



Glenn Wallace holds the picture of the woman who started him on a six-year journey. Read more in Local News on page 5.



A new cross gets a new home, in Tidbits, on page 15.



Present day super fan Sam Hardwick was at center court for most home games at PHS. See more fans in the Family Album page 2.



This man thinks living in Poolesville is bliss. Found out why in Tributes on page 8.

# The Monocacy MONOCLE

Keeping An Eye On Local News

A Biweekly Newspaper

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Volume IX, Number 22

## Closing of White's Ferry Road Threatens Local Economy

By Rande Davis

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) held a second public hearing on the proposed bridge repair and subsequent road closure of White's Ferry Road in the summer of 2014 at a February 26 meeting at Poolesville Elementary School. This follows a previous public hearing on the same topic held January 23.

Mike Subin, Executive Director, Montgomery County Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission, acting as a representative of the Office of County Executive, chaired the public hearing with Bruce Johnston, MCDOT chief of the engineering division. Mr. Johnston presented a \$2.4 million plan that would replace the

bridges and adjacent culvert and reconstruct approximately eight hundred feet of road. This proposal is a three-month plan that would close White's Ferry Road from ten to twelve weeks and would reroute traffic through Wasche Road to West Hunter Road to exit at Route 28 near the entrance of Monocacy Cemetery just west of the intersection traffic light at Route 109. The second option was a phased-in plan that would double the cost and extend the work time to thirty-nine months and not come to completion until 2017.

Regarding the two bridges on White's Ferry Road, the first bridge is less than a half-mile east of the intersection of Wasche Road and White's Ferry, and the second is a mile east of the first bridge. Both bridges span tributaries to Broad Run.



Barry Fuss (left) of the MCDOT explaining options for closing White's Ferry Road.

Currently the two bridges are sixteen feet and ten feet long, respectively. They will be replaced with forty-six-foot and twenty-four-foot spans, respectively, and will each be raised by a foot to prevent flooding.

Barry Fuss, Senior Engineer for Bridge Unit Division of Transportation Engineering, reviewed the two proposals in detail and answered questions from the audience. Mr. Fuss stated that the summer timeframe was chosen

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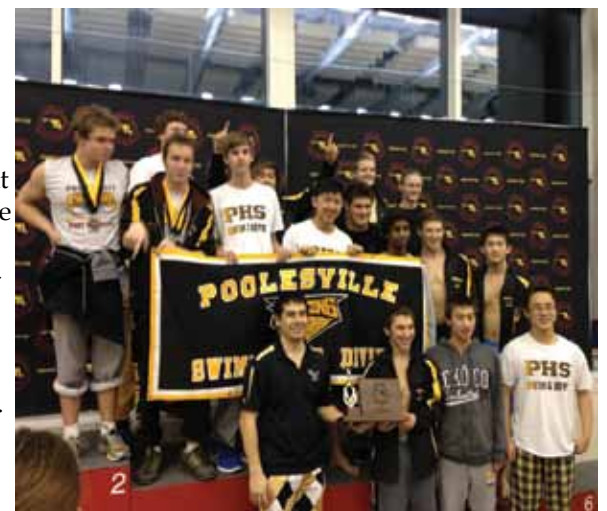
## Boys and Girls Sweep State Swim And Dive Meet

By Jeff Stuart

The Poolesville High School swimming and diving team swept the 3A/2A/1A Swim and Dive Championships at the University of Maryland's Eppley Recreation Center on February 23. It was the second straight state title for the boys and the first for the girls, who were runners up last year. The boys finished with 327 points to Damascus's second-place 160. The girls accumulated 313.5 points to the 255 for second place C. Milton Wright, last year's champions.

"I just like the whole team experience," said senior Alex Lechner the day before the meet at a luncheon for the team where last year's championship banner was presented. "Club swimming is individual based. With the high school team, it is very much more spirited. When we win, we know that we have all contributed to it. It is such a gratifying experience."

"I think it is best right now if we just relax," said senior



PHS Boys' Swim Team - 2013 State Champions

-Continued On Page 15.



*PHS parents, stalwart fans throughout the year, cheered for the girls right through an overtime nail-biter which left the team just one point short, 57-56, in the region playoffs against Middletown.*



*Team Angel of Poolesville Relay for Life, seen here at a recent team captains' meeting, has a great barn dance fundraiser coming up on March 23. Details in Things to Do.*



*PHS students: They were loud, they were crazy, and they were proud of their team.*



*A strapped-in Ted Wroth rides up to inspect the steeple and new cross at St. Peter's.*

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## Business Briefs

### It's Better Than a New York Deli

It's better because it will be here in Poolesville. Boar's Head Provision Co., the deli meat and cheese people whose roots go back to 1905 in the Big Apple, are coming to the Big Peach (Poolesville, that is). They will be bring their quality deli fare as well as new jobs as they plan to open a warehouse and retail deli on Norris Road, just behind the post office. They hope to be up and running in five months.

### Give Me Liberty or Give Me... Gas

Congratulations to Bobby Jamison on the official grand opening of his Liberty gas station in Poolesville. The facility has been completely renovated and sparkles like new. There were lots of smiles and hearty congratulations all around by the more than forty friends and neighbors who stopped by for the ribbon-cutting ceremony. If you aren't sure where it is in Poolesville, follow the giant American flag flying high from a construction crane. We're not sure where they got it, but the word is out that Criswell Chevrolet is not too happy right now.

Commissioner Klobukowski cut the ribbon, Deacon David Cahoon blessed the venture, and Bobby thanked everyone in sight including the town commissioners, the planning commissioners,

Maryland Department of the Environment, neighbors Henry and Linda Nessul, and William Roberts.

All the managers and employees are pumped up (they will even pump the gas for you). They have fresh coffee, snacks, and hot dogs. There is even more to come, but Bobby is taking it one step at a time for now.

### Spring Cannot Come Soon Enough

The Shoppes at HarBro Corner in Beallsville are busy getting ready for spring. They have been doing customer screen repairs in their workshop and Balloons for All Occasions has been filling orders for many different events. Ice cream orders are being made so the Twisted Cone can be ready for the warm weather, too. Watch for their renovation of some of their interior space to make a walk-in parlor area so customers can see all the hand-dipped ice cream choices. Indoor seating is being expanded and updated as well. The Country Junction gift shop has new spring and summer items on order and has been doing doll house and furniture repairs throughout the winter. There are many exciting things planned for the upcoming season, so stay tuned to *The Monocacy Monocle* as well as Facebook for updates.

Stop by the upcoming business fair for your first taste of spring in the form of Hershey's hand-dipped ice cream.



Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski cuts the ribbon for the grand opening of the new Liberty gas station in Poolesville.



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### FROM AUTHOR MARY ANN POWELL

**Shells of My Heart:** An exciting, can't-put-it-down adult drama about a young couple, Nancy and Frank Miller, living and working in New York City. The couple is very happy despite her mother, Grace, who sometimes tries her best to control them. This is an interesting, exciting story, and holds lots of surprises.

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# Commentary

## More Battles

By John Clayton

In this issue, we have a report from Kristen Milton on several planning board issues and decisions. Two of the issues have consistently been in the news over the past few years.

One is the Brickyard Road property in Potomac that has been the home of Nick's Organic Farm for some thirty years. To make a long, complicated story as short as possible, the land is owned by the Montgomery County School Board, which was leasing it back to the county, which was attempting to lease it to Montgomery Soccer, Inc. (MSI) for the purpose of providing badly-needed soccer fields to legions of down county soccer kids. There is no question in anyone's mind that there is a shortage of youth soccer fields in Montgomery County. There is also no question in anyone's mind that Nick Maravell's use of twenty acres for organic agriculture was a treasure in its own right. There isn't much agriculture on this scale, albeit a small scale, much of anywhere outside of the Agricultural Reserve, and this provided an educational opportunity, an environmentally-friendly use of a sizeable parcel of land, and the production of good produce. Sophia Maravell, Nick's daughter, has proposed developing an organic farming educational center on the site as their next endeavor under their hoped-for continued stewardship. Many environmental and land preservation organizations have supported the continuation of farming at the Brickyard Road site. Various politicians, up to and including County Executive Ike Leggett (for soccer) and Governor Martin O'Malley (for farming), have weighed in on this issue.

I personally don't have a high horse position of my

own to climb up on, as it is hard not to be sympathetic with both sides. Mr. Maravell's only mistake may have been not to have had his farm in the Ag Reserve, where even a farm on rented land can be more easily defended. Putting oneself at the mercy of the school board and the county government can't be considered a mistake, just hard luck. This makes me thankful for the Ag Reserve all over again. I can't imagine where they'll find more soccer field space down county, though.

On a larger stage, and closer to home, is the ongoing saga of the Silver Spring-based Global Mission Church's desire to build a massive facility on the Frederick-Montgomery County line, right where Old Hundred Road passes under Interstate 270. The facility is under the purview of Frederick County, as that is where the parcel resides, but access is through Montgomery County's rustic roads. It also seems that run-off, wastewater, pollution, traffic, and the destruction of the scenic and iconic views of Sugarloaf Mountain and its surrounding countryside don't respect political boundary lines at all. The battle has been before the Frederick County Board of Appeals, and the battle has been fought for us by the Sugarloaf Citizens' Association and the Montgomery Countryside Alliance, along with other groups. There is more information on their websites, and they deserve your support. The success of a facility such as this one will just make the creation of the next one that much easier. That's how that works.

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## Rande(m) Thoughts

### A Bridge Too Far

By Rande Davis

I remember learning that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. That's true, of course, unless you have a bridge to fix, i. In which case, there is seldom an easy answer.

I don't envy the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) engineering folks, as they have to deal with this problem time and again. While right now they are looking at two bridges, the problem doesn't end there. It's estimated there are another eleven such bridges between Poolesville and the Potomac River and that doesn't take into consideration that part of White's Ferry

Road going east on Route 107 or the myriad of roads (regular, rustic, or otherwise) throughout the area. Hey, there must be a whole bunch of shovel-ready projects to stimulate the economy well into the next century right here in our small part of the world.

No one argues that bridges need to be fixed and the two in question clearly are fragile—but so is our economy, and rerouting the Leesburg-to-Rockville traffic away from town exiting at the dangerous intersection at West Hunter Road (Monocacy Cemetery) and Route 28 for up to three months during the peak summer months may be an unwanted tipping point for some of our retailers. We won't know for sure until it is too late.

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## Local News

# The Faces of Monocacy Cemetery

By Rande Davis

Monocacy Cemetery is not the kind of place one thinks much about until fate thrusts its unwanted presence. Fate seemed to be at play one day in August of 2006 when Glenn Wallace first visited the graveyard. He is not an area resident, did not personally know any of the persons buried there, and had no intention of being there any longer than the time it took to find one particular grave tombstone; yet, why he was there and what transpired for the next six and half years can only best be attributed to fate.

It was in the summer of 2006 that he was reading a story about the death of a famous person on CNN.com, when he noticed a link within the article that pointed to FindaGrave.com. When he visited the link, the webpage was set up as a tribute to this person and included his biography, obituary, and gravestone photo. Wallace instantly realized how valuable this type of volunteer-based website would be to people looking for their ancestors. He signed up to be a volunteer and for free membership, and within three minutes, he received a reply from a woman in West Virginia requesting a photograph of the gravestone of her great-grandmother at Monocacy Cemetery in Beallsville.

Wallace left his home in Montgomery Village, ventured out to Beallsville the following Saturday, and when he first pulled into the graveyard, he realized just how hard it would be to find the gravestone (it was later that he learned that there are more people buried there than living in Poolesville). As luck or fate would have it, as he got out of the car and looked down, there, right next to his car, was her gravestone.

Now finding that he had extra time, he began to look around. His initial thought was, "Can I possibly

archive this entire cemetery?" Over six years later and after thousands of hours of effort, the answer came back a resounding, Yes!

He drew up a site map consisting of rows and lots, then meticulously photographed each gravestone according to its row, lot, and burial site.

Once that was completed, he began to upload each photograph onto that person's memorial on FindaGrave.com. In all, there are currently 5,479 memorials for Monocacy Cemetery on FindaGrave.com. Then he began researching the family trees associated with each person buried there. His goal has been to create a complete biographical cemetery database so future descendants will have as much information as possible without having to research from the beginning on their own.

Mr. Wallace, a graphic designer by profession, developed a vibrant and enthralling presentation of the Monocacy Cemetery Project to be used in his talks to various genealogy clubs and historic societies. The result is a truly virtual legacy for those buried at the cemetery. The presentation is an interactive opportunity to share the process and is linked on [www.monocacycemetery.com](http://www.monocacycemetery.com).

Over these past six years, Glenn has naturally come to really love the setting of Monocacy Cemetery, so much so that he has even purchased a lot for himself. "It is very unique with a blend of old and new generations of Montgomery County residents. As far back as 1986 when I studied architecture and had an opportunity to visit Europe, I was drawn to the park-like settings of cemeteries and their connection to the living community around them. This is the experience I have with Monocacy Cemetery. Also, you could say I've done my research and have gotten to know my future 'neighbors' very well!"

He believes "the legacies of these people who built the community where they lived and their final resting places should be respected. In this age of technology, we have the ability to share

-Continued on Page 18.

## Local News

# Planning Board Actions

by Kristen Milton

A father looking ahead had his wish granted this month as the Montgomery County Planning Board approved a house site outside Poolesville.

Robert and Susan Jamison requested permission to build a home on nearly fourteen acres at 21715 Club Hollow Road, land now used as horse pasture.

"I bought this site really for family posterity," father-of-five Robert Jamison told the board at its February 21 meeting. He said the property was tentatively intended for his sixteen-year-old daughter.

Meanwhile, Jamison "intends to submit a 'declaration of intent to farm,'" according to the staff report. That intent, while welcome to the board, created another complication as Jamison objected to fees and other accommodations required when land is taken out of agricultural use being applied to acreage identified for the future home's on-site septic system.

In an August 12 letter, the Agricultural Advisory Board agreed with Jamison's assertion that use of a deep trench septic system allowed agricultural usage to continue above and thus should not incur penalties. A sand mound septic system would be considered differently, the board opined.

Among the conditions placed on approval of the plan was a requirement to donate frontage on Club Hollow Road and another to coordinate driveway access with the Rustic Roads Advisory Committee.

Callum Murray, the board's rural area team leader, noted that the planned home site "is set up fairly close to the road."

The board unanimously approved the project with the conditions.

## Brickyard future up for grabs again

After nearly two years of controversy and court filings, Montgomery County's executive withdrew from a lease that would have brought soccer players to what is now a Potomac-area organic farm.

"I strongly believe public land should be used for public purposes, not for private commercial gain. Montgomery County families need more soccer fields, especially down county," Ike Leggett said in a statement released February 20, the day after the county's board of education met in special session to accept the cancellation. Nonetheless, Leggett said he was "terminating our sublease" of the twenty-acre Brickyard Road property. No reason was given for the change in the statement although both state and county legislators have expressed support for reconsidering the soccer project.

The county had previously announced a sublease to Montgomery Soccer, Inc (MSI) of the acreage it in turn was leasing from the school board. The land, once intended for a middle school, operated for decades as Nick's Organic Farm. Nick Maravell leased from the school board before the decision was made to shift tenancy to the county.

MSI officials intended to construct four soccer fields and a playground area in a \$1.6 million first phase they'd hoped to begin in the spring; however, the plan was opposed by conservation activists and the Maravell family, who cited procedural concerns, lack of public input into the board of education decision, and the potential educational and environmental value of the farm. Legal objections and allegations of Open Meetings Act violations were also filed by members of the Brickyard Coalition, made up of both civic groups and individuals opposed to the soccer project.

The cancellation of the county's lease leaves the future of the property in question as new locks

-Continued on Page 22.

## Police Blotter: Past and Present

By Jack Toomey

### Present Crime

**Assault:** 19900 block of Fisher Avenue, 20100 block of Wootton Avenue, 20900 block of Big Woods Road.

**Disorderly Conduct:** 17500 block of W. Willard Road.

### Past Crime

**March 4, 1906** Louis Jackson was arrested and confessed that for the past two years he had been breaking into railroad cars that had sidetracked at Gaithersburg.

**March 5, 1896** Fred Burgee was dangerously stabbed by B.C. Kyle during a free-for-all fight somewhere near the Concord Church (apparently on the River Road) and was in a bad way at the Emergency Hospital. It was feared that he would not survive.

**March 6, 1895** An aged man was found wandering in the woods near Great Falls. All that could be determined was that he was a former slave and had been born in Stafford County, Virginia. He was described as being over sixty years old, having a haggard look, sunken eyes, and wearing filthy clothing. The owner of a fishing club along the river had come upon him and communicated with the police of Washington, but they declined to help since it was out of their jurisdiction. The sheriff of Montgomery County was notified and was said to be on the way.

**March 8, 1898** John Trundle, the ex-tax collector for Montgomery County, was indicted for embezzling \$10,000 of the county's funds.

**March 10, 1905** Ninian Perry, one of the best-known citizens of the county, sued Sheriff Embry for \$95. Perry alleged that he was unlawfully arrested and detained for violating the Sunday Blue Laws. Embry had arrested Perry for running amusements at the Cabin John Hotel.

**March 13, 1897** Samuel Dorsey was being held by the police in Washington awaiting Sheriff Collier's arrival. Dorsey was wanted on a charge of cattle stealing in Montgomery County. It was charged that Dorsey and a companion had stolen several head of cattle. Dorsey may have eluded authorities had it not been for the indignation of the mother of his partner. The mother told police that it was not fair for her son to be serving ten years in prison while Dorsey remained free. She directed police to where Dorsey was hiding.

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## Youth Sports

### Falcons' Seasons End with Heads Held High

By Rande Davis, Jeff Stuart, and Dominique Agnew

**Girls' basketball:** The PHS girls' basketball region playoff game did not end as hoped, but even a victory could not have made the school or town more proud of this stalwart group of hoopsters. Talk about character! Trailing, 9-2, at one point in the opening quarter, and by fourteen points with a minute to go in the third, the girls kept coming back. The

Falcons took their first lead of the game, 48-46, with what at first looked like three seconds left in the game, but the clock was reset to 6.2 seconds. Middletown took a layup shot but was fouled with .6 seconds left on the clock. The Middletown players were deadly from the foul line all night and continued that impressive accuracy to tie the game and move it to overtime. In the end, Middletown, which had already beaten the number one seed to get this game, won, 57-56.

**Wrestling:** The PHS wrestlers continue to be a presence at the region and state levels. On February 22 and 23, at the class 1A/2A South Region championships, the Falcons

-Continued on Page 9.



*The Falcons showed true grit in the region finals, but in the end, Middletown won through uncanny success at the foul line.*



*PHS Maryland state wrestlers: Cory Savage, Cody Dorsey, Tyler Magaha, Luke Maher, and Will Korzeniewski.*

## Local News

### Poolesville Town Government Report

By Rande Davis

#### Town to Request Detour through Poolesville

The commissioners weighed in on the closing of White's Ferry Road in 2014 for bridge repairs, and Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski was tasked with preparing their response to the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT). The MCDOT will accept written comments on their proposal until 5:00 p.m. on March 11 before making a final decision as to which process they will use for the bridge repairs.

The commissioners prefer that the bridges remain open throughout the construction process by single lane closure, but, in recognizing that the cost of that process is nearly double the road closure option and is unlikely to be selected, they will suggest that the MCDOT have a marked detour that includes using Edwards Ferry Road/Westerly Road (for cars only) in order to reroute traffic back into Poolesville.

#### Opening Round of Budget Preparation

Town Manager Wade Yost presented the commissioners with a first draft of a proposed 2014 town budget. His proposal is highlighted by a \$4.6 million loan to reline the sewer lines in the Westerly subdivision (to be paid at a rate \$300,000 per year) and a one tenth of one-cent increase in property taxes over the constant yield.

As a result, the suggested increase in property tax means that a homeowner of a house worth \$400,000 would pay an additional \$46.00 per year, for a \$600,000 home, the increase per year would be \$70.00.

While there is an expectation that most revenue will remain about the same from the previous year, revenue from the county is estimated to be ten percent lower due to various changes such as home values and lower income for Federal employees if possible furlough from sequestration occurs.

#### Water Rates Recommended to Increase Twelve Percent

In the water/wastewater budget, the new proposal would implement an across-the-board twelve percent increase in water rates.

The new budget eliminates the past practice of transferring funds from the general operations budget (grant) to cover a shortfall in the water/wastewater budget that has occurred over the last several years. The increase in rates would also fund a new full-time position in the water department and a new part-time position to the wastewater department. These personnel increases come from requests by department directors. While staff has been reported to be doing an admirable job of covering emergency situations such as water main breaks, the commissioners have planned for an increase in staffing for a number of years now.

There are also other incidental cost increases such as sampling requirements by the EPA, increase in costs for fuel, copper/brass repair parts, and chemicals.

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**Tributes**

**Hillard and Bliss: 60 Years of Public Service**

By Rande Davis

The Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department will honor two of its finest this March for their six decades of service. George Hillard and Bill Bliss joined the fire department in 1953 and have continuously served the community ever since.

In those early days, the fire department was entirely voluntary and, unlike today's fire fighters who are equipped with pagers, the first responders back in the day were alerted to a fire through the sounding of a large siren in Beallsville and another positioned in the parking lot of Jamison's Real Estate offices. Back then, there wasn't a 911 system, so the emergency call would go first to Beallsville where

wheelchair-bound volunteer Jack Chisholm would take the call. He would then call the chief's home, and George Hillard was running out the door so as to be first on the scene, his wife Catherine responsible for sounding the alarm.

George Hillard was twenty-four years old when the Poolesville fire of 1953 devastated large sections of the town and barely spared his home. As a result of the close call and concern for his neighbors, he resolved to join the local fire department, working in all areas of service, rising through the ranks to become fire chief, a position he held for thirty-nine years. "We had a big family with four kids, and she might drop one and trip over two, but she would make sure to set the alarm off all right," says Hillard.

Bill Bliss was just a couple of years older than George, and although he had given some thought to joining the fire department years before, he, too, was motivated by the '53 fire. Bliss served as fire chief as well. As Bill explains it with a smile, "They let me be chief for one

year, but after that they gave it right back to George."

Both men shared something else in common as well. Both eventually became business owners. Hillard was in plumbing and Bliss went into hardware and insurance. Being willing to take on a voluntary firefighting position is always a sacrifice, but when you own a business it is even more challenging. You never know when the call will come, day or night, weekday or



George Hillard

-Continued on Page 21.

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**"Falcons' Seasons"  
Continued From Page 7.**

placed fourth as a team. The following wrestlers placed in the top four, qualifying them for states: senior, Cody Dorsey placed second, seniors Will Korzeniewski and Cory Savage placed third, and senior Tyler Magaha and sophomore Luke Maher placed fourth. For the state championship at the University of Maryland Cole

Fieldhouse on March 1 and 2, senior Cory Savage finished in the top eight with a varsity career record of 75-26, and senior Tyler Magaha finished in the top eight with a varsity career record of 73-27.

Senior Cody Dorsey, with 103 career varsity wins, ended the season by joining the elite club of wrestlers with one hundred or more varsity wins, adding his name to the handful from PHS's wrestling history: Kevin Hardwick, 102

wins in 2000; Travis Pittenger, 100 in 2002; Roger Torres III, 135 in 2006; Logan Wilson, 114, and Kyle Flick, 118, in 2010; and Robert Winning, 106 in 2012.



**Flags were lowered  
In honor of:**

**February 26:** Former Delegate Charles Stokes Kolodziejski, who died February 21, 2013. Delegate Kolodziejski represented District 31 in Anne Arundel County from 1983 through 1994.

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**Palm Sunday, March 24**  
8, 9:30, and 11 am - Mass

**Holy Thursday, March 28**  
9 am Morning Prayer

7:30 pm - Mass & Procession / 9 to 11 pm - Adoration

**Good Friday, March 29**  
9 am Morning Prayer

3 pm - Stations of the Cross presented by our Youth  
7:30 pm - Celebration of the Lord's Passion

**Holy Saturday, March 30**  
8 pm - Easter Vigil

**Easter Sunday, March 31**  
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8, 9:30, 11 am - Mass  
10:30 am - Easter Egg Hunt

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

Sam Song. “We’ve been working very hard,” senior Dana Hanson chipped in. “It’s time that we just break out,” said Song. “I practice on a club team as well, so I go to Germantown Indoor for that,” said Hanson. School practices are at Montgomery College Germantown Swimming Center twice a week.

“The team overrides the personal part of it,” said Hanson. “We have such an opportunity to make such a big statement this year. Winning the divisional was pretty big because we are such a small school and we beat all those bigger schools, and we are going to move up to the larger division with all the big teams from Bethesda... For the seniors it is a great way to end our last season, winning the division and moving up.” Hanson took first in the women’s 200-yard and second in the 100-yard breaststroke. She also swam the second leg of the 200-yard medley relay.

Lechner, Song, Hanson, Cynthia Jih, and Jake Rubenstein were senior captains this season.

“Last year we won the state meet which was really big for us,” said junior captain Patrick Krisko, “but we didn’t win the divisional meet.” Krisko swam the third leg of the winning men’s 400-yard freestyle relay. Toni Rose San Miguel is also a junior captain.

Junior Alex Lin was hard pressed to pick a personal best, but his teammates reminded him that he set a meet record at the region meet in the 200-yard individual medley (2:02:53). “I was two seconds faster than the old record,” he said. He also helped to set a team record in both the 200- and 500-yard freestyle relay races. Lin won the 200-yard IM at states. Lin finished first again as part of the 200- and 400-yard freestyle relays at states, and second in the 100-yard backstroke.

For junior Xavier Laracuate, “The big highlight was winning the [division]. It was really fun and energizing. I look forward to swimming against the larger schools.” His personal best was the 100 freestyle, taking second at the region (50.05). He bettered that time in the states win (48.56). Laracuate (50- and 100-yard freestyle) was Poolesville’s only double individual event winner.

The boys swept all three relays; the girls won two of three. In the 200-yard medley relay, sophomores William An and Anthony Kim, and juniors Jack McCarty and Jacob Weiss won in 1:44.93. For the girls, sophomores Lindsay Knapp and Katie Dahlen, Hanson, and freshman Sayala Vaules finished second. In the 200-yard freestyle relay, Lin, Laracuate, McCarty, and Rubenstein were



*PHS Girls' Swim Team – 2013 State Champions*

first. Jih, Dahlen, sophomore Dorit Song, and Vaules were first for the girls. In the 400-yard freestyle relay, Laracuate, Krisko, and Rubenstein were first. For the girls Knapp, Song, Jih, and Hanson finished first.

Dorit Song won the 100-yard freestyle and finished second in the 200-yard freestyle.

In the diving championships held on February 22, junior captain Dylan Taylor finished eighth with 273.05 points for the boys and Chloe Kim finished fourth in the girls’ division with 317.65.

“We set a goal to put ourselves in position to win both the boys’ and girls’ state championships at the beginning of the year,”

said Head Coach Jon Leong. “In order to accomplish that, we had to be responsible enough to keep our grades up, attend practices, train, and perform to our ability levels. Throughout the entire season, we continued to swim to achieve our goal, and in the last three weeks of the season, not only did we reach and perform our top times at Metros, but we were able to continue to ride the wave of our season training and had an excellent regionals performance. The performance at regionals put us in excellent position for states and we were able to bring both titles home. Now we have to start planning how we are going to defend our titles, but we will definitely celebrate for a little while.”

**Tidbits**

**There is No Quitting in Winning**

Robert Winning, a 2012 PHS graduate and tenacious champion wrestler, wanted to attend the U. S. Naval Academy after graduating from high school. Although he did not get the appointment, he was advised to apply again the following year. He went to Old Dominion University, worked hard in class, and started the application process over again, and this time his dream came true. Robert Winning was accepted into the Naval Academy and will “report to duty” this coming June.

**Let Your Light So Shine**

Sarah Broady, featured on the front page of our February 22 issue, wants to continue her special

mission and to shine a light on autism. She is asking others to join her by joining the world in the Autism Speaks event, Light It Up Blue, for the month of April and specifically for World Autism Awareness Day on April 2. She is working on ideas for lighting up Poolesville and would love some help in bringing some ideas to fruition, and she is open to other ideas as well. If you’d like to help her advocate for autism awareness in Poolesville, please contact her at sarah@spacelots.com. She has lot of ideas but needs some help.

**New Cross atop St. Peter’s Steeple**

The brand new shingles that replaced the old weathered shingles on the steeple at St. Peter’s Parish Episcopal Church in



*Roofing contractors complete the installation of the new cross at St. Peter’s.*

Poolesville were only part of the work that had to be done. There was also the matter of a wooden cross that had weathered and blown away a few months before the repair work started.

Actually, only the horizontal crossbar had blown away; the vertical piece remained on top in clear view. This gave St. Peter’s rector, Tom Purdy, the idea that something more durable and possibly

**-Continued on page 21.**

## Things to Do

March 8

### Movie Night at PES

Featuring: *Ice Age: Continental Drift*. Includes: popcorn, drink, and one choice of candy; movie is free. Cost: \$5.00 per person. 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

### Cugini's Entertainment Night

Featuring: V6 Band. 8:30 p.m.

March 9

### L.A.N.D.'s Seventh Annual Roadside Cleanup

Barnesville/Dickerson, Barnesville Road.

Meet at corner of Barnesville and Peachtree Road (The Barnesville School). 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

### St. Mary's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Patrick's Party

Plan to join Father Kevin O'Reilly for a fun night of dinner of great Irish food and beer, real Irish entertainment, and Ceili dance, featuring the Irish band Paddy Racket. \$15.00 per person

or \$35.00 per family. St. Mary's Pavilion, Barnesville. 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

March 9 and 10

### JPMS Thespian Club Art Show and Sale

Featuring art and prints by John Poole Middle School Thespian Club. Bake sale and entertainment to raise funds to support the drama club. Poolesville Old Town Hall Museum. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

March 10

### L.A.N.D.'s Seventh Annual Roadside Trash Cleanup

Beallsville/Dickerson, Route 109. Meet at corner of Routes 28 and 109 (Twisted Cone and HarBro).

March 12

### Cugini's Entertainment Night

Featuring: Goose Island Tasting. 8:30 p.m.

March 13

### Café Connection

Meeting Place for Free Internet Usage Assistance

Stop by for a cup of coffee and a chat, to check your email, or work on a project. Hosted by Berry Thompson. Poolesville Presbyterian Church. 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

March 14

### Twos Storytime

Stories, finger play, and music. Poolesville Library. 10:30 a.m.

March 15, 16, and 17

### St. Patrick's Weekend Menu at Bassett's

Featuring authentic corned beef and cabbage, Irish stew, Irish soda bread, and green and Irish beer. 19950 Fisher Avenue, Poolesville.

March 15

### Cugini's Entertainment Night

Featuring: Ron Kemp Band. 8:30 p.m.

March 16 and 17

### St. Peter's Spring Used Book and Media Sale

Come and shop from a wide selection of used books, CDs, records, DVDs, software, and free videos. Donations welcome anytime. There will also be a bake sale and Easter items available. Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

March 16

### Open House at Calleva Farm

Get outdoors with Calleva. Come join the fun of free horse rides, food, bay rides, and other farm fun! 19120 Martinsburg Road, Dickerson. Noon to 3:00 p.m.

### Destination Poolesville

Community Business Fair, jointly sponsored by CEDC and PACC, fun event for the whole family. Local businesses exhibit their products and services, live entertainment and demonstrations, food, shredder truck sponsored by Corporate Network Services, electronic equipment recycling. Poolesville Baptist Church, 17550 West Willard Road 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

March 17

### Cugini's Entertainment Night

St. Patrick's Day. Featuring: Nickel Plated Angel. 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

March 18

### Poolesville Commissioners' Meeting

Town Hall. 7:30 p.m.

March 20

### Café Connection

Meeting Place for Free Internet Usage Assistance. Stop by for a cup of coffee and a chat, to check your email, or to work on a project. Hosted by Berry Thompson. Poolesville Presbyterian Church. 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

March 21

### Seniors' Activity Day at the Gathering Place

The Gathering Place Senior Center which serves the Poolesville, Beallsville, Dickerson, Barnesville, and surrounding communities. Seniors 55 and older are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities to gather with each other to socialize and engage in a variety of activities. Mark your calendars and plan to attend some or all of the following events: **10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** Light stretching exercise and get to know your senior neighbors presentation. **12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Lunch (suggested donation \$6 per person to cover lunch). **1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.** Guitarist Kim Alexander will perform.

19520 Darnestown Road (Route 28) Beallsville, Maryland. RSVP to Valaree Dickerson 240-688-7639.

### Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings in Poolesville

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

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## Remembrances

### Marjorie C. Byrd

Marjorie C. Byrd of Poolesville passed away surrounded by family on February 27, 2013 at the home of her daughter, Janice Roberson. She was born February 3, 1925 in Shady Valley, Tennessee to the late Isaacs and Isabelle Johnson Rambo. She was the wife of the late Ernest Byrd who passed away in 1964.

Her son-in-law, Pastor Wayne Roberson of the Living Word Bible Fellowship in Dawsonville, recalled her courageous and comforting nature and abiding faith in her Lord. Her courage was tested when at thirty-seven years old with eight children, her husband passed away on Thanksgiving Day. When word came that she would have to vacate the farmhouse they lived in by the end of December, the family considered plans to disperse the children as the only solution to the very difficult situation. Marjorie rejected such talk and stood up and said, "My children and I are going home." With that, she took all of them back to the house, taught herself to drive a car, landed a job, and, through the support of her church, found adequate housing.



Marjorie C. Byrd

She not only raised her children, but at various times welcomed troubled youth who were friends of her children, made room for cousins (sometimes three sideways to a bed), and opened her home to neighbors also in need of support and care. Her loving and comforting personality included a much-necessary sense of humor. She would wonder aloud, "How far could a clothesline with ten thousand diapers really go?"

With so many children, she had to have rules and of those, there were three most important: Number one was to always share; number two was to remember that hurt feelings can be worse than a slap across the face; and the third was if you go out on Saturday night, you will be in church on Sunday.

Remembered as an intelligent woman, she was considered to be the best at crossword puzzles. A lover of music, she taught herself to play guitar and piano, and was excellent at both.

The ordeals of life she had to endure included living through having her home burn down due to a faulty television set and at another time having one of her twins get shot in the arm by a stray bullet from a hunter. Through it all, she was never known to complain.

Marjorie retired from National Geographic Society in 1980. She was an active member of Dawsonville Mennonite Church. Surviving are her eight loving children: Jeanette Michelsen of Harker Heights, Texas; Virginia Beitzel of Boyds; Sandra Sermon and husband Bill of Monticello, Indiana; LeRoy Byrd of Hagerstown; Donna Righter and husband Wayne of Derwood; Bonnie Miller of Frederick; Janice Roberson and husband Wayne of Adamstown; Joyce Price and husband Jack of Dickerson. She is also survived by sixteen grandchildren, fifteen great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

### Mark C. Hough

Mark C. Hough, 53, of Dickerson, died suddenly on Saturday, February 23, 2013. Born on June 1, 1959, in Bethesda, he was the son of Jasper F. and Doris (Warfield) Hough. A 1977 graduate of Poolesville High School, Mark was in business for himself for many years before becoming the driver for American Honda Racing. He drove for eight years in motorcross and supercross races all across the country. Mark was a member of the American Motorcycle Association and the Harley Owners Group. He also enjoyed restoring his Kenworth tractor trailer. Mark was employed by Gaithersburg Equipment Company. Mark

was easy going and made friends easily. He got along with everyone and made a positive impression everywhere he went. Surviving besides his parents are: one brother, Mike Hough and wife Eleanor of Adamstown; one sister, Sue Helmick and husband Mike of Jefferson; two nephews, Walter Hough of Adamstown, Zach Helmick of Jefferson; one niece, Amy Cole and husband Tony of Martinsburg, West Virginia; one great niece, Jaden Hough; and his uncle, Forest Hough of Dickerson. Interment was in Monocacy Cemetery, Beallsville. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Heart Association ([www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org)).



Mark C. Hough

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**"Monocacy Cemetery"**  
Continued From Page 5.

their stories, post their portraits, research their lives, and consolidate it all onto one memorial webpage." Wallace hopes that the people of this community will visit FindaGrave.com and look through the list of names at Monocacy Cemetery. Just importantly, he would like people to contact him if they notice errors or have more information to add. He believes it is absolutely paramount that this information be correct now so future generations will have accurate information. Mr. Wallace can be reached at [monocacycemetery@gmail.com](mailto:monocacycemetery@gmail.com).

To date, he has collected over 1,200 portraits of people buried at Monocacy Cemetery, which can be viewed on the individual FindaGrave webpages or by visiting his Facebook group, Monocacy Cemetery.

As he continued to manage the legacies at Monocacy Cemetery, he stumbled across a newspaper article about Poolesville High School that included a photograph of the pupils attend-

ing the school in 1912. More importantly, it included the names of each student. To his amazement, over half of those names listed are buried at Monocacy Cemetery. He was dismayed to find out that the high school does not keep copies of each yearbook, so he has now begun another legacy project and has created a Facebook group, Poolesville High School History, specifically for the alumni portraits, dating as far back as 1912.

Glenn Wallace has a video presentation about his Monocacy Cemetery Project and will be the guest speaker for a Historic Medley District special event *The Faces of Monocacy Cemetery* on April 14 at 4:00 p.m. at the Poolesville Old Town Hall Museum.

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**“White’s Ferry Road”  
Continued From Page 1.**

primarily for better weather working conditions, reduced costs, and that the schools would be closed. He allowed that the work could be done during the winter, but it is uncertain as to a controllable work timeframe due to potential delays caused by severe winter conditions. He reported that any construction contract would have incentives to complete the work on or before the schedule and would also include punitive de-incentive clauses should work exceed planned time frames. There was no information available at the meeting regarding the number of school busses and students impacted should the construction occur during school hours. The county will be using prefabrication technology to minimize the construction time.

After the January 23 meeting, the county received approval for the detour plan by both the

County Agricultural Advisory Committee and those concerned with the care of rustic roads. All roads in the plan are part of Montgomery County’s Rustic Road Master Plan.

At the February 26 meeting, new concerns were raised regarding the negative impact on emergency vehicle response times of emergency support vehicles from down county fire departments. Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department Chief Mike White estimated that the proposed detour could delay such out-of-area support response by up to a highly-undesirable fifteen-minute delay.

Eleanor Bateman of Poolesville’s Finders Keepers gift shop raised the concern of the negative impact on local businesses due to lost revenue during the peak season from the lost traffic and subsequent customer base of traffic to and from Leesburg. She expressed the opinion that the lost revenue could be enough to cause some of the local retailers not to

be able to pay rent. Rande Davis, representing the Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce, supported those concerns and emphasized that, due to the closing of Selby’s Market, the current economic environment in Poolesville is tenuous at best, and that a proposed wintertime construction period would be far less damaging to the local economy than during the peak summer economic upturn. Poolesville resident and current member of the Agricultural Advisory Committee Bob Cissel stressed that along with concerns on farming, he was equally concerned over the impact on the summer closing of the road to area businesses. Malcolm Brown of White’s Ferry reported that the wintertime construction would not have nearly the same negative impact on his business as the proposed summer plan. The construction project would begin in mid-June with a possible twelve-week work period and threatens the town’s summer economic development programs such as the Farmers’ Market, family park movie and music events, large summer sports programs (lacrosse and soccer) that bring thousands of people to Poolesville, and possible disruption of Poolesville Day held the second Saturday of September which is within the twelve-week plan. Poolesville Day alone brings in approximately ten thousand participants.

Commissioner Jerry Klobukowski suggested that the detour be changed to go down Edwards Ferry Road instead of Wasche Road which would then have the

traffic emerging in the center of Poolesville rather than at the precarious intersection at Route 28 in Beallsville, thus protecting most of the economic benefits from the Virginia-Maryland traffic.

DOT Project Manager John Schaffer reported that the transportation department would be meeting with the county department of economic development to determine if there would be any financial compensation available to local businesses for loss of revenue during summertime construction period.

In closing the hearing, Mike Subin stated that the public record would be held open until March 11 at 5:00 p.m. Other written public comments should be addressed to Bruce Johnston, Montgomery County Department of Transportation, 100 Edison Park Drive, 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Gaithersburg, MD 20878 or email [bruce.johnston@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov](mailto:bruce.johnston@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov)



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# Mama Boe

I bake home-made, from-scratch, June-Cleaver bread from time to time, using a recipe from *Artisan Bread in Five Minutes a Day*, and every now and then, I like to mix it up a little. You know, experiment. I've made strombolis, calzones, and the like, but sometimes I just add ingredients for fun: Chunky ingredients—with color—and texture—and flavor—and most of the time it works.

Most recently I decided to add chopped red, orange, and yellow peppers, garlic-herb cream cheese, and grated cheddar. It baked beautifully.

And Varmint, who'd gotten off the bus in time to smell the fabulous hot, yeasty, just-baked air wafting through the house, sang praises to her Mama. All was right with the world.

We cut into it. Bits of beautiful red, yellow, and orange peppers surrounded by sprinklings of green herbs, peeked out of the slices. Oh, I was sure I'd made my masterpiece. Judging by the crust, this was going to be my culinary *50 Shades of Grey*. We were both drooling in anticipation.

Still warm, we slathered butter on the thick steaming slices, let it melt a minute, and took large bites.

It was awful, horrendous. The salt in the herbed cream cheese mixed with the salt in the cheddar, the salt in the butter, and the salt already in the dough itself made it the most unpalatable bread I have ever eaten—and I've eaten a lot of bread in my forty-five years.

My beloved Varmint looked

at me with a disappointment that cut right through my gut. I can take the hit pretty much anywhere else in life, but to earn the scorn of my child (especially in my favorite field of food)\_it's a blow, I tell you.

So I'm chained to the kitchen until I fix what I've done. I vow to come back from this! I will not be defeated!

It is said Thomas Edison failed 10,000 times when trying to develop the light bulb. The way I see it, I have 9,999 more attempts to go.

I'm going to need more flour.

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**"Hillard and Bliss"  
Continued From Page 8.**

weekend. When the call comes, the firefighters go, even if it's a particularly inopportune time for a business owner. Still, both men did it.

Bliss looks back at the earlier days and offers that they "took the responsibility on as if it were our own business." It wasn't just running out to a fire or an ambulance call. There were administrative tasks that any business would have: bills to pay, manuals to be updated, and training, lots and lots of training. He is uncertain how many vacated homes were controlled-burned for training purposes over the years, but back then, when there was no academy or hi-tech training facilities, using an abandoned home worked pretty well. "The government may run the fire departments today, but not a one of them was started by the government," opines Bliss. The fire departments came about by concerned citizens recognizing a need and joining together, working for the common good. Above the hard work involved in running the Upcounty fire department, Hillard and Bliss would also serve in various advisory capacities to the down county

officials and committees over the years, too.

Dedication and longevity comes from something even more important than a willingness to serve; it's something even more personal. Over the years, there is a bonding that comes from fighting fires and going on rescue missions but also the camaraderie of the fire hall. The playing of cards and pool, eating together and laughing together, or as Bliss sees it, they ran it like a business but lived it like a family.

Bliss and Hillard also served together as Poolesville's town commissioners and their crowning accomplishment was the water and wastewater treatment system. If you love living in Poolesville, are comforted knowing you have excellent fire department services, and you live in a house built after the early 1960s, then you have these two gentlemen to thank. There were others as well, of course, but on this, the anniversary of sixty years of public service to the community for participation and leadership of the Upper Montgomery County Volunteer Fire Department, we give tribute to George Hillard and Bill Bliss.

**"Tidbits" Continued From  
Page 15.**

more attractive might be in order. On a referral from a parishioner, Rev. Purdy contacted a Frederick area artist, Chris Tousimis, who specializes in metal sculpture and was experienced in producing custom pieces. The church eventually agreed upon a stainless steel cross with a design based on St. Peter's brass processional cross. The total height of the cross is about thirty-six inches and is just a few inches wide; it weighs in at approximately thirty pounds.

The completed cross was dedicated during a service attended by Mr. Tousimis, his family, and his parents. The cross was displayed in the church for several weeks until the church's roofing contractor, MR Roofing, completed the steeple restoration.

The cross is mounted on a steel rod that sits in a bracket attached to the steeple, secured by other brackets to stabilize it. The mounting of the cross, performed on a bitterly-cold and windy day, was MR Roofing's last task of the project. Parishioner Ted Wroth, who oversaw the roofing work for St. Peter's, took a ride up in the construction lift to have a closer look and to give the final approval.

**Somebody Out There Knows  
Him**

This past January, a local family left town for a week and asked a friend to keep an eye on their house as it sits in a somewhat secluded position. One night at around 7:00 p.m., the friend drove up the long driveway to check on the house, and as she approached the back, there was a white Chevy van, approximately a 2000 model, no windows, white sidewalls, no license tags on the front or back, backed up against the garage door in a position to load up. A most distinguishing feature was a red sticker on the back left door that read "Fast and Furious."

The driver was white, with black hair, approximately six feet, two inches tall from 185 to 195 pounds in weight. The friend, who proved to be a most resourceful individual, called out to the person as to what he was doing, asking him if he knew that he was on video camera, whereupon the stranger immediately got in the van and drove away. Does this van or description sound like someone you know? If so, call 301-349-5935.

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**“Town of Poolesville”  
Continued From Page 7.**

The proposed change would increase the cost for one thousand gallons of water used from \$8.11 to \$9.08 for consumption up to 30,000 gallons a year. The cost change for users of 30,001 to 40,000 gallons would increase from \$9.08 to \$10.17 per thousand gallons; and from 40,001 to 50,000 gallons, the cost would rise from \$10.04 to \$11.24 per thousand gallons.

Currently, it costs the town \$9.47 to produce one thousand gallons of water and to treat wastewater (water: \$3.86; wastewater: \$5.54).

Yost noted that other jurisdictions with water treatment facilities such as Rockville and Middletown already have rates higher than the proposed rates

**“Planning” Continued From  
Page 5.**

have been installed and Maravell’s directive to vacate has not been rescinded.

Thus far the county’s move is “not necessarily a huge victory,” said Caroline Taylor, director of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance. In a February 27 phone interview, Taylor said the Alliance will be endorsing a letter to the board of education asking for support for the Brickyard Educational Farm pilot organized by Nick Maravell’s daughter Sophia last year.

“It’s their property; they can do with it what they’d like,” Taylor said of the board. “My hope is they’ll realize it would be a missed opportunity to have something that close in [down county] to show kids about their food.”

Sophia Maravell has suggested the twenty-acre site be used to grow organic vegetables for school cafeterias while educating county students on seed saving and gardening, among other pursuits.

**Global church issue ongoing**

for Poolesville. The commissioners voted to have a public hearing on the water rate increase proposal at the next commissioners’ meeting on March 18.

Overall, the proposed \$2,674,447 budget would be \$5,000 in the black with an unrestricted reserve in the bank of \$805,997.

The commissioners decided to proceed with weekend work sessions to refine the town manager’s proposed budget before making their final recommendation prior to scheduling a public hearing on the 2014 budget.

**Announcements and Other  
Miscellaneous Items**

Commissioners have been meeting with the owners and management teams for the various town shopping centers, including one on February 27 with Mr. Perry Chao of the Selby’s Market shopping center. The purpose of the meetings is

In the wake of a Frederick County approval for a church complex on Sugarloaf Mountain, Montgomery County groups are keeping the issue alive. Montgomery Countryside Alliance and Sugarloaf Citizens’ Association were scheduled to appear before the Frederick County Board of Appeals February 28 to continue civic challenges to the Global Mission Church plans approved by the Frederick County Planning Commission in November.

Global Mission, an English/Korean Southern Baptist congregation based in Silver Spring, initially submitted plans in 2009 for land straddling the Montgomery/Frederick County line. Modified plans approved in 2012 show a sanctuary with a maximum height of fifty-two feet and parking lots surrounding three connected buildings. A private well and septic system would serve the site.

Frederick’s approval was conditioned on the outcome of a court case against a Global access road from Montgomery County that would cut through a residential neighborhood. That case is currently in its discovery phase and not expected to be heard before

to forge a relationship between these private owners and the commissioners to mutually work toward better economic conditions in the town. It was reported that there is an unnamed prospect to fill the space at Selby’s Market by a national chain, but it is not a food chain. The shopping center owners noted that while a supermarket for the space is very unlikely, they suggested that in making additional room in the center, a smaller grocery store for the town might be viable.

On other matters, Commissioner Klobukowski was pleased to report that he has received information that Roger Berliner is supporting an increase in hours at the Poolesville Library.

Montgomery County Police Officer Chris Hendricks, who grew up in Poolesville,

attended the town meeting and will be attending more in the future to increase awareness and communication between MCP and the town.

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

Then there is the safety factor. The fire chief, Mike White, estimates that down county fire emergency support response time may increase as much as fifteen minutes. Raising the question, as you watch your house burn down: How long is fifteen minutes really?

I guess where I am headed is that the number of such bridges and situations in the county is so large that perhaps the MCDOT needs to step back and look at the next ten, twenty years or more in a broader context. Everyone should be happy I am not an engineer, and I am sure my perspective has a whole lot of holes in it—but I am being only partially facetious when I think the MCDOT should consider how an army on the move would handle the bridge repairs. Perhaps an investment in some of the military’s temporary bridges, the type that can hold a tank, might be something to consider.

No matter what, though, that

kind of solution is a long way down the road. For right now, our best choices seem to be for the county to be willing to spend nearly double the estimated cost of the road closure option or to do the work during the less important winter months and/or reroute the traffic into Poolesville through Elmer’s School Road/Westerly Road.

By the way, for the guy who was eating at McDonald’s and said he was “glad that the trashy traffic over White’s Ferry will be shut off awhile,” I hope you enjoy your burger in town while you can because such lack of concern for our businesses may result in not having that choice for long.

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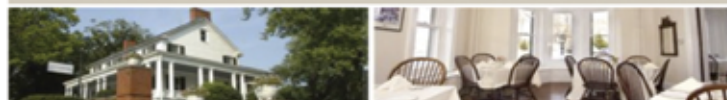
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