

(Attachment F.)



**AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

December 20, 2010

Ms. Francoise Carrier, Chair  
Montgomery County Planning Board  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Ms. Carrier:

RE: Closing of Poole's Store

On behalf of the Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) we are writing to express our concerns regarding the closing of Poole's Store at the end of this calendar year.

The AAC is aware of the proposed closing of Poole's Store as outlined in the Wednesday December 15, 2010 Gazette newspaper article. Approximately 10 years ago the agricultural community worked closely with MNCPPC to help the Raymond Poole family secure a new lease to continue the business that supports the farmers and rural residents in the area. Poole's Store was originally established as the Darby Store in 1901. Later the name was changed to Allnut store. In 1960, Raymond Poole purchased the store and renamed it Poole's Store. Raymond Poole has been working at the store since 1945. Raymond's dedication and service to farmers and rural residents will be greatly missed. Poole's Store has been a Southern States Cooperative store providing various types of products like fencing, feed for livestock and seed for planting agricultural products. The closing of this business will truly impact the farmers and the agricultural community as Poole's Store is the only Southern States store in the agricultural reserve serving the western portion of the County. The other Southern States Cooperative store is located in Cedar Grove on Route 27 and Davis Mill Road and this store serves the central and eastern portions of the county for farmers and rural residents.

The AAC would like to have a better understanding from MNCPPC regarding the future use of this property. We strongly urge you to explore options for continuing the existing use with a new tenant. This suggestion will go a long way to help the folks that rely on Poole's Store to support their farming operation. We are aware of another owner of a Southern States Cooperative store in Sykesville, Maryland that is interested in exploring whether he could continue this business at the Poole's Store location. We would like to work with you and your staff to further discuss this suggestion.

The Montgomery County Agricultural Advisory Committee would appreciate your consideration on our thoughts for keeping Poole's Store open. I am sure your Planning Board sees the agricultural reserve as a very desirable asset to Montgomery County. Part of the strength and

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durability of the agricultural reserve is maintaining agricultural services such as Poole's Store. We encourage you to explore how this property can continue as an important business that supports the agricultural community in this region of the agricultural reserve. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

*David Weitzer, SVC*

David Weitzer, Chairman

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(Attachment F.)

**Criss, Jeremy**

**From:** Giddens, Gene [Gene.Giddens@mncppc-mc.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2011 4:01 PM  
**To:** Criss, Jeremy  
**Subject:** FW: Poole Store Open House and Scheduled Public Meeting

FYI

**From:** Giddens, Gene  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 11, 2011 3:58 PM  
**To:** 'DOLORES MILMOE'; 'Gordon, Chris (NBC Universal, WRC)'; 'Susan and Garry Baker'; 'dickstoner@verizon.net'; 'honeyacres@aol.com'; 'Tulippond@aol.com'; 'poolesvillevet@verizon.net'; 'CarolRaeHansen@aol.com'; 'tgutierrez@fcclaw.com'; 'hotakker@gmail.com'; 'xxx5640@gmail.com'; 'Jeremy.Criss@montgomerymd.gov'; 'kjam415@erols.com'  
**Cc:** Bradford, Mary; Marbourg, Kristine; Faulconer, Debbie; Nissel, John; Hench, John; Massey, Carrye; Stookey, Kate; Riley, Mike; Garcia, Joyce; Horrigan, Mike  
**Subject:** Poole Store Open House and Scheduled Public Meeting

This is in response to the many inquiries regarding the Poole Store and the Parks Department Public Meeting date. We will continue to keep our website updated under "Announcements": <http://www.montgomeryparks.org>. In the meantime, I wish to inform you that the Parks Department will conduct an "Open House" at the Poole Store, 16315 Old River Road, Seneca, MD on Saturday morning, January 29 between the hours of 10:00 am – 12 Noon. This open house will provide the public with an opportunity to walk through the store, view the adjacent out-buildings and tour the premises. Senior park staff will be available to assist with the tour and answer questions.

A public meeting has also been scheduled for that afternoon to receive community input, commencing at 1:00 pm until 2:30 pm, at the UpCounty Regional Services Center (Room A) located at 12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown, MD.

I am also happy to inform you, that a short term lease agreement has been finalized between the Parks Department and Farm and Home Service, Inc. for supplying the community with a retail sale and distribution of animal feed, seed, fertilizer, farm supplies, lawn and garden supplies, and similar goods. Farm and Home Service, Inc. will operate from of the storage sheds on the Poole property and have asked both Marilyn Poole and Joanne to work for them. We expect this business to commence within the next ten days.

Your concern and interest regarding the use of this property is appreciated.

1/11/2011