



Straight Talk

From Town Staff

Town Hall 301-428-8927 Fax 301-972-7619

E-mail address – townhall@lan2wan.com

Home Page – www.ci.poolesville.md.us

The Commissioners of Poolesville

May 2010

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REPORT STREET LIGHTS

Please have the following information ready and call, or send your request via e-mail to townhall@lan2wan.com

1. Pole Number
2. Nearest Street Address
3. Nature of Problem

Charter Changes

The majority of the changes approved in the 2010 Poolesville Charter revision are mostly housekeeping in nature. Of the twenty-four amended passages within the Charter (some as little as a word or two), three changes appear to be generating some controversy/questions amongst some of our residents. The Town thought it would be a good idea to provide some clarity and transparency on those particular changes.

The biggest rumor going around references amended language in the Charter to supposedly enable a 7% annual tax increase. **This is far from the truth and intent of the amendment.** Currently, as written, the Charter states that the budget and tax rate must be prepared at least 120 days prior to July 1st of each year. The purpose of this time line is if the Commissioners raise the tax revenue by more than 7%, the residents have a right to referendum. The problem with this schedule, as we have experienced in the last two years, is that revenue data the Town receives from the State and the County are not finalized until May each year, well after our budget and tax rate is adopted, which then creates inaccurate projections and an overall difficult budgetary planning process based on approximations, not real numbers.

The proposed change to the Charter states that if the proposed tax rate exceeds a 7% increase then the local government will adhere to the original time frame detailed in the current law. If not, then there will not be any time constraints and adequate time can be realized for proper revenue projections. It is very important to mention that since 2002 (when the tax rate was .24 cents per \$100.00 of assessment), the rate has dropped to .15 cents per \$100.00 of assessment in 2010, which produced a constant level tax stream. Translation: The Commissioners want to have the time/flexibility in order to keep the tax rate at the minimum amount needed to operate the Town and produce a more accurate budget.

Another amendment that has generated discussion would allow the Commissioners to potentially be paid a modest reimbursement for their time

spent. The process for this to take place is twofold. A resolution addressing the amount would have to be passed by the Commissioners. Second, it would have to be included in the annual budget, which has public hearings and opportunities for public input. This amendment merely puts into place a mechanism for the exploration of possible future reimbursement. Currently, there are NO monies in the budget for this reimbursement to take place.

The third and final substantive change eliminates the ability of the Commissioners to grant well waivers. Currently, language exists in the Charter that allows a waiver for homeowners so they can continue to use an existing private well and not hook into the public water system, even if public water is available at or on their property. In some of the older sections of Town, wells exist that are no longer in use and potentially could cause a contamination issue of the Town's water supply. It is the intent of the Commissioners to properly seal and abandon these wells to further protect our aquifer, which follows the goals and purpose of our **Wellhead Protection Plan**. The Commissioners feel private well abandonment is an important issue for the “greater good” of our residents.

Questions may be submitted to Town Hall at townhall@lan2wan.com or 301-428-8927.

Skatepark



Crews are moving forward quickly on the long anticipated 6,500 sq ft. skatepark project. The facility will be enclosed and the use of security cameras is being evaluated. Other improvements on Dr. Dillingham Park consists of curb, gutter, sidewalks and parking areas. A \$175,000 grant from the State of Maryland in conjunction with Town funds were used to fully fund the construction. A grand opening is being planned for June 26th. Check the Town's website for information updates.

The park will be opened and operated similar to other Town parks. There will be no onsite supervision. However, skaters will be required to submit liability waiver forms (required by our insurance carrier) prior to participating.

Future recreational activities for this parcel are being considered. Some possibilities include a tot lot, pavilion, dog park and even a community center in the future. Public input is always welcomed and appreciated.

Below is a cost breakdown summary:

Expenditures	
Land Purchase (3.77 acres)	\$507,844
Skatepark Construction	\$239,150
Park Development (Stormwater, curb, sidewalks parking, etc.)	\$144,250
Total	\$891,244
Funding	
Land Grant (Project Open Space)	\$288,000
Skatepark Grant	\$175,000
Town Funds	\$428,244



Poolesville Summer Events



FARMERS' MARKET MUSIC & MORE JUNE 25, 2010 4PM TO 9 PM WHALEN COMMONS

4pm – 8pm: Local Vendors selling fresh produce, sweet corn, honey, artisan cheeses, specialty coffee, breads, pastries, dog treats, soaps and more.

4 pm – 6:30 pm: “A Bark in the Park” Cute Dog Contest: Do you have the cutest dog in town or does he have a face only a mother could love? Enter your dog in our contest to find out. Lots of prizes. Registration begins at 4 pm. Dogs must have current vaccinations. Poolesville Veterinary Clinic will also be on site providing Micro-chipping services (\$50.00).

7 pm – 9:00 pm: End the evening listening to Poolesville’s very own Poolesville Band Project who has been entertaining crowds with country, R&B, and contemporary with a rock edge for over 7 years.

Future Dates: July 30, Aug 27 & Sept 10

2010 WHALEN COMMONS CONCERT SERIES FRIDAY EVENINGS, 7 PM

- JUNE 18 BRIAN KEITH GROSS**
- JUNE 28 POOLESVILLE BAND PROJECT**
- JULY 2 BLACK ONYX**
- JULY 9 MAGICIAN DAVID BRETH**
- JULY 16 BILL EULER**
- JULY 23 DREW SIMMS**
- JULY 30 SO FAR GONE**
- AUG 6 OFF THE WALL**
- AUG 13 BILL EULER**
- AUG 20 RIGHT ON & FAR OUT**
- AUG 27 ERNIE BRADLEY & THE GRASSY RIDGE BAND**
- SEPT 3 POOLESVILLE BAND PROJECT**
- SEPT 10 MINDY MILLER & THE STEAMERS**
- SEPT 17 BRIAN KEITH GROSS**

2010 SUMMER MOVIE SERIES WHALEN COMMONS SATURDAYS, 8:30 PM

- JULY 17 CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS**
- JULY 24 THE BLINDSIDE**
- JULY 31 FINN ON THE FLY**
- AUGUST 21 UP**
- AUGUST 28 THE PRINCESS & THE FROG**
- RAIN DATE: SEPTEMBER 11TH**

Visit www.poolesville.com for more information

STEVENS PARK SUMMER REC. PROGRAM

JUNE 21 – AUGUST 6, 2010

Allow your child to experience the fun and adventure of our Jam Packed Summer Rec. Program. We offer sports, crafts, swimming and lots of fun for all. Participants must provide their own lunch, water bottles, and sunscreen!

Days: Monday - Friday
Times: 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM
Ages: 6 - 12
Price: \$20.00

WEEKLY THEMES AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Theme	Sports Activity
WEEK 1: WE'VE GOT GAME	SOCCER & CAPTURE THE FLAG
WEEK 2: EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED	CRAFTS & MULTIPLE GAMES
WEEK 3: SURVIVOR WEEK	FLAG FOOTBALL & LACROSSE
*WEEK 4: PARTY IN THE USA!	BASKETBALL & HOCKEY
SKATEBOARDING AND CHEERLEADING CAMPS ALSO OFFERED THIS WEEK	
WEEK 5: WET, WACKY & WILD	BASEBALL & TENNIS
WEEK 6: SAFETY WEEK	SOCCER & CAPTURE THE FLAG
WEEK 7: CAMP REWIND	MANHUNT & CRAFTS

Registration forms available Online at www.poolestown.com,
www.ci.poolestown.md.us or can be picked up at Town Hall. Forms must be turned
in at the Camp.

Every Tuesday is Pool day!!

A Mixed Bag of Information

Be a Pooper Scooper

It is your duty to clean-up after your dog!

However distasteful, poop detail is essential — so here's a simple way to get it done. Save plastic grocery bags to recycle for the chore. Turn the bag inside out, put your hand in it as if it were a glove, gently pick up the stuff (gagging is permitted), turn the bag back around, and tie it shut. Drop it into a garbage pail. Done! Carry some individually wrapped disinfectant hand wipes (just in case). Now, wasn't that easy?

In all seriousness, this is a problem that Town Hall hears about quite often and it is also a County Law carrying a \$100.00 fine

Composting is Easy

1. Leaf composting with leaves and fill dirt
2. Composting with non-meat kitchen garbage or scraps; i.e., fruit skins, vegetable scraps; (egg shells and coffee grinds) with "red wiggler" worm and fill dirt

Has to be stirred, fluffed and rotated on specified intervals.

Store container next to kitchen sink for convenience.

Locate a distance from home

Any container with an air tight lid

Notice

Poolesville is looking for volunteers to fill the following vacancies:

- **Community and Economic Development Committee - Business Member**
- **Ethics Commission**

If you are interested in one of these positions, please contact Town Hall for more information

Projects

Bandshell - Completion of this project is anticipated around mid-June. Funding for this was made possible through a \$100,000 grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.

Fisher Avenue Sidewalks - Construction of a sidewalk from Tom Fox Avenue to Wootton Avenue along Fisher Avenue should begin this summer. Impact Fees collected from previous developments will fully fund this project.

Wells 7, 9 & 10 Treatment - Plans are being finalized for the installation of a Radon and Uranium removal treatment system for these wells. Although the levels were not elevated enough to cause mandatory treatment, the Commissioners felt it was in the best interest of residents to improve water quality whenever possible. This project is estimated at \$850,000.

Wastewater Plant Roof - The 20+ year old roof will be replaced this summer. Estimated at \$70,000

Water/Sewer Emergency Contacts

- 888-607-0147
- 301-647-8239

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PAID
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Permit No. 1663**

**Resident
Poolesville, Maryland 20837**

Meeting Schedule

Commissioners: June 7 & 21

Planning Commission: June 16

Parks Board: June 9

Community and Economic Development: May 26 & June 23



*Wade Yost
Town Manager*