

The Greater Timonium Community Council

Volume XI Issue II

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

March 2009

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Newsletter: Frank Regan, 410-337-5070

***** NEWSLETTER *****

President's Message – Eric Rockel

Still Going Strong at Age 350!

No, this is not a column about someone who has found the fountain of youth. Age 350 refers to the fact that Baltimore County officially celebrates its 350th anniversary this year. The political subdivision that started out by including most of the geographical area of the upper Chesapeake Bay, including all or parts of present day political subdivisions Anne Arundel, Howard, Harford, Carroll and Cecil Counties, as well as Baltimore City, is today the home for approximately 800,000 persons in a variety of communities, urban, suburban and rural in nature.

We have a number of wonderful landmarks within the Greater Timonium area, including the buildings that constitute “antiques row” in Cockeysville, old workers homes in Ashland that have been converted to upscale residences, the Pot Spring manor house, the Victorian village of Lutherville and the Hampton Mansion, just outside the bounds of the GTCC.

County Executive Jim Smith and the County Council kicked off the official celebration at ceremonial Court Room Number 5, in the Old Court House in Towson, during January, and the County plans on having a number of events throughout the remainder of the year. One way to keep up with the activities is through logging on to www.bc350.org. The site records various events and offers all citizens the opportunity to share their memories by posting blogs about their remembrances. You can also find out information about a new book on County history, written by Dr. Barry Lanman of UMBC that is being funded by Baltimore County and the Historical Society of Baltimore County.

At GTCC, we have been fortunate to hear from local historians John McGrain and Louis Digges at prior meetings. I hope that many of our GTCC members will contribute to the celebration in one form or another. One of the many reasons for trying to shape the future is our respect and admiration for the people and events of the past.

GTCC General Meeting – Wednesday, March, 11th, 2009

The GTCC will hold their ‘Next Meeting’ on Wednesday, March, 11th, 2009 at the Cockeysville Library Meeting Room, on Greenside Dr., Cockeysville with *meetings STILL beginning promptly at 7:00 PM.*

Annual GTCC Membership Dues – Marge DiNardo

GTCC ‘2009’ Membership dues of \$50 dollars for the year are due at this time. We had a great response from (51) Associations contributing their Annual Membership dues payment last year! Dues notices for 2009 have been mailed out this past week so if you haven’t received one or if you need a copy, please don’t hesitate to let us know. . So far, we have received (37) dues paying responses through February! Please send your 2009 dues payments to **GTCC, 9b Ridgely Rd., Box 276, Timonium, Maryland 21093**. Thanks to all our contributing Associations for all their dedicated support for the ongoing work of the Greater Timonium Community Council!

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 2009

NOTICE !!!

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

Board of Directors 7:00 pm – 9:00pm

General Membership 7:00 pm – 9pm

February 11, 2009
April 08, 2009
June 10, 2009
August – No Meeting
October 14, 2009
December 09, 2009

January 14, 2009
March 11, 2009
May 13, 2009
July – No Meeting
September 09, 2009
November 11, 2009

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

Agenda and Speakers - GTCC March 11th, Meeting - Tentative Schedule.....

1. *Introductions*
2. *Treasurer's Report*
3. *Membership Report*
4. *Cockeysville Precinct, Baltimore County Police Department*
5. *Lutherville Volunteer Fire Company, Capitol Campaign Update - Kiki Worthington*
6. *Cockeysville Library Expansion - Mollie Fein*
7. *Councilman Bryan McIntire – Legislative Update and News on the County Government*
8. *Old Business*
 - a. *Report on Sign Variance Hearing, PSA Financial*
 - b. *Speed Camera Legislation, Maryland General Assembly*
9. *New Business*
 - a. *Redevelopment on Aylesbury Rd.*
 - b. *Other Matters*
10. *Adjournment*

Volunteers Needed – *Jones Falls Watershed Association* - Eric Rockel

In conjunction with the Jones Falls Watershed Association, we are looking for volunteers to help clean up the Roland Run stream in the area south of Timonium Road. The clean up is scheduled for Saturday, April 4 from 9:00 AM to Noon. Participants will meet at Business Park Drive, between Aylesbury Road and Greenspring Drive. Clean up supplies will be provided. Don't miss this opportunity to better our community and get a little exercise.

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:

Warmer weather (hopefully!) is just around the corner. As I've written before – believe me, it bears repeating – “deception thefts” and “deception burglaries” seem to increase countywide as the weather warms up. Please take a moment and 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. The elderly and vulnerable adults are the most likely victims of these crimes.

Deception burglaries and thefts 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 that is installing a neighbor's fence. The person may say that he doesn't want to violate the property line and may ask the homeowner to step outside with him and examine a portion of their 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. This is when the second suspect, who was nearby but out of sight, will enter the house and steal smaller items that are easy to grab and conceal quickly. After about ten minutes, the first suspect and the homeowner will walk back into the house AFTER the second suspect has slipped out. 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.)

There is also an “in house” scam in which the suspect claims he is from BGE or the Water Department and needs to get to the basement to investigate a "problem in the lines." When the homeowner walks that person down to the basement, the second suspect enters and steals the valuables.

How can this be prevented? I believe that awareness is the key...let your families, friends and neighbors, especially the elderly, know about this type of crime. 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 while the person waits *outside*. Make sure that you call the number in the phone book for verification. DO NOT call the number given by the person who knocks on your door as that could be 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. And, if you are really suspicious, tell the person that you are calling 911. A legitimate employee will wait for the police... the deception burglars and thieves won't wait.

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.

Finally, don't forget that our Precinct 7 website is operational! If you haven't visited the site in a while, check in on us. You will find crime prevention tips, an overview of upcoming events in the precinct, and a link to our “Officer of the Month” section. There is also a "Precinct" email address for you to contact to pass along your questions and concerns. You may access our website by going to Baltimore County's main page: www.baltimorecountymd.gov and choosing the "Public Safety - Police" links, then select "Police Overview" on the next page, click on "Precincts" and then choose Precinct 7, or access our page directly at: www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/police/pc07/index.html

Captain Martin Lurz
Precinct 7

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

“Hello” from the Branch Manager at the Cockeysville Library.

New Library in Perry Hall!

The big news this month is the opening, March 9th, of the beautiful new Perry Hall Library at 9685 Honeygo Boulevard. The 25,000 square foot library features a large teen area, expanded children's area and a drive-up window for return and pick-up of materials. The new library will be handicapped-accessible and Baltimore County's first green library. The official ribbon cutting will be held on Monday, March 23rd at 2:30. A “community day” will be held on Saturday, March 28th and will include crafts, games, Jessie and James Dog Act and Tom Lilly's Balloon Art. Of historical note, the old library was dedicated on September 8, 1963, by then Baltimore County Executive, Spiro Agnew.

A Cockeysville Library Record

On Saturday, January 31, the Cockeysville Library broke their all-time Saturday door count record. That day we had 2,236 customers. If you break that down it is 264 people and hour and 4 ½ people per minute. Very busy!

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! On behalf of the Baltimore County Council, I am grateful for the opportunity to update the Greater Timonium Community on the activities of our County's legislative body. Your seven member County Council serves as the independent Legislative Branch of County government. The Council meets year-round, generally in bi-monthly Legislative Sessions (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 and on Verizon). The Council's web site at www.baltimorecountycouncil.org provides helpful information as well. Recent events of interest include:

CHANGEABLE COPY SIGNS. Changeable copy signs were last addressed by the Council during the 1997 comprehensive sign legislation. Since then, technological advances have promoted the use of electronic signs as an alternative to businesses. The 1997 law has been interpreted to limit change of copy to once per hour. Based upon a 2008 report from the Planning Board, the Council in Bill 106-08 reviewed the frequency interval for message change, and authorized a maximum frequency interval of 15 seconds. However, a changeable copy sign may not provide blinking, flashing, scrolling, strobing or animation.

RURAL ROADS. Resolution 80-08 adopts the Design Standards and Policies for Rural Baltimore County Roads as an amendment to the Design Manual, for roads located outside the URDL (Urban Rural Demarcation Line).

UNDERAGE DRINKING. The Council approved use of \$29,600 in federal funds to provide targeted enforcement to reduce the occurrence of underage drinking and related injuries and fatalities. The funds will be used by the police department for overtime and purchase of hand-held identification scanners and related accessories.

MEDICARE DIABETES SCREENING PROJECT. The Council approved use of \$2500 to create awareness and promote diabetes screening benefits covered by Medicare.

AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION. The Council approved \$1,998,421 of County matching funds to the State for the purchase of four development rights easements totaling 381 acres for \$3,081,933. Purchases of these easements adds to the 22,047 acres of farmland preserved through the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program in Baltimore County. The total amount of land in the County preserved through all preservation programs is 53,812 acres. Purchase of these easements permanently preserves land for future generations of County citizens.

Please feel free to contact me at 410-887-3385 should you have any questions or comments.

3rd District - Councilman Bryan McIntire

It seems that many old adages are true. At least we know that March has come in like a lion and hopefully will exit like a lamb! I hope you are well in spite of the very cold weather. Remember to check the BGE website for ideas on how to conserve electricity by using other methods than turning up the thermostat to keep your house warm and draft free on cold winter days.

In these difficult economic times, Baltimore County continues to retain its triple 'A' bond rating. However, thus far in fiscal 2009, the State of Maryland has cut aid to the County by \$1.4 million with reductions to the Detention Center, Community College of Baltimore County and the Health Department. No doubt there will be other reductions. The Baltimore County Executive will present his budget on April 14, 2009 at 10:00 am. The County Council will have approximately one month or so to review the budget proposal prior to voting on it in May. The Council's role in the budget process 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.

Please note that Baltimore County will hold its annual Spring 2009 "Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event" on Sunday, April 5th, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Baltimore County Resource Recovery Facility at the intersection of Drop Off Drive and Warren Road in Cockeysville. This is an excellent opportunity to get rid of unwanted household chemicals, paints, pesticides, etc. No trash will be accepted and the event is limited to Baltimore County residents only.

As always, my staff and I are available at any time that we can be of assistance. Please do not hesitate to call upon us at 410-887-3387 or via e-mail at council3@baltimorecountymd.gov.

The Legislator's Corner – Delegates Dan Morhaim, John Cardin and Dana Stine

We have also invited our State Representatives to provide us with an article for our newsletter in the form of 'The Legislator's Corner' on any issue(s) that they feel might be of interest to our membership. We rotate these requests through the Districts within GTCC. The following articles this month are from the 11th Legislative Districts:

11th District – Delegate Dan Morhaim

In this time of fiscal stress, there can be a small silver lining to the economic cloud.

There are only 3 ways for Maryland State government to get money:

- 1) Raise taxes, fees, surcharges
- 2) Cut programs and services
- 3) Find efficiencies and make spending transparent

There is no desire or good reason to tax citizens more. Programs and services have been cut drastically, and more cuts are hurting people. So - whether it's good times or bad - government always ought to be operating better.

Last year, legislation created a web site <http://www.spending.dbm.maryland.gov> where citizens can look up detailed information about state spending. I was actively involved in passing this bill as a co-sponsor and as the House floor manager. Please use this web site, and share any insights you have with your legislators.

This year, I am sponsoring other bills that cut waste and streamline operations.

- House Bill 70 rids the Department of Health and Hygiene of boards and commissions that no longer serve any purpose.
- House Bill 456 safely makes available drugs to specialists who treat cancer.
- House Bill 457 eliminates paperwork by moving required forms to electronic formats.
- House Bill 533 promotes group buying and exchange of best-buying practices between the State, the counties, and school systems. Small percentage savings here translate into big dollars.

I'm pleased to report that these bills are moving forward, but there's still a long way to go to final passage.

Please contact me at 410-841-3054, fax 410-841-3385, and email to dan.morhaim@house.state.md.us. Our 11th District Legislative Team - Senator Bobby Zirkin, Delegate Jon Cardin, Delegate Dan Morhaim, Delegate Dana Stein - always appreciates hearing from you.

11th District – Delegate Dana Stein

From a fiscal point of view, this legislative session is turning into a rollercoaster. The prospect of state layoffs and education funding cuts in FY 2010 has been replaced by a more positive budget outlook. With the recent enactment of the federal stimulus package, Maryland will receive \$3.75 billion for both capital and program funding, over a period of three fiscal years. As Senator Ben Cardin stated recently, the stimulus funding is meant to maintain the safety net and maintain programs, but not create new ones. One notable impact of the stimulus package is that proposed funding cuts to some school districts will not happen.

The federal funds will also allow the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to make important improvements to highways and mass transit systems. One of the first MDOT projects under the stimulus package will be resurfacing of several State roads that are west and east of I-83. For more information on how stimulus funding will be spent in Maryland, go to the State's web site at www.recovery.maryland.gov.

Nevertheless, the FY 2010 state budget will be a lean one. State employees will still be furloughed for 2–5 days and receive no COLA raises. Although some cancelled transportation projects will be funded, most of the \$ 2 billion in cuts to transportation projects for FY 2009–2014 will remain intact. Also, updated revenue estimates (to be released later this month) are likely to show more declines for this year and next. So, stay tuned!

I have introduced bills this session that concern highway safety, biofuels, auto advertising and other topics. One non-legislative matter I continue to work on stems from the task force on improving financial literacy in Maryland, which my HB 1242 established last year. The task force is charged with making recommendations on how to improve the financial literacy of students and adults. On January 28, I helped present the task force's recommendation to the State Board of Education that all students be required to learn financial literacy skills. I strongly believe that financial literacy is a basic life skill that all students should learn. I was very pleased that the Board stated that it will give serious consideration to this recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you in Annapolis. I am proud to be part of the District 11 legislative team, which includes Senator Bobby Zirkin, Delegate Jon Cardin, and Delegate Dan Morhaim. Please contact me at 410–841–3527 or dana.stein@house.state.md.us if I can ever be of assistance.

11th District – Delegate Jon Cardin

BGE Costs a Strain

We have all been affected by the rise in BGE costs over the past 3 months. In fact, my personal bill has increased by nearly 1000% since November. In response, I have been working on this issue and have inquired with the Maryland Office of the People's Counsel (OPC) at the Public Service Commission (PSC).

The OPC relayed to me that the increased prices are based on the peak in natural gas rates last summer. While the current price is based off those rates, the price of gas has dropped significantly which should be reflected in customer bills in the coming months and should definitely result in lower bills next winter, especially if we return to more "normal" winter weather, as this winter has so far been colder than normal.

There is always a lag between BGE's incurrence of the cost of gas and recovery from customers; however, the PSC Law provides for an annual review of BGE's (and all other gas utilities') gas charges. OPC participates in each one of the reviews through a review of all purchasing information and typically provides the testimony of an expert witness. By law, if the PSC finds that the gas costs are not reasonable or prudently incurred after that review, the PSC may order refunds.

Finally, the PSC recently issued orders to each gas utility requiring them to show cause why the summer storage injections starting in the Spring should not be hedged to reflect the current low gas prices. The PSC held a hearing on the companies' responses on February 24.

The Public Service Commission recently opened a new case to investigate how electric and gas companies handle customer arrearages, the companies' termination policies, and related issues. The Commission recently announced that it will expand the scope of the case to include an investigation into complaints about bills that are higher than normal. The new case for this matter is Case No. 9175. To view the filings in Case No. 9175, go to the PSC's website: www.psc.state.md.us. Under "Case Search" type "9175" (without quotation marks).

The PSC has put together an information sheet to help consumers in general:

[http://webapp.psc.state.md.us/Intranet/sitesearch/whats_new/BGE%20Bills%20for%20Web%20site%20%20OER](http://webapp.psc.state.md.us/Intranet/sitesearch/whats_new/BGE%20Bills%20for%20Web%20site%20%20OER.pdf)

[R.pdf](http://webapp.psc.state.md.us/Intranet/sitesearch/whats_new/BGE%20Bills%20for%20Web%20site%20%20OER.pdf) If you have already contacted a utility regarding a dispute with them, including a billing issue, and the dispute is not satisfactorily resolved, you may contact the Public Service Commission's Office of External Relations ("OER"), which handles the PSC's consumer complaints. A complaint form can be found on the PSC's web site: http://webapp.psc.state.md.us/Intranet/info/complaintFront_new.cfm.

Membership & Annual Dues Report

The GTCC has always had a great representation from the many Associations that exist in our geographic area which encompasses about 25 perimeter miles. This area is roughly bound from Dulaney Valley Road & I-695 to Falls Road & I-695, then north on Falls Road to Shawn Road, then east over to York Road, then up Ashland / Papermill Roads to the Loch Raven Reservoir boundary then over to Old Bosley Road and then down Dulaney Valley Road to I-695.

Each year we have been fortunate to increase our participation with a growing number of Community Associations. We are pleased to report that the GTCC now has over 50+ active dues paying Associations within its umbrella that represents over 60,000+ residents within our thriving neighborhoods. It is through the hard work and participation by each member Community Group that helps to enhance and protect the quality of residential life within our area.

Please find a list of participating Community Associations below:

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

NeighborSpace of Baltimore County, Inc. - Saving Open Spaces in Our Neighborhoods

NeighborSpace of Baltimore County, Inc. is a non-profit organization that acquires land for communities to enjoy forever as small parks, gardens, or natural areas. NeighborSpace will acquire a piece of land, either through purchase or donation, in exchange for a commitment by a local group to manage the parcel as community open space.

NeighborSpace focuses on open space needs in the County's older communities and growth areas - that is, inside the Urban-Rural Demarcation Line. NeighborSpace can acquire land outright, or it can obtain a "conservation easement" that enables the owner of the property to keep the land but places a permanent restriction on the use of the land. Landowners that donate land or easements to NeighborSpace may receive significant tax benefits.

Michele Frome, the Land Trust Administrator for NeighborSpace, gave a presentation at the February 11 GTCC meeting. If you are interested in preserving a piece of undeveloped land or learning more about NeighborSpace, please feel free to contact Michele Frome at 410-727-3245 or Michele.frome@verizon.net.

For additional information check out their website at: www.neighborspacebaltimorecounty.org

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:

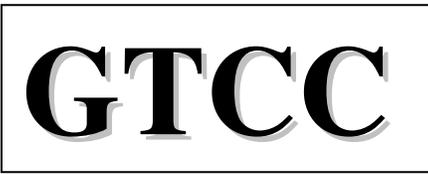
1. Where in Baltimore County is one of the thoroughbred industry's historic breeding farms located?
2. What local eatery was famous for its Coffey Salad, crab cakes and a dessert with sugar rum wash over five layers of yellow cake, four layers of custard filling and topped with rich chocolate?
3. Who was the fourth County Executive in Baltimore County?

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. Sagamore Farms lies in the Greenspring Valley near Glyndon. When Alfred G. Vanderbilt (1933-1999) owned it, it became one of the premiere breeding farms of the mid-20th century. The champion racer Discovery as well as his grandson, Native Dancer were raised here.

2. The Pimlico Hotel. The hotel was built in 1875 in the infield of the racetrack and in the early 20th century, it was moved to the 5300 block of Park Heights Avenue. In 1984 it made its final move to the Commercenter on Reisterstown Road, just outside the Beltway. The Pimlico Hotel closed in 1991.

3. Dale Anderson, 1966-1973.



The Greater Timonium Community Council

The Next GTCC General Meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2009 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)

Hampton Inn & Suites: Hotel is proposed on lot 6 at Texas Station Court. The Development Review Committee approved that this project would not require Community Input Meeting and Hearing Officer's Hearing despite objection raised by GTCC. (E. Rockel)

York & Ridgely Roads: The former Lincoln/Mercury dealership has been reported to be the future site of a Walgreen Drug Store, as well as a pad site for some other use. (E. Rockel)

State Highway Administration Projects: The SHA plans to resurface Falls Road in the next few months, which may result in traffic delays, and it plans to replace a bridge deck on Seminary Ave. in the summer of 2009. (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)

11311 McCormick Road: The owner has received a variance to construct signage larger than permitted under zoning regulations. The GTCC will oppose the grant of this variance at the Board of Appeals. (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, 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. Former Ames building has been demolished, and site work begun already. (L. Miller, F. Regan, E. Rockel)

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 widening to take place from Fall 2007 to Fall 2008. Expect project completion in the Spring of 2009.(E. Rockel, GTCC Executive Committee)

Beaver Dam Swim Club Property – Development Concept Plan reviewed by GTCC. Plan calls for four (4) mid-rise residential buildings with fifty-five units per building, or eleven units per floor. Two hundred twenty (220) units ,with below grade parking for 528 spaces. Plan would occupy ten of the twenty-six acres. No plans given for the remaining acres. A PUD overlay zoning is required.

Further discussion with Mr. Mark Hanley, Jr. results in no further action at this time. (E. Rockel, L. Miller, GTCC Executive Committee)

Comprehensive Rezoning for 2008: See the list of properties requesting a zoning reclassification under the Comprehensive Zoning Map Process by looking at the GTCC website. GTCC continues to work with Councilman McIntire on developing a unique zoning classification for the Timonium Fairgrounds. (E. Rockel, L. Miller & GTCC)

COMPLETED ISSUES

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. Longford North was to hold a fundraiser in early November to help pay for its legal expenses. The developer has submitted a revised development plan in December. The Hearing Officer's Hearing was held in April with Longford North, Pine Valley/Valleywood, Huntridge and GTCC offering comments on the plan. A consistent remark from all was that the number of units, 103, needed to be reduced. The hearing officer approved the 103 unit plan. The Longford North Community reached a compromise with the developer and has dropped any plan to appeal the development. It has come to our attention that the original developer is trying to sell the property to a third party to develop. (E.Rockel, Longford North)

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

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. 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., and the Zoning Commissioner approved the project. In February 2009 the development plan for the project was submitted to Baltimore County for review.(E. Rockel, L. Miller, GTCC Executive Committee & Stratford Community)

Mays Chapel School Site: The Baltimore County Board of Education originally planned to move a special needs school to a 20 acre site off of Padonia Road in Mays Chapel. After much community opposition, County Executive James Smith intervened to propose that existing schools in Towson, including the current site of the special needs school, receive additions to accommodate the overcrowding at the elementary school level. At present, the Mays Chapel site does not appear to be in the Board of Education's plans (E. Rockel & Mays Chapel Community Associations)

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)