



The Greater Timonium Community Council

Volume XIII Issue III

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

May 2011

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***** NEWSLETTER *****

President's Message – Eric Rockel

So What's Wrong With Pragmatic?

Recently, the Baltimore Sun ran an editorial addressing County Executive Kevin Kamenetz's first budget. While not highly critical, the Sun's opening line read, "For a lawyer, Baltimore County Executive Kevin Kamenetz sounds an awful lot like an accountant these days", and the editorial went on to prod Kamenetz to share more of a vision on how he will make the quality of life better for county residents.

I don't know about you, but when the Sun's editorial board suggests that I follow path "A", I choose to take path "B" or path "C" instead. Big vision, quality of life programs are usually not done without a large infusion of tax dollars, and our nation's economic malaise will not allow for any new big ticket programs at present. The County's overall budget is more than \$2.6 billion, and a large portion of that money covers the school system's budget, approximately \$1.35 billion.

Mr. Kamenetz has chosen to be a realist in preparing his first budget, which reflects the austere times in which we live. He has removed 184 positions from the general County workforce, and he has accepted the School Superintendent's recommendation to remove approximately 190 teaching positions. Yet most of these reductions in both the general workforce and the school system are the result of transfers and retirements, not the result of a layoff. The County Executive has merged several offices that had overlapping responsibilities, and he has sought to use technology to reduce other costs. While other municipalities in other parts of the country are experiencing massive layoffs and significant reductions in services, I for one am satisfied that our Executive is approaching the budget in a responsible, pragmatic manner.

GTCC General Meeting & 'New' 2011 Meeting Calendar

The GTCC will hold their 'Next Meeting' on Wednesday, May 11th, 2011 at the Cockeysville Library Meeting Room, with meetings STILL beginning promptly at 7:00 PM.

Meetings are being held at the Cockeysville Library until further notice as the Ridgely Middle School has not been available to us at this time. Please check out website under the Meeting's Tab just prior to a meeting for any updates.

The Greater Timonium Community Council, Inc. (GTCC) is an umbrella organization with memberships of over 50+ area Community Associations which collectively represents some 60,000 residents throughout a 25 mile perimeter of the Greater Lutherville / Timonium / Cockeysville area. We are a vibrant organization which tries hard to maintain and improve the quality of life in our area. We pride ourselves in working with our elected officials, businesses and Community Associations to achieve these goals. Please feel free to attend one of our upcoming meetings and by all means, bring one or more of your Association members with you we look 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 2011

NOTICE !!!

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

Board of Directors 7:00 pm – 9:00pm

General Membership 7:00 pm – 9pm

February 09, 2011
April 13, 2011
June 08, 2011
August – No Meeting
October 12, 2011
December 14, 2011

January 12, 2011
March 09, 2011
May 11, 2011
July – No Meeting
September 14, 2011
November 09, 2011

*All Meetings are **NOW** Scheduled at the “Cockeysville Library” on the **DATES NOTED ABOVE !!!** Please check or Website or Newsletter before each meeting !*

Agenda and Speakers - GTCC May 11th, Meeting

1. Introductions
2. Treasurer’s Report and Membership Update
3. Report from the Cockeysville Precinct- Sgt. Markey
4. Featured Speaker: Arnold Jablon, Director, Ba.Co. Department of Permits, Approvals & Inspections
5. Maryland General Assembly Legislative Wrap Up
6. Old Business: Hunting in County Park Property
7. New Business

Annual 2011 GTCC Membership Dues – Frank Regan

GTCC ‘2011’ Membership dues of \$50 dollars for the year are due at this time. We had a great response from (50+) Associations contributing their Annual Membership dues payment last year! Dues notices for 2011 are being mailed out in March so if you don’t receive one or if you need a copy, please don’t hesitate to let us know. . Please send your 2011 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!

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. Please find our main website access at: www.GTCCINC.ORG

The Captain's Corner – Captain Martin Lurz

We have invited our Cocksylville 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 Marty Lurz:

As many of you are aware, I have sent out email alerts in the past concerning what we call "Deception Burglaries." For some reason, these types of incidents seem to increase with the arrival of warmer weather, although they can occur any time of the year. 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 by sending them this email or talking to them.

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. Sometimes, 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.

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.

Keep in mind that there are variations to this "scam" burglar. We have investigated deception burglaries that have used a ruse varying from the "package drop-off" scam (in which two suspects come to the door and ask the homeowner to accept a package for their neighbor. If they are allowed into the house, one will say she is thirsty and ask for water. As the homeowner walks the one to the kitchen and engages in conversation, the second one slips off and steals small valuables...very quickly!) to the Power Company / Water Department Employee scam (in which the suspect says he or she is an employee of one of the companies and needs to get to the basement to investigate a "problem in the lines or the pipes." When the homeowner walks that person down to the basement, the second suspect enters and steals the valuables.)

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, this is important and I'm not shouting but you need to 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. 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.

Finally, these burglars seem to bounce around the entire county and parts of the surrounding jurisdictions. 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....and please pass this along.

Captain Martin Lurz – Precinct 7

The Librarian's Corner – Mollie Fein

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:

“Goings on at the Cockeysville Library”

Mind Your Business

Make an appointment to meet with an adviser from the Small Business Resource Center and get the advice you need regarding business plan development, marketing, loan preparation, and minority business enterprise assistance. The adviser will be available for individual one-hour sessions at the Cockeysville Library on Tuesday, May 19th from 10 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. Registration is required.

Children's Book Week with Kevin Sherry

Children's book author/illustrator Kevin Sherry talks about his inspiration and career on Saturday, May 7th at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Sherry, author of 'Best Artist in the Ocean' and 'Acorns Everywhere' presents an interactive presentation; Topics include what inspired him as a child, the beginning of his career, and his Squidfire T-shirt business.

Have you tried a 'Playaway'?

The 'Playaway' is a simple way to listen to audio on the go. The 'Playaway' is about the size of a deck of playing cards and weighs a mere 2 ounces, storing up to 80 hours of audio. Simply plug in ear buds and a battery and enjoy. The 'Playaways' are a Cockeysville Library customer favorite. Stop at the Information desk for more information.

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	Dulaney Gate		

The Councilman's Corner – Vicki Almond and Todd Huff

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 articles this month are from Vicki and Todd:

2nd District - Councilwoman Vicki Almond

On December 6, 2010, I took the oath of office and became your Councilwoman. Thank you for the trust and faith you have shown by putting me in this office and for the kindness and friendship so many people have given to me over these first 100 days.

As someone who served as a community leader for 30 years prior to my election, one of my goals has been to meet with as many groups in our community as possible. In these first 100 days I have talked with hundreds and hundreds of people in our area. I have done far more listening than speaking. The good news is that most people genuinely like living in our Northwest Baltimore County communities. People are focused on how to improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. Towards that end, the first two pieces of legislation that I sponsored were the Greenspring-East Pikesville and the Ruxton-Riderwood Community Plans. These documents were created with the leadership and support of people in these neighborhoods. The community plans will offer guidance to both the Planning Board and me when projects arise in our district.

Public safety is always a top priority. I have been privileged to meet with many men and women who keep us safe. I have toured fire stations attended Police Community Relations Council meetings and met with leaders of the Police, Fire and EMS services. I have learned about the difficulty of fighting fires in communities that do not have hydrants, and with a heavy heart I attended the funeral of our fallen hero Mark G. Falkenhan. We are fortunate in Baltimore County to have such dedicated public servants protecting our families.

A strong public school system is critical for Baltimore County. I have discussed education issues with leaders of our Baltimore County Public Schools, our teachers, and our parents. I am proud that the first bill on which I testified in Annapolis as a Councilwoman concerned education. HB 160 was not only sponsored by one of my district's delegates, Steve Lafferty, but received the bi-partisan co-sponsorship of all of the 2nd District's other delegates. I am also proud of the stand that the County Council has taken demanding that BCPS reconsider its enforcement of Rule 1300. This policy has negatively impacted so many important groups and wonderful events in our County. I trust that BCPS will do the right thing. I have also enjoyed meeting with leaders of our private schools, both secular and religious, to learn of the issues that they are facing.

People in Baltimore County also need good jobs. I have met with leaders of our business community, chambers of commerce, and the County's Economic Development department to ensure that we are doing all that we can to create a business climate where companies want to invest and grow in Baltimore County.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your Councilwoman. I will work together with County Executive Kevin Kamenetz, Council Chairman John Olszewski and the rest of the County Council to meet the challenges facing Baltimore County. If I have not had the pleasure of meeting you yet, I hope that our paths will cross in the coming months.

3rd District - Councilman Todd Huff

Just as the days are getting warmer so are things heating up in Baltimore County. Budget season was launched on April 14th as the County Executive presented his budget message. The County Council must adopt the budget on May 26th but prior to that adoption we go through quite a lengthy process. The Council's role is one of review - we only have the power to remove items from the budget; we may not add to what is presented by the County Executive. As a businessman in these challenging economic times, I understand the pressures, concerns and stress that many of you have expressed to me. Despite these difficult tidings, Baltimore County has been able to maintain its Triple 'A' bond rating. I assure you that I give great thought and scrutiny to each item to ensure fiscal responsibility to my constituents and all of our citizens.

On the legislative front, I am proud to say that my bill, 16-11, to remove panhandlers from ALL of our roads was adopted and is now law. This means that if you see someone who is asking for money you should call the police who will respond and remove the panhandler from the streets. I was also the lead sponsor on Bill 21-11, passed last week, which authorizes a

deer coordinator program at County owned parks. As many of you know, our watersheds have been devastated by the overpopulation of deer who have destroyed the understory which protects the reservoirs. Loch Raven alone provides water to nearly two million people. This fact combined with the very high number of vehicular collisions with deer convinced me that immediate action was needed. Oregon Ridge Park is the number one priority and I imagine that Cromwell Valley Park will be the second County owned park that will undertake a deer coordinator program. The Council will continue to look at other non-lethal methods for culling the herd.

I very much appreciate the opportunity that the Greater Timonium Community Council has given me in allowing me to contribute to your newsletter. Please do not hesitate to call upon me or my staff at any time that we can be of assistance. My Senior Council Aide is Marcie Goodman and my Legislative Aides are Robin Troy and C.R. Hogendorp. We may be reached at 410-887-3387 or via e-mail at council3@baltimorecountymd.gov.

Best wishes to all for a happy and safe Memorial Day holiday.

iWatch, iReport, iKeep Us Safe – Frank Regan

iWatch Baltimore County is a neighborhood awareness program created to educate and encourage citizens to vigilantly watch around them and report suspicious behaviors that may have connections to crime, as well as local, state, or national security threats. The Baltimore County Police Department has initiated this community partnership to help and assist local neighborhoods in staying safe from crime and possible terrorist activities. Together we can make our streets safe for our families and children, and can prevent our communities from being the target of possible terrorist attacks.

Subscribe to iWatch Crime Alerts: <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/police/media/iWatch/index.html>

iWatch crime alerts provide information about wanted criminals, missing persons, criminal arrests, and other significant cases. In many of these cases the public's help is requested to help identify or locate a suspect. You can make a difference by alerting police to information you may have about crime trends and wanted criminals. Receive iWatch crime alerts directly in your e-mail inbox when you subscribe to this free service. iWatch crime alerts provide the most immediate information available to the public from the Police Department and are also available on the County web site.

Report Suspicious Activity !!! Citizens are encouraged to report activity that just does not fit. You can now use our web tips form to submit a tip or report suspicious activity to police. Information can be sent from your cell phone, hand-held device, or computer 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Tips can also be e-mailed to: iwatch@baltimorecountymd.gov. However, to report an emergency or a crime in progress call“911” immediately.

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.baltimorecountymd.gov/Subscribe>
- ***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.baltimorecountymd.gov/Subscribe/updates/index.html>

GTCC Trivia – Did You Know?

There is so much history and tradition here in both the greater GTCC and the Baltimore County areas 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 and interesting sides of our many Communities.

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

1. The first deed in Baltimore County was filed in 1664. Where was the property?
2. What is "Towson's Light-House"?
3. Who were the last five County Executives prior to our current Executive, Kevin Kamenetz?

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. *In 1664, the property of Captain Thomas Todd, known as "Todd's Inheritance" was recorded. The original house on old North Point Road was burned by the British during the War of 1812. This structure was supposedly built of English brick that had served as ballast on tobacco ships that came directly to the plantation to load. For several years after the War, the Todd family lived in a granary on the property until a new brick house was finished in 1816. This structure can be seen today.*

2. *A genuine hero of the War of 1812 was native son General Nathan Towson who had a 40 year career in the army and was considered to be the "ablest artillery officer" in the United States. He was born in Towson in 1794 and was primarily a farmer until he joined the Baltimore militia when the British attacked the frigate Chesapeake in 1807. During the War of 1812 he fought in the Lake Erie theater and rose quickly through the ranks. His battery unit won the day in two important engagements in 1814 and became known as Towson's Light-House from their constant flashes of rapid fire.*

3. *The last five County Executives were Hutchinson, Rasmussen, Hayden, Ruppertsberger and Smith.*

The Legislator's Corner – Annapolis Legislative Summaries

We have 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. The following articles have been graciously submitted by the following legislators from the Districts within GTCC. The summary articles of the 2011 Annapolis Legislative Session this month are from the 42nd and 11th Legislative Districts:

42nd District – Senator Jim Brochin

The 2011 legislative session presented a number of challenges. Constitutionally, the Maryland General Assembly is required to pass a balanced budget. Despite some reservations, I supported this budget because it maintained our priorities in education, public safety, healthcare, and protecting our natural resources.

The State budget has provided our district with crucial funding for school construction. Past budgets made the new elementary school in West Towson a reality. This year's budget includes \$250 million for statewide school construction. Specifically, the budget provides funds for the installation of air conditioning at Ridgely Middle, and a much-needed addition at Hampton Elementary. I am also pleased that \$2 million in planning money is now available for an addition at Stoneleigh Elementary.

While I have concerns about the sustainability of our pension system, we struck a compromise that increased public employees' contribution levels from 5% to 7%, doubled their vesting time from 5 to 10 years, and decreased their multiplier. This compromise will save taxpayers millions in future years.

Mounting frustration by constituents in our district over texting and the tragic texting stories that I have heard in my committee made it apparent to me that I should introduce legislation to stop this deadly habit. As a result, I introduced a bill that will prohibit using a text messaging device to read a text message while operating a motor vehicle. Once signed by the governor, this ban will go into effect on October 1st.

Your support on these and other issues has been great, and I just wanted to let you know what a true honor it is to represent you. If I can ever be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 410-823-7087 or jim.brochin@senate.state.md.us. I look forward to seeing you over the summer.

At the end of the end of the 428th Session of the Maryland General Assembly, I would like to convey what an honor it has been to represent Baltimore County's 11th District in the Maryland State Senate. This Session presented a number of challenges. The primary responsibility of the General Assembly was to pass a balanced budget while maintaining our priorities in education, public safety, healthcare, and protecting our natural resources. Despite limited revenue, we were able to greatly reduce our structural deficit without jeopardizing essential services and our #1 rank in public education. I would like to highlight some of the issues I worked on in public safety and I encourage you to read my full legislative report at bobbyzirkin.com.

Legislation passed this year will help make Maryland roads a safer place for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians. First, the General Assembly addressed drunk driving through the passage of House Bill 1276, which expands the use of the Ignition Interlock System Program. A driver must participate in the program if he or she is convicted of driving under the influence with a .15 blood alcohol concentration, receives a second conviction within a 5-year time frame, or is under 21 years of age. The use of the interlock is in addition to any license suspension and/or jail time for drunk drivers. While this bill is not as strong as the version I cosponsored that would require mandatory participation for all offenders, it sends the message that there are serious repercussions for driving drunk. Second, I was proud to be the Senate floor leader for House Bill 363, the "Criminal Negligence Bill," which creates a crime for killing an individual in an auto accident if the person was acting in gross deviation from the standard of care. This legislation, modeled after the Model Penal Code, creates a criminal misdemeanor with a sentence of up to 3 years in prison and/or a fine not to exceed \$5,000.

The General Assembly considered several bills that would enable law enforcement to better prosecute human traffickers and protect the victims. I co-sponsored and fought for many of these bills, including SB 247, which would authorize the State to seize property and funds associated with human trafficking and to use that revenue to combat traffickers. SB 299 adds trafficking to the list of offenses that can be investigated through wiretapping and electronic surveillance. SB 327, The Human Trafficking Victim Protection Act, allows courts to order a defendant convicted of human trafficking to pay restitution to the victim. The Act further allows the court to vacate certain offenses from the victim's record if those actions were the result of having been a victim of human trafficking. I worked on legislation for victims of domestic violence as well, co-sponsoring SB 50, which would provide victims with temporary housing assistance from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund. Additionally, I fought for a bill allowing an extension of a peace order after the 6 month limit if good cause is shown to a court.

The General Assembly worked on a broad range of issues affecting children and youth. I co-sponsored SB 151 to ban infant formula containers manufactured with Bisphenol-A (BPA), a harmful compound found in many plastics. This year, we also passed a bill that will mitigate the hazardous effects of concussions on student athletes. SB 771 requires State and local boards to bring greater awareness about this injury to parents and students, and it requires a student suspected of having a concussion to be removed from the field until cleared by a medical professional. I was proud to work with Lieutenant Governor Anthony Brown to pass SB 178, criminalizing child neglect. The bill makes it a misdemeanor for a person with temporary or permanent care of a child to neglect that child. The offender is subject to a maximum prison sentence of 5 years and/or a fine up to \$5,000.

I sponsored Senate Bill 809, which closes a loophole in the bail bond industry. Some bondsmen in the industry have made a business practice of filing frivolous appeals while failing to pay bond forfeitures. This practice has clogged our court system and kept defendants who have jumped bail out on the street. SB 809 forces bondsman to pay the forfeiture if the defendant fails to appear, and the bond is refunded upon the defendant appearing before court in a timely manner. I also co-sponsored SB 174, which expands the prohibition on the use of handguns in a crime of violence to include all firearms.

As many of you may know, I have long advocated for juvenile justice reform. This year I introduced Senate Bill 200, which will require the Department of Juvenile Services to release recidivism rates for all children committed to residential care facilities and the recidivism rates for the individual facilities. This requirement is an important step in evaluating the effectiveness of Maryland's juvenile justice system and its facilities.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to call my legislative office (410.841.3131) or contact me at bobby.zirkin@senate.state.md.us.

11th District – Delegate Dana Stein

During this year's legislative session, we grappled with difficult budget issues and controversial social matters. Many constituents emailed, wrote or called to express their opinion on bills that we considered and I want to thank everyone who contacted me. I am honored to represent you in the House of Delegates and to be part of the 11th District team, which includes Senator Bobby Zirkin, Delegate Jon Cardin, and Delegate Dan Morhaim.

I am pleased that the General Assembly approved five of my bills, including:

House Bill 972 -- International Green Construction Code. This bill allows local jurisdictions to adopt the International Green Construction Code (IGCC), which provides for more “green” and energy efficient features in building construction. The IGCC provides model code language to establish baseline regulations for new and existing buildings related to energy conservation, water efficiency, site impacts, building waste, materials and other considerations.

HB 679 -- Condominium Insurance Requirements. This bill allows condominium associations to require unit owners to purchase unit insurance coverage by a vote of 51% of members. This insurance would cover the \$5,000 deductible on master insurance policies that unit owners are responsible for. This bill arose from the fact that without this unit owner insurance, condo associations frequently must absorb the cost of this deductible when there is damage to a unit.

HB 908 -- Motor Vehicle Leasing Advertisements. Presently, some advertisements for the lease of motor vehicles promote prices calculated by including reductions in price that are only available to some people, such as individuals serving in the military. This bill requires that persons advertising vehicle leases must take into account certain fees and may not include discounts that are not available to all potential customers in calculating advertised lease rates.

Regarding the budget, we made some tough choices to pass a balanced budget. As enacted, the fiscal 2012 budget will:

- **Reduce the structural budget gap by 42%** – Budget forecasts predicted that the structural gap between revenues and spending for FY 2012 would have been almost \$2 billion. Significant budget cuts by the General Assembly and limited fee increases have reduced that gap by 42 %.
- **Maintain the State's commitment to public schools** – Total State support for the public schools will increase by \$41 million to about \$5.8 billion, which reflects level funding per student.
- **Protect investments in higher education** – State colleges and universities will receive about \$1.2 billion in State funds (essentially level funding), and will allow the institutions to limit tuition increases to 3%. Aid to community colleges and private colleges and universities is also not reduced below FY 2011 levels.
- **Maintain 5% of general fund balance in rainy day fund** – The budget will result in a fund balance of about \$50 million. In addition, the balance in the State's Rainy Day Fund will be \$681 million, or 5% of general fund revenues at the end of fiscal 2012.
- **Make changes to state employee fringe benefits** – State employees will be required to contribute more for retirement benefits. While a difficult decision, this will preserve a defined benefit program for retirees and improve the long-term stability of the system. Health benefits will continue to be comprehensive and affordable for State employees and retirees, though employee/retiree contributions will go up moderately.

Thank you again for the opportunity to represent the 11th District in the General Assembly. If you have any questions or concerns or suggestions for legislation, please contact me. I can be reached at 410-841-3527 or dana.stein@house.state.md.us.

42nd District – Delegate Sue Aumann

Thank you for contacting my office during the 2011 Legislative Session of the Maryland Assembly. I appreciate the time you took to let me know your views on issues that concerned you. I have taken these opinions into consideration and used them while deliberating.

This year I again served on the Transportation and Environmental Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee. I continue to serve on the Oversight Committee on Personnel, Oversight Committee on Pensions, Joint Committee for Audits,

Capital Budget

The Capital Budget allows the State of Maryland to borrow money by bonding for projects. The State will be authorizing the Treasurer to sell bonds in the amount of \$940 million. Included in the Capital Budget is money to repay the Special Funded accounts that were raided such as: Program Open Space, Chesapeake Bay Fund, Helicopter Fund and others. Constitutionally, the debt service is paid by a portion of our property taxes. We are paying over \$1 Billion per year in debt service. As I have reported in my Capital Budget power point presentation (see the attachment) the taxes received to pay for the debt we are incurring is not keeping pace to cover the interest cost and will cause the property taxes to increase to an estimated 17.5 cents per one hundred dollars of assessed value by 2016.

I strategized a group of reasonable amendments offered to the Capital Budget that would reduce the borrowing by:

- 5% - failed – would have reduced the authorization by \$47 million
- 3% - failed – would have reduced the authorizations by \$28 million
- 1% - failed – would have reduced the authorizations by \$9 million

Even during these austere times, the legislature was not willing to cut even 1% of borrowing.

An amendment was offered to strike the “earmarks” in the Capital Budget, bond bills that equal \$15 million, \$7.5 million for the House and \$7.5 million for the Senate. The local bond bill earmark process encourages political patronage at its worst. This process needs serious reforming.

I heard you during the campaign – “our government should spend within its means and cut back just like our families have been doing”. Everyone has been affected by this recession; the State should not add any more pressure for tax increases.

Maryland Pension Plan

The Maryland Pension plan has been highly debated this session as a result of reducing the deficit pending in the fund. The following chart outlines the actions taken by the Conference Committee regarding Pension Reform.

1. Average Final Compensation

The calculation of an employee’s final compensation figure will use five consecutive years with the highest average (up from three years), but alter the item so that it applies only to new employees and does not affect non-vested employees. Apply the same method to all systems and not just those in Employee’s and Teacher’s Pension Systems (EPS/TPS).

2. Employee Contributions and Benefits – Current Employees

Alter the benefits for current EPS/TPS employees such that their employee contributions will increase from 5.0% to 7.0% of salary to continue receiving the 1.8% multiplier for each year of service earned, with no election between options. Add a stepped increase for the contribution rates of current Law Enforcement Officers Pension System (LEOPS) employees so that the rate will increase from the current 4.0% of salary to 6.0% in fiscal 2012 and from 6.0% to 7.0% in fiscal 2013, but the 2.0% multiplier is unchanged. Alter the Budget Reconciliation Financing Act (BRFA) to apply an increase in contribution rates from 6.0 % to 8.0% for current judges.

3. Employee Contributions and Benefits – New Employees

Create a new system under which new EPS/TPS employees must contribute 7.0% of salary to earn a 1.5% multiplier in exchange for each year of service and concur with the increase in the contribution rates for new judges from 6.0% to 8.0% of salary. Increase the LEOPS contribution rate for new employees to 6.0% in fiscal 2012 and to 7.0% in fiscal 2013, while retaining the 2.0% multiplier.

4. Vesting Period for Employees

Raise the time requirement from 5 to 10 years for new employees in EPS/TPS. Apply the higher year requirement to all systems (except Judge's).

5. Early Retirement Allowance EPS/TPS - New Employees

Increase EPS/TPS early retirement so that new employees must be at least age 60 (up from age 55) and have 15 years of service to be eligible for early retirement, with a corresponding reduction to the benefit of 0.5% for every month early the employee retires before age 65 (up from age 62).

The retirement age changes for **new** hires. Future employees will have to wait until they are 65 to retire with 10 years on the job or they can leave when their years of work plus their age equals 90. This is called the "Rule of 90". The vesting period will be 10 years before the employee can draw benefits. This change goes into effect July 1, 2011.

Current employees are vested after five years of employment and can retire after 30 years at any age or once they reach 62.

6. Normal EPS/TPS Retirement Eligibility – New Employees

Change the eligibility requirement for new EPS/TPS employees to be 30 years of service regardless of age, or age 65 (up from age 62) with at least 10 years of service (up from 5 years).

7. Normal Retirement Eligibility Other Systems – New Employees

Increase State Police eligibility from age 50 or 22 years of service to age 50 or 25 years of service for new Police employees.

8. Cost-of-living Adjustments – EPS/TPS

Amend the BRFA so that cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) for all service credit earned by current and new employees after July 1, 2011, be capped at 3% in any year the State Retirement and Pension System (SRPS) achieves its assumed rate of return and capped at 1% else wise (instead of this COLA provision being exclusively applied to new employees).

9. Cost-of-living Adjustments – Other Systems

The COLA will be adjusted for all service credits earned in all systems after July 1, 2011, to be capped at 3% in any year the SRPS achieves its assumed rate of return and capped at 1% else wise (instead of only being applicable to EPS/TPS).

10. Deferred Retirement Option Program

The State maintains a Deferred Retirement Option Program benefit, but specify that all new accounts begun after July 1, 2011, will earn 4% compounded annual interest instead of the current 6% compounded monthly interest.

Summary Chart

	Current Members	Future Members
Employee Contributions	Increase from 5% to 7%	7%
Law Enforcement Officers Pension System (LEOPS)	Increase from 4% to 6% for 2012 Increase from 6% to 7% in 2013	6% in 2012 7% in 2013
Multiplier - Employee Pension System/Teachers Pension System (EPS/TPS)	1.8%	1.5%
Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA)	For all service credit earned after July 1, 2011 Capped at 2.5 % If investment return of 7.75% is achieved Capped at 1% if 7.75% is not achieved	Capped at 2.5 % If investment return of 7.75% is achieved Capped at 1% if 7.75% is not achieved
Average Final Compensation	No change – all systems	Correctional Retirement System (CORS) & State Police 5 highest years of salary (up from 3 years) only new employees EPS, TPS, LEOPS – 5 highest consecutive years of salary.
Vesting	No change	Increase from 5 to 10 years
Early Retirement	No change	Must be at least 60 years of age (up

		from 55) and have 15 years of service – reduction of 0.5% for every month early before age 65 (up from 62)
Normal Retirement Eligibility (EPS/TPS)	No change	Rule of 90 (age + service = 90), or age 65 with at least 10 years of service
Normal Retirement Eligibility Other Systems	No change	State Police increase to age 50 or 25 years of service (up from 22 years of service)
Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)	Continue with 6% interest compounded monthly	New accounts begun after July 1, 2011 will earn 4% compounded annual interest

Retiree Prescription Plan Changes

In regards to health care changes, new employees will have to work for 25 years before they are eligible for full health care benefits. Current workers receive the full benefits after 16 years of work.

Conference Committee Retiree Prescription Plan Changes

	Retiree Copays Mirror Active Plan but Out of Pocket Max is Higher and Share of the Premium Increases
Co-pays	
Generic	\$10
Preferred brand	\$25
Non-preferred brand	\$40
Deductible	\$0
Coinsurance	\$0
Out-of-pocket cap for retiree only/ retiree & spouse	\$1,500/\$2,000
Annual retiree premium	
retiree only	\$593
retiree & spouse	\$984
Monthly retiree premium	
retiree only	\$49.42
retiree & spouse	\$82.00
Retiree share of total premium	25%
General fund savings	\$13.9 million

SB 167 – Public Institutions of Higher Education – Tuition Rates – Exemptions

The House of Delegates gave approval to SB 167 giving illegal immigrants in-state tuition at community colleges and state universities. During second reading on Thursday April 7, there were over a dozen amendments offered during the almost three hour debate. The Senate passed the bill three weeks ago. The amendments that were offered by the members of the House of Delegates are listed at www.mlis.state.md.us, click on “Bill Information” and type SB 167 or type <http://mlis.state.md.us/2011rs/billfile/SB0167.htm>. This is crazy. I voted against this bill but it passed the House floor with a vote of 74-66.

The State will be in violation of Federal Law. Our taxpayers will have to foot the bill to pay the cost of defending this. We have obligations to our legal citizen in providing them with access to our States quality schools. If anyone in Maryland graduates or has enough credits from one of our community colleges, they have automatic acceptance to our Public University. This means if an illegal alien graduates from Baltimore Community College, they get a priority over our legal student graduating from a Maryland High School.

Senate Bill 172/House Bill 302 - Inmates - Life Imprisonment - Parole Approval

Originally the Governor was required to grant the parole or commutations to criminals serving life sentences who have served 25 years without application of diminution of confinement credits if recommended by the Parole Review Board.

The current bill indicates that the decision by the Parole Review Board shall be transmitted to the Governor; authorizing the Governor to **disapprove** the decision by written transmittal to the Board, providing if the Governor does not disapprove the decision within 180 days after receipt, the decision becomes effective. Meaning, if the Governor does not take action in that time frame, the bill would automatically grant the inmate parole.

This decreases accountability by the Governor for public safety. If the Governor does not have time to review the submission by the Parole Review Board, the criminal will be paroled. We are talking about murderers and rapists. Getting tough on crime is diluted with this bill. “We need to stand for justice for the victims and their families.”

The bill passed the House with a vote of 75-65. I voted against this bill because it is bad public policy.

Offshore Wind Energy

Governor O’Malley’s Offshore Wind Energy Bill will allow national exposure to this initiative. He may be touted as the “Green Governor”. This title will leave Maryland’s consumers paying more for energy.

The Sage Policy Group, Inc. with economist Anirban Basu, issued a report that did not recommend offshore wind energy for our Marylanders because it would cost two to two and one-half times the cost of the renewable energy options. The offshore wind power could cost \$1 billion at a minimum of a 20-year commitment that will be imposed on virtually every Maryland household and businesses.

Our Marylanders pay 28-33% above the national average for their electricity needs. Remember the year 2002, when Baltimore Gas and Electric was charging the Baltimore area approximately 72% more. I live in that area and my bills have gone up dramatically, as I am sure yours have. Economist Basu notes that increasing the cost to ratepayers could hurt Maryland’s overall business climate and become a comparative disadvantage with respect to retaining and attracting business and investment.

The offshore wind initiatives will offer 20 year contracts with guaranteed price increases. The Governor has suggested that this would be a job creation enterprise. Basu concludes that the economic impacts of constructing an offshore wind facility would largely inure to the benefits of non-Marylanders: “The Specialty labor that would be required to build these marine structures is not likely to be found primarily in Maryland.” The major suppliers of marine wind turbines are foreign manufacturer (Siemens of Germany and Vestas of Denmark). The specialized construction is modeled off of the already existing offshore oil and gas industries which are based out of Texas and Louisiana.

Basu concludes that: forced purchases of very expensive energy are not the answer. An extremely long-term contract with built-in and thus guaranteed price increases simply removes the basic incentives that have benefited A Maryland’s electricity customers to date. The Maryland taxpayer will pay the tab for the next 20 years. Because there needs to be more time to study the impact on the state’s ratepayers, this bill is shelved for this year.

For more information on wind energy please see The Wall Street Journal entitled "Wind Power Hits a Trough" dated April 5th regarding wind power: http://online.wsj.com/article_email/SB10001424052748704629104576190812458488694-1MyQjAxMTAxMDAwNjEwNDYyWj.html

Maryland Lawmakers Pass Direct Wine Shipping

On the evening of April 4th the Senate passed SB248 and House Bill 234 allowing state wineries to ship wine to customers. Maryland will become the 38th state along with DC to allow wine shipping. I have been in the General Assembly for nine years and each year we have tried to get this passed. I am very pleased. The wineries may purchase a permit for \$200.00 to ship wine. The bill does not allow retailers to participate in the Wine of the Month Club to ship wine to customers from Maryland. After it is signed by the Governor it will be effective on July 1, 2011, my birthday. Let's raise a glass together.

HB 1213 sales and Use Tax-Alcoholic Beverages-Supplement Appropriation

Retailers and restaurants will have to implement a 50% increase in the alcohol tax by July 1, 2011. It will require that retailers and restaurants to reprogram their computer systems to install a two tier taxation system and re-train the staff that serves food and alcohol.

In addition the bill contains an unfair distribution in the tax proceeds to the rural counties for school construction dollars. It was a sponsor only bill, taken up late on Saturday evening which did not allow the citizens to vet their concerns on how the changes would affect their businesses. The Crack Pot Restaurant and Ridgley Liquors had contacted me and raised points that it will cost jobs and the implication of the reprogramming of computer systems during the busiest weekend would be extremely damaging.

Many of businesses have said they are just hanging on. Our family business closed after 107 years in business. Our people are hurting. This is a painful abuse of power by not allowing the full vetting of the bill again leaving the weary citizens in a struggling economy.

House Bill 1012/Senate Bill 803- Drunk Driving Elimination Act

This bill requires, rather than authorizes, the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to establish an Ignition Interlock System Program, with a fee to cover program costs, and to establish minimum standards for all service providers. The bill requires, rather than permits, participation from persons who have been convicted of specified alcohol-related driving offenses. A person who is required to participate in the program must successfully complete it or that person is subject to suspension of the driver's license. MVA must require the person to complete the program successfully. If the person required to participate fails to successfully complete the program, MVA is required to suspend the driver's license for a period of six months for a first violation of driving while under the influence of alcohol, under the influence *per se*, or impaired by alcohol, and one year for a second or subsequent violation. I voted for this bill and it passed the House floor on April 8, 2011.

Other Bills of Interest

House Bill 1034 - Clean the Streams and Beautify the Bay Act of 2011 - Requiring a store to charge and collect a fee for each disposable carryout bag the store provides to a customer. This bill did not make it out of the Environmental Matters Committee.

House Bill 870 – Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund - Requiring the Maryland Technology Development Corporation and the Stem Cell Research Commission to report to the public on the progress of State-funded stem cell research by holding a public symposium on or before January 1 each year. This bill received an unfavorable in the Health and Government Operations Committee.

House Bill 674 – Human Trafficking – Awareness - Requiring the State Department of Education, in collaboration with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, to provide awareness and training for Directors of Student Services in local education agencies on human trafficking; and requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, in consultation with experts in the field of human trafficking prevention, to provide to the State Department of Education specified information and materials on human trafficking. This bill passed the House and Senate and awaits the Governor's signature. I was a co-sponsor of this bill.

House Bill 291 - Public Health - Maryland Medical Marijuana Model Program Work Group - Requiring the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to convene a Work Group to develop a model program, including draft legislation, to facilitate patient access to marijuana for medical purposes. This bill, now a model program, passed the House and Senate and awaits the Governor's signature. I was a co-sponsor of this bill.

House of Delegates Scholarship

After much deliberation Delegate Bill Frank and I have decided to allow the Maryland Higher Education Commission process our District 42 Delegate Scholarship. To be eligible for the scholarship you must fill out a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Form by March 1st to be considered for the scholarship as well as all State need-based grants. The scholarship will be distributed to District 42 students.

Visits to Annapolis

During the 2011 Legislative Session Towson High School's Law and Policy Class, Towson University's Women's Swim and Diving Team, Calvert Hall's football team, students from St. Pius and Immaculate Conception, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and residents from District 42 visited the General Assembly. If you or your group would like to visit our state government in action please contact our office and we can set up a tour of the State House and government buildings.

Low House Office Building Renovation

Please note that my Annapolis office will be closed from May through September due to the replacement of the asbestos ceilings in the Lowe House Office Building. My legislative assistant, Myra will be telecommuting during this timeframe. If you need to contact me please call 410-841-3258 and we will continue to provide prompt attention to your concerns and issues.

Again, I want to thank you for the privilege of allowing me to represent you. The experience has been rewarding and humbling and I look forward to serving you in the interim. During the legislative session I send, via email, an update to keep you informed of pending legislation and highlights of the General Assembly's agenda. If you would like to be included in next year's legislative updates, please call my office at 410-841-3258 or send me an email at susan.aumann@house.state.md.us.



The Greater Timonium Community Council

The Next GTCC General Meeting is scheduled for May 11th 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. A zoning hearing was held on March 3, 2011 to allow Mercy Medical to increase the size of the building by approximately 3,000 sq. feet. As of April 30th, this medical facility is opened. (E. Rockel)

Pot Spring Road, South of Old Bosley Road: A ten acre parcel is under contract to a developer who wishes to construct an “over 55” age restricted development. Originally proposed as a four, 4-story building complex, the plans have been changed to call for 33 carriage style units. This parcel would require PUD approval because the number of units exceeds the density permitted under the current zoning. At a community meeting on the proposal, nearly 200 residents expressed opposition to the increased density on the site. (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 produced no objections to the project from nearby residential communities. However, nearby businesses did raise some objections. (GTCC Executive Committee)

Spencer’s Crossing, West Timonium Road: This housing development, just west of the I-83 interchange, had originally been proposed to be a large day care center. Through negotiations with the developer and an offer to support increased housing density on the site, a residential housing development became approved in lieu of the day care facility. One unit was completed, as well as a model home, and several units are partially completed. Recently, it was learned that the property has gone up for foreclosure, and a public auction took place on March 9. The lender failed to sell the property at auction.(E. Rockel and PVVW Community Assoc.)

Timonium Fairgrounds: Assistant General Manager Andy Cashman informed us that a multi-purpose maintenance building will be constructed on the north end of the Fairgrounds in the coming months. This maintenance building is one story, and it backs up to the Turf Inn Office building. Cashman also informed us that they plan to replace the existing “event” sign due to its functional obsolescence. (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). GTCC continues to monitor this property. (E. Rockel, F. Regan, GTCC Executive Committee.)

York & Ridgely Roads: The former Lincoln/Mercury dealership has been converted to a Walgreen Drug Store and pad site. 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 Council 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 office, 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)

Historic Photo: *The Lutherville Volunteer Fire Department 1900 - 1920*

