



The Greater Timonium Community Council

Volume XII Issue IV

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

November 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

The New Kid In Town

Many of you remember that Eagles song, “The New Kid in Town”, from back in 1976, and all across the country there are a whole lot of new *kids* in town as voters changed their congress men and women, senators, governors and other elected officials. Considering the state of the economy and the general dissatisfaction with the government’s response, this election outcome was not unexpected. Yet here in Maryland the voters did not react in favor of a tsunami-style replacement of government leaders. Governor O’Malley gained re-election easily, as did the Comptroller and the Attorney General. All of our Congressmen, save Kratovil, retained their seats in Washington, and Senator Milkulski proved that she was immune to the Republican wave.

Locally, we had a much different scenario. The County Executive was term limited, and Jim Smith could not run for re-election. Five of the seven council members did not run for re-election in the general election. Kevin Kamenetz will be sworn in as the next County Executive come early December, and Mr. Kamenetz brings four terms worth of experience as a County Council member to his new role as County Executive. During his years on the Council, Mr. Kamentz demonstrated a sense of frugality with tax dollars, a willingness to use critical thinking when dealing with complex problems and a sensitivity to many of the issues that confronted communities in his district. Along with the State Delegates and Senator from the 42nd District, Mr. Kamenetz lobbied strongly for air conditioning at Ridgely Middle School, which demonstrated that he was not restricted by Council geographic boundaries when he saw a problem that begged an obvious solution. Time will only tell how successful Mr. Kamentz will be in his new role, but he comes well prepared for the tasks that will confront him.

The GTCC’s geographic boundaries are actually served by two members of the County Council. Vicki Almond becomes the Councilwoman for the Second Council District, replacing Mr. Kamenetz, and Ms. Almond will represent parts of the Falls Road Community Association, Longford and Wellington Valley that are all members of the GTCC. Ms. Almond brings to her office a broad background that includes past experience in the PTA, on the umbrella council for Reisterstown/Owings Mills and Glyndon, and as Chief of Staff for State Senator Bobby Zirkin. In the Third Council District, Todd Huff replaces Bryan McIntire. Mr. Huff comes into office after having served as president of the Dulaney Valley Improvement Association and prior to that as president of the Towson Chamber of Commerce. Both of these Council persons, along with new members from the 1st, 5th and 6th Districts will confront a variety of issues: How will the County react to a potential reduction of Federal funds as a result of the changes this election wrought in Washington?, Will land use issues face a different scrutiny from this Council compared with the previous Council?, Will issues effecting the public schools, which consume approximately one half of the County’s budget dollars, be treated with a different level of awareness? These and many other questions will be dealt with by a new and very different group of Council persons. It will be interesting to see the personality of this new Council, and we wish them well in all their endeavors.

Finally, a word of thanks to outgoing Councilman T.Bryan McIntire. I have not always agreed with all of the actions of Councilman McIntire, but there was more agreement than disagreement. Clearly, his most outstanding accomplishments stand in the area of rural preservation, from his efforts to down zone rural land, to his efforts to manage cell tower proliferation, to his deep appreciation of history, rural landmarks and farming. Councilman McIntire embodied the traits of a true gentleman-legislator, and we wish him the best in this next stage of his career.

GTCC General Meeting – Wednesday, November 10th, 2010

The GTCC will hold their 'Next Meeting' on **Wednesday, November 10th, 2010 at the Cockeysville Library Meeting Room**, with meetings *STILL* beginning **promptly at 7:00 PM.**

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, or the **Cockeysville Library** on the **DATES NOTED ABOVE !!!** Please check our Website or Newsletter before each meeting !*

Agenda and Speakers - GTCC November 10th, Meeting - Tentative Schedule.....

1. Introductions
2. Treasurer's Report & Membership Report
3. Public Safety: Report from Precinct 7, Police Department
4. Cockeysville Library Update - Mollie Fein, Cockeysville Library Manager
5. Preview of Hunt Valley Crossing, Planned Unit Development project - Robert Becker, Consolidated Equities
6. Follow-up on Huckster & Peddlers Bill - What you need to know about signage, enforcement and other matters.
7. Pot Spring and Old Bosely Planned unit Development
8. Old Business: Anderson Automotive Signage Variance, Master Plan, Landmarks Preservation
9. New Business
10. Adjournment

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:

The holiday shopping season is quickly approaching. This is a busy time of year for everyone and that *everyone* can include opportunistic thieves who prey on unsuspecting shoppers. To help combat that, on-duty uniformed Baltimore County Police Officers will be doing added patrols in the shopping areas during the holiday season. You can help us help you by being aware and focusing on the importance of personal safety as you make your rounds through area shopping centers and parking lots.

Most thieves are opportunists who are looking for the right conditions to commit their crimes. In a way, they too are shopping – shopping for the right target...maybe a purse, or a car, or even your identity! If you can make the opportunities for crime more difficult and obscure by following some awareness and prevention basics, you can help reduce crime and send the bad guys packing.

How? Stay aware! Be aware! Look around you! Take that extra moment to get into the good habits of parking in well-lit areas, locking your car doors and by not leaving valuables inside your car in plain view. Many thefts from vehicles are the direct result of not locking the car doors! If you make several trips back and forth to your car while shopping, make every effort to place your valuables and gifts in the trunk...and make sure you don't lock your keys in the trunk when you do! Try to park in a well-lit portion of the parking lot. Many of the larger mall and shopping center parking lots in Baltimore County have security cameras mounted atop the light poles. Light deters thieves and the cameras take that one step further!

Many area malls and shopping centers employ uniformed security personnel who make their rounds through the parking areas. Many of the security vehicles have roof-mounted amber flashing lights. I always tell folks to wait for these vehicles to come their way if they are apprehensive about walking through a certain portion of a lot. We are also asking that ALL citizens be aware of their surroundings when withdrawing money, cashing checks, etc., particularly at banks and ATMs. Always – no matter where you are night or day – take a second to look around and make sure you aren't being followed by anyone or that you're not walking towards a potential problem. If you feel that you are, wait to walk with a group or wait for the security officer to drive by.

Try this awareness exercise some day – The next time you're in a grocery store, walk up and down a few aisles and see how many unattended pocketbooks you see in shopping carts. The owner is usually standing only a few feet away but is distracted because of looking for a product on the shelf. If you were a thief, you could reach into that purse, take the wallet and be gone in less than five seconds. (Remember, I said "*If*" you *were* a thief...don't take the wallet just to time yourself. This is an experiment only!) My point is awareness. Know where you are, where your young children are, where your purses and wallets are.

Lastly, my intent is not to unleash mass paranoia on the GTCC residents. I simply preach prevention and awareness, along with calling 911 to report suspicious activities. These are the key elements of keeping you and your neighborhood safe. In Precinct 7, we are fortunate to have the cooperative spirit of our communities working with us to prevent and solve crime. Let's keep working together! My officers and I truly appreciate your support.

Captain Martin Lurz – Precinct 7

Annual GTCC Membership Dues – Marge DiNardo

GTCC '2010' Membership dues of \$50 dollars for the year are still 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 in January so if you haven't received one or if you need a copy, please don't hesitate to let us know. . Please send your 2010 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!

PUD Possible On Pot Spring Rd., Near Old Bosley Rd. – Eric Rockel

A ten acre site located on Pot Spring Road, just south of Old Bosley Road, will come to the County Council on November 9 to allow for the property to be reviewed for development as a planned unit development. Under any planned unit development review, a property is not required to adhere to the existing zoning density but can be developed at a higher density based upon an approved site plan.

This particular site on Pot Spring Road, owned at present by the Constellation Energy Group Foundation, is currently zoned to allow for approximately 13 dwelling units if developed using the present zoning. If the planned unit development proposal is ultimately approved, the developer proposes to construct four condo buildings, each four stories in height plus one level of parking, that would support a total of 64 density units (sixteen units per building).

Neighbors living in Dulaney Gate, Timberline Park and other subdivisions have expressed opposition to the planned unit development proposal, and they hope to persuade the County Council to reject a resolution that would allow the project to be reviewed as a planned unit development. If you are interested in expressing concern, check out www.savepotspring.org.

The Librarian's Corner – Mollie Fine

We have also invited our Cockeysville Library Manager, Mollie Fine, 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:

Book Clubs at Cockeysville Branch

Did you know that the Cockeysville Library has some of the busiest, most active book groups in Maryland? You can join us in the morning for coffee, cookies and engaging conversation. Talk about your favorite books at our monthly, 'Books, Coffee and Conversation' or perhaps you would prefer the spirited discussion at the 'Cockeysville Book Club'. The November Book Club will discuss be 'Outcasts United' by Warren St. John. Plans are underway for a 'Teen Writers Club' and a 'Parent and Child Book Club'. Call the library for details

Cockeysville Library Hosts Post-Renovation Party

"Community Fun Day" on Saturday, November 6th was an incredible success. The library's door counter had so many people going through the doors that the counter began wildly spinning. At the end of the day the counter read over 87,000. An average Saturday has about 2,000 customers....my guess is our door count numbers actually approached 3,500. The 'Fun Day' gave us an opportunity to extend our appreciation to the community for their patience during the renovation of the library. The celebration included Shazam Magic shows, a Treasure Hunt, Mr. Bob's storytelling, Face Painting, Crafts (supplied by Lakeshore Learning Store), a-cappella singing by The Larks and refreshments funded by the local Coldwell Banker Office.

Lady GaGa wins library award

OK, so maybe Lady Gaga didn't win a library award, but a pumpkin made to look like Lady Gaga won the 1st annual library pumpkin decoration contest. Over 500 members of the Cockeysville Community voted on 13 staff-decorated pumpkins. The winner was Lady GaGa by Angela Kidner. Runner-ups were 'The Hamburger' by Joanie Haines, 'The Fairy Princess' by Soheila Vasmenji and 'The Cat in the Hat' by Chris Mitchell.

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. 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	Mays Chapel North, Inc.	Topfield Condo	Tralee Forest Condo
Roundwood Ridge I & III	Overlook	Pebble Creek HO	Dunloy Condo
Longford North	Wellington Valley	Towns Of Doolan	Mays Chaple North
Foxford			

GTCC Trivia – Did You Know?

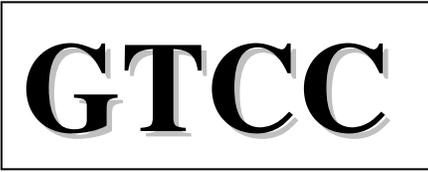
There is so much history and tradition here in both the *Greater GTCC and the Baltimore County* area that books could easily be written and filled with all the information. However, from time to time we will provide a source for the lighter side of our many Communities.

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

1. The Beaver Dam Swim Club is located at the site of an important nineteenth century commercial activity. What was it?
2. Name the first three turnpikes in the County.
3. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (B&O) founded in 1827 traversed Baltimore County. What was significant about its founding?
4. A castle once stood on the land that became the Loch Raven Reservoir. What was its name?

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. The Oregon Iron Furnace established in 1849 by Richard Green. The abandoned iron ore pit on the property is always full of water and provides a supervised swimming hole.
2. In 1804, Frederick, Reisterstown, and York Roads were incorporated as the first successful private turnpikes.
3. The B&O was the nation's first chartered common carrier railroad.
4. Glen Ellen. It was the birthplace and estate of Harry Gilmore, the notorious native son and Confederate raider. It had turrets and high mullioned windows, 18 rooms and one bathroom. It is now in ruins.



The Greater Timonium Community Council

The Next GTCC General Meeting is scheduled for November 10th at the Cockeysville Library 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. Thus far the project has not moved to the construction phase (E. Rockel)

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 proposed. This project has not moved beyond the preliminary concept stage. (E.Rockel)

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)

1734 York Road (Ridgely Plaza Shopping Center): Neighboring businesses report that Mercy Medical will occupy the vacant space previously used by Giant Foods. Additionally, a proposed “stealth cell phone tower” is being proposed for a space on the southern side of the property, but County officials informed the owner that a hearing would be required before permission is granted. (E. Rockel)

Pot Spring Road, South of Old Bosley Road: A ten acre parcel is under contract to a developer who wishes to construct 64 condominium units in an “over 55” age restricted development. A County Council resolution to allow for a Planned Unit Development review of the project was postponed due to neighboring owner’s objections. (E.Rockel, Dulaney Gate HOA, Springlake HOA, Timberline Park HOA)

Hunt Valley Crossing, 11119 McCormick Road: This existing Verizon-owned warehouse property is being proposed to be redeveloped as a 262 unit apartment complex under the Planned Unit Development guidelines. The project’s architectural design attractively fits into the Hunt Valley Business Community landscape. A community input meeting to learn about the project is scheduled for November 22, 7:00 PM, at the Hunt Valley complex of CCBC, just south of the project site. (GTCC Executive Committee)

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). GTCC continues to monitor this property. (E. Rockel, F. Regan, 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 currently has the Walgreen’s building constructed. The pad site recently received approval for the proposed building to be enlarged by approximately one third. (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)

Timonium Fairgrounds: Both the GTCC and adjoining neighborhood associations hope that the next Councilman will rectify the rezoning error in which 60 acres of this property were zoned for commercial usage during the Comprehensive Rezoning Process of 2008.

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 has 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 has 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. Don Rascoe, Deputy Director of Permits & Development Management recently reported that the owner has corrected the parking violations and that the owner has now complied with the Board of Appeals order to correct the problem (E. Rockel, and GTCC Executive Committee)

COMPLETED ISSUES

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. This case ultimately went to the Circuit Court, where the Judge ruled that the signage variance was not appropriate, and the tenant will have to remove certain signage on the building...(E. Rockel)

2340-2342 York Road: Request to expand a dentist offices, which necessitates variances to setbacks and driveway widths. Construction expected to begin in June 2010.(W. Timonium Heights)

10 Aylesbury Road: A special hearing recently granted permission to open a commercial recreational facility in the space formerly occupied by LAX World. The operator informs that this facility will exclusively serve children age 13 & under, accompanied by an adult, for recreational activities and children's parties. Look for the business to open later this summer. (E. Rockel)

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. 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)

302 North Avenue, Lutherville: The property owner was given a side yard variance in order to subdivide this parcel and construct a second house on a newly created second lot. The creation of the second lot will allow the owner to afford to rehabilitate the existing Victorian dwelling on the initial lot. (E. Rockel)

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. (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)

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. At a Hearing on January 15th, Deputy Zoning Commissioner Thomas Bostwick approved the amendment of the previous PUD plan (E.Rockel, J. Rogers & People's Counsel)