

The Greater Timonium Community Council

Volume XI Issue I

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

February 2014

President: Eric Rockel, 410-252-8439

*VP: Jim Rogers, 410-667-6715 Treasurer: Frank Regan, 410-337-5070 Secretary: Joan Mahan, 410-252-3644 Membership: Frank Regan, 410-337-5070
Newsletter: Frank Regan, 410-337-5070*

***** NEWSLETTER *****

President's Message – Eric Rockel

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE EQUATION

For a brief week in December, when most residents were concerned with early season snow storms and the festivities of the Christmas season, Baltimore County School Superintendent Dallas Dance found himself at the center of a controversy. Dr. Dance had taken on a part-time job coaching Chicago-area school principals during his weekends away from his primary post, which pays \$260,000 annually. That part-time consulting job, reported to pay \$15,000, is allowed by Dr. Dance's contract with Baltimore County Public Schools, provided that he first obtains prior approval from the School Board. However, Dance did not obtain that prior approval, hence the controversy.

The School Board discussed Dr. Dance's situation at its next meeting, amid complaints from elected officials, such as Delegate Pat McDonough, who complained that the employment appeared to be "a conflict of interest....(that) does not pass the smell test". Because of privacy issues related to the discussion of personnel matters, the public does not know the exact nature of the discussions between the School Board and Dr. Dance. However, Dr. Dance announced that he would relinquish his part time employment, which effectively ended the controversy.

Yet the public does not know much about the SUPES Academy, the Chicago-area firm that hired Dr. Dance for part-time employment. The SUPES Academy is a private, for-profit firm that touts on its website that its mission is "to identify, develop and support a new generation of outstanding leaders for America's school systems..." Among past teachers, speakers and advisors who have been involved with SUPES are Joe Hairston, the former BCPS superintendent, the former superintendent of the Hartford, CT schools, the superintendent of the Richmond, VA schools, the former State Superintendent of Illinois, the former superintendent of Seattle, WA schools and many others. Whether these individuals are employees, former participants/students or advisors is unclear from the website. The principal partners in SUPES, Gary Solomon, the executive director, and Thomas Vranas, the president, also appear to hold ownership stakes in several other education-related firms, including PROACT, an education executive search firm, Synesi Associates, a consulting firm, and Solomon Consulting Services.

SUPES Academy has proven quite controversial in Chicago after it received a \$20 million, no bid contract to conduct professional development for school principals in the Chicago Public Schools System. The CEO of Chicago Public Schools, Barbara Byrd-Bennett, prior to attaining her current position, had worked as a consultant to SUPES and as a senior associate for PROACT, according to Catalyst-Chicago, an independent journal reporting on school reform. Some of the school principals who participated in the professional development work sessions have complained of the poor quality of the product, and many citizens decry the thought of giving a consultant such a large contract when Chicago Public Schools are undergoing funding cuts in many parts of the system's budget. A Chicago Inspector General is currently investigating this no bid contract.

Here in Baltimore County, SUPES received a much more modest no bid contract of \$875,000 to train 25 principals a year over a three year period. That “sole source” contract was approved by the School Board in December 2012, some five months after Dance assumed the position of School Superintendent.

Watchdogs have also questioned the relationships between Gary Solomon-affiliated companies and school administrators from Philadelphia, Charleston, S.C. and St. Louis, and similar concerns have been raised about other for-profit companies, not associated with Mr. Solomon, and administrators from Michigan’s second largest school district and Huntsville City Schools.

As one reads about these and other private consulting contracts with other school systems around the country, one is struck by the labyrinth of relationships between private consulting firms and school administrators. More light needs to be cast on the relationships between public officials and these private firms. Better disclosure will remove any doubts about the propriety of these relationships and ensure that taxpayer dollars are being spent properly. Thus far, that light has not illuminated the relationships involved in this Baltimore County Public Schools contract with a consultant.

GTCC General Meeting – Wednesday, February 12th, 2014

The GTCC will hold their ‘Next Meeting’ on **Wednesday, February 12th, 2014 at the Cockeysville Library Meeting Room**, with meetings *STILL* beginning **promptly at 7:00 PM.**

Reminder: Our General Meetings are usually scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month !

<h2>GTCC</h2> <p><i>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.</i></p>		
<u>NOTICE !!!</u>	CALENDAR 2014	<u>NOTICE !!!</u>
***** <u>Meeting Schedule</u> *****		
January - No Meeting		July - No Meeting
February 12, 2014		August - No Meeting
March 12, 2014		September 10, 2014
April 9, 2014		October 8, 2014
May 14, 2014		November 12, 2014
June 11, 2014		December - No Meeting
<p><i>All Meetings are <u>NOW</u> Scheduled at the "Cockeysville Library" Meeting Room, on the DATES NOTED ABOVE.</i></p>		

Agenda and Speakers - GTCC February 12th, Meeting

1. INTRODUCTIONS
2. REPORT FROM COCKEYSVILLE POLICE PRECINCT
3. FEATURED SPEAKER: BALTIMORE COUNTY POLICE DEPT.:

“WHAT TO DO IN A CRISIS SITUATION”

4. *NEW COCKEYSVILLE MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER*
5. *STATE AND LOCAL LEGISLATION*
6. *DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL FOR AYLESBURY ROAD*
7. *OLD BUSINESS:*
 - a. *FOLLOW UP ON SOLICITATION LAW*
 - b. *PRIOR ZONING HEARINGS*
8. *NEW BUSINESS*
9. *ADJOURN*

Annual 2014 GTCC Membership Dues – Frank Regan

GTCC ‘2014’ 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 2014 will be emailed out in late February so if you don’t receive one or if you need a copy, please don’t hesitate to let us know. . **Please send your 2014 dues payments to GTCC, 9b Ridgely Rd., Box 276, Timonium, Maryland 21093 if you have not done so already.** Thanks to all our contributing Associations for all their dedicated support for the ongoing work of the Greater Timonium Community Counsel!

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 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		

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

The Greater Timonium Community Council maintains an active website to provide everyone information related to our organization and many activities of Community interest.

Our main website can be found at:

GTCCINC.ORG instead of **GTCCINC.COM**

The Captain's Corner – Captain Dennis Delp

We have invited our Cockeysville Precinct "7" Commander, Captain Dennis Delp, 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 Delp:

I would like to take a moment to pass along some important information regarding some recent crime issues and some seasonal related information. We have had a crazy winter so far which has caused a great deal of weather related accidents. I cannot stress enough the point of slowing down and increasing following distances in bad weather. Public safety is our number one goal, but we just can't get the message to stick with motorists. You are much more likely to be injured in an automobile crash than by a criminal incident. Your vehicle is only in contact with the road surface by four small patches of rubber. It doesn't take much for your vehicle to lose traction on a wet road surface. An extremely important factor in driving in bad weather is the condition of your tires. Please make sure that your tires have enough tread in order to disperse water sufficiently so your vehicle doesn't hydroplane. Please slow down and drive carefully in bad weather.

Another issue that has been on the increase is phone scams. There are many telephone scams that are attempting to get people to wire money to various locations. The scammers are stating that they have kidnapped a family member and you need to wire money to the kidnappers. Do not wire money to anyone and do not give any personal information to anyone that calls you. If you are unsure about the caller, verify the origin of the call before providing any information.

We are fortunate to have a very active Police Community Relations Council at Precinct 07. They meet every fourth Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the Bank of America Building located at 11333 McCormick Road, Hunt Valley, Room 105. Please consider joining to help with our information sharing among communities. It is a great way to take information back to local organizations. Contact Outreach Officer Kevin Kahl @ 410-887-1863 (kkahl@baltimorecountymd.gov) for more information.

Please feel free to visit the Precinct 07 website for information concerning crimes in the community and other information updates. See link below. <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/police/pc07/index.html>

The Cockeysville Precinct Community Outreach Unit conducts security surveys for residences and businesses. Please do not hesitate to contact them if you would like to have your home or business evaluated for crime prevention measures. They will walk around the property and give you crime prevention tips specific to your property. Please contact the Outreach Unit at 410-887-1863.

Thank you for your continued support, Captain Dennis Delp, Cockeysville Precinct

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.

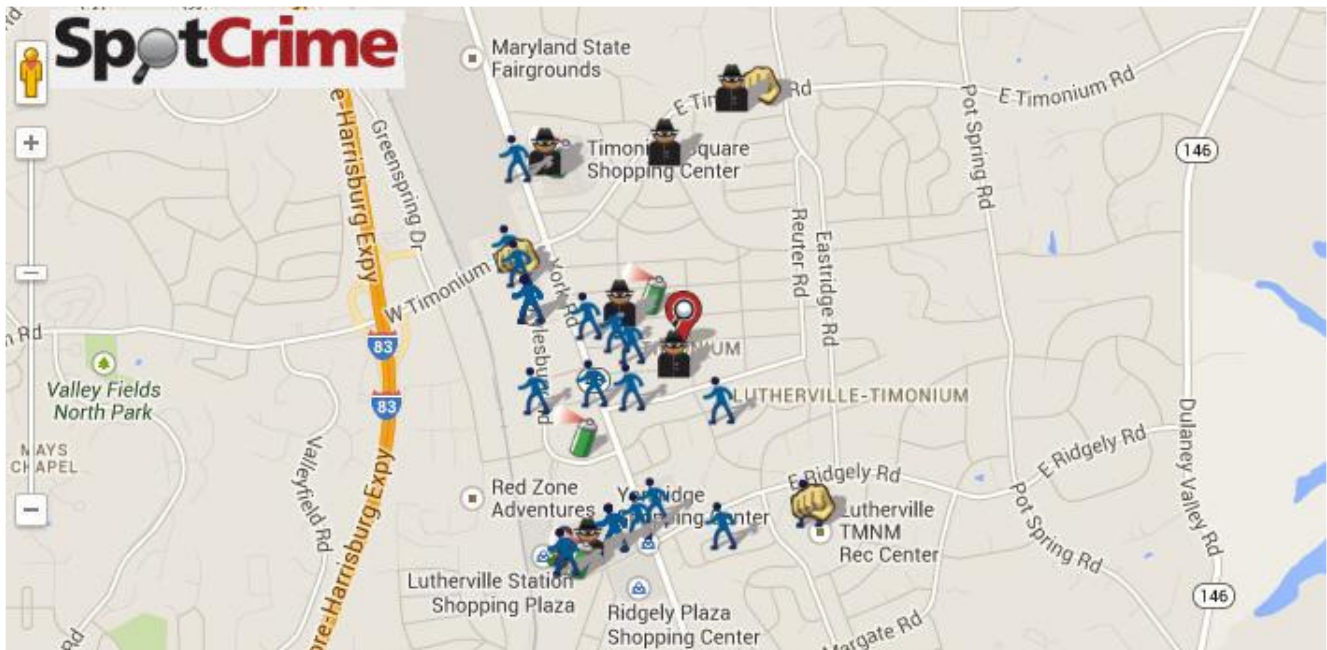
Report Suspicious Activity !!! Citizens are encouraged to report activity that just does not fit. You can now use our web tips form to submit a tip or report suspicious activity to police. Report an emergency or a crime in progress call >>>>>>>>> "911" immediately.

Crime Reports Website – Frank Regan

We are always concerned as to where crime is occurring in and around our neighborhoods. Furthermore, this is always a reoccurring interest on the part of our many partner Associations. So we thought we would bring you several means of tracking crime in your area for you this newsletter in addition to our Captain's Corner for February (see above & below). Here is an interesting approach of identifying crime and trends in your neighborhoods as a graphical view listed on both "Spot Crime" and "Crime Report" Websites. Click on each of the small icons on-line to bring up a small dialogue box to read about the incident on the map at each of the locations, recent example below:

"Spot Crime" Website: <http://spotcrime.com/#Timonium%2C%20MD%20201093>

"Crime Report" Website: <https://www.crimereports.com/map/index/?search=+Towson+MD>



The Librarian's Corner – Darcy Cahill

We have also invited our Cockeysville Library Manager, Darcy Cahill, 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 Darcy:

We were happy to be a warm haven for many Cockeysville residents during the recent power outage. Every chair was filled, and every outlet was appreciated by customers charging phones, tablets, laptops, etc. We also served as a Polar Vortex survival kit! Books, movies and other items checked out of the Cockeysville Library in January: 119,617!

There is still time to curl up with a good book this winter. Share what you've been reading with other customers at our popular "Books, Coffee and Conversation" program on Wed., Feb. 19th at 11:30 AM. The Cockeysville Book Club will be discussing Wally Lamb's We Are Water on Monday, Feb. 24th at 7 PM.

Looking forward to spring, (in more ways than one ☺), mark your calendars for the "Living Places, Living Planet" family program presented by the Maryland Zoo on Sat., March 15th at 2 PM. The Fish Tail Stretch Band Bracelet craze is upon us! Five to 12 year olds are invited to a bracelet making program with Lorraine Clancy on Sat., March 22nd at 2 PM. All materials are provided, or bring your own loom.

If you haven't seen enough snow on the trees outside, stop by to see a small and very beautiful display of winter photos courtesy of CCBC. You will find them on top of the bookshelves in our NEW nonfiction area. Be safe and enjoy the rest of this exciting winter!

The Councilman's Corner – Todd Huff

We have invited both of our 3rd District County Councilmen, Todd Huff, 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 Todd:

I appreciate the opportunity to "speak" with my friends and constituents who are members of GTCC, Greater Timonium Community Council. We certainly have been challenged in Baltimore County with some extremely cold winter to date. To stay updated on closings and delays, please check www.baltimorecountymd.gov and click on SNOW FIGHTER. All of the latest information is posted on this site for your convenience. Also, please remember to bring your pets indoors when the temperatures are in the record breaking lows.

On Monday, January 27, 2014, a groundbreaking was held for the new Cockeysville Community Center, located on the grounds of Padonia International Elementary School. This was a most exciting moment, as I have worked long and hard to see this project come to fruition. The \$3 million center will encompass 14,260 square feet that will include a 6,000 square foot gymnasium that will double as the school gymnasium. Included in the center will be a stage, activity rooms and a community room and, very importantly, a PAL Center. This new PAL Center will replace the one currently located across the street from the school. PAL Centers are wonderful additions to communities, as they offer educational and athletic programs for youth ages 8-17 and activities are designed to support positive youth development and foster constructive relationships between police officers and youth. Construction is expected to be complete within one year. Indeed, the Cockeysville Community Center will be a very vibrant and valuable addition to the 3rd Council District.

Please feel free to contact me or my staff at 410-887-3387 or via e-mail at council3@baltimorecountymd.gov should you have any questions or concerns. We are always available to be of assistance to you.

This & That – Regular and New Helpful Items – Frank Regan

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>

New Water Pipe for York Road – Frank Regan

Baltimore County's contractors are replacing 9,500 feet of old water line in York Road, between Ridgely and Padonia Roads. The new 24-inch line, double the diameter of the old line, is expected to cost \$5 million and take one to three years to install. The project, according to County engineers, is designed "to build redundancy into the system." The County's contractor, Burgermeister Bell, started the project in April 2010 and should be finished by April next year. The project is 96 percent complete.

GTCC Trivia – Did You Know? – Frank Regan

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

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

1. Who was the County's second County Executive?
2. Which community in Baltimore County was the first to incorporate?
3. A manufacturing firm located on Chesapeake Avenue, east of Delaware Avenue in Towson became very busy at Christmas time years ago. What did it produce?

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. *Christian H. Kahl (D) 1958-1962.*
2. *Lutherville, Incorporated in 1868.*
3. *Harry Heim's Christmas Tree Ornament and Glass Blowing Works was located on the site of the Towson Library Parking Garage.*

Have a Heart this Valentine's Day – Adopt a Pet with our Sweet Deal – *Barbara McLean, M.D.*

Barbara McLean, M.D.
Prevention, Protection, and Preparedness Chief
Baltimore County Health Department

Hearts are in the air this Valentine's season and Baltimore County wants you to warm your own! Adopt any cat or dog from the County's shelter between February 8 to 15 and you'll pay half-off the normal adoption fee. This *sweet deal* means that you can adopt a cat or kitten for just \$25 or a dog or puppy for \$32.50.

It's a great way to give yourself your very own, heart-friendly Valentine. Not only can you save on the sugary treats, you can also improve your quality of life! According to the Centers for Disease Control, owning a pet can decrease blood pressure, cholesterol and loneliness, while increasing opportunities for exercise, outdoor activities and socialization.

Baltimore County's *sweet deal* on pet adoptions makes being a responsible pet owner easier than ever. Included in the adoption fee, your new pet will be spayed or neutered, vaccinated against rabies and other diseases, licensed (which is required by Baltimore County law) *and* micro-chipped with a lifetime registry!

To adopt a pet during this Valentine's Day season, you must be at least 18 years old and present a photo identification card. This deal doesn't get any sweeter!

View adoptable pets at the Baltimore County Animal Shelter:

<http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/health/petadoption/index.html>

Contact:

Baltimore County Animal Shelter
13800 Manor Road
Baldwin, MD 21013
Phone: 410-887-PAWS (7297)
Email: animalservices@baltimorecountymd.gov

Adoption Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.



The Greater Timonium Community Council

The Next GTCC General Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12, 2014 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: A revised development proposal has been presented by a new development team, Solstice Partnership. Only a limited amount of commercial space is proposed for the site. Bluestone restaurant, however, will remain on the site. The major change from past schematics is the emphasis on mid-rise, high end apartments for the site. No specific site plan has been presented at this point, even though a PUD process would be followed. (Northampton, Yorkshire/Haverford and Lutherville Community Assns.)

Pot Spring Road, South of Old Bosley Road: This ten acre parcel was originally proposed to contain four, 4-story condominium buildings housing a total of 64 units. The adjacent community objected to this planned unit development, and Councilman Huff refused to move the project forward as a PUD. A new developer submitted plans to build 13 single family dwellings for the site. On May 6, 2013 the Administrative Law Judge approved the single family plan, featuring homes that will cost in the \$600,000 range . (E.Rockel, Dulaney Gate HOA, Springlake HOA, Timberline Park HOA)

WaWa Convenience Store, York Road at Halesworth: This site, formerly part of the Anderson Automotive PUD, was the subject of a hearing to amend the previously approved planned unit development. The Monterey Community Association and GTCC supported this amendment, however, several other nearby owners opposed the plan. The hearing has been continued to provide for more testimony. The Administrative Law Judge approved this use for a convenience store, but opponents have taken this case to the Board of Appeals. The Board of Appeals has ruled in favor of the plan. All appeals have been concluded.(GTCC and Monterey C.A.)

Giant Food Store: The Giant Food Store, across from the Fairgrounds, will be requesting to add gasoline sales within the shopping center grounds. This proposal will be reviewed by the Yorkshire/Haverford C.A. as well as GTCC.

Hunt Valley Center: Greenberg/Gibbons, owners of the town center, have proposed a 300 unit residential development on the site of the former Walmart. Plans have not yet been received on this proposal. (GTCC)

23 West Aylesbury Road: The owner of the former American Lubrication Equipment building, just south of the Shoprite food store, has requested a special hearing to allow for the property to be used as an indoor trampoline park. This type of use is permitted in the property's current zoning designation, pending approval thru the special hearing .

Former Chestnut Ridge Golf Club: The owner of the property, CR Golf, LLC, has requested to construct 8 homes on the site, one less than the maximum allowed under the current zoning. Community Input Meetings were held in October, and the next step will be for the consulting engineer to modify the plans to account for the County's review comments. A development plan hearing has yet to be scheduled. The Falls Road Community Association remains very concerned about this proposal and its impact on the environment. (FRCA & GTCC)

New PAL Center/Community Center: Baltimore County government, in conjunction with the Baltimore County Public Schools, proposes to construct a new center, containing over 14,000 square feet, on the grounds of the Padonia International Elementary School. The building will contain meeting rooms, a gym/auditorium and other facilities. As a multi-purpose facility, the gym/auditorium will be used by the elementary school as well as the community during non-school hours. Construction is expected to be complete in the Spring of 2015.

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. During the open filing period for the 2012 CZMP, the GTCC requested that these 60 acres be returned to the prior zoning, MR-IM. Councilman Huff submitted legislation that creates a Mercantile Overlay District that will limit video gaming at the Fairgrounds, but he does not plan to change the zoning as requested by the GTCC.

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. As of October, 2012, the developer plans to add a noise wall to mitigate the sounds of I-83. (E. Rockel and PVVW Community Assoc.)

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)

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. Over the Summer of 2011 the developer started the rough grading and utility construction for the subdivision. (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)

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)

Potin Stil Restaurant Zoning Variance Appeal – Zoning Case 02-165-A, 2323 York Rd, Variances to Parking Regulations as to number required, island sizes, aisle space dimensions. Zoning Commissioner granted all variances. GTCC filed an appeal with the Board of Appeals. Appeals Board reversed the Zoning Commissioner's order by a 2-1 vote. Petitioner made request for Judicial Review to Baltimore County Circuit Court. GTCC and Peoples Counsel of BC filed in opposition to request. Circuit Court Judge agreed with the Board of Appeals decision reversing the variances granted. Director of Permits and Development and Code Enforcement has not exercised the Circuit Court's order of July 5, 2005. Request, if granted by the County, for any future meeting to be held, to participate in settlement of this case. Engineer for the owners has requested a refinement to the development plan to correct this violation. Lou Miller attended the DRC meeting, and Baltimore County did not approve the DRC request. The matter is rightfully considered a zoning violation and not a development refinement. Don Rascoe, Deputy Director of Permits & Development Management recently reported that the owner has corrected the parking violations and that the owner has now complied with the Board of Appeals order to correct the problem (E. Rockel, and GTCC Executive Committee)

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.

YorkRidge Shopping Center, York & Ridgely Roads: Owners of the property seek a variance from the parking requirements in order to add a free-standing pad site at the shopping center. The pad site associated with this variance is estimated to be two to three years away from any development. Additionally, long range plans call for re-development of the service station site at the corner of York and Ridgely. The variance hearing on the parking is scheduled for mid November. The owners received the parking variance, but no immediate plans are in store for building the pad site. (E. Rockel)

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. In response to the concerns expressed by nearby manufacturing businesses, Councilman Todd Huff has reached a compromise wherein the developers of the parcel will not proceed with an apartment use for the property.(GTCC Executive Committee)

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. As of February 2012, the owner notified that he is attempting to lease the remaining building for commercial uses, and the first tenant will be a ceramic tile store. The owner reported that a restaurant has signed a lease for the pad site on the property, and construction on that restaurant is on going..(E. Rockel & GTCC Executive Committee)

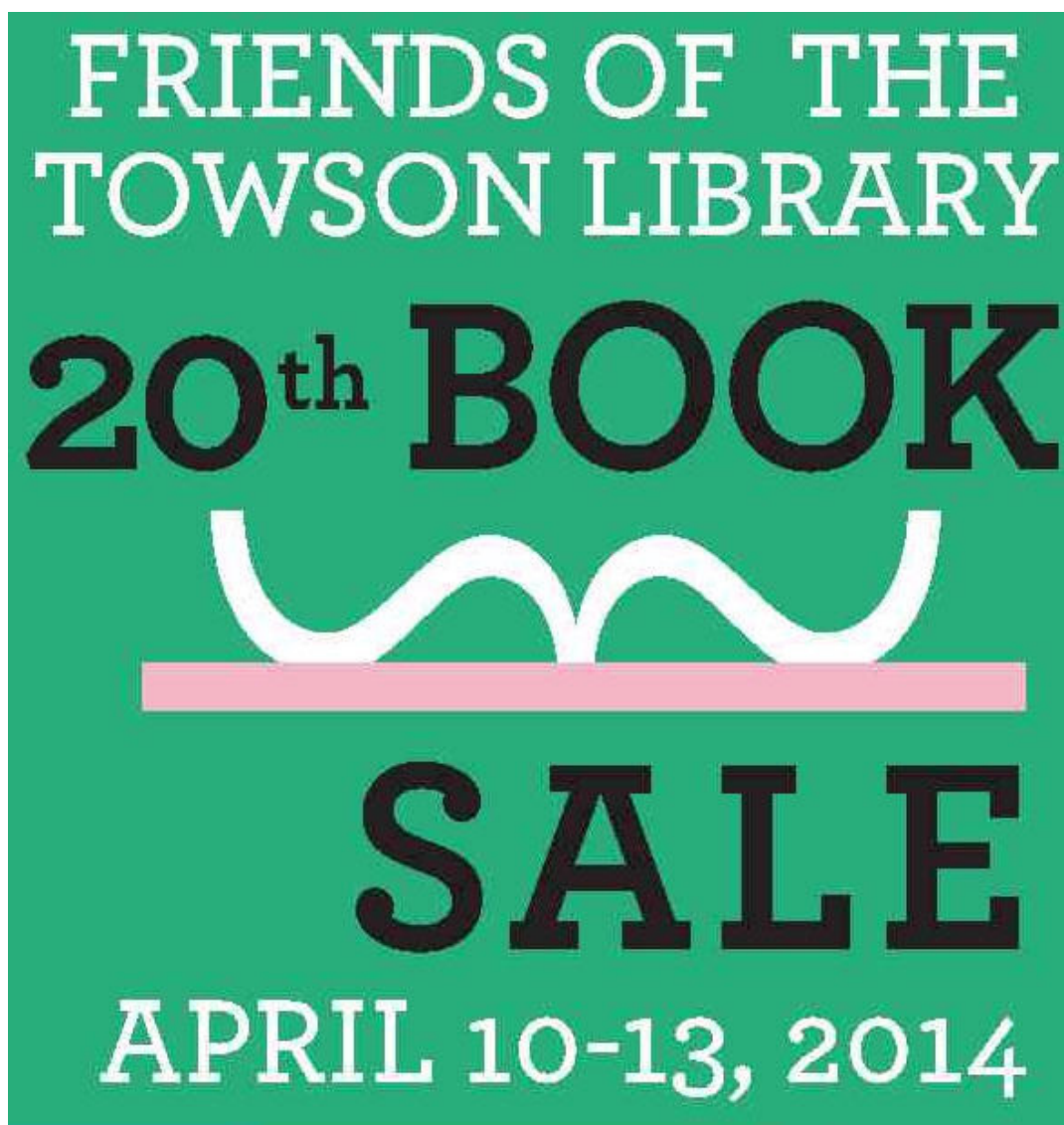
Michael's Café & Grill: The owners received zoning approval to enlarge the outdoor patio area on the southwest and south sides of the existing building. A stone- clad wall, approximately five foot high, will surround the patio seating area. (E. Rockel & Yorkshire/Haverford C.A.)

Former Sterling Chemical Building, West Timonium Road: This property is now under the control of St. John Properties, who plan to convert the former warehouse into retail shops and a restaurant, consistent with its manufacturing zoning. St. John Properties recently underwent a zoning hearing in which they petitioned to seek relief from the parking requirements and to reduce the side yard setbacks. The Administrative Law Judge has ruled to allow the reductions to parking and the reductions to sideyard setbacks.. (E.Rockel)

Sonic Drive In: The abandoned fast food building at York and Belfast Roads is projected to become a Sonic Drive In. Before the conversion can take place, the owner needs to reapply for the use of commercial parking in a residential zone at the rear of the property. At the zoning hearing required before the redevelopment could move forward, the Administrative Law Judge denied the zoning relief requested by the Sonic operator. A hearing for reconsideration of that denial is scheduled for April 8, 2013. At the reconsideration hearing, the Judge approved the zoning relief after the dumpster and drive thru line were relocated solely on the commercially zoned part of the property. Nearby residents on Belfast Road have appealed of the ruling to the Board of Appeals, but they were unsuccessful. The site has since been rebuilt and the Sonic has experienced early success. (GTCC and Yorkshire/Haverford C.A.)

Verizon Wireless Cell Tower: The Board of Directors of the Dulaney Swim Club have decided not to engage in a lease for a cell tower on East Ridgely Road. All adjacent community associations were against the cell tower at that location. Everyone involved is particularly appreciative of the efforts put forth by Lavina Velasco and Casey O'Brien. (GTCC)

Comprehensive Zoning Map Process, 2012: Go to the GTCC website for a full list of properties requesting to be rezoned. As of the end of the open filing period, there was one more property requesting to be rezoned compared with a similar point in 2008. The County Council vote occurred too late to be included in this newsletter. Check back at the GTCC website to see the outcomes



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