

The Greater Timonium Community Council

Volume XII Issue I

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

January 2010

President: Eric Rockel, 410-252-8439

VP: Jim Rogers, 410-667-6715 Treasurer: Frank Regan, 410-337-5070 Secretary: Katie Barone, 410-561-1848 Membership: Marge DiNardo, 410-252-3378
Newsletter: Frank Regan, 410-337-5070

***** NEWSLETTER *****

President's Message – Eric Rockel

'Tis the Season

The political season is upon us at the County level as candidates start filing to run for County Council seats. Recently the Sun and Times newspapers recounted that two attorneys whose livelihoods are largely tied to development work in the County had started holding fundraisers for candidates in the First, Fifth and Sixth Council Districts. These fundraisers occurred after each of the candidates had been screened by the attorneys in an extended question and answer session.

What was most shocking about this effort was the price tag for the fundraisers. Normally at the County Council, level this type of affair costs around \$100-\$200 per person, sometimes a little more, sometimes a little less. But the cost per person at these fundraisers was ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS per head. Yes the stakes in this game seem to be going up, and it troubles many community activists who know they cannot compete against interests who can lend a candidate that level of financial support. But money does not necessarily equate to votes at the ballot box.

This year more than any in past memory it is important that the average citizen play an active part in the election process. The most basic responsibility is to get out and vote, in both the primary and the general elections. When you consider that the average voter turnout in a general election is between 50% and 60% of registered voters, and even smaller numbers in the primaries, it's obvious that a lot of average citizens are not getting involved. We need to change that statistic if we want to diminish the importance of big money fundraisers. Secondly, and equally important, is that the public truly screen the candidates. Don't accept that you can make your decision based upon a couple of pieces of campaign literature, the endorsement of the Sunpapers or a two minute conversation with a candidate. The League of Women Voters holds many candidate forums and you should make a point of attending as many as possible. Ask questions, questions and more questions of a candidate on a wide variety of issues. Check out candidates websites to get further substantive information. All of the campaign money in the world will not disguise a candidate's bad ideas or shallow policy positions. But you will only find this information out if you dig deep and don't accept the usual campaign rhetoric. Start planning now by writing down the five most important questions for candidates at all levels of government. Yes, we the voters need to have a different approach if we expect our elected officials to change the nature of campaign practices and our government.

NEXT GTCC MEETING: JANUARY 13th, 2010 at 7:00 PM

******* PLEASE NOTE MEETING ROOM LOCATION CHANGE ! *******

Starting January, 2010, the GTCC will be meeting once again at the Ridgely Middle School - Meeting Room #103, just off Ridgely Rd., Lutherville, Md.with meetings STILL beginning promptly at 7:00 PM. Use the Administrative parking lot and building entrance off Lynncrest Road just off Ridgely Road east of Charmuth Road.

GTCC General Meeting – Wednesday, January 13th, 2010

The GTCC will hold their 'Next Meeting' on **Wednesday, January 13th, 2010 at the Ridgely Middle School Meeting Room - #103**, on Lynncrest & Ridgely Roads with *meetings STILL beginning promptly at 7:00 PM*.

Construction improvements are now complete at the school; therefore, we have arranged to meet there once again on a regular basis as we have done in the past. We are all looking forward to seeing everyone there !

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 2010

NOTICE !!!

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

Board of Directors 7:00 pm – 9:00pm

General Membership 7:00 pm – 9pm

February 1, 2010
April 14, 2010
June 09, 2010
August – No Meeting
October 13, 2010
December 10, 2010

January 13, 2010
March 10, 2010
May 12, 2010
July – No Meeting
September 08, 2010
November 10, 2010

*All Meetings are **NOW** Scheduled at the “**Ridgely Middle School**” Rm-103, on the **DATES NOTED ABOVE !!!***

Agenda and Speakers - GTCC January 13th, Meeting - Tentative Schedule.....

- Introductions
- Public Safety Report from the Cockeysville Precinct
- Featured Speaker: Baltimore County Fire Department - “Fire Safety in the Home”
- Development Issues:
 - Hearing on Anderson Automotive, Jan. 15th, 2010
 - A & A Global Property – 2301 York Rd.
 - Changes to Royal Farm Store, Timonium Road
- New Business
- Adjourn

Annual GTCC Membership Dues – Marge DiNardo

GTCC '2010' Membership dues of \$50 dollars for the year are due at this time. We had a great response from (51) Associations contributing their Annual Membership dues payment last year! Dues notices for 2010 have been mailed out this past week so if you haven't received one or if you need a copy, please don't hesitate to let us know. . Please send your 2009 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:

My personal and best wishes to everyone for a safe, happy and healthy new year!

For the January 2010 column, I wanted to 'repeat' an article- with some minor updates - from last year's GTCC January newsletter to provide an overview on two important support units working out of Precinct 7 - The Traffic Enforcement Team and the Community Outreach Team. These two teams are not necessarily "911-driven", but are an integral part of our partnership with you. That's why it's important that you know they are a resource for you to use.

The six-member Traffic Team handles the vast majority of all community-based traffic complaints in regards to speeding, reckless driving, etc. Once a complaint is received, it is assigned to a Traffic Team member who then "owns" the project and is responsible for determining the extent of the problem and finding a solution. Even though we may often have numerous "open" traffic complaints logged at any one time, we know that quick "band-aid" solutions do not bring a long term solution to the problem. The Traffic Team officers are challenged to think outside the box and to use resources other than radar guns to solve problems. This often means working closely with other county agencies to address road and signage issues. Traffic Team members also work closely with community members who live in the area of the primary complaint and solicit their assistance in court testimony, etc. Finally, the stepped-up enforcement by the Traffic Team means more visible flashing lights which sends the message, "the police are in the area." And, those flashing lights and enforcement programs, coupled with community awareness and alertness, appear to have helped with crime control in three major areas in 2009 (burglary – at or near the 2008 levels; robbery and auto theft – substantially below the 2008 levels). The final figures for 2009 are not out yet, but I will update you once I have them.

Secondly, the Precinct 7 Community Outreach Team provides assistance to the patrol units in providing proactive crime-prevention and neighborhood intervention and mediation assistance. For those of you who have attended the "Citizens' Academy", you probably heard me refer to the Outreach team as "The Fixer-Up" crew. Though they are sworn police officers, they specialize in "not-so-routine" solutions to "not-so-routine" problems. These officers realize that sometimes the smallest neighborhood issues can become large problems that will result in an increase in crime and quality of life issues. The Outreach team specializes in inter-agency cooperation to solve problems. The Outreach Team also includes a Domestic Violence Coordinator who provides expert assistance and counseling liaison for Domestic Violence victims.

Please feel free to contact the above teams at these numbers:

- Traffic Enforcement Team – Corporal Patrick Zito Phone 410-887-1861
- Community Outreach Team – Sergeant Anthony Zelenka Phone 410-887-1863
- Domestic Violence Coordinator – Officer Deborah Sabotka Phone 410-887-1827

I look forward to working with the community again in 2010. I truly believe that it is the police and community partnership and communication that provide the most impact in crime prevention and control. Thank you for your support of who we are and what we do.

Captain Martin Lurz
Precinct 7

The Councilman's Corner – Kevin Kamenetz

We have invited our County Councilmen to provide us this month with an article for our newsletter in the form of 'The Councilman's Corner' on any issue(s) that he feels might be of interest to our membership. The following article this month is from Kevin:

2nd District - Councilman Kevin Kamenetz

Greetings to the Greater Timonium Community and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year to all. It barely seems possible that not only are we welcoming in a new year but also a new decade, 2010. As a county, we can be proud of our accomplishments of the last ten years. We have continued to maintain our Triple A Bond rating, not incurred increased property tax and watched our county continue to grow through revitalization and community development. The balance of community need and revenue generation to sustain those needs has been accomplished through the continued partnership of government and community. I have and will continue to strive to maintain that relationship in working toward the good of all.

As we close out 2009, I would like to highlight some of the most recent enacted legislation to address the well being of Baltimore county residents as well as share a note of importance.

Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety – In 2008, after being chosen by the Department of Transportation, Baltimore County Police Department initiated a data-driven approach to policing. Under the grant funded Data Driven Approaches to Crime Program (DDACTS), which uses proven strategy of high-visibility traffic enforcement to reduce the number of crashes, crime and traffic violations within communities, the county was divided into 15 target areas encompassing all 10 precincts. The Department is pleased to advise that in a three year comparison as of September 2009, a reduction of 64% in robberies, 48% in motor vehicle theft, 12% in personal injury and a 54% increase in traffic stops county-wide has been attained. With the accomplishments of this highly successful program, the County Council was only too pleased to approve the acceptance of an additional \$60,000.00 of Federal funding to extend this program which took effect December 20, 2009.

Broadband Access – On December 2, 2009, the Baltimore County Police Department and the Office of Information Technology unveiled a new wireless broadband network for 350 police vehicle. Utilizing this secure, high speed, mobile network, Baltimore County Police Officers will be able to check internal records, review crime trends, receive bulletins and notifications from other jurisdictions and receive e-mail without ever having to leave their vehicle. This wireless network affords the men and women of the Baltimore County Police Department incredible technology in order to enhance their capabilities in performing their job.

This innovative technology includes a platform for future access to additional resources and services, including the ability of tying into shopping center security cameras, giving police officers immediate access to the video. The County Council in 2006 approved legislation sponsored by me requiring shopping centers to secure those cameras.

2010 Census Reprot - On October 28, 2009, the official kick off for the Maryland Census 2010 Outreach Campaign was held at the Randallstown Community Center. Dr. Benjamin Carson of Johns Hopkins Hospital will serve as the honorary spokesman for the State's outreach effort. Certainly Dr. Carson's personal involvement in this campaign underscores it's importance to each and every one of us. It is of the utmost importance that an accurate count is presented in order to ensure the stability of our County's future.

Federal funding models are based on the obtained data, which enables us to obtain funding for the stability of our communities, schools, health care facilities and infrastructure. Business and non-profits also rely on statistical and socio-economic information gained from this process to help determine the needs of residents in order to best serve them. Data gained during this process will influence economic development decisions across the County for the next decade. I encourage each and everyone of you to take an active part to assure that you, your family members and your neighbors be counted on Census Day, April 1, 2010. I urge you to help shape Baltimore County's future and stand up to be counted.

In closing I thank GTCC for affording me the opportunity to share with you information that impacts all of us as a community and as a county. I look forward to our continued successful partnership in 2010 and the future.

The Legislator's Corner – Dana Stein, Dan Morhaim and Jon Cardin

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 Districts:

11th District – Delegate Dana Stein

One of the lessons of the current economic downturn – and especially the recent mortgage crisis, which helped precipitate the recession – is that the financial education of students and adults must be improved. The poor savings rate, high levels of credit card debt and large number of high-risk mortgages all point to a need to improve financial literacy. Financial education includes such basic life skills as how to save, budget, invest and plan for retirement. That's why I sponsored legislation establishing the State's Task Force on Improving Financial Literacy in 2008.

The Task Force, which I co-chair, initially focused on K-12 education, and we made a strong recommendation to the State Board of Education that it develop financial literacy content standards. The Board accepted our recommendation and has developed a draft financial education curriculum which once approved, will be integrated into curricula in each school district.

The Task Force next focused on the needs of adults, and has recently approved a series of recommendations covering higher education, the workforce and the financial sector. The key recommendations include urging all of the segment heads of higher education to mandate financial literacy education for students in postsecondary education programs; establishing a clearinghouse on financial education programs in the Office of the Commissioner of Financial Regulation, and requiring residential mortgage lenders to provide notice of the existence of nonprofit housing counseling during application for most mortgages.

Hopefully, through these recommendations for the workforce, K-12 education and higher education, the work of the Task Force will improve the money management skills of many students and adults.

I am proud to be part of the 11th district team, which includes Senator Bobby Zirkin and Delegates Jon Cardin and Dan Morhaim. In the upcoming legislative session, please let me know if you have any suggestions for legislation or any questions or concerns. I can be reached at 410-841-3527 or dana.stein@house.state.md.us.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent the 11th District in the General Assembly.

11th District – Delegate Jon Cardin

I want to start by wishing everyone a Happy New Year! I am ready to take on the challenges during the 2010 session of the Maryland General Assembly. The session will begin on Wednesday, January 13. I recognize that it is a privilege to represent my constituents and appreciate your continuing support. I look forward to working hard for the citizens of Pikesville, Randallstown, Owings Mills, Reisterstown and indeed all of Maryland.

I will again be working closely with my 11th District colleagues, Senator Bobby Zirkin, Delegate Dan Morhaim and Delegate Dana Stein. Your 11th District team will monitor any issues that have a direct impact on our district and on Baltimore County and ensure that your voice is heard.

Speaking of Baltimore County, I wanted to help County Executive Jim Smith and the Baltimore County Council spread the word about a terrific new environmental program. The new **single stream recycling program** begins with recycling collections the week of February 1. This plan will make it easier for residents to recycle by facilitating weekly collection of both paper and plastic. Also, more types of plastics will now be accepted for recycling.

For more information go to www.bcrecycles.com. I hope that everyone is supportive of the Baltimore County Department of Public Works as they implement this great new program. The more trash we can recycle, the less waste will go into our landfills.

I look forward to communicating with you during the 2010 legislative session in my weekly report. If you wish to be removed from this email list, please click the link at the bottom of this email. Working hard for Maryland !

11th District – Delegate Dan Morhaim

The 2010 Maryland General Assembly begins on January 13, 2010.

As we continue to face a difficult economy and many other challenges, tough decisions will have to be made. Over the years, many of the best ideas that are now law have come directly from neighbors like you.

As your representatives, our first priority is to be accessible and responsive to your concerns. We want to hear from you on any aspect of any issue.

We'd also like to remind everyone that there are legislative scholarships for those getting higher education in Maryland whether at a community college, university, or trade school. We want to support you in this effort, so please contact our offices for more information. Applications are due March 31, 2010.

You can follow the General Assembly's activities at <http://mlis.state.md.us>, and you can contact us (toll free) as follows:

Senator Bobby Zirkin
bobby.zirkin@senate.state.md.us
410-841-3131
410-841-3737 fax

Delegate Dana Stein
dana.stein@house.state.md.us
410-841-3527
410-841-3373 fax

Delegate Dan Morhaim
dan.morhaim@house.state.md.us
410-841-3054
410-841-3385 fax

Delegate Jon Cardin
jon.cardin@house.state.md.us
410-841-3833
410-841-3373 fax

Your 11th District legislators look forward to hearing from you.

Random Notes on News in the GTCC Area – Eric Rockel

1) Recently AAI of Cockeysville received a \$39 million order from the Defense Department for more equipment related to its Shadow Unmanned Tactical Aircraft. These units are used extensively in the Middle East, and with the three new units that are part of this order, AAI will have produced 116 units overall. AAI currently employs approximately 1,500 persons in Baltimore County.

2) By now all of you have received a postcard from Baltimore County concerning single stream recycling that will take effect on February 1st. Look for a more comprehensive description of the changes to the recycling efforts in the next one to two weeks. One issue that has some community associations disappointed is that the County will no longer accept bottles and cans in blue plastic bags, or plastic bags of any color. Please also keep in mind that as of January 1, you can no longer dispose of household electronic items by disposing of them in the garbage. All household electronic items must be recycled at the County's Cockeysville Recycling Center or at a local retailer who recycles.

3) A change in ownership of the Calvert Wine and Spirits store in Hunt Valley Towne Center has sparked a controversy with the Baltimore County Licensed Beverage Association, according to the Daily Record. Any time that a change in ownership takes place at an establishment selling liquor, beer or wine a hearing and approval is needed from the Baltimore County Liquor Board. Apparently, at Calvert Wine and Spirits, the new owner controlling a 90% interest in the company is one Brendan O'Hara, who also happens to be an employee of Wegman's and is related by marriage to the head of the supermarket chain, indicates the Daily Record. The Licensed Beverage Association has objected to this transfer because under Maryland Law, chain stores, supermarkets and discount houses are prohibited from selling liquor. The attorney representing the new ownership group argues that his client does not have a direct business relationship with the supermarket chain, but the Licensed Beverage Association thinks otherwise. A final decision on this case is still pending.

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 | | | |

GTCC Trivia – *Did You Know?* - Frank Regan

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. The Timonium Fairground now stands on land that once belonged to a Balto.Co. estate. What was its name?
2. Where did the first airmail delivery take place?
3. What present-day private school stands on the grounds of a plantation dating from the 1760's that was the site of the first Maryland Hunt Cup and Grand National races?
4. When was the Baltimore Beltway (695) opened?

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 "Haille's Delight and Betty's Delight" recorded in Annapolis in 1738. The house was eventually called "Timonium". It once served as a hotel housing nineteen families!

2. At the Fairgrounds in Timonium. In 1918, according to *A History of Baltimore County* by Brooks and Rockel, a Timonium postmistress received a letter on the infield of the racetrack! (Recognize the name of one of the book's authors?)

3. Saint Paul's School for Boys. Originally known as the Brooklandville Plantation, the house was built by Charles Carroll of Carrollton for his daughter, Mary Caton.

4. I-695 and Jones Falls Expressway was opened in 1962.

The Librarian's Corner – Mollie Fein, Cockeysville Branch Manager

We have also invited our Cockeysville Library Manager, Mollie Fein, to provide us with an article for our newsletter in the form of 'The Librarian's Corner' on any issue(s) that she feels might be of interest to our membership. The following article this month is from Mollie:

The Cockeysville Branch Breaks Ground! On Tuesday, November 24, Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith, Baltimore County Public Library administrators and Board of Trustees, along with elected officials officially broke ground to begin construction on the addition to the Cockeysville Library. The expansion will add almost 1,600 sq. ft. to the original 1982 facility. Special features for the renovated library and new addition include: a teen area; enlarged children's area; two tutoring rooms; a conference room; more seating; and additional laptop work stations.

January Story Times! Story times will be presented most Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 AM* at the PAL Center located next to the Cockeysville branch, at 9835 Greenside Drive. No registration is required for these programs.

*Please call to verify dates and times, as February dates are subject to change. 410-887-7750. Also note in the event that Baltimore County Schools are closed due to inclement weather, story times will be cancelled.

Hardhat Area! If your children love Legos, big machines, and hard hats, bring them to watch the exciting construction project underway in their library. Standing safely outside the building, they'll have a perfect view through our large plate glass windows into the cavern-like room that used to house thousands of books. They'll see long strands of blue and white wire looping its way across the ceiling, welder's torches spraying arcs of yellow sparks, bare girders and framework gleaming like steel skeletons, and scissor lifts raising workmen up to install vent work and pipes. See if they can trace the outline of the new children's area - it's twice as big as the former one. Point out the stacks of ceiling tiles and the piles of sheetrock panels. If they're lucky, they might see a workman standing on a machine that magically expands up into the air to just the right height for drilling holes in metal pieces overhead. Every day brings new changes to the site, so take a moment to admire the work, whether you've got a child with you or just your own curiosity to satisfy.

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:

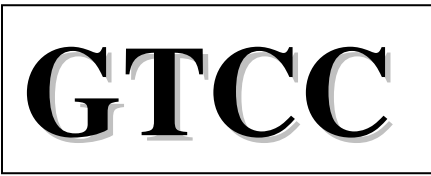
Council District 3 at: ***http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/MeetingsandEvents/pdm_d3.html***

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 9835 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!



The Greater Timonium Community Council

The Next GTCC General Meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2010 at Ridgely Middle School, Room 103 at 7:00 pm

CURRENT ISSUES

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)

11311 McCormick Road: The owner has received a variance to construct signage larger than permitted under zoning regulations. In conjunction with the Sparks/Glencoe Association & People's Counsel, GTCC opposed the variance. The County Board of Appeals, in its public deliberation, gave indication that the variance would be denied, but in its written decision, the Board of Appeals upheld the variance. The People's Counsel has asked for a reconsideration of the ruling in light of the public deliberation comments. The reconsideration was denied, and People's Counsel is considering an appeal.(E. Rockel)

Anderson Automotive: Dealership wishes to reconfigure its site layout by establishing the Honda dealership on the current GMC site and moving the GMC trade to the Hummer site. The site at the corner of York & Halesworth would be sold for another usage. While not objecting to the reconfiguration, GTCC believes this proposal needs to be approved by the Hearing Officer, who approved the previous configuration as part of a Planned Unit Development process. Anderson Automotive has agreed to get Hearing Officer approval. Hearing is scheduled for January 15, 2009 at 9:00 am. (E.Rockel & People's Counsel)

Aylesbury Road: Owner is proposing a mixed use project for the property on the north corner of Aylesbury Road and Business Park Drive. Residential, commercial and office uses are planned. This project may take until 2011 to receive County approvals. (E.Rockel)

2340-2342 York Road: Request to expand a dentist offices, which necessitates variances to setbacks and driveway widths.(W. Timonium Heights)

York Road, Timonium Condo Project: Recently land owner A&A Global Industries notified GTCC that the condo project proposed by Keelty & Company will not proceed. A & A Global is examining other possible uses for the site, none of which at this time would include a high rise residential development. (E. Rockel & GTCC Executive Committee)

ON-GOING 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)

Texas Station – Jacoby Properties sold property to Peter Angelos. Zoning changed in 2004 Comprehensive Zoning Cycle from ML-IM to BM (Business Major). GTCC continues to monitor this property. (E. Rockel, L. Miller, F. Regan, GTCC Executive Committee.)

York Rd. Widening, Seminar to Ridgely Rd. Most work on this project has been completed with only a few items yet to finish in the Spring of 2010. This project took one year longer than the original estimates.(E. Rockel, GTCC Executive Committee)

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 below grade parking for 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)

York & Ridgely Roads: The former Lincoln/Mercury dealership has been reported to be the future site of a Walgreen Drug Store and pad site. The property is currently being graded for the new uses. (E. Rockel)

Galloway Avenue and Texas Station: Recently the Development Review Committee postponed consideration of a decision to allow two-way traffic at the entrance from Galloway Avenue into Texas Station. Both GTCC and the County Home Park association questioned two-way traffic in light of the original development plan restrictions on the site. Before any change takes place, an assessment of the York Road and Galloway Avenue intersection should take place. (E. Rockel)

COMPLETED ISSUES

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. It has come to our attention that the original developer is trying to sell the property to a third party to develop. (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)

2340-2342 York Road: Request to expand a dentist offices, which necessitates variances to setbacks and driveway widths.(W. Timonium Heights

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. Former Ames building has been demolished, and Giant has successfully opened at this location. (L. Miller, F. Regan, E. Rockel)

Padonia Swim Club: Grace Fellowship Church announced plans to purchase the 29 + acre site of the swim club. Many nearby residents have expressed concerns that the church plans to build a 2,500 seat sanctuary on the site. GTCC members have voted to disapprove the site for the church's intended use. In November, the Church announced that it would not build on the site. (GTCC Executive Committee & Community Organizers)

1904 Pot Spring Road: The owner has appealed a prior Zoning Commissioner's decision, with restrictions, to allow a professional office in the dwelling at this location. The adjoining community associations wish to minimize any nonresidential intrusion into the residential community. The owner ultimately dropped the appeal, and only residents of the property will be able to work in the home office.(E. Rockel, Valley Crest C.A., Dulaney Forest C.A. & Valley Garth CA)

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. GTCC continues to work with Councilman McIntire on developing a unique zoning classification for the Timonium Fairgrounds. (E. Rockel, L. Miller & GTCC)