



The Greater Timonium Community Council

Volume X Issue III

9b Ridgely Rd., Box 276, Timonium, Maryland 21093
<http://www.gtccinc.com>

May 2008

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***** NEWSLETTER *****

President's Message – Eric Rockel

The Marathon at the Half Way Point

Every four years, community associations are required to engage in a marathon called the comprehensive zoning process. By making this analogy, I don't mean to demean or denigrate the process because it is a necessary part of the evolution in County land use. Now it could be argued that the process should be done every six years or eight years, but it forces us to focus on whether the nature of the community's land uses should change and if the needs are being met by the present zoning.

All of that being said, I used the term marathon because the process requires that community associations expend a lot of energy, not unlike runners in a marathon, and in the course of the process there are times when we think that we will never see the finish line, that we don't have enough energy to finish the race and at other times we feel that the hill is just too steep to climb. But like any worthwhile race, this comprehensive zoning process tests our mettle and can make a community organization a more cohesive unit if we reach out to our members in support of the organization's stand on these zoning issues.

As we reach the half way point in the CZMP, the most recent event was the Planning Board's recommendations on the issues. Their recommendations are not binding upon the County Council, but they serve as an important sign of which way the wind is blowing. Probably the most disappointing of votes by the Planning Board was the recommendation that the zoning be changed on parcels next to the Oregon Grill. Although the restaurant is extremely popular and successful, the current zoning limited expansion onto adjoining parcels. Members of the Falls Road Community Association, along with support of the GTCC, wanted to restrict the restaurant operations to its current footprint. The restaurant's operator knew this limitation when he entered into a lease with Baltimore County to operate on this county-owned property. However, the Planning Board's actions signal that they support the expansion of the restaurant operations.

In other issues of interest, the Planning Board voted to support the Office of Planning recommendations on such issues as College Manor, Seminary and Francke Avenues; Nationwide Motor Sales, Highview, west of York; Kornblatt, York Road at Cavan Drive and the collection of properties at York Road and Hillside Avenue. In all of these cases the Planning Office recommended that the existing zoning remain unchanged. Finally, both the Planning Office and the Planning Board recommended that only the southernmost (15) acres of the Fairgrounds be rezoned to commercial usage. GTCC continues to have dialogue with the Fairgrounds officials and County officials concerning this vital issue at the fairgrounds.

Councilman Brian McIntire has agreed to speak at our next meeting on Comprehensive Zoning and other issues affecting our area. As always, we welcome his insights.

GTCC General Meeting – This Wednesday, May 14th, 2008

The GTCC will hold their 'Next Meeting' on Wednesday, May 14th, 2008 at the Cockeysville Library Meeting Room, on Greenside Dr., Cockeysville with *meetings STILL beginning promptly at 7:00 PM.*

GTCC General Meeting – 2008 Calendar of Scheduled Meetings Dates

GTCC

The purpose of the GTCC is to coordinate a united council of Community Associations to enhance and protect the quality of residential life within the community.

NOTICE !!!

CALENDAR 2008

NOTICE !!!

***** **Meeting Schedule** *****

Board of Directors 7:00 pm – 9:00pm

General Membership 7:00 pm – 9pm

February 13, 2008
April 09, 2008
June 11, 2008
August – No Meeting
October 08, 2008
December 10, 2008

January 09, 2008
March 12, 2008
May 14, 2008
July – No Meeting
September 10, 2008
November 12, 2008

All Meetings are **NOW** Scheduled at the “ **COCKEYSVILLE LIBRARY** ”, on the **DATES NOTED ABOVE !!!**

Agenda and Speakers - GTCC May 14th Meeting - Tentative Schedule.....

- Introductions
- Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports
- Report on Crime and Safety from the Cockeysville Precinct
- Guest Speaker: Councilman T. Brian McIntire
- Guest Speaker: Joanne Paul, president, Timonium Optimist Club
- Review of Old Zoning and Development Issues
- New Issues: Hampton Inn at Texas Station, Former Wal-Mart at Hunt Valley
- New Business

Annual GTCC Membership Dues – Marge DiNardo

GTCC '2008' Membership dues of \$50 dollars for the year are due at this time. We have had a good response from (48) Associations contributing their Annual Membership dues payment thus far for this year! Dues notices for 2008 have been mailed out in December so if you haven't received one, please don't hesitate to let us know. . Please send your 2008 dues payments to **GTCC, 9b Ridgely Rd., Box 276, Timonium, Maryland 21093**. Thanks to all our contributing Associations for all their dedicated support for the ongoing work of the Greater Timonium Community Counsel!

The Captain's Corner – Captain Martin Lurz

We have invited our Cockeysville Precinct "7" Commander, Captain Marty Lurz, to provide us with an article for our newsletter in the form of 'The Captain's Corner' on any issue(s) that he feels might be of interest to our membership. The following article this month is from Captain Lurz:

Our Precinct 7 website is operational! As we work on this site, we hope to provide links to recent crime alert emails, crime prevention tips, etc. I am excited about this because it gives us yet another avenue to stay in touch with our constituents. Hopefully, there will be a "Precinct" email address for you to contact to pass along your questions and concerns. In the meantime, you can still email or call me at the Precinct. You may access our website by going to Baltimore County's main page: www.baltimorecountymd.gov and choosing the "Public Safety - Police" links, then select "Police Overview" on the next page, click on "Precincts" and then choose Precinct 7, or access our page directly at: www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/police/pc07/index.html

I also wanted to draw your attention to what we call "Deception Burglaries." For some reason, these types of incidents seem to increase with the arrival of warmer weather. Please review the information below and be aware of the method of operation of these burglars and thieves and - MOST IMPORTANTLY - *share* this information with your neighbors and families. Deception burglaries have one common theme - to get the homeowner distracted by getting them to walk into another room, or, more frequently, asking the homeowner to step outside and then getting them to move to the side or rear of the house (out of view) while a second suspect enters the house through the unlocked door and steals whatever is quickly accessible to them. This second suspect is almost always out of the house before the homeowner re-enters. Here's how it works:

The first suspect will come to the door, knock on the door or ring the doorbell, and use some type of ruse to win the confidence of the homeowner. For example, the suspect may tell the homeowner that he works for a fence company (or satellite TV company...or roofing company...or landscaping company...you name it, they've tried it) and tell the homeowner that he or she needs to step outside with him and examine a portion of their property. To gain the confidence of the homeowner, the suspect might say "he doesn't want to infringe on property lines, so he needs the owner to examine the line in the rear of the property." If the homeowner does step outside, he or she will generally leave the door unlocked and the first suspect will escort the homeowner around the back - out of view - of that door. Sometimes, the first suspect will use a cell phone he is carrying to "call his boss...or the office...or Land Records..." when, in fact, he is ACTUALLY CALLING THE SECOND SUSPECT to let him or her know that entry into the home can now be made without detection. Sometimes, the first suspect will remain on the phone the entire time and actually feed information back to the person who has entered the house. After about ten minutes, the first suspect and the homeowner will walk back into the house AFTER the second suspect has slipped out. It may not be immediately apparent that items were stolen from the house (i.e. money and credit cards from a purse or wallet, jewelry, etc.) These burglars generally take smaller items that are easy to grab and conceal quickly.

One of the more recent "scams" is the BGE/Water Department Employee scam in which the suspect says he or she is from BGE or the Water Department and needs to get to the basement to investigate a "problem in the lines." When the homeowner walks that person down to the basement, the second suspect enters and steals the valuables.

That's how it works and we find that there are generally two common themes to all of these types of burglaries:

- 1) A ruse or "scam" is used to gain trust and confidence.
- 2) The elderly are more likely to be a victim of these burglaries.

Please remember - and make sure your neighbors know too - DO NOT let anyone that you do not know and trust into your house. Employees of BGE and the City Water Department carry photo ID and do not mind being challenged for proof of employment. My suggestion is that you don't stop there - CALL the appropriate agency for verification. But be aware of this as well - IF THE "EMPLOYEE" WHO IS SEEKING ACCESS TO YOUR HOUSE PROVIDES YOU WITH THE NUMBER TO CALL FOR VERIFICATION, DON'T CALL THAT NUMBER! CALL THE NUMBER LISTED IN THE PHONE BOOK – while the person waits OUTSIDE. The reason for that is that if the person at the door is trying to scam you, the number he or she provides is probably the cell phone number of the second suspect who will tell you, yes, it's perfectly OK to let that person into your house! So, call the listed number in the phone book. Better yet, if you are really

suspicious, tell the person you are calling 911. A legitimate employee will wait for the police... the deception burglars won't.

Now that you know how it works and the myriad of scenarios that are used, I hope you can see the common threads that I wrote about. Here's where we need your help - stay alert and get this word out, especially to your elderly neighbors, family members and friends. Awareness is the key. Tell them to call 911 immediately to report suspicious activity. Memorize the suspect's appearance (scars, marks, anything unusual.) If a vehicle description can safely be obtained (look to the license plate number...write it on your hand if you have to) provide that to the 911 operator so the officers can start looking right away. Be alert, be aware and be curious. Make that call to 911. Thanks for your help.. please pass this along.

The Legislator's Corner – Delegates Dan Morhaim, John Cardin and Dana Stine

We have also invited our State Representatives to provide us with an article for our newsletter in the form of 'The Legislator's Corner' on any issue(s) that they feel might be of interest to our membership. We rotate these requests through the Districts within GTCC. The following articles this month are from the 11th Legislative District:

11th District – Delegate Dan Morhaim

2008 END-OF-SESSION REPORT: LEGISLATIVE UNSUNG HEROES

Each legislative session gets extensive media coverage. High-profile issues and human-interest items receive the most attention, so you've probably read about utility rates, foreclosures, tech tax repeal, and the Smith Island Cake.

But there are bills that the media overlooks, and these bills often have significant impact on state policy and average citizens.

The following are 2008 Legislative Unsung Heroes. All these bills passed, details at <http://mlis.state.md.us>. I was involved with many of these as lead-sponsor, co-sponsor, sub-committee chair, and/or House floor manager.

Money

In the tension between raising revenues and cutting programs, there exists a third path: making government operate more efficiently. The following bills reduce waste, encourage competition, and trim bureaucracies. This gets into complicated areas where the wheels of government grind slowly. Boring? Yes. Important? Absolutely! With State purchases at about \$10 billion of the State's \$30 billion budget, small percentage savings translate to big bucks.

HB 484 encourages unsolicited bids for state business. Why wait for government to act? If the private sector has a better idea, HB 484 lets that idea come forward. HB 865 requires all state and county contracts be advertised on EMaryland Marketplace, opening the bid process.

See also HB 142, 312, 358, 362, 484, 527, 561, 805, 881, 865, 1277, and 1431.

Health

HB 120, 257, 343, 419, 580 are bills that affect every Marylander who takes prescription drugs. The costs involve hundreds of millions of dollars because pharmaceuticals are a rapidly rising health care expense.

Pharmacy Benefit Manager companies (PBM's) have sprouted into existence over the past 15 years. Giant but obscure, they manage the flow of money that pays for medicines. A number of them developed "creative" ways to divert more money into their pockets, which they call "rebates" but others call "kickbacks." This has led to class action laws settled with millions in fines. Bills to regulate PBM's have failed in years past. But this session, under the guidance of the Health and Government Operations Committee, with the Attorney General's Office, Maryland Insurance Administration, pharmacists, and eventually the PBM's themselves, consensus bills were hammered out. With bi-partisan sponsorship these five bills set up a framework that protects consumers, supports health care providers, controls costs, and maintains smooth – but open – business operations.

See HB 372 (veterans health), 906 (organ donation registry), 1391 (children's health insurance), 1452 (simplifies health care program registration), 1492 (CareFirst funds senior drug costs), 1587 (increases federal health grants \$40 million).

Environment

This was a good session for the environment. But overlooked was SB 208 that requires new State construction, major renovations, and new school construction meet high-performance "green" building standards. Buildings use 71% of energy, 50% of electricity, and 50% of water. Green design reduces that dramatically. Green buildings reduce absenteeism and increase productivity for workers, and green schools improve student test scores. This is sound economic and environmental policy, and architects, contractors, teachers, and environmental groups supported SB 208.

Children

Problems with group homes and the juvenile justice system continue. SB 742, 782, and 783 require group homes to meet quality standards while protecting neighborhoods from excessive concentration of these facilities. HB 1158 helps reduce bullying and abuse in schools. It's important to get kids on the right path, before they become adult criminals.

Biotechnology

The future of Maryland lies in biotech. We've done well, with great academic institutions, federal facilities, and a thriving private sector. But competition is fierce, and it comes from North Carolina to Dubai. This year marked the formation of the Maryland General Assembly's Biotechnology Caucus, which I chair. The Caucus is working to build our biotech infrastructure, leading to economic growth and technologies that help health care and the environment. The Caucus supported HB 723 (biotech investment incentive) and HB 1409 (promotes nanobiotechnology).

Sometimes the most important gets the least notice, but it's vital nonetheless.

Your 11th District team - Senator Bobby Zirkin, Delegate Jon Cardin, Delegate Dan Morhaim, Delegate Dana Stein - always appreciate hearing from you.

11th District – *Delegate Jon Cardin*

Reigning in Slots:

Except for a few narrow exceptions, Maryland prohibits the private operation of slot machines and all unregulated gambling. However, despite a clear prohibition, operation of electronic gaming devices and unregulated charitable gambling has proliferated throughout the State to the tune of more than \$150 million per year.

Legal but unregulated gaming has caused confusion among the members of the public, law enforcement officers, and operators. When the legislature originally allowed the limited forms of gambling available to charitable groups, they did not and could not foresee the technologically advanced devices that are now being used to try to evade the slot machine restrictions.

This issue has come to a head as a result of the General Assembly's passing of a proposed Constitutional Amendment on slot machines last year that will appear as a State referendum in November. The amendment would authorize slot machines, strictly limited to five locations with a specific number of machines per venue. These would be regulated by the State, allocating a significant degree of funds to benefit K-12 and higher education.

In advance of the Constitutional Amendment, you should know that the thousands of machines currently in use are authorized by local governments, or not authorized at all, with no State oversight. Without, uniform State regulation and enforcement, there is no way to guarantee that the machines are run properly, no way to ensure that revenue goes to charitable organizations, and no way to stop the revenue from disproportionately benefiting private interests.

Further, revenues collected from the State Lottery and gaming are essential to the State budget and for providing critical government services, including teachers' retirement, libraries, aging school renovation, community colleges, local police aid, local highway user revenues, and Program Open Space. The State Lottery is projected to yield over \$500 million for the State in fiscal year 2009. A proliferation of electronic gaming devices without any authorization will reduce State revenues at a time of great fiscal strain on the State budget.

I applaud Delegate Frank Turner for HB 1576, as a similar bill to one I introduced four years ago to reign in these gaming devices. This bill in conjunction with HB 94 - Task Force to Study Charitable and Commercial Gaming Activities in

Maryland will begin to bring responsible vision to our gaming policy. The system as it stands now has been abused, and with the upcoming referendum Marylanders must be provided full information necessary to understand the impact of regulated and unregulated gaming policies.

The jury is still out as to whether expanding gaming is a bad policy for ethical and budgetary reasons. Nevertheless, HB 94 sets up a commission to study the impact of various forms of gaming on the State budget, the lottery, law enforcement, the community, and quality of life at large. As we move forward, HB 1576 and HB 94 will allow us the proper environment in which we can figure out the best way to handle gaming in Maryland. It will allow us to create a system that benefits charities in a controlled manner and contains our State gambling programs. It is my hope both these bills will ensure that we address expanding gaming in a responsible way.

11th District – *Delegate Jon Cardin*

Treating Pets with Love and Care:

There is a crisis affecting our pets and animal shelters across the state stemming from a complex regulatory issue that prevents us from treating our four-legged friends humanely. Due to the way that Drug Enforcement Administration regulations affect Maryland's animal shelters, the DEA has recently decided to rescind animal shelters' licensure to administer Ketamine.

Ketamine, has been an effective sedative for animals that need to undergo surgery or euthanasia. Unfortunately the alternative drugs are not strong enough or effective enough to ensure a pain-free sedation. They leave animals semi-conscious and aware as they are being operated on or euthanized. In some cases it can even cause animals to experience convulsions.

As a result of this change in policy, pet owners are no longer allowed to stay with their family pets as they are put to sleep. Furthermore, veterinary and other animal workers are placed at risk as larger animals are not fully sedated and can strike or claw their care takers as they go into convulsions or struggle against the ineffective sedative. If we pride ourselves on being so humane in our treatment of animals, Isn't it time to ensure that we are not letting down our furry friends?

Thankfully, there is a simple solution. Del. Virginia Claggett, Del. Pam Beidle and I have worked closely with the State Department of Agriculture, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Maryland Humane Society, the MD SPCA, and animal care professionals to find a solution to this problem. We have sponsored a bill that will adjust the licensing scheme in Maryland so that animal shelters fall under the state list of accepted professionals that are allowed access to this controlled substance.

There was little opposition to this bill. One possible concern may be that Ketamine can be misused by drug abusers. As a street drug Examine is often known as "Special K" and is used by the younger generation as a barbiturate. While, some may be concerned about the drug falling into the wrong hands, the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has reassured us that they are working closely with the Department of Agriculture to provide adequate oversight, and that they will give their full support to our proposal. With their support we should be able to quickly resolve this situation, and ensure that our family pets are treated in the most caring and humane manner possible.

The Humane Society estimates that 3-4 million dogs and cats are euthanized every year because there simply aren't enough homes for them. Unless we ensure that the shelters that monitor these homeless animals are able to treat them with love and care, we are not doing our civic duty. I will not stand by and allow Maryland shelters no choice but to euthanize animals without sedating them, leading to horrific accounts of animal suffering. This legislation passed quickly and unanimously to spare hundreds of animals from potentially painful operations and death.

11th District – *Delegate Dana Stein*

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve in the General Assembly. It's an honor to work with my colleagues in the 11th District (Senator Bobby Zirkin and Delegates Jon Cardin and Dan Morhaim). We all work collaboratively on issues and legislation, and – as in so many venues – that makes all the difference.

Thank you too, for the input that the Greater Timonium Community Council provides during the legislation session. The ideas and suggestions of the GTCC are very helpful as we consider legislation affecting communities and homeowners.

At the top of the list of the legislature's responsibilities are to enhance education and public safety and protect the environment. We made advances in all three areas this session. The FY 2009 budget continues to invest in public education and froze in-state undergraduate tuition at the State's colleges and universities for a third year. We passed a law that will require the collection of DNA samples from violent criminals. The legislature helped protect the Chesapeake Bay by strengthening the critical areas law.

One area that I was involved with was energy legislation. Statewide demand for electricity is rising much faster than increases in supply, and Maryland faced the possibility of brown-outs by 2011 if nothing was done. Maryland was falling behind in efforts to encourage energy efficiency and develop renewable energy. In response, the General Assembly passed several initiatives that will reduce energy consumption and increase renewable energy. I sponsored a successful bill (HB 1337) that creates the Maryland Clean Energy Center, which will incubate new businesses in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this year's legislative session. Please let me know how I can help, and contact me at 410-841-3527 or dana.stein@house.state.md.us with any questions, comments or ideas.

GTCC Website - <http://www.gtccinc.org> – Frank Regan

The Greater Timonium Community Council maintains an active website to provide everyone information related to our organization and many activities of Community interest. We took on the challenge of updating our website to enhance your surfing experience by providing an updated interface with more information and with greater ease to find what you may be looking for. Our main website access has been changed to **GTCCINC.ORG** instead of **GTCCINC.COM** however we have linked the two addresses together and you can NOW access our site through either of the above web addresses.

Membership & Annual Dues Report – Frank Regan

The GTCC has always had a great representation from the many Associations that exist in our geographic area which encompasses about 25 perimeter miles. This area is roughly bound from Dulaney Valley Road & I-695 to Falls Road & I-695, then north on Falls Road to Shawn Road, then east over to York Road, then up Ashland / Papermill Roads to the Loch Raven Reservoir boundary then over to Old Bosley Road and then down Dulaney Valley Road to I-695.

Each year we have been fortunate to increase our participation with a growing number of Community Associations. We are pleased to report that the GTCC now has *over* (50) active dues paying Associations within its umbrella that represents over 60,000+ residents within our thriving neighborhoods. It is through the hard work and participation by each member Community Group that helps to enhance and protect the quality of residential life within our area.

Please find a list of participating Community Associations below:

Belmont Forest Condos	Falls Road Comm.	Monterey Imp.	Springlake Comm.
Brooking Court Condos	First Mays Chapel HO	Orchard Hills Comm.	Stapleton Court Garden Condos
Burncourt Condo	Fox. Chapel Comm.	Pine Valley / Valleywood	Stratford Comm.
Chapel Hill	Holly Hall Garden Condos	Pot Spring Comm	Tullamore Condos
Chapel Gate HO 1-2-3	Hunt Meadow Comm.	Ramsgate Comm.	Valley Crest Civic
Chapel Gate 4-5-6	Huntridge Comm	Rockfleet Garden Condos	Valley Garth
Chapel Ridge Comm.	Kilcolman Garden Condos	Rosslare Ridge Condos.	Wakefield
Coachford Comm.	Lutherville Comm.	Shepherd's Knoll Garden Condos	West Timonium Heights
County Home Park Comm.	Northhampton Comm.	Sherwood Hill	York Manor
Dulaney Forest Comm.	Mays Chapel Village Garden Condos	Springdale Comm.	Yorkshire/Haverford Comm
Dulaney Valley	Mays Chapel Townhouse HomeOwrs	Limerick Condos	Longford
Jennifer Ridge	Overlook	Topfield Condo	Tralee Forest Condo
Roundwood Ridge I & III	Wellington Valley	Pebble Creek HO	Dunloy Condo
Longford North			

This & That – Regular and New Helpful Items

- **Balto.Co. Executive Updates** - The Office of the County Executive periodically has information to provide to community leaders. A number of community leaders have expressed a desire to receive this information in an email format. If you would like to receive these emails, please register using the following website:
<http://www.baltimorecountyonline.info/Subscribe/communitynews>
- **Balto.Co. E-Community Newsletter** - Baltimore County has unveiled a new County service, the E-Community Newsletter. The county will publish seven monthly letters, one for each County Council district, detailing planning, zoning, development and public works decisions and their impact on communities. The first issue will be published in mid-August. Residents can register for the newsletter at:
<http://www.baltimorecountyonline.info/subscribe/updates>.
You can find a weekly calendar of development- and zoning-related hearings and meetings for County:
Council District 3 at: http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/MeetingsandEvents/pdm_d3.html
Council District 2 at: http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/MeetingsandEvents/pdm_d2.html
Full Newsletter at: <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/communityupdates/d3/060901d3.html>
Previous Editions at: <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/agencies/communityupdates/d3/index.html>
- **Baltimore County Public Library** – The Cockeysville Library is located at 9833 Greenside Drive adjacent to the Baltimore County Home Park. Library hours are Monday-Thursday 9-9; Friday and Saturday 9-5:30, and Sundays 1-5 (October-April). The library has 153,000 books, DVDs and videos, CDs, newspapers, magazines and more. Annual circulation is more than 1.1 million items. There are 19 computers available for the public that have Internet access and Microsoft Office for typing resumes and other documents. All programs are free and include drop-in story times for children, family puppet shows, computer courses and book discussions for adults. The BCPL website (www.bcpl.info) has magazine, newspaper, genealogy, literature and other databases for research and general information. Librarians welcome information requests and questions at 410-887-7750. Please..... Give them a call!

GTCC Trivia – Did You Know?

There is so much history and tradition here in both the *Greater GTCC and the Baltimore County* area that books could easily be written and filled with all the information. However, from time to time we will provide a source for the lighter side of our many Communities.

See if you know the answers to these few trivia factoids:

1. A horse-drawn vehicle with curtained sides was often seen in Northern Baltimore County prior to 1920. What was its function?
2. What annual event has taken place on York Road in Towson since the early 1900s?
3. Where in Baltimore County is there a former Nike missile site?

Please don't hesitate to send any of our Board members a trivia fact and we will try to include them in our next Newsletter. (See Answers Below)

1. It was the first school bus which was provided free of charge by the Board of Education of Baltimore County. It carried elementary school children to the Butler School and older students to Sparks High School. In the winter, it was replaced with a sled - complete with bells on the harness!
2. The Fourth of July parade.
3. In Granite, just west of Randallstown. Two former Nike missile sites occupy 45 acres in the area. The Army developed the sites in the 1950s as part of an anti-aircraft system ringing Baltimore and Washington in case of attack by the Soviet Union.



The Greater Timonium Community Council

The Next GTCC General Meeting is scheduled for May 14th, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the “Cockeysville Library”.

CURRENT ISSUES

Potin Stil Restaurant Zoning Variance Appeal – Zoning Case 02-165-A, 2323 York Rd, Variances to Parking Regulations as to number required, island sizes, aisle space dimensions. Zoning Commissioner granted all variances. GTCC filed an appeal with the Board of Appeals. Appeals Board reversed the Zoning Commissioner's order by a 2-1 vote. Petitioner made request for Judicial Review to Baltimore County Circuit Court. GTCC and Peoples Counsel of BC filed in opposition to request. Circuit Court Judge agreed with the Board of Appeals decision reversing the variances granted. Director of Permits and Development and Code Enforcement have not exercised the Circuit Court's order of July 5, 2005. Request, if granted by the County, for any future meeting to be held, to participate in settlement of this case. Engineer for the owners have requested a refinement to the development plan to correct this violation. Lou Miller attended the DRC meeting, and Baltimore County did not approve the DRC request. The matter is rightfully considered a zoning violation and not a development refinement. To date, the violations have not been corrected, and Baltimore County needs to enforce the zoning violations. The engineer’s revised plan has been rejected by zoning officials of Baltimore County. As of the end of April revisions to the plan have not been received. Lou Miller is writing a letter to County Exec. Jim Smith asking him to intercede to require code compliance. (E. Rockel, L. Miller, and GTCC Executive Committee)

Epithany Episcopal Church, 2216 Pot Spring Rd. – Cingular Antenna Tower – Church is proposing to lease space for Cingular to place an antenna on their property. GTCC and many of its member Community Associations totally oppose that use. Baltimore County Regulations 426 governs that use. Church property is undersized to provide required setback from other residential property. Case law has determined this in other cases. Letter received from Executive Vice President, External Affairs and Public Relations of Cingular stating no decision yet but may file for approval to install a stealth system within the steeple. (Means a hidden antenna). As of October, no communication from Cingular’s attorney had been received. This shall remain on our Current Issues list, but the proposal may be dead. (E. Rockel, L. Miller, GTCC Executive Committee, C. Roller & M. DiNardo, Pot Spring Community, S. Smith, Springlake Community)

Mays Chapel School Site: The Baltimore County Board of Education has approved preliminary funding in its FY 2009 to relocate the special needs school to Board of Education-owned and Baltimore County-owned property on Padonia Road. Residents of Mays Chapel are concerned about loosing this parkland in their community. Few details about the size and layout of this proposed school are currently available. The Save Mays Chapel Park Committee prepared a series of questions for Baltimore County Public Schools to answer regarding its site selection. These questions were largely unanswered by BCPS. County Executive Smith proposes to construct additions to existing schools in lieu of using Mays Chapel Park. Towson residents have opposed this solution by Smith (E. Rockel & Mays Chapel Community Associations)

Bill Kidd’s Volvo, 10525 York Road: The Deputy Zoning Commissioner has approved zoning relief to allow commercial parking in a residential zone, to allow a very limited amount of parking in a 100 year flood plain and to allow for a reduction in the residential transition area buffer. The Sherwood Hills improvement Association and the People’s Counsel have appealed this decision. GTCC has requested to be an interested party in the appeal. (E. Rockel & A. Heaton)

Hampton Inn & Suites: Hotel is proposed on lot 6 at Texas Station Court. The Development Review Committee approved that this project would not require Community Input Meeting and Hearing Officer’s Hearing despite objection raised by GTCC. (E. Rockel)

ON-GOING ISSUES

Texas Station – Jacoby Properties sold property to Peter Angelos. Zoning changed in 2004 Comprehensive Zoning Cycle from ML-IM to BM (Business Major). No further plans presented to occupy the property. GTCC continues to monitor this property. (E. Rockel, L. Miller, F. Regan, GTCC Executive Committee.)

Ames Store Building – Land and building owned by Capital Enterprises. The DRC approved plan to change the building which should lead to the construction of a Giant Foods in place of the now vacant store. Despite requests from GTCC and Yorkshire/Haverford, Giant has not replied to a request to publicly present their plans. (L. Miller, F. Regan)

York Rd. Widening, Seminar to Ridgely Rd. – York Road is a Md. State road. Funding approved of \$5.5 million from Md. State and \$875 thousand from Baltimore County to widen and provide for a third middle lane. Utility relocation activity started in August. Estimates of two years of construction were previously given for the entire project, including utility pole relocations, water main replacement and road work.. From the Fall of 2006 to Fall 2007 expect water main construction, and road reconstruction to take place from Fall 2007 to Fall 2008. Construction has started on the east side of York Road (E. Rockel, GTCC Executive Committee)

Becker Property - Developers to modify their plans to comply with limitations set by the hearing officer on the project. While their modifications are scaled back from 20 homes on 89 acres. Hearing Officer's Hearing to take place in November 2007. (B. Moore & FRCA)

Beaver Dam Swim Club Property – Development Concept Plan reviewed by GTCC. Plan calls for four (4) mid-rise residential buildings with fifty-five units per building, or eleven units per floor. Two hundred twenty (220) units with garage parking below for five-hundred twenty-eight (528) spaces. Plan would occupy ten of the twenty-six acres. No plans given for the remaining acres. A PUD overlay zoning is required. Further discussion with Mr. Mark Hanley, Jr. results in no further action at this time. (E. Rockel, L. Miller, GTCC Executive Committee)

1928 Greenspring Drive: Plans to create a commercial recreational facility within the existing building to host birthday parties, corporate outings and other events. The recreational uses will include laser tag, cosmic miniature golf and other high tech gaming activities.

Comprehensive Rezoning for 2008: See the list of properties requesting a zoning reclassification under the Comprehensive Zoning Map Process by looking at the GTCC website. (E. Rockel, L. Miller & Committee)

COMPLETED ISSUES

Smyth Property, Falls Rd & Padonia Rd.- New (20) home development. Traffic, water table, and environmental concerns still. The Court of Special Appeals dismissed FRCA appeal without hearing its merits. The Court ruled that the FRCA lacked standing to continue the appeal by itself and this case is now concluded. More details at <http://www.thefrca.org> (FRCA)

Anderson Honda: Proposal to construct a Honda dealership at the corner of York Road and Halesworth Road. This proposal will require that the project go through a Planned Unit Development process (PUD-Commercial), as was done for the Hummer facility because the existing zoning is not fully commercial. The Community Input Meeting produced no objections to the proposal. In fact the communities of Monterey and Still Pond are supportive of the dealership. (E. Rockel, J. Rogers)

Jessup Property – The County Landmarks Preservation Commission has approved placing the Jessup House on the landmarks list. The Baltimore County Council would have to also approve the inclusion. As of August, the developer's attorney indicated his client was reviewing how this would impact the proposal. Regardless of the Landmark's issue, the developer has not submitted a development plan for County review. Longford North was to hold a fundraiser in early November to help pay for its legal expenses. The developer has submitted a revised development plan in December. The Hearing Officer's Hearing was held in April with Longford North, Pine Valley/Valleywood, Huntridge and GTCC offering comments on the plan. A consistent remark from all was that the number of units, 103, needed to be reduced. The hearing officer approved the 103 unit plan. The Longford North Community reached a compromise with the developer and has dropped any plan to appeal the development. (E. Rockel & Longford North)

Hampton Manor: This property is located on the east side of Scott Adam Road and is an existing multifamily residential development that will be adding more units. Concept Plan Conference scheduled for 11/6/2006 at 10:00 am in Room 123 County Office Building. Community Input Meeting will be scheduled thereafter. The community input meeting demonstrated several objections to the plan. The most common objection was a proposal to connect Southfork Road with the existing roads in the apartment complex. Residents on Southfork are concerned about additional "cut thru" traffic. Despite the owner's willingness to eliminate the connection to Southfork Road, Baltimore County DPW and Fire Department officials insist on a second access. A compromise may have been reached at the start of the Hearing Officer's Hearing. Both sides will examine making the Southfork connection a gated entrance. At the Hearing Officer's Hearing, Baltimore County agreed to allow Southfork Road to be a gated entrance. (E. Rockel)

York Rd.-Timonium Condo Proposal – A & A Global Industries and Keelty Company are proposing a two tower Condo and mixed use on York Rd across from the north end of the Fair Grounds. What started with 14 stories and one underground and two above ground parking stories is now reduced to two underground parking and one above is now 10 stories of 216 Condo's. Movement into the hill is now approximately 35 feet.. Keelty's architect reduced the towers to eight stories of residential units and one above-ground level of parking. The scale of the cupolas were also reduced. The Stratford Community Association's Board of Directors and GTCC have recently agreed not to oppose the Planned Unit Development (PUD) with respect to height and size. The Planning Board approved the condo plan, and the Zoning Commissioner approved the project. (E. Rockel, L. Miller, GTCC Executive Committee & Stratford Community)