will Nicholas's reaction be to "The Infant Phenomenon"? How will Nicholas become a strong and independent man? Will he win his true love?

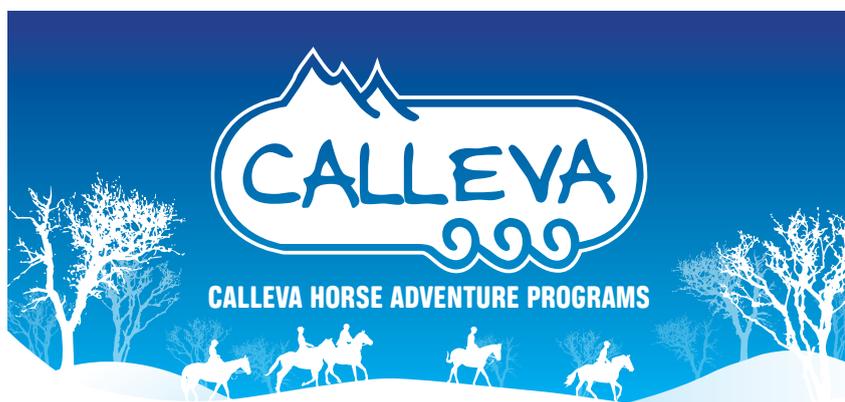
The story of Nicholas Nickleby is about how he responds to the money lust of men. Along the way he encounters a parade of colorful characters: infamous Wackford Squeers, stylish Madame Mantalini, "decayed" Arthur Gride, pitiable orphan Smike, the winsome Cheerable Brothers, lovely but poor Madeleine Bray, scheming Lady Hawk, and the amazing Crummies' seedy theatrical troupe.

The play will be presented November 21 at 7:00 p.m., No-



The Poolesville High School Midnight Players rehearse Charles Dickens's Nicholas Nickleby set to run November 21, 22, and 23.

ember 22 at 7:30 p.m., and November 23 at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m. in the Poolesville High School auditorium. Tickets are \$7 for General Admission and \$11 for seats in the Reserved Section. Tickets may be purchased in advance from the PHS website (click on School Store) or in person. Tickets will also be sold at the door beginning forty-five minutes before each performance.



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**“Volleyball” Continued
From Page 1.**

Barry had twenty-one kills for the Falcons. Freshman Caroline Leng had ten. Senior Sarah Kenneweg had twenty-nine digs.

The Beast made numerous appearances throughout the season. On September 25, she showed up to rally the Falcons to a thrilling regular-season victory over 2013 3A state champions Damascus before a raucous home crowd. The Falcons trailed their arch rival two games to none before refocusing and taking care of business, winning the final two games convincingly, 25-13, 25-15, and the tie breaker, 15-9. That was with their head coach at home with the flu.

On November 4, Liberty High won game three, 25-20, to take a two-game-to-one lead over the home team, but the Beast returned yet again, and the girls stunned the Lions with a 9-1 early run in a decisive win in game four, 25-13, and an easy win in the tiebreaker, 15-8. That comeback put them in the region final

where they swept three sets at Oakdale.

The state semifinal was on November 11 at Ritchie against unbeaten Rising Sun. A kill by Barry to end the first rally of the match set the tone. The Falcons won the first game, 25-19. A put back by Leng gave PHS the lead in the second game, and a hit from the left by senior Jessie Maloney on game point produced a 25-15 win. Behind the outstanding setting of Allyson Convers and the hitting of Agate, the Falcons completed the sweep, 25-12.

That set the stage for the Falcons' first appearance in a state volleyball final since 2008 and the first since PHS grew to the 2A level. Assistant Coach Meghan Kenneweg (sister to senior Sarah) was on the 2008 Championship team. Sarah hoped the 2013 team would win one of their own. "It didn't really feel like we lost," said Sarah. "That was such a hard-fought battle that we walked away feeling pretty good with ourselves. We would have been sad either way because the season

is over. Our team is one big family, and we are leaving that." "It was a good match," said Head Coach Fran Duval. "It would have been better if we had won"—of course. Barry, Kenneweg, Agate, and senior Fangfei Yin were key to this team's suc-

cess all year, as were junior setter Convers and Leng. "I kept waiting for the letdown today," said Coach Duval the next day. "It never came. I know we played hard and left it all on the court at Ritchie. I am very proud to be called Coach by these players."

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**"BOE" Continued From
Page 1.**

He emphasized to the BOE panel, "We understand student enrollment in some parts of the county is projected to increase in the out years; however, pushing back a modernization because we are in the less dense Agricultural Reserve is penalizing our students and out-of-cluster students who would attend the Whole School Magnet." Additionally, he warned that delaying the modernization of schools will allow the conditions to worsen and result in increased building maintenance costs, funds which would be better spent modernizing those schools. "We ask that you display the courage to reject delaying Poolesville High School's modernization to 2024 and restore it to the 2021 date found in the FY2013 Recommended Capital Improvement Program Budget."

Sidney Katz, the mayor of Gaithersburg voiced support for the PHS plea as many Gaithersburg students attend PHS. He told the BOE, "The city would like to take this opportunity to stress the importance of completing the revitalization/expansion project at Poolesville High School by August 2022, as proposed in the Superintendent's Recommended Budget. This building is sixty-one years old and replacement of the facility is long overdue. Despite the condition of the school, performance has been ranked among the best in the

nation, and providing a modern facility would only serve to continue this tradition of excellence."

Cluster Coordinator Donna Lowell, after discussing outdated infrastructure and safety issues concerning the school, implored the BOE, "Please don't forget the faces of those kids that were before you tonight. They deserve a new school. They deserve a better school."

Joyce Breiner challenged the BOE to more appropriately consider the rural reality that is the Poolesville cluster and that using only urban planning metrics is misleading and underestimates the needs in Poolesville. To support her oral testimony, she supplied an in-depth written evaluation for the need for modernization of PHS.

PES PTA co-president, Kevin Schramm, reflected on the community response by telling the *Monocle*, "I am really happy with the participation from the community in the school advocacy process. This will not be a one-time event. If we can have this level of attendance at each BOE or County Council testimony going forward, then Poolesville will be in a good place when tough budget decisions are made at a county level."

Beyond the adults, it was perhaps the students who presented the BOE with some of the most poignant and effective testimony.

Daniel Lowell, a fifth grader at PES told the board that there "is something really broken in how things work when you keep changing the plans." Another

fifth grader, Nathan Rolls, stated, "In a small town like ours, people work together to achieve our goals. You could look at us, shake your heads in agreement, and let what we say go in one ear and out the other—or you could listen at a deeper level."

Middle school student Grace Clark, in talking about many of the poor conditions at PHS, stated, "The thing that bothers me most of all, though, is that the school lunchroom only has enough space for one-fifth of the students. That means that most students eat lunch on the floor in the hallways throughout the school. I imagine that on days when it is raining outside or other bad weather, the floor can be pretty disgusting. Do you eat lunch on the floor?"

JPMS student Maureen Hueting challenged the credibility and lack of commitment of the BOE, "Many don't believe you anymore. We've been waiting so long. It can be hard to teach in a school that is crumbling down around you. It can be hard to keep students engaged when the technology is slow or not working at all. It's like saying you don't want to invest in us, and we don't know why."

Al Ransom echoed her sentiment about the meaning of commitment, "If I don't take appropriate action on a goal I've set, then I won't succeed. The difference is you've made commitments to us, and you are not holding yourselves responsible." Another middle school student, Maddy Peek, said "I don't know what the solution is to this problem, but I do know that if I make a commitment, I don't keep letting it slip week after week, and for you, year after year. People are depending on you to keep your word."

PHS senior Wendy Zhou said, "The students in Montgomery County are more than holding up our end of the bargain, helping to give Montgomery County a national reputation for innovation and excellence. It is you who are not holding up your end of the bargain."

Senior Marie Jankowski

summed up the students' sentiments, "We represent thousands of students across Montgomery County who are attending crumbling, outdated, overcrowded schools because our legislators, council members, and board of education talk (emphasis on talk) about what they value, but do not act on these values. We need people who have the integrity to follow through on commitments."

BOE president Christopher Barclay, in pointing toward the state for not budgeting enough money for MCPS Capital Improvements, said he hoped that all of the Poolesville Cluster supporters who showed up take their cause to Annapolis and to the county council members to get more money from the state.

Cluster Coordinator Donna Lowell, upon hearing of the vote, said that the 2022 date becomes "our line in the sand and that it is now important to work to improve on that."

Teacher Dan Savino, who testified at a November 14 BOE meeting and has been one of the leaders advancing the needs of PHS, stated, "2019 is what I believe our new goal should be. It was already in a previous CIP/budget and it's realistic in terms of time and necessary planning. I would like to recommend a list of cost-saving measures to Dr. Starr and BOE so they can 'find the money.'" He is looking for suggestions for these measures. Some ideas include: modest building design, central office cuts, allowing corporate sponsorship of athletic facilities, etc.

Savino is available on Facebook or can be reached through email at the school.

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“Rande(m) Thoughts”
Continued From Page 4.

penchant for specialty breads, well, she will offer a different one each day. On top of that, Mixed Greens offers a good variety. In continuing to remember Selby’s layout and scanning the offerings along the walls, I see their beer and wine section. Yep, got that one covered. In fact, we have it covered twice. Look over to your right again. Over there in the back was their deli. With perseverance and dedication,

the hardworking people of Delmar Deli Provisions, LLC, distributor of Boar’s Head Deli products, still hope to open a deli with Boar’s Head cold cuts and cheeses. We hope much sooner than later. Ice cream, anyone? Even Poolesville Hardware offers it, as does CVS.

What’s missing? Let me see. Oh yeah, Selby’s meat section and everything else in the middle aisles. The middle aisles had everything from pampers to soup, spices to canned goods, and paper products and pet food, and shampoos and,

well, you name it. Well not only does CVS offer most of that, but so will Dollar General in a very big way. As to meat, Mixed Greens sells USDA-inspected frozen meat from local suppliers: Hedgeapple Farm in Buckeystown supplies grass-fed beef; pasture-raised goat meat comes from Thistle Thickets Farm in Boyds; and lamb and pork comes from local farmers. So that leaves one thing: a fresh meat section. Perhaps we will get lucky and get a butcher someday. If Hemp’s of Jefferson, Maryland would open a

branch here in Poolesville, we could even get that covered. Grocery store? We definitely have it—in the European specialty market fashion. One-stop shopping? Hardly, but at least we are able to get just about everything we need locally.

For anything else still missing, there is another time-honored way to get it: Ask a neighbor. Borrowing a cup of sugar happened so much it became a cliché. Okay, I know we still need a grocery, but stealing a phrase from the kids: Jus’ sayin’.

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A Public Hearing will be held on December 11, 2013 at 7:30 PM, Poolesville Town Hall, 19721 Beall Street, Poolesville, Maryland pursuant to Appendix A - Subdivision Regulations, Section 27.E on the commercial site plan application submitted by Dollar General for the improvements of the site located at 19718 Fisher Avenue. Copies of this site plan are available for review at Town Hall.


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Did I Mention Fleas?

Peter H. Eeg, DVM - Poolesville Veterinary Clinic

My last article addressed the varied and interesting life cycle of the Tick. We talked about the problems they pose and what you can do to protect yourself and your pets. Unfortunately, the Tick does not have the market cornered on being a pest to people and their pets.

Fleas can and do pose equally difficult problems for our pets and ourselves. The Flea is capable of surviving for extended periods of time on and off your pets (and in some cases, you). The good news is that fleas of the dog and cat prefer to stay on dogs and cats. There are a subspecies of fleas that prefer to live on and around humans. This is not a big issue for most of us that have good hygiene. If, however, your pet has fleas and all pets are removed from your home for over a 72-hour period, the new fleas will not hesitate to use you for a blood meal until the cats and dogs return.

Only animals and people allergic to flea saliva have an itchy response to flea bites. Red bumps around your belt line or sock line are often telltale signs of fleas biting you.

Fleas are what are known as obligate parasites. They must have a host to feed and complete their life cycle on. The adult female can lay up to 2500 eggs per breeding cycle. They reproduce on their host. The eggs are initially sticky and stay attached to hair. As the animal scratches and shakes, hair and dried eggs fall to the ground. These eggs fall to the bottom of the rug fibers, in between wood floor joints, etc. The eggs can stay dormant (not hatch) for months if conditions are too dry. Usually eggs hatch in 2-3 weeks. Their dormant ability is one of the reasons that fleas are such a difficult parasite to remove from your pets and the environment. Once the flea egg hatches, larvae emerge and can crawl up to 3 feet in any direction. They are looking for a cool dark place to finish maturing and growing into a young adult flea. In optimal conditions, a complete cycle can take as little as three weeks.

Control can be very frustrating for you, your pet, and your veterinarian. Many times people will try over the counter products (sprays, shampoos, house premise sprays, etc.) but are disappointed when the fleas return or never seem to go away. It is important to look at the long game for flea control and eradication. When done effectively, flea control and eradication can be complete and successful.

Even the best flea preventatives that are carried by your veterinary team may seem to be less than 100 percent effective. This is because new young fleas are continually emerging from the egg-infected environment and jumping on the protected pet to try and get their first blood meal (fleas suck blood for their food to reproduce). This makes it seem like the flea killing products are not effective. In truth the products require the flea to be on the pet so that the flea contacts the chemicals and is then killed. The best products not only have a very fast knock down (killing rate), but also inhibit the fleas from staying on the pet or biting, and block the eggs from being able to complete development.

Applying the products must be done at least 3-4 days before or after any bathing (flea baths and dips are really not effective in a mature infection). They must also be applied exactly as directed and reapplied exactly on the date recommended. Any variation will allow new eggs to be deposited into the environment and restart the cycle.

No matter what products you use, be prepared to see some fleas for up to 6 months from the initiation of treatment. As long as you are being diligent and effective in your medication application on your animals and your environment, your flea infestation will eventually be cleared.



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Peter H. Eeg, DVM



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