



The Greater Timonium Community Council

Volume X Issue II

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

March 2008

President: Eric Rockel, 410-252-8439
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

We Can't Afford to be Silent!

Back in January, I wrote about the proposed zoning change at the Timonium Fairgrounds. Presently zoned Manufacturing Light, the Fairgrounds seeks to upgrade its entire 100 plus acres to a commercial zoning classification, Business Roadside. Since that time, some Community Associations have been proactive in urging its members to write Councilman McIntire voicing opposition to this requested change, but there are a number of associations that have not been heard from. Frankly, silence just helps the Fairgrounds cause. If the decision makers feel the residents are not interested, the zoning may get changed. I urge every resident of the Lutherville/Timonium/Cockeysville area to write their Councilman about this important matter.

Residents of the Sherwood Hills community are concerned about Bill Kidd's plans to move its Volvo sales facility to 10525 York Road, formerly the site of the Unfinished Furniture Shoppe. Recently the Deputy Zoning Commissioner approved a request to allow commercial parking in a residentially zoned portion of the site, along with the request to allow the buffer to adjoining residential properties to be reduced from 50 feet to ten feet. The residents are contemplating opposing this ruling, and they appear to be galvanized in an attempt to halt the creep of commercial development into the residential zone.

The neighborhood of Orchard Hills is equally concerned about the proposed zoning changes for the corner of York Road and Cavan Drive that would pave way for a bank to relocate to that site. Not only does the requested change to commercial zoning affect the corner property, but two additional residences along Cavan Drive would also be changed. From their perspective, not only has this location been of residential use traditionally, but if zoning is changed in this instance, what is to prevent a similar spread of commercial zoning along Othoridge Road or Westbury Road or other streets that intersect York Road as well.

The Greater Timonium Community Council continues to support these and other Associations in their efforts to maintain the residential integrity of their communities. But remember, just don't show concern about what is happening in your immediate neighborhood, but, show support efforts for the entire area to remain a valued residential community. Unless you invest time in these efforts, you will be promoting erosion to mediocrity in our Community and Neighborhoods.

GTCC General Meeting – Next Wednesday, March 12th, 2008

The GTCC will hold their 'Next Meeting' on Wednesday, March 12th, 2008 at the Cockeysville Library Meeting Room, on Greenside Dr., Cockeysville with *meetings STILL beginning promptly at 7:00 PM.*

GTCC General Meeting – 2008 Calendar of Scheduled Meetings Dates

GTCC

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

NOTICE !!!

CALENDAR 2008

NOTICE !!!

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

Board of Directors 7:00 pm – 9:00pm

General Membership 7:00 pm – 9pm

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

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

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

Agenda and Speakers - GTCC March 12th Meeting - Tentative Schedule.....

- Introductions
- Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports
- Report on Safety in the Cockeysville Precinct
- York Road Reconstruction Update-Tom Briggs St. Highway Administration
- Review of Planning Board Hearing on CZMP Issues
- 2046 York Road- Zoning Hearing
- 10525 York Road- Bill Kidd Volvo- Zoning Hearing
- Old Business
- New Business

Traffic Calming for Cinder Road

Cinder Road between York and Pot Spring qualified for traffic calming measures and Public Works had drawn up plans to install speed humps and traffic calming islands there. The community had approved the plans and construction has been completed at end of last year. **Information:** 410- 887-3554

Annual GTCC Membership Dues – Marge DiNardo

GTCC '2008' Membership dues of \$50 dollars for the year are due at this time. We have had a good response from (33) Associations contributing their Annual Membership dues payment thus far for this year! Dues notices for 2008 have been mailed out in December so if you haven't received one, please don't hesitate to let us know. . Please send your 2008 dues payments to **GTCC, 9b Ridgely Rd., Box 276, Timonium, Maryland 21093**. Thanks to all our contributing Associations for all their dedicated support for the ongoing work of the Greater Timonium Community Counsel!

The Captain's Corner – Captain Martin Lurz

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

I wanted to use this month's column to extend an invitation to all residents of the "Cockeysville" Precinct to join the Precinct 7 Police and Community Relations Council. The PCRC, as it is known, recently celebrated its 25-year anniversary and has proudly grown by 30% over the past year alone. The council presents an opportunity for all Precinct 7 residents to meet with the Precinct Commander and the Community Outreach officers to bring community concerns and issues to their attention and to develop plans for working together to improve the quality of life and reduce crime in their neighborhoods. The PCRC is also involved in many community outreach efforts and actively supports such causes, including Genesee Valley trips with police officers and school students as well as the "Shop with a Cop" program held in Hunt Valley each December. Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of every month at the Bank of America Building on McCormick Road. There are different speakers each month covering topics such as specialized law enforcement, forensic investigations, crime prevention, and personal safety awareness. For more information regarding the PCRC, please contact Precinct 7 Community Outreach Officer Kevin Geiger at 410-887-1863 or you may email Kevin at kgeiger@baltimorecountymd.gov

Did you also know that Precinct 7 also hosts a "Police Explorer" post for young adolescents who are interested in a future career in law enforcement? This program presents a unique opportunity for high school students to learn about the profession and meet some good mentors along the way. With parental permission, they also take part in "ride-along" program for a firsthand look at policing, up close and personal. For more information about the Police Explorers, please contact Precinct 7 Community Outreach Officer Jennifer Arnett at 410-887-1863, or contact her by email at jarnett@baltimorecountymd.gov

My thanks to the folks in the GTCC and the entire community for their continued support throughout the year!

The GTCC's "Newsletter" Emailed – Frank Regan

We continue to receive a lot of positive feedback on our Newly Formatted and now Emailed bi-monthly GTCC Newsletter. Many of our Associations like the new .PDF format as they can now easily forward the Newsletter to many of their Board and Community Members. We have also begun to post the Newsletter as a link on our GTCC website.

In order for this to be a continuing success: **WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS !!!** Please forward us your email address if you have not submitted it already to: regan87@comcast.net. Otherwise, you may not be receiving future Newsletters. We hope that you continue to find this form of our Newsletter delivery easy to use and as informative as always. Please feel free to forward this Newsletter to all those in your Association that you think might benefit from it.

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

The Greater Timonium Community Council maintains an active website to provide everyone information related to our organization and many activities of Community interest. We took on the challenge of updating our website to enhance your surfing experience by providing an updated interface with more information and with greater ease to find what you may be looking for. Our website access has been changed to **GTCCINC.ORG** instead of **GTCCINC.COM** .

The Councilman's Corner – Kevin Kamenetz & Bryan McIntire

We have invited both of our 2nd & 3rd District County Councilmen, Kevin Kamenetz & Bryan McIntire, 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 are from both Kevin & Bryan:

2nd District - Councilman Kevin Kamenetz

Greetings! I am grateful for the opportunity to update the Greater Timonium Community Council on activities of our County's legislative body. Your seven member County Council serves as the independent Legislative Session (held at night) and bi-monthly Work Sessions (held during the day). All proceedings are open to the public, and the Legislative Sessions are broadcast on BCTV (Comcast Channel 25). The Council's web site at www.baltimorecountycouncil.org provides helpful information as well. Recent events of interest include the following:

Rental Registration

On December 19, 2007 the Baltimore County Council passed Bill 87-07 requiring that all buildings or a portions of a building that contain one to six dwelling units, intended, or designed to be rented, leased, let or be hired out to be occupied for living purposes be registered and licensed with Baltimore County. The purpose of this title is to establish a licensing program in the county in order to: create additional procedure for the enforcement of county codes and regulations to protect and promote the public safety, health and welfare. Affected properties must be registered and licensed on or before July 1, 2008. For additional information please contact the Department of Permits and Development Management at 410-887-3351.

Sustainability

The Council approved Resolution 7-08 requesting the Planning Board, in conjunction with County agencies, to develop a model for a county-wide environmental sustainability program. The goal is to develop a plan that would encourage County participation in standards for energy and environmental conservation in its buying and operational policies.

Highway Safety

The council approved appropriation of federal funds to the Highway Safety Program to reduce-traffic related injuries and fatalities in the County. The funds will be used for enforcement of laws relating to alcohol use, aggressive driving and pedestrian protection.

Justice Assistance Grant

The Council approved a supplemental appropriation of federal funds to the Byrne-Justice Assistance Grant program. The funds will be used to sustain the enhanced level of police patrols in several precincts of the County, and to provide administrative assistance to the Warrant Apprehension Task Force.

Sex Offender Compliance

The Council approved a supplemental appropriation of State funds to the Sex Offender Compliance and Enforcement in Maryland Program. The funds will be used to provide additional training to law enforcement personnel and to purchase additional surveillance equipment and tracking software to help ensure sex offenders in the County are in compliance with applicable state and federal laws.

New Chairman

I am pleased to report that my fellow Council members have elected me to serve as Chair of the County Council for calendar year 2008. This is my fourth time as Chair in as many terms as Councilman.

Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions regarding your Legislative Branch of County Government or if you need assistance on a specific issue.

3rd District - Councilman Bryan McIntire

Hello to all of you again. I hope you weathered the winter in good health and are ready for the coming of spring flowers and not having to bundle up in coats and gloves.

In early September our longstanding and well thought of Third District Planner, Bill Hughey, retired from Baltimore County. We are delighted to be working with Jessie Bialek, our new district planner. Jessie brings not only experience in planning but also excellent skills in GIS and mapping, a significant advantage for helping both county personnel and residents visualize proposed zoning changes. Jessie is a pleasure to work with and I am afraid we have swamped her with over 200 CZMP issues as her first assignment.

I'm hearing from a lot of people living under the GTCC umbrella about the various Comprehensive Zoning Map Process issues that have been raised. This process, which occurs every four years, allows the county to look at areas rather than individual properties and try to establish common elements for the area as far as what development should and should not happen there. There are 234 issues filed for the Third District in the current CZMP cycle and I have to decide on each of them for a vote on August 26th. It is important to note that the opportunity for your input on these issues takes place at the 3rd District Planning Board public hearing which will be held on March 11th at 7:00 p.m. and at the 3rd District County Council public hearing to be held on June 24th at 7:00 p.m. both at Loch Raven High School. Should you wish to speak on an issue you must sign up before the meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. on each of those evenings.

On April 15th the County Executive has tentatively scheduled the presentation of the FY 2009 budget to the County Council. The Council will have a month or so to review the budget proposal prior to voting on it in May. The County Council's role in the budget process is primarily 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. I will post the dates of the budget public hearings on my website as soon as they are available.

Please note the Baltimore County Spring Hazardous Waste Collection event is scheduled for Sunday, April 13th from 10:00 am to 2:pm at the Texas Landfill Drop Off Center, Warren Road in Cockeysville. A great time to get rid of hazardous household chemicals, paints, pesticides, etc.

Please do not hesitate to call any time you need assistance at 410-887-3387 or email at Council3@baltimorecountymd.gov. My legislative aides, Marcie and Gail, join me in extending best wishes for a safe and enjoyable end to the remainder of winter.

The Legislator's Corner – Senator Jim Brochin & Delegates Bill Frank, Susan Aumann and Steve Lafferty

We have also invited our State Representatives to provide us with an article for our newsletter in the form of 'The Legislator's Corner' on any issue(s) that they feel might be of interest to our membership. We rotate these requests through the Districts within GTCC. The following articles this month are from the 42nd Legislative District:

42nd District – Senator Jim Brochin

Speed Surveillance - Speed cameras are a very controversial issue in the General Assembly this session. Many have said that this type of monitoring system is an example of excess government control. Conversely, many community activists have stressed to me the need to improve the safety of our side streets: especially in areas in close proximity to schools. As a result, last week I supported Senate Bill 42. This bill would allow counties to implement speed cameras in areas where the speed limit is less than 45 miles an hour. This would mostly affect residential neighborhoods and schools.

Due to the concerns that many constituents of the 42nd District expressed, I helped tweak the terms of this legislation. I felt that the fines in the original bill were unnecessarily high so I had them lowered from \$75 to \$40. Additionally, the Committee and I adjusted the speed violation from 10 miles per hour to exceeding 12 miles per hour.

I believe that, ultimately, speed cameras will be a step forward in promoting safer streets in our community and protecting the residents of Baltimore County. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide you with further information or answer any questions you may have. jim.brochin@senate.state.md.us 1-800-492-7122, ext. 3648 (toll free)

42nd District – Delegate Bill Frank

We've passed the halfway mark of the 2008 session, and we're heading into the homestretch. It's been a relatively quiet session, which I think is due to all the activity – mostly negative – that transpired in the special session back in November. Here's a brief recap of what's happening in your state capital:

Budget

The Board of Revenue Estimates, which met last week, projected there will be a shortfall in anticipated tax revenue of \$330 million less in tax revenue for the current fiscal year. The Republican Caucus has introduced a comprehensive budget balancing plan that repeals the onerous computer services tax, replenishes the State's Rainy Day Fund, and slows the rate of increase in State spending. Now more than ever, we need to recognize that the taxpayers have limits on their ability to finance an expansive government, especially given all the pressures on the family budget – higher utility and gas prices, a credit crunch, and the slowing housing market. Just as families must learn to live within their means, so must State government.

Legislation

I've introduced four bills this session. House Bill 291 would establish a tax-free shopping period for back-to-school shopping. This bill would have helped families with some much-needed tax relief at an important time of the year. Unfortunately, this bill was defeated in committee.

Another bill that I introduced, which was heard in the House Judiciary Committee on March 5th, provides that a person may not be liable for damages for a personal injury or death of an individual who enters the person's dwelling or place of business with the intent to commit a crime of violence or burglary. This bill establishes that people have a right to defend themselves from criminals without the fear of being punished for defending themselves. I am hopeful that this common sense bill will become law.

Towson Schools

I am very concerned about the overcrowding in our Towson area schools. I am hopeful that we will soon have a short-term solution in place, while we continue to work on the specifics of what that will entail.

As always, please feel free to call my office with any concerns that you may have at 410-841-3793.

42nd District – Delegate Steve Lafferty

Thank you for the opportunity to share a few thoughts on what is going on in Annapolis.

Certainly, the budget looms over the entire General Assembly session. We have just heard that there will be a projected \$330 million shortfall in revenues over the next 16 months. So, in addition to the \$550 million reduction reflected in the Governor's budget, committees are aggressively reducing spending on education, health care, community revitalization, and many other areas. The House will see the Senate's proposed budget next week.

Three of the issues I have been focused on are to establish a new process for selecting the Baltimore County Board of Education, providing pre-purchase housing counseling to those who may go into exotic and sub-prime mortgages and getting BGE to do a much better job when it plans to trim trees under transmission lines.

As a member of the Environmental Matters Committee, I have been dealing with issues as diverse as speed cameras and driving while texting, strengthening the Critical Areas laws to better protect the Bay, establishing a program and process to reduce Maryland's contribution to global warming, fostering the creation of more affordable housing, and changes to the laws to address the mortgage foreclosure crisis that plagues our state. There have been numerous bills aimed at reducing pollutants, improving enforcement efforts and, making the roads safer for all drivers. It is quite a range of issues and, therefore, challenging but very interesting.

With a month left, we still have much to do. I look forward to discussing the Session when we complete our work in early April. Please feel free to contact me at Stephen.Lafferty@house.state.md.us or I can be reached at 410-841-3487.

42nd District – Delegate Susan Aumann

I wanted to express my gratitude to the Hampton Improvement Association and the Hampton community for their successful block of the assisted-living facility on the Towson United Methodist Church property. County development needs individual and community involvement input. This proves how important your participation in the process can be.

This Saturday, March 8, 2008 and Monday, March 10, 2008 the House Appropriations Committee will hear testimony on hundreds of Bond bills. The House and Senate will split the \$30 million for worthy programs. Also we are starting decisions on funding for State agencies. It is a very busy time in light of the Revenue Estimates and the structural deficit.

On March 6, 2008 the Board of Revenue Estimates adopted revised general funds revenue estimates for fiscal 2008 and 2009. The combined effect of these adjustments on the fiscal 2009 budget is to reduce the projected ending fund balance by \$332.9 million.

The States' two largest general fund revenue sources are the personal income tax and the sales tax. Even though Maryland's sales tax increased 20% during the Special Session, the estimate was lowered by \$43.5 million in fiscal 2008 and \$76.9 million in 2009. The personal income tax was lowered \$48.7 million in fiscal 2008 and \$ 153.4 million in 2009.

The House Republicans proposed a budget plan to the leadership as a way to slow the rate of State spending, resolve the structural deficit, and eliminating the need for the computer services tax while funding a larger fund balance in the Rainy Day Fund.

The Rainy Day Fund (RDF) has been spent down to the statutory minimum, leaving the State with no financial cushion if the economy declines. Now is the time to exercise fiscal restraint and build reserves, reduce rate of growth of State spending, truly eliminate the structural deficit.

The Republican Proposal reduces the total budget spending increase from 5.9% to 3.7%; reduces ongoing General Fund Budget spending increase from 5.6% to 2.6%; and eliminates the \$308 million Structural Deficit. This proposal contributes \$400 Million additional to RDF by transferring the \$83 Million Med Mutual Fund Balance and transferring of Excess General Fund Balances.

The Budget Bill, Senate Bill 90/ House Bill 100, is scheduled to be brought to the Senate floor for full chamber consideration on Monday, March 10, 2008.

I want to encourage you to continue to express your views and opinions on subjects that come before the legislature. I value your input and look forward to hearing from you. Please contact me anytime at: 410-841-3258 or email address: Susan.Aumann@house.state.md.us

The Librarian's Corner – Margaret Prescott

We have also invited our Cockeysville Library Manager, Margaret Prescott, 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 Margaret:

Baltimore County Public Library is excited to announce the recent opening of "Storyville" at the Rosedale Library (6105 Kenwood Avenue). If you have a child or grandchild six years old or younger, you'll want to take them to this Lilliputian "town." A colorful network of play stations spread over 2,240 square feet simulates life in a small town including a two-story house, a theater, a store, a post office, a baby garden and, of course, a library. Children have fun playing while developing literacy skills. Visitors have come from throughout Baltimore County to experience Storyville. You can too during the following hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 AM-9 PM, Friday and Saturday, 9-5:30, and Sunday, 1-5 PM. More information is available on the Baltimore County Public Library website at www.bcpl.info. If you haven't seen it yet, it's worth a visit. Your children and grandchildren will have a great time!

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 (50) active dues paying Associations within its umbrella that represents over 60,000+ residents within our thriving neighborhoods. It is through the hard work and participation by each member Community Group that helps to enhance and protect the quality of residential life within our area.

Please find a list of participating Community Associations below:

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

Busy, Busy, Busy - WAIT A MINUTE! - Lou Miller, Past President

(The following thoughts were extracted from the Maryland Combat Veteran's Newsletter – Ken Britter, State Chaplain)

Questions at the gates of heaven? (See answers below)

1. What two days in the week begin with the letter "T"?
2. How many seconds are in a year?
3. Can you tell me God's first name?

Match Game.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. What is the most selfish <i>one-letter</i> word? | I – Avoid it. |
| 2. What is the most satisfying <i>two-letter</i> word? | We – Use it. |
| 3. What is the most poisonous <i>three-letter</i> word? | Ego – Kill it. |
| 4. What is the most used <i>four-letter</i> word? | Love – Value it. |
| 5. What is the most pleasing <i>five-letter</i> word? | Smile – Keep it. |
| 6. What is the fastest spreading <i>six-letter</i> word? | Gossip – Ignore it. |
| 7. What is the hardest working <i>seven-letter</i> word? | Success – Achieve it. |
| 8. What is the most unenviable <i>eight-letter</i> word? | Jealousy – Distance it. |
| 9. What is the most powerful <i>nine-letter</i> word? | Knowledge – Acquire it. |
| 10. What is the most essential <i>ten-letter</i> word? | Confidence – Trust it. |

Answers:

1. Today and Tomorrow.
2. Twelve (12) Jan. 2, Feb 2, etc.
3. Andy – Andy walks with me, Andy talks to me, Andy tells me I am his own.

"Give me a sense of humor, Lord. Give me the ability to understand a clean joke, to get some humor out of life, and to pass it on to other folks."

Yes, we all would like to get there and the ten words are a good start.

This & That – Regular and New Helpful Items

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

GTCC Trivia – Did You Know?

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

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

1. There are only two left in Maryland and one is in Baltimore County. What is it?
2. What village in Baltimore County was settled by immigrants evicted from Ireland?
3. Where in the County is a street named for a home-run hitting catcher for the Orioles?

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 A drive-in theater. The Bengies Drive-In Theatre was established by Jack K. Vogel in 1956 in Middle River.

2. Texas near Cockeysville. In the 1850s, the Padian family arrived in the area. Richard Padian was one of fourteen defendants in a legal action against the tenants of Ballykilcline for non-payment of rent. He was the ringleader in the dispute. Richard, Mary and their four children were put on a ship in 1847. Other evicted families were sent with them and also settled in the area.

3. In Timonium. Triandos Drive was named for Gus Triandos who lived in the area for 4-5 years while playing for the Orioles (1954-1962). It is off East Timonium Road

SPRING 2008

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS
WASTE COLLECTION EVENT**



Sunday April 13, 2008

10:00AM – 2:00 PM

Texas Landfill Drop Off Center

Warren Road, Cockeysville, MD 21030

Baltimore County Residents may drop off unwanted household chemicals, paints, pesticides, mercury thermometers, fluorescent bulbs, re-chargeable batteries, ammunition and automotive fluids for recycling or proper disposal. No trash will be accepted at this event

For those residents unable to attend this event, DEPRM also operates a collection facility, in cooperation with the Department of Public Works, at the Eastern Landfill, located at 6257 Days Cove Rd in White Marsh. The hours of operation for the facility at Eastern Landfill are Monday - Saturday from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm from April through November

For additional information contact DEPRM at 410 887-3745 between 8:00 am & 4:00 pm Monday to Friday

County Hosting Free Seminars - How to Participate in the Development and Zoning Process

Towson, Md. (March 3, 2008) – Citizens and advocates who are interested in learning about how to participate in development and zoning decisions in their community are invited to attend a series of free informational seminars sponsored by the Baltimore County Office of Planning.

“We have worked very hard to promote citizen involvement in the ongoing Renaissance of Baltimore County and this is a great opportunity for interested individuals and community associations to learn the ins and outs of the process,” said County Executive Jim Smith.

The seminars, conducted by former County Councilman, and Deputy Zoning Commissioner John Murphy, and will feature representatives of various County agencies discussing relevant issues. The series of three seminars will cover the development plan process, special development reviews, and zoning variances and exceptions.

The seminars are intended for interested property owners, civic association members, attorneys, and public interest advocates. They are open to all at no charge, and will be held March thru May from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at three county library branches including the Towson Library. Participants are asked to contact John Murphy in the Office of Planning to reserve their seats, at 410-887-3480, or jvmurphy@baltimorecountymd.gov.

The Next GTCC General Meeting is scheduled for March 12th, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the "Cockeysville Library".

CURRENT ISSUES

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

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

Mays Chapel School Site: The Baltimore County Board of Education has approved preliminary funding in its FY 2009 to relocate the special needs school to Board of Education-owned and Baltimore County-owned property on Padonia Road. Residents of Mays Chapel are concerned about loosing this parkland in their community. Few details about the size and layout of this proposed school are currently available. The Save Mays Chapel Park Committee has prepared a series of questions for Baltimore County Public Schools to answer regarding its site selection. (E. Rockel & Mays Chapel Community Associations)

Bill Kidd's Volvo, 10525 York Road: The Deputy Zoning Commissioner has approved zoning relief to allow commercial parking in a residential zone, to allow a very limited amount of parking in a 100 year flood plain and to allow for a reduction in the residential transition area buffer. The Sherwood Hills improvement Association and GTCC are contemplating reaction to these zoning decisions.

ON-GOING ISSUES

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

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

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

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

Francis X. Gallagher Center- The development Review Committee of Baltimore County approved the construction of a thirty foot wide by forty foot long pavilion, which will be constructed near the existing greenhouses on the property. This pavilion will support the existing functions on the property, including the greenhouses. The pavilion's style is reportedly similar to the pavilions at Oregon Ridge. (E.Rockel, M.DiNardo)

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

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

Comprehensive Rezoning for 2008: See the list of properties requesting a zoning reclassification under the Comprehensive Zoning Map Process by looking at the GTCC website.

York Rd.-Timonium Condo Proposal – A & A Global Industries and Keelty Company are proposing a two tower Condo and mixed use on York Rd across from the north end of the Fair Grounds. Meetings were held 9/21/05, 10/27/05, 1/10/06, 3/08/06, 5/24/06 concerning adopting the site plan to minimize sight lines from Stratford Community at top of the hill. What started with 14 stories and one underground and two above ground parking stories is now reduced to two underground parking and one above is now 10 stories of 216 Condo's. Movement into the hill is now approximately 35 feet. Councilman will not grant a PUD going forward until the residential communities are satisfied with the plan. Concerns remain about the scale of these Condo towers and the precedent for future development on York Road. A meeting before Christmas 2006 produced a compromise. Keelty's architect reduced the towers to eight stories of residential units and one above-ground level of parking. The scale of the cupolas were also reduced. The Stratford Community Association's Board of Directors and GTCC have recently agreed not to oppose the Planned Unit Development (PUD) with respect to height and size. The Planning Board approved the condo plan.(E. Rockel, L. Miller, GTCC Executive Committee & Stratford Community)

COMPLETED ISSUES

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

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

Jessup Property – The County Landmarks Preservation Commission has approved placing the Jessup House on the landmarks list. The Baltimore County Council would have to also approve the inclusion. As of August, the developer's attorney indicated his client was reviewing how this would impact the proposal. Regardless of the Landmark's issue, the developer has not submitted a development plan for County review.. 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.

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