

The Greater Timonium Community Council

Volume XII Issue III

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

May 2010

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***** NEWSLETTER *****

President's Message – Eric Rockel

National Volunteer Week

In case you missed the news, April 18 to 24th was “National Volunteer Week”, a call to service for those who don’t and a time of recognition for those who do. I can’t stress enough how important volunteer service can be, particularly in these economic times. Many non-profit organizations, community associations and even government agencies are strained by the downturn in the economy, and volunteer assistance can act as a transfusion that breathes hope and help. There are many GTCC members who deserve recognition for their help to this organization, particularly Frank Regan, Marge DiNardo, Katie Barone, Jim Rogers and Joan Mahan. They all play important roles in keeping the organization functioning. I would also like to recognize Henry Erck, another GTCC member, who logs countless hours as a volunteer at the Cockeysville Library. When I heard just how many hours Henry spends helping at the library, I was blown away by his generosity.

A recent edition of the Towson Times told the story of Kit Slafkosky and Suzanne Merryman, two Cockeysville women, who monitor a small section of Beaver Run to report on the stream’s health. Ms. Merryman has even organized a stream cleanup group from members of Sherwood Episcopal Church. If you are motivated to help in this effort, the pair is planning another Fall cleanup, and I would suggest that you contact Sherwood Episcopal Church to find out more.

Finally, if you catch the volunteer fever, we are always looking for more help with the Greater Timonium Community Council. Election for officers is still seven months away, but we would love to have people assist in a variety of efforts, including development and zoning issues, our newsletter, community outreach and other areas. We are not expecting you to make the GTCC a full time job, but as little as an hour or two a month can make an important contribution.

Kudos to Dr. Dennis Foster, who practices dentistry in the 2300 block of York Road. Dr. Foster had to request a zoning variance this past fall in order to enlarge the building where he practices. At the time he did not have finalized architectural drawings, but he pledged to show them to the community when the drawings were finalized. Dr. Foster gave me a copy of the drawing recently, and the enlargement of the building will still keep a very “residential feel” to the property and expand upon the bungalow style that already exists. A copy of the drawing will be available at our next meeting.

Hope you can attend the next GTCC meeting, where we will hold a legislative wrap with members of the General Assembly giving their perspectives on the 2010 legislative session. See you on May 12th, at Ridgely Middle School.

GTCC General Meeting – Wednesday, May 12th, 2010

The GTCC will hold their ‘Next Meeting’ on **Wednesday, May 12th, 2010 at the Ridgely Middle School Meeting Room - #103**, on Lynncrest & Ridgely Roads with meetings *STILL* beginning **promptly at 7:00 PM.**

GTCC

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

NOTICE !!!

CALENDAR 2010

NOTICE !!!

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

Board of Directors 7:00 pm – 9:00pm

General Membership 7:00 pm – 9pm

**February 1, 2010
April 14, 2010
June 09, 2010
August – No Meeting
October 13, 2010
December 10, 2010**

**January 13, 2010
March 10, 2010
May 12, 2010
July – No Meeting
September 08, 2010
November 10, 2010**

*All Meetings are **NOW** Scheduled at the “**Ridgely Middle School**” Rm-103, on the **DATES NOTED ABOVE !!!***

Agenda and Speakers - GTCC May 12th, Meeting - Tentative Schedule.....

- * *Introductions*
- * *Public Safety from the Cockeysville Precinct*
- * *Cockeysville Library Renovations Update - Mollie Fein, Branch Manager, Cockeysville*
- * *Review of the Maryland Legislative Session for 2010 – Many of our Legislators*
- * *Zoning & Development Updates*
- * *New Business*
- * *Adjourn*

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 would like to thank the G.T.C.C. for allowing me to use the monthly newsletter to help spread awareness about a crime that preys on elderly victims and often results in a sizeable cash return – sometimes the victim's life savings – for the suspect/s. If you're a member of the Precinct 7 email tree, you will recall that I've written before about a theft crime known as a "Flim-Flam" or "Pigeon Drop". This involves a "con" situation in which a victim - usually (but not always) *elderly* - is convinced to give up a sum of money as a good faith promise to obtain a larger sum of money.

Pigeon-Drop thieves usually work in pairs, BUT have been known to work alone with the aid of a cell phone as a prop. These crimes usually occur in shopping centers and often in the vicinity of banks. Most of these type of scam crimes will follow this pattern:

The suspect/s will identify a potential victim, otherwise known as the "mark" or "pigeon". A suspect will approach the victim and strike up a friendly conversation in order to gain the victim's trust. After that, a second suspect will approach and ask if anyone lost a wallet, bag, or purse containing money but no identification. The second suspect will show the item which contains a roll of "flash money" which is usually nothing more than a large paper bill wrapped around an inner roll of paper, etc. The two suspects will discuss what to do with the money. One of the suspects may offer to call a "lawyer friend" for advice. That suspect will then either walk away to "make that call to the friend" or fake a phone conversation while standing with the victim. The suspect will then say that the friend has offered to hold the found money for X number of days and, if it's not claimed, all (victim and suspect/s) are entitled to it. At this point, one suspect will offer to put up "good faith money" to secure his/her interest in the found money. The victim - and remember, usually an unsuspecting elderly victim who has been "sized up for vulnerability" already - will be asked to do the same. The suspect/s will then accompany the victim to a bank where a sizeable withdrawal of cash is made. That "good faith" money is given to the suspect to be held by the "lawyer friend" for X-number of days. The suspect/s will then leave after telling the victim that they will "be in touch".

That's it! Done! And yes, there are actually folks that will do this because it works on some victims. Remember though, that there are many, *many* variations of the flim-flam scam. And, as I said, it can be pulled off by one suspect acting alone. The one I've described is one of the most common methods of operation.

The common issues amongst all the scams are:

- The victim is usually elderly and/or vulnerable.
- "Something" is found containing what appears to be a large sum of cash.
- The victim will be asked to put up "good faith" money to secure an interest in the found money.

TELL FOLKS YOU KNOW WHO COULD BE TARGETED HOW TO AVOID FOUND MONEY SCAM:

- Trust instincts and if the situation seems unusual or if you feel uncomfortable, walk away
- Trust only people you know. Do not trust someone because they seem to have honest faces and pleasant personalities. That trust is their key to the scammer's success.
- If someone found a large sum of money, would *he* be willing to give up *his own large sum of money* just as a sign of good faith? Highly unlikely.
- If legal advice or other money assistance is required, the service of a competent financial professional should be sought. Before you withdraw any sum of money at someone else's suggestion you should call your bank, lawyer or any trusted person who could possess appropriate knowledge.

If you have concerns about elderly parents, family members, etc. making a large withdrawal of cash in such a situation and there is no joint account or power of attorney, etc., contact the bank manager to see if the account can be flagged for co-authorization of large-sum cash withdrawals. *Remember too that victims may not be report these crimes right away, or worse, not at all, because of embarrassment if they realize they have been scammed.*

Awareness is the key to combating this crime that preys on the elderly. Please pass this information along. I realize that this scam can be confusing to some folks; however, there are actually videos of hidden camera pigeon-drop scams that you can watch on YouTube to see how it works. Just web-search "Pigeon-Drop You Tube" on your web browser.

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

The Greater Timonium Community Council maintains an active website to provide everyone information related to our organization and many activities of Community interest. Our main website access has been changed to **GTCCINC.ORG** instead of **GTCCINC.COM** however we have linked the two addresses together and you can NOW access our site through either of the above web addresses.

Annual GTCC Membership Dues – Marge DiNardo

GTCC '2010' 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 2010 have been mailed out in January so if you haven't received one or if you need a copy, please don't hesitate to let us know. . Please send your 2010 dues payments to **GTCC, 9b Ridgely Rd., Box 276, Timonium, Maryland 21093**. Thanks to all our contributing Associations for all their dedicated support for the ongoing work of the Greater Timonium Community Counsel!

The Councilman's Corner – Kevin Kamenetz

We have invited our County Councilmen to provide us this month with an article for our newsletter in the form of 'The Councilman's Corner' on any issue(s) that he feels might be of interest to our membership. The following article this month is from Kevin:

2nd District - Councilman Kevin Kamenetz

Greetings to all the GTCC membership and community. On behalf of the Baltimore County Council, I am grateful for the opportunity to update the Council 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 Session is broadcast on BCTV (Comcast Channel 25). The Council's web site at www.baltimorecountycouncil.org provides helpful information as well.

Department of Corrections

On January 13, 2010 Aramark Correctional Services, who currently provides food services within the detention center, was awarded a contract to operate a commissary within the center. The Commissary Account Program will operate within a designated rental space within the Detention Center, offering inmates the opportunity to purchase such items as snack foods and personal hygiene items. As a direct result of the new contract, the FY 2010 rent revenue will be increased from 9% of total sales previously held with Maryland Business Enterprise Program to 44.1% with Aramark. The department has advised that minimal price increase for commissary items will be passed along to inmates.

The proposed supplemental appropriation of \$140,000 will increase the department's revised estimated amount to \$248,000 as a result of the Aramark contract. These funds will be used to provide supplies along with additional substance abuse treatment services. These services, provided by Gaudenzia, consist of residential substance abuse treatment (RSAT) in a therapeutic setting to those eligible. It is estimated that approximately 1,300 inmates will benefit from RSAT services during FY 2010. The \$407,977 operational grant, previously funded by the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention for this program expired March 31, 2010.

Temporary Women's Shelter

A contract with Modular Genius, Inc. to lease five modular trailer units as temporary shelter for residents of the Hannah Moore Shelter has been approved. An anticipated eight-month renovation project of the facility will require temporary shelter able to house up to 100 residents. The Hannah More Shelter currently provides temporary housing for 80 residents, including married and single women, husbands and children in need of shelter for various reasons. This contract continues for eight months, and will automatically renew for one additional three-month period in one-month increments with compensation not exceeding \$205,516 over the entire eleven month term including renewals.

Substance Abuse Treatment Programs

Approval has been granted by the County Council for amendment to four substance abuse treatment services allowing extension of each contract by one year through June 30, 2011. Three of the contract terms increase from ten to eleven years, while the fourth increases from twelve to thirteen years. Estimated compensation for the additional year of the four contracts increases estimated compensation over the entire amended terms from \$32,023,302 to \$35,967,587.

This measure is being necessitated by the uncertainty of the FY 2011 grant from the State of Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Administration (ADAA). The ADAA is currently restructuring grant funding to local jurisdictions. This process is expected to extend into FY 2011 and possibly through FY 2012. As a result of ADAA restructuring it will be difficult to issue a Request for Proposals adequately reflecting funding available, therefore the Department of Health Bureau of Behavioral Health must seek extension of the current terms in order to continue services.

Currently services to individual, group and family therapy; medication management; addiction education and relapse prevention; vocational assistance as well as referral to ancillary services are being provided by Alcohol and Drug Treatment, Inc, First Step, Inc.; Friends Research Institute, Inc., d/b/a Epoch Counseling Center; and Glass Mental Health Foundation, Inc.

Board of Appeals Appointment

Confirmation by the County Council for the reappointment to the Board of Appeals has been made on behalf of respective councilman:

- * Mr. Lawrence Wescott reappointed by Councilman Bryan McIntire
- * Mr. Andrew M. Belt reappointed by Councilman Vince Gardina
- * Mr. Lawrence M. Stahl reappointed by Councilman Kevin Kamenetz

In closing I thank GTCC for affording me the opportunity to share with you information that impacts all of us as a community and as a county. I look forward to our continued successful partnership in the future.

The Librarian's Corner – Mollie Fine

We have also invited our Cockeysville Library Manager, Mollie Fine, to provide us with an article for our newsletter in the form of 'The Librarian's Corner' on any issue(s) that she feels might be of interest to our membership. The following article this month is from Mollie:

Invitation for "Greater Timonium Community Council" Members

Please join Baltimore County Public Library Director, Jim Fish, and Cockeysville Library Branch Manager, Mollie Fein, for a SPECIAL GTCC "Pre-opening" Library Preview on Saturday, June 19th, 10:00 am to 11:00 am. For further information or to RSVP please call the Cockeysville Branch Manager, Mollie Fein at 410-887-7750 x-110

Cockeysville Library Renovation Update

Library has completed 80% of construction in preparation for opening the 2.2 million dollar expansion and renovation of the current space. The expansion will increase the size of the library by about 1,600 square feet, to 24,600 square feet. Limited library services continue from the Cockeysville Library's meeting room. Members of the Greater Timonium Community Council are encouraged to contact Branch Manager, Mollie Fein, (410-887-7750 x110) for a personal tour of construction progress.

Storyville (2) opens at the Woodlawn Library!

A second Storyville opened to the public at the Woodlawn Branch of BCPL. After the community's overwhelming response to Storyville on the east side in the Rosedale Branch, Baltimore County agreed to fund construction of a Storyville in the Woodlawn Branch, on Baltimore County's west side. Storyville is an award-winning interactive early literacy learning center designed specifically for children ages birth to five and their caregivers. The child-sized village includes developmentally appropriate books and activities for children ages birth to five. The environments and activities in Storyville are specifically designed for caregivers to help their young children enter school ready to learn. The Woodlawn Storyville library, stocked with a variety of children's books and comfortable seating, invites reading together. Books, displayed in every area, as well as parent resource materials and themed take home kits, are available for checkout. For more information about Storyville@Woodlawn please call 410-887-1336.

The Legislator's Corner – Frank Regan

We have invite 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 as we publish each successive newsletter throughout the year.

As many of you are aware, the Annapolis 2010 Legislative Session has concluded last month for this year and as always, things become both very interesting and hectic toward the end of session. Many of our Legislators have contacted me and asked if I would publish their "End of Session" message summaries which detail how they viewed what transpired over the course of this year's session. In fairness, we have asked all our State Senators and Delegates from the 42nd, 11th and 7th Districts to submit their articles for our newsletter. The following articles this month are from those that contributed to this request. Please find all these informative articles "*at the end*" of this newsletter due to their overall length. Additionally, we would like to extend a hearty "*Thank You*" to all our Legislators for their hard work during the session, their contributions and continued support for the GTCC, our members and all the citizens within our communities.

Membership & Annual Dues Report – Frank Regan

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

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

Please find a list of participating Community Associations below:

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

This & That – Regular and New Helpful Items

- **Balto.Co. Executive Updates** - The Office of the County Executive periodically has information to provide to community leaders. A number of community leaders have expressed a desire to receive this information in an email format. If you would like to receive these emails, please register using the following website:

<http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Subscribe>

- **Balto.Co. E-Community Newsletter** - Baltimore County has unveiled a new County service, the E-Community Newsletter. The county will publish seven monthly letters, one for each County Council district, detailing planning, zoning, development and public works decisions and their impact on communities. The first issue will be published in mid-August. Residents can register for the newsletter at:

<http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Subscribe/updates/index.html>

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/executive/executiveupdate.html>

GTCC Trivia – Did You Know?

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

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

1. The first deed in Baltimore County was filed in 1664. Where was the property?
2. What is “Towson’s Light-House”?
3. Who were the last five County Executives?

Please don’t hesitate to send any of our Board members a trivia fact and we will try to include them in our next Newsletter. (See Answers Below)

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

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

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

Historic Photo: The Lutherville Volunteer Fire Department 1900 - 1920



The Legislator's Corner – Annapolis Legislative Summaries

We have invited our State Representatives to provide us with an article for our newsletter in the form of 'The Legislator's Corner' on any issue(s) that they feel might be of interest to our membership. We rotate these requests through the Districts within GTCC. The following articles this month are from the 42nd, 11th & 7th Legislative District:

42nd District – Senator Jim Brochin

The 2010 legislative session was one in which we made progress to protect our children from the horrendous acts of sexual predators and gangs. This year we passed a comprehensive package of sex offender including Jessica's Law, mandatory sentences for certain sex crimes against children, and the elimination of good time credits for these same crimes. For seven years I co-sponsored these bills, and they were long overdue.

Unfortunately, the budget, while balanced, still has an enormous challenge. The tax increase of 2007, which I voted against, has helped facilitate a lack of consumer spending and has left us with a future structural deficit. It is only by cutting spending and unnecessary programs, like the \$700million spent in taxpayer aid to private colleges and tax credits for developers, that we will ever be able to structurally balance future budgets.

Mounting frustration by constituents in our district over cell phone use has made it apparent that driving while talking on a cell phone can be deadly. This year I supported a bill which makes it a secondary offense to use a hand held cell phone while driving. What this means is that if you're committing another traffic offense, such as reckless driving (primary offense), while using a cell phone, you can be cited for a cell phone infraction.

I also co-sponsored the medical marijuana bill, which could have eased the pain of our most vulnerable citizens. Additionally, I introduced a bill which would allow victims of domestic violence up to (14) days of temporary lodging. Both these bills passed the Senate, but were killed in the House.

Your support on these and other issues has been overwhelming, and just wanted to let you know what a true honor it is to represent you. If I can ever be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to provide you with this update. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 410-841-3648. I look forward to seeing you over the Summer, *Jim*.

42nd District – Delegate Steve Lafferty

Now that the 427th Session of the Maryland General assembly has concluded, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve the 42nd District and the State of Maryland. It has been an honor to represent you and to work on your behalf to make our communities, county and State better. I also want to thank you for contacting me and sharing your thoughts and concerns with me.

At times, the Session was difficult but, I believe, productive. Maryland has been caught in the national recession, and one of the worst economic times in modern history. The Legislature worked hard to be fiscally prudent and socially responsible. We focused substantial attention on the need to create more jobs, develop a balanced budget, improve public safety, support education and protect the environment.

I heard from you and many, many others. While there are many important bills that we passed, I want to report to you on some of the issues and legislation that I know were important this year.

Jobs and the Economy

We took a number of steps to stimulate job creation. We enacted legislation to establish a \$5,000 Job Creation Tax Credit to encourage employers to add to their workforce; created a small business loan guaranty program; afforded small

businesses the chance to pay property taxes in two installments; and, reduced the rising Unemployment Insurance tax burden on employers. Additionally, no tax increases were given serious consideration.

We gave support to the aquaculture, biotechnology and nanotechnology sectors and created a tax credit to promote investment in older commercial districts in the state. Funds were retained for stem cell research, which will also create and preserve jobs. Our capital budget creates thousands of construction jobs throughout the state. And, I have been working to streamline state permitting processes so that job creating development projects can proceed with fewer delays.

The State Budget

Recognizing these very difficult economic times, we balanced the budget while protecting priorities in education, public safety, health care and the environment. The overall budget shrinks by almost 2%. Over the past four years, the state's General Fund budget has decreased by 3%. The infusion of federal stimulus funds has allowed us to take one time steps to keep the budget in balance although state revenues have gone down.

K-12 education was one of the few areas where there was a funding increase. The upcoming budget will include \$5.7 billion for education aid to the counties, including textbooks, aid for teachers, pensions and other needs. For the first time in four years, college tuitions will see a modest 3% increase. The budget also eliminates nearly 600 state positions. Unfortunately, for the third year in a row, state employees will get no merit or COLA increases and will face furloughs. The legislature also rejected a recommendation that our salaries be increased in 2013 and 2014.

This year's capital budget continues the state's commitment to public education, higher education, transportation, the environment and communities. I supported the capital budget because it included funds that are important in our district and to the state. This year's budget has \$250 million in school construction funds, which means \$1.2 billion has been invested in school construction in the past four years. There is also \$70 million in bonds for open space acquisition and parks improvements and \$22.5 million to fund efforts to clean up the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The 42nd district will also receive funds for Towson University, Goucher, Sheppard Pratt, Aging Schools and various road projects.

Education

The Safe Schools Act helps to break down the barriers and improve communications between local school systems and law enforcement. It requires the juvenile court to notify school officials when a child has been found to be delinquent, in need of assistance, or in need of supervision and committed to a state agency. The intent is to get schools working with law enforcement to intervene to prevent children from being drawn into gang activity.

The Education Reform Act will make Maryland more competitive as we seek federal Race to the Top funds. Reforms include requiring teachers to teach for three years (it is now two) before they can be tenured; allowing differentiated pay programs to attract high performing teachers to low performing schools; and, piloting incentive pay programs.

After four years of tuition freezes, it was necessary to increase tuitions. However it will be capped at a modest 3% for in-state students while many other states are seeing double digit increases.

My own bill to require an elected School Board in Baltimore County died half way through the Session. I believe that we need a Board that is much more open and accountable. This bill highlighted the issue and, although it failed, it pointed to some serious problems that need to be addressed in the future. I intend to reexamine this issue next year to find a better way to choose the members for this very important Board.

Environmental Issues

The dominant environmental issue was the proposed implementation of the Stormwater Management Act of 2007. The regulations were developed by a group that included environmental activists, developers, contractors and local government officials. However, the development community became increasingly vocal in opposition to the new regs. They were concerned that their substantial financial investments in plans and construction would be lost if the new regulations went into effect.

At the same time, environmentalists see the new requirements to use "environmental site design" as a way to improve water quality and reduce further pollution from storm-water runoff. Following weeks of going back and forth, new regulations were adopted that strengthen control of runoff, further reduce pollution, require developers to meet the new

standards to the “maximum extent practicable” and allow for a transition for plans that have already been approved or will have certain approvals by 2013.

The Environmental Matters Committee firmly rejected efforts to loosen the laws regarding oystering. The oyster population is at 1% of its historic level. Further expansion without adequate controls is ecologically and economically untenable. At the same time, the Governor’s Fisheries Management Plan will preserve additional waters while hiring watermen to help restore oyster bars and helping others transition to aquaculture.

Legislation was also enacted to examine the best practices for the use and application of road salts. The salt is damaging to the environment but is much less costly and much more effective than many other alternatives that are available. It is time, though, to ensure we are using the best materials and best practices to reduce the harm to the environment.

Importantly, funds were restored to the Chesapeake and Atlantic Bays Trust Fund to continue efforts to clean the Bays and restore them and their tributaries to healthier conditions. The coming year’s budget will include \$22.5 million for the Trust Fund. We also preserved funding for land preservation and open space acquisition.

Public Safety and Crime

The horrific sexual crimes against children generated substantial legislation. Hopefully, these laws will enable the state to better monitor predators, prosecute them, and keep them away from young people in our communities.

We took action to increase the mandatory minimum sentences for second degree sex offenses and rape from 5 to 15 years; established lifetime supervision of serious and repeat sexual offenders for a crime committed on or after August 1, 2006; and, prohibit the earning of diminution credits (“good time credits”) to reduce the term of an inmate who is serving a sentence for repeat third degree and serious sex offenders. Other bills expand the Sex offender Registry and authorize a judge, not a District Commissioner, to release the alleged sex offender on bail or other conditions to assure that the defendant will not flee or pose a danger to others.

After extensive debate, we also passed legislation to tighten the laws regarding the prosecution of gang members. The 2007 law was not working, so we created stiffer penalties and took steps to prohibit someone from being a “kingpin.”

We banned the use of handheld cell phones with widespread bi-partisan support. This will mean that when the vehicle is in motion, the driver may have a phone conversation but the phone unit must be hands free, a Bluetooth or other technology. By being hands free, drivers should have more control of their vehicles and, hopefully, less dangerous.

For the first time in four years, we enacted legislation to support the safety of bicyclists by establishing a 3’ safety zone. Drivers will be committing a moving violation if they drive closer than 3’ to a cyclist. Cyclists are also afforded other rights when on the roadways of the state. They are still required to ride on the shoulder where there is one, stay to the right and ride in a single file where possible.

Housing

The major housing legislation was to establish mandatory foreclosure mediation. This is needed because too few lenders have made serious efforts to help distressed owners mitigate and save their mortgages. More and more owners have found their homes to be “underwater” (worth less than they owe) or they are unemployed and cannot pay their mortgages. We do not want more abandoned homes. Now the borrower and lender will be required to meet and attempt to work out payment options before a foreclosure can proceed. This will be invaluable in preventing foreclosures and helping families stay in their homes.

I succeeded in getting legislation, HB1399, <http://mlis.state.md.us/2010rs/bills/hb/hb1399e.pdf>, to require all lenders to advise borrowers that housing counseling is available. The timing and notice provisions will be created by regulation but, for the first time, all borrowers will make a conscious choice whether or not to get housing education or counseling. We need to be proactive to ensure that people are informed before making such a major life decision.

I also was the co-sponsor of an important bill, HB 711, <http://mlis.state.md.us/2010rs/bills/hb/hb0711t.pdf>, which enables tenants to remain in a home they have been renting when that house is put into foreclosure. When a tenant (renter) pays her rent but the owner does not pay the mortgage, the tenant can become the victim of the foreclosure. Now, a tenant will have up to 90 days to remain. I was unsuccessful with a similar bill last year but, now, Maryland conforms to federal law

My Other Legislation

In addition to the bills I introduced regarding the elected school board and housing counseling, I had three other bills that passed. I was the lead sponsor on a bill that will enable smaller restaurants in Towson to get a liquor license. Hopefully, this will encourage smaller operations to come to Towson and support the revitalization.

My most important bill, HB 1042, <http://mlis.state.md.us/2010rs/bills/hb/hb1042e.pdf>, will prevent the state from posting social security numbers and driver's license numbers on the web! Many older loan documents and mortgage documents have social security numbers on them. Unfortunately, these can be found and, potentially misused. My bill stops that practice and gives individuals the right to have the numbers removed. The Archivist and Courts were very helpful. I want to thank the two constituents who brought this issue to me.

After working for three years to help mobile home park residents get some protections, I finally succeeded this year. HB 103, <http://mlis.state.md.us/2010rs/bills/hb/hb0103e.pdf>, will provide some financial relief for park residents when they lose their homes when a park closes. For the first time, owners will also have to spell out a plan for helping these dislocated residents. Those who live in larger parks will get more funds than those in smaller parks

The state's Consolidated Transportation Plan ("CTP") describes the transportation projects that the state is funding each year. However, the CTP does not necessarily follow the state's established transportation goals and the selection criteria have not been linked to good land use planning. My bill, HB 1155, <http://mlis.state.md.us/2010rs/bills/hb/hb1155e.pdf>, requires the state to follow set criteria and tie the funding of roads, highways and transit to clear needs and good land use decisions in the urban and rural parts of Maryland. This is an important step to better transportation funding decisions.

I am proud to represent you and the 42nd District. Please feel free to contact me at Stephen.lafferty@house.state.md.us or at my district office at 410-296-1699 if I can be of assistance. Best wishes, *Steve*

42nd District – Delegate Sue Aumann

Thank you for contacting my office during the 2010 Session of the Maryland General Assembly. I appreciate the time you took to let me know your views on issues that concerned you. I have taken these opinions into consideration and used them while deliberating.

This term I again served on the Transportation and the Environmental Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee. I continue to serve on the Oversight Committee on Personnel, Oversight Committee on Pensions, Joint Committee for Audits, Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics, and Deputy Whip for the Republican Caucus. I want to thank all of you for the honor and the pleasure of allowing me to serve the residents of the 42nd District as well as our fellow Marylanders.

The 2010 Session has concluded with challenges still ahead of us. Over 2800 filed bills were heard in our committees and in the House Chamber. Due to the financial condition of the state, bills submitted with large fiscal notes were considered but not acted on because of the State's current budget conditions. This Session the Appropriations Committee worked on ratifying the four Board of Public Works' actions taken during this year's unprecedented downturn in our economy. The Board of Public Works had cut over \$700 million from the State's \$32 billion dollar budget. Even with the \$2 billion dollars in Federal Assistance through the ARRA funds, the Government could not collect enough revenues to keep pace with spending.

SB 140 - The Budget Bill for Fiscal Year 2011

After 11 weeks of extensive debate over the Budget Bill, SB140, 76 committee amendments were adopted, reducing the Governor's Budget by \$12 Million. Just days after the Budget was presented to the Floor of the House Chamber, the Governor took that \$12 million and spent those funds on other programs in a Supplemental Budget. The Conference Committee Report was submitted two days before the Session ended which increased the Budget by \$16 million over what the Governor submitted. Here lies the challenge, revenues are projected to be less and our spending continues to

climb. This is the third year that State employees have been furloughed; there were no raises or cost of living adjustments.

New programs were created, projects for construction were supported and five pages of transfers from every account that the Governor could sweep from was swept. See the "Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2010 (SB 141/HB 151) Budget Summary, Provisions, and Recommendations March 2010," (<http://mlis.state.md.us/2010rs/misc/BRFAof2010.pdf>) pages 6, 7, 8, and 9 for all the transfers made to the General Fund. Some of these transfers are constitutionally questionable, such as the Comptroller's account that receives local taxes for \$350 million and \$20 million from an account that the Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund holds in reserves. It is still unclear if the State will receive the \$380 million from the Federal Government. There lacks any extra cushion, which may result in further action by the Board of Public Works. The General Assembly must present a balanced budget and understand the financial forecast to prepare for its duty for fiscal responsibility.

The Minority Party offered more than \$850 million in suggested cuts with the help of the Department of Legislative Services. Just a few of these suggestions were implemented, such as reducing the work force by 500 positions. It sounds harsh until you understand that about 1,000 people a year leave state service through retirements or attrition each year. Much more could have been accomplished to protect the pressures for increased revenues from our citizens. Even though this is an election year, it is irresponsible to put off changes that could provide protection from greater fees and taxes.

Capital Budget

The Capital Budget is used to pay for road projects, construction of prisons, state buildings, school construction and land purchases. The State depends on a portion of the property tax to repay the interest and principle on bonds that finance capital projects. The State has reached the debt limit and the capital budget should be adjusted to reflect the current economic conditions. State policy contains provisions that limit the amount of tax supported debt to be no more than 8% of State revenues and 4% of personal income. Over the past 18 months, the State has experienced declining revenues and has increased the debt limit to \$1.14 billion in new State debt. I believe it should have been reduced to \$990 million, and follow the recommendation that the Capital Debt Affordability Committee suggested in October. I offered a detailed amendment to reduce the debt outstanding to \$990 million, cutting \$150 million from projects that have not started and could be postponed for a year. The concern is that the debt service costs could outstrip the current revenue stream, thus relying on General Funds to supplement those payments.

Pensions

I serve on the Joint Committee on Pensions and have found it frustrating, due to inaction, to deal with our growing, unsustainable liability. Over the last few years the Administration has not funded any portion of the pension system. The Maryland State Retirement and Pension System have an unfunded liability of \$17 billion. This session, I have joined several of my colleagues on a pension work group to examine the retirement systems and develop strategies to resolve the long-range, shortfall of the state pension system. The workgroup proposed that, initially, the General Assembly members would move from a defined benefit program to a defined contribution program. Ninety-five percent of the private sector that offers a pension system offers a defined contribution plan. This effort was not adopted but there was a comment that this issue will be studied by a workgroup over the interim.

Healthcare Freedom

The Federal Government recently passed a Health Care Reform Act which mandates each citizen to purchase health insurance. It is the first time in the history of America, Land of the Free, that a mandate of this magnitude has been forced on its citizens. Many Attorney Generals from various States have filed suits challenging the constitutionality of the mandate. It is unlikely that Maryland's Attorney General will defend against this mandate and therefore we need to act through our federal representatives to retain the autonomy and level of healthcare we currently enjoy. I signed on to legislation that is similar to the efforts in Virginia that would safeguard Marylanders from this burdensome imposition. Unfortunately, the House Bill 603 - Healthcare Freedom Act was voted down in the Health and Government Operations Committee this session. I would have voted for the measure.

SB 279 Maryland False Health Claims Act of 2010

This bill deals with civil fraud in Medicaid cases. Many hours of discussion surrounded this bill due to some extreme actions. Maryland law presently requires that a case must prove that a defendant had a "specific intent to defraud" which is deleted from this bill. Maryland law requires that fraud be proved by "clear and convincing evidence". The current standard is lowered by this bill to "preponderance of the evidence". The current statute of limitation in Maryland for bringing a lawsuit is three years. This act will allow to "reach back" for ten years to bring a lawsuit. This bill also contains

a provision called qui tam, which would enable whistleblowers to file civil fraud law suits in the name of the state, to claim a bounty from any proceeds recovered for the State, in such action, and to recover attorney fees and expenses from the defendant. This bill also has a provision that allows for treble damages to be collected. I did not vote or support this bill.

Cell Phones

Senate Bill 321 – The Delegate John Arnick Electronic Communications Traffic Safety Act of 2010 passed the House and Senate. This bill prohibits the driver of a school vehicle that is carrying passengers and is in motion from using a handheld telephone. The prohibition also applies to the holder of a learner's instructional permit or provisional driver's license who is age 18 or older. The driver of a motor vehicle that is in motion may not use a handheld telephone; instead, may only use his/her hands to initiate or terminate a wireless telephone call or to turn the handheld telephone on or off. The hands free technology is allowable, i.e., Bluetooth, etc. These prohibitions do not apply to the emergency use of a handheld telephone, including calls to a 9-1-1 system, hospital, ambulance service provider, fire department, law enforcement agency, or first-aid squad.

The offense is enforceable as a secondary action only. For a first offense, the violator is subject to a maximum fine of \$40 and points may not be assessed against the driver's license unless the offense contributes to an accident. The court is authorized to waive the fine for a first-time conviction if the person proves that he/she has acquired a hands-free accessory, attachment, add-on, or built-in feature for the handheld telephone that will allow the person to operate a motor vehicle in compliance with the bill's provisions. For a second or subsequent offense, the fine is \$100. I voted for this bill.

Insurance

House Bill 825 - Vehicle Laws - Required Security - Minimum Amounts passed both the House and Senate. This bill increases the minimum security required on a motor vehicle liability insurance policy for bodily injury or death of a single individual from \$20,000 to \$30,000, and for more than one individual from \$40,000 to \$60,000. The bill takes effect January 1, 2011, and applies to all vehicle liability insurance policies issued, delivered, or renewed in the State on or after that date. The Governor said that he will sign the bill into law. I voted against this bill in the Appropriations Committee and on the House floor because to increase your car insurance payments when families are struggling is the wrong thing to do. I feel that many motorists may decide to drive without insurance at all.

Sex Offender Legislation

In my legislative wrap-ups dated March 19, 2010 I outlined six bills dealing with sexual predators. Below is an update synopsis of those bills:

- House Bill 254 – Jessica's Law Expansion – Requires a 15 year mandatory minimum with no parole for 2nd degree sexual offense (rape of a child). This passed the House floor 136-0 and the Senate floor 44-0.
- House Bill 289 – Prohibiting good time credits for child sex offenders. These credits would otherwise shorten time served. This applies to first and second degree sexual offenses with children less than 16 years of age. This passed the House floor 137-0 and the Senate floor 45-0.
- House Bill 473 – Requiring lifetime supervision for the most violent and repeat sex offenders after they have served their sentences. This passed the House floor 137-0 and the Senate floor 45-0.
- House Bill 599 – Similar to HB 289, but applying to repeat offenders who have committed third degree sexual contact with children less than 16 years of age. This passed the House floor 136-0.
- House Bill 931 – Add members to the Sexual Offender Advisory Board that was created in 2006 but never met. This passed the House floor 137-0 and the Senate 46-0.
- House Bill 936 – Includes additional crimes for which offenders must register for the sex offender registry list and includes provisions for homeless people who currently list no fixed address. This sets up tiers of offenses that would standardize the way they are supervised in the community and described in the registry. This passed the House floor 138-0 and Senate floor 45-1, but went to Conference Committee to work out the differences.
- House Bill 1046 – Provides for use of RAP sheets for use by judges in pretrial release determination. This passed the House floor 136-0 and the Senate floor 46-0.

House Bills that I sponsored

House Bill 973 – Public Schools – Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline – Distribution of Information

This bill requires each local board of education to provide each student in grades 6 through 12 with the telephone number of the Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline by: (1) printing the number prominently in the school handbook; and (2) printing the telephone number on a student's school identification card, if provided. A local board of education is not required to

reprint or reissue school handbooks or student school identification cards in use on July 1, 2010, in order to comply with the bill. This bill passed both House and Senate and will be signed into law by the Governor on May 4, 2010.

House Bill 1273 – State Government – Employees – Suicide Awareness and Prevention Program

This bill specifies that the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) must declare one week each year to be Suicide Awareness and Prevention Week. During this week DBM must electronically transmit information to the head of each principal unit related to the following topics: (1) the warning signs of suicide; (2) methods to respond to threats of suicide; (3) available resources for those who suffer from depression and other mental health conditions; and (4) contact information for and a description of the Maryland Crisis Hotline. Each agency head must forward the information to State employees in the principal unit. This passed the House and Senate but did not crossover in time before session ended at midnight.

House Bill 1496 – Baltimore County – Alcoholic Beverages – Tasting Licenses – Fees

This bill authorizes the Baltimore County Board of License Commissioners to issue a Class BWT beer and light wine tasting or a Class BWLT beer, wine, and liquor tasting license for a 104-day period which may be used consecutively or nonconsecutively. The annual fee is \$400. This bill passed both the House and Senate and was signed into law by the Governor on April 13, 2010.

Delegates Aumann and Frank Scholarships

You may have heard that there was a lively debate on the House and Senate floors to either eliminate the delegate/senatorial scholarship or to transfer the \$11.5 million to the Maryland Higher Education Commission. After much debate the House and Senate decided to keep the funds in the delegate/senatorial scholarship programs. We will continue to offer this scholarship to students who reside in the 42nd district and who will be attending a college, university or private career school in Maryland. The only exception is for students in the 42nd District who qualify for a "unique major" from the Maryland Higher Education Commission. The deadline for applicants was March 29, 2010. The awardees are notified in May. If you would like to apply for the 2011-2012 scholarship please contact my office either by email (Susan.Aumann@house.state.md.us) or telephone (410-841-3258).

Visits to Annapolis

During the 2010 session Towson High School's Law and Policy Class and residents from District 42 visited the General Assembly. If you or your group would like to visit our state government in action please contact our office and we can set up a tour of the State House and our government buildings.

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

Kindest regards. Very truly yours, *Susan L.M. Aumann*

42nd District – Delegate Bill Frank

The 2010 Maryland General Assembly has now ended, and I wanted to report to you the many bills that were passed, as well as those that were defeated. I've also indicated how I voted on each piece of legislation.

Fiscal Year 2011 Operating Budget – As we entered the session in January, the State's operating budget had a deficit exceeding \$1.2 billion. The national recession, coupled with over-spending by State government, created this bleak situation. Of the approx. 3,500 bills introduced in this year's session, the only one that *must be passed* is the State budget. In Maryland, we have a strong executive form of government in which the Governor wields enormous power over budget priorities. As I've pointed out many times, the state legislature can only cut from the Governor's budget and we're also prohibited from moving funds among various State agencies.

In the end, we passed a budget that, by law, must be balanced. But in doing so, we put off until after the election many difficult and festering problems. We raided dozens upon dozens of special funds, including the Transportation Trust Fund and the Board of Nursing Fund – just to name two – moving monies into the general fund to paper over our deficits. In

one extraordinary move, funds were swiped from the Helicopter Replacement Fund, and then we raised fees to cover up the “shortfall.” The entire exercise was an unfortunate case of “kicking the can down the road.”

In addition, the budget is heavily dependent upon the infusion of bailout money from the federal government. Of course, within a year or two, these funds will disappear but the State programs will continue. The likely result is a tax increase of historic proportions – after the election. Also, for the third consecutive year, State employees have been forced to take furlough days.

The House Republican Caucus presented a serious and responsible spending plan that cut \$830 million from the FY 2011, and by higher amounts in subsequent years. This budget amendment was not adopted, but if it had been, it would have closed the door on tax increases next year. I voted for this amendment and against the adoption of the overall budget because I believe it will inevitably lead to higher taxes. This would be a colossal mistake at a time when the economy is still fragile.

Sex Offenders Legislation – Spurred into action by the tragic murder of Sarah Foxwell, an 11-year old Eastern Shore youngster, allegedly by convicted sex offender Thomas Leggs, the General Assembly considered more than 30 bills to address this important public safety issue. Bills to increase mandatory minimum sentences, reduce or eliminate so-called good time credit for sex offenders in prison, increase reporting and notification requirements on the State’s sex offender registry, and re-activate the Sex Offender Advisory Board were also passed into law.

The most notable bill was HB 254, which is an enhancement to Jessica’s Law, providing for a mandatory minimum of 15 years to life imprisonment for the second degree rape of a child under age 13. In addition, the convicted sex offender would not be eligible for parole, and would receive no reduced sentence for good behavior in prison. Of course, I voted in favor of all of these long-overdue enhancements to our criminal statutes. It is gratifying to see the General Assembly work in a bipartisan manner to pass these bills.

SB 411 – Civil Immunity for Persons Defending Dwellings -- Unfortunately, my proposal, HB 207, the “Castle Doctrine,” which passed the House of Delegates 136-1, was never heard in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. However, SB 411, a similar version of the Castle Doctrine, was passed in both chambers. SB 411 provides that a person is not liable for damages for personal injury or death of an individual who enters the person’s dwelling or place of business, if the person believes that force or deadly force is necessary to repel an attack by the individual and the amount and nature of the force is reasonable under the circumstances. Although HB 207 was a stronger bill with stronger statutory language, SB 411 is sufficient and is a positive step toward protecting the right of Marylander homeowners to defend their lives, liberty and property. I voted for SB 411 and consider this a legislative victory. In the end, it doesn’t matter if your bill passes or fails, as long as the policy is enacted.

Legislative Pension Plan – I took on a sacred cow of the General Assembly, and I have the scars to prove it. I had the eminently reasonable thought of trying to rein in the over-generous legislative pension plan, which allows elected officials to retire after twenty years at two-thirds of their salary adjusted for inflation. At every juncture, my two proposals were met with determined opposition from the entrenched leadership. The worst example of their opposition was having to wait 48 days to testify at a hearing on my two proposals. I introduced my bills, HJ 11 and HJ 12 on February 18th and it took until April 7th for a hearing to be scheduled – 48 days!

I was told by a top aide of Speaker Busch that the House Appropriations Committee was too busy holding hearings on the budget to consider my proposals. I checked the hearing schedule of the Committee from Feb 18th through April 7th, and the Committee heard more than 430 bills during that time! This is why people get fed up with politics.

Cell Phone Ban while driving – In my most recent newsletter, I asked for input and feedback, and I received quite a few responses on both sides of the issue. In the end, I voted for the bill even though I’m not entirely certain how effectively it can ever be enforced. The whole issue of distracted driving encompasses much more than talking on a cell phone.

I do believe it is important, however, for society to make a statement through law that driving and talking on a hand-held phone is not a great idea, and should not be allowed. Keep in mind, a motorist can still talk on a hands-free phone without penalty. In addition, talking on a hand-held phone is a secondary offense – meaning that the officer must pull you over for some other reason like speeding or having a non-functioning tail light. The fine is \$40 for an offense.

We've all seen near-misses, and in some cases accidents, from people on our roads who are driving while talking on their cell phone. I'm sure the sellers of hands-free devices will see a spike in business as the new law takes effect on October 1, 2010.

Ignition Interlock – DUI -- The debate over drunken driving regulations and punishments garnered a great deal of attention during the session. Advocates for tougher drunken driving laws say the roads will become safer if first-time DUI offenders are required to install a breathalyzer ignition device in their car. A bipartisan coalition advocated for the tougher law, but in the end, Chairman Vallario of the House Judiciary Committee would not allow the bill to come up for a vote. I strongly supported the bill's original language requiring an interlock device to be installed on the first offense. The Senate passed the bill in amended form excluding the requirement for those given Probation Before Judgment (PBJ). In the end, Chairman Vallario supported a further weakening of the bill which would have rendered the bill almost completely ineffective.

BOAST tax credit – I was very disappointed that the BOAST tax credit was not approved. The State Senate approved this tax credit for nonpublic and public schools by a 30-17 vote in mid-March, but once again, the bill was defeated in the House Ways and Means Committee. BOAST (Building Opportunities for All Students and Teachers) is a 75% tax credit that businesses can take when they fund scholarship programs for various nonpublic and public school programs.

With the announced closure of 13 Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, a program like BOAST is needed more than ever. A simple fact: if all the nonpublic schools in Maryland closed tomorrow and those students were absorbed into the public schools, the price tag would be \$1.5 billion. A tax credit costing the State a small fraction of that in lost revenues is a small price to pay to keep a key component of our educational system alive.

I was disappointed in the misinformation campaign waged by the public school teachers union, and by the lackluster effort lent to the campaign by Governor O'Malley who wrote a perfunctory letter of support but did little else to advocate for it.

Gang Laws – Though we are fortunate in our district to have minimal gang activity, we must be vigilant to the gang activity that is escalating in other parts of the state. It was reported to the Judiciary Committee last year that some form of gang activity is present in virtually every public high school in Maryland. Legislation, which I supported, passed to require mandatory and consecutive sentences for crimes related to gang activity. While we cannot legislate crime away, we can provide prosecutors with the tools they need to crack down on criminal gang activity.

Health Care Reform – With the passage of the massive health care legislation in Washington, states now face unprecedented mandates, including requiring all citizens to purchase health insurance. With this unprecedented attempt to impose a national health care system on the American people, more than one dozen state Attorneys General have already filed suit challenging the constitutionality of the mandate. In fact, never before has Congress required the American people to buy anything.

Since it is highly unlikely that our Attorney General will defend the state against this unconstitutional mandate, Maryland citizens must act through their elected representatives in order to retain the autonomy and level of health care we currently enjoy. I co-sponsored legislation that would safeguard Marylanders from this burden. Unfortunately, the Healthcare Freedom Act was voted down in the Health and Government Operations Committee.

HB 825 Insurance – This bill, which passed both the House and Senate and will likely be signed into law by the Governor, increases the minimum security required on a motor vehicle liability insurance policy from \$20,000 to \$30,000, and for more than one individual from \$40,000 to \$60,000. These increases in mandated coverage will increase insurance premiums at a time of great economic uncertainty and, I believe, will have the unintended consequence of forcing motorists to drop their coverage altogether, thereby increasing the risks and threats to the driving public. I voted against the bill for that reason.

Liquor Licenses for Towson – Working with my legislative colleagues in the 42nd district, we were successful in passing a bill to provide up to three new liquor licenses for the Towson commercial district. This will greatly enhance Towson's restaurant offerings and improve economic activity in Towson's core.

Tax Credit for Job Creation – I supported an O'Malley Administration proposal which provides up to \$20 million for tax credits to businesses which hire unemployed workers. Under the plan, signed by the Governor on March 26, 2010, a

company would receive a \$5,000 income tax credit for each formerly unemployed worker that the company hires. Under the plan, as many as 4,000 workers could potentially be hired.

Obviously, this proposal is a step in the right direction but will have a relatively limited impact on the overall economy. If it does spur some additional hiring, that will be a benefit to all of us in Maryland.

University of Maryland Law School Controversy – A great deal of debate centered on whether students at the Environmental Law Clinic at the UM School of Law should be able to provide pro bono work for an environmental group that is suing a small poultry operation over allegations involving runoff pollution on the Eastern Shore.

Legislators from the Eastern Shore threatened to withhold up to \$500,000 in funding from the law school to protest what they consider a zealous and aggressive attempt to pursue legal action in the state's important poultry industry. They feared negative fallout, the loss of jobs, and a continuing perception about Maryland's anti-business climate as the end result. Proponents of the law school clinic's approach cited the issue of academic freedom as paramount, and cautioned that withholding funds would have a chilling effect on the law clinic. In the end, the budget provision stripping the \$500,000 was deleted.

These are tricky issues. We must strive to strike the right balance among academic freedom, enforcing our anti-pollution laws, and maintaining a strong, growing economy that is producing jobs for our citizens.

Stormwater Regulations – This was also a highly contentious issue this session, with the environmental community, developers and local governments wrestling with the best way to control pollution while not discouraging reasonable and appropriate development.

Poorly controlled and untreated stormwater is a major source of nitrogen and sediment pollution in the streams and rivers that flow into the Chesapeake Bay. According to state and federal environmental officials, it is the only source of pollution that is increasing.

In the end, a compromise was reached among the major stakeholders which provides more stringent control on storm runoff while not being overly onerous to the development community. This compromise preserves critical jobs in our still struggling economy.

Delegates Aumann and Frank Scholarships – My colleague, Delegate Susan Aumann and I, appoint a nonpartisan committee each year to determine which students receive scholarship funds for college. Monies are available to students who attend college in Maryland, whether the school is public or private. Although the deadline has passed for this year, if you would like to apply for the 2011/2012 school year, please call our office, 410-841-3793 or send an e-mail to William.Frank@house.state.md.us after January 17, 2011.

As always, I welcome your phone calls, e-mails or letters on an issue that is important to you.

Sincerely, *Delegate Bill Frank*

11th District – Delegate Dana Stein

After 90 days, the 427th session of the Maryland General Assembly drew to a close on April 12th at midnight. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to represent you in the House of Delegates. I am honored to serve the 11th District of Northwest Baltimore County with my teammates Senator Bobby Zirkin, Delegate Jon Cardin and Delegate Dan Morhaim, who share a common vision to improve our community.

The General Assembly spent much time grappling with a budget crunch caused by the national recession. The General Assembly also approved significant legislation in the areas of public safety, transportation and the environment.

My Legislation

I was very pleased that the General Assembly enacted six of my bills:

Military Health Care Personnel - HB 1353. Many in the military, such as hospital corpsmen and medics, have significant experience and training in health care, yet often have difficulty transitioning into civilian health care fields. This bill requires the Department of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with several agencies, to develop a plan for increasing the number of military health care personnel who transition into civilian health care fields. House Bill 1353 will help address two related issues -- the shortage of health care personnel, especially in emergency rooms and community health care clinics, and the availability of trained military health care personnel to help meet the shortage.

Homeowner's Insurance - HB 854. When a homeowner suffers a fire or other home casualty, it can take many months to do all that's necessary to rebuild a house. A homeowner needs to clear the home, obtain bids from contractors, obtain permits, and have the rebuilding completed.

A few Maryland insurers, including one of the largest ones, only provide 180 days for homeowners with "replacement cost" coverage to complete all of these steps and submit necessary paperwork. Such a short time period can result in homeowners being denied coverage for which they've paid premiums. My bill requires insurance companies to provide homeowners a two-year window to submit claims for replacement cost benefits.

CFL Recycling - HB 685. Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) are very popular because of their energy-efficiency. However, each bulb contains a tiny amount of mercury. If a bulb breaks, the mercury vaporizes and can be harmful if enough is ingested.

Half of Maryland's counties accept CFLs for recycling at landfills or during household hazardous waste days. My bill requires each county to have a strategy for collecting and recycling CFLs as well as fluorescent light bulbs, which contain much more mercury than CFLs.

Forest Conservation Fund – HB 1352 requires that the fees paid by developers in lieu of planting trees at a project site be tiered so that projects in communities with existing infrastructure (water, sewer) have a lower fee than those with no existing infrastructure. This promotes the State's "smart growth" policy by encouraging development in "priority funding areas."

Fidelity Insurance/Bonds - HB 702. Common ownership communities (condo associations, coops, homeowners associations) are required to purchase certain amounts of fidelity insurance. This gives such organizations the option to purchase "fidelity bonds" instead. Fidelity bonds are frequently less expensive than fidelity insurance.

Franchise Law - HB 1202. This bill streamlines Maryland's rules on the timing of delivery of franchise disclosure documents by a franchisor to a prospective franchisee, and conforms the rules to federal law. It requires a franchisor to provide a prospectus to a franchisee by the earlier of certain benchmarks.

The Budget

For fiscal year 2011 (July 2010-June 2011), the General Assembly approved a lean budget. While revenues for the 2010 fiscal year will decline by 5%, a modest rebound in revenue growth of 3.6% is forecast for fiscal year 2011. State spending grows 1%, though the total budget actually declines (reflecting a decrease in federal funds).

What does this mean for important categories of funding? For public schools, the 2011 budget allocates about \$5.7 billion in education aid and fully funds all major education aid programs. The budget also allocates \$1.2 billion to Maryland's State colleges and universities, maintaining such funding essentially at the 2010 level, and enabling the institutions to hold tuition increases to 3.0% after four years of an in-state undergraduate tuition freeze. But the budget does reduce funding for state agencies, entitlements and aid to local governments. Six hundred government positions are eliminated. The budget maintains a healthy reserve and reduces the State's structural deficit by one-third.

The capital budget provides funding for important needs, such as school construction. However, in the wake of the water main break in Owings Mills that left thousands without water for several days, we must also review ways to improve our aging water and wastewater infrastructure.

Gangs

Gangs are an increasing problem in Maryland, with gang activity reported in every county in the State. In response, the General Assembly passed the Safe Schools Act of 2010 (**HB 1160**), which expands the types of offenses that law enforcement must report to school personnel if a child is arrested; requires the creation of a statewide model gang policy for school systems; and requires the development of an assessment of intervention and prevention programs that schools can access. Other legislation strengthens the existing State Gang statute by specifically prohibiting someone from being a gang “kingpin” and making a person eligible to receive a stiffer sentence if convicted of other underlying crimes.

Sex Offenders

The General Assembly passed a number of laws to better protect the public from sex offenders. **HOUSE BILL 936** strengthens the registration requirements for sex offenders, conforming Maryland law to the requirements of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006, which created a comprehensive, nationalized system for registration of sex offenders. **HOUSE BILL 473** requires lifetime supervision of serious and repeat sex offenders.

In addition, the General Assembly passed legislation to eliminate sentence-shortening “diminution credits” for certain categories of sex offenders, strengthen Maryland’s prohibitions against possessing or promoting child pornography, and reconstitute the Sex Offender Advisory Board.

Cell Phone Restrictions

During the past two years, the General Assembly has taken several steps to improve highway safety. Last year, we outlawed texting and e-mailing while driving and revised the laws on teen driving.

This year, Maryland joined the growing ranks of states that have put limitations on cell phone use while driving. Specifically, the General Assembly made use of a hand-held cell phone while driving a secondary offense (**SB 321**). Hands-free cell phone use is not affected. While this is a good first step, I hope that in the future the legislature will make hand-held cell phone use a primary offense.

Bicyclists’ Safety

The General Assembly approved legislation, sponsored in the House by Del. Jon Cardin, which requires motorists to pass cyclists at a distance of at least three feet. It also requires drivers to yield the right of way to cyclists when turning through an intersection. In early April, an Owings Mills cyclist was killed when a car collided with him. This legislation (**SB 51**) will protect the safety of cyclists and reduce the chances of such tragic deaths in the future.

Environment

New regulations from the Maryland Department of the Environment on stormwater management generated much debate. The General Assembly approved a reasonable compromise that will “grandfather in” more projects under previous regulations but does not compromise on water quality treatment standards. Also, the legislature approved legislation (**HB 471**) that accelerates the State’s “solar energy portfolio” (the percentage of electricity that must come from solar energy), which will encourage more residential and commercial solar installations.

Foreclosure Prevention

At the Governor’s initiative, the legislature approved legislation (**HB 472**) requiring that, before a mortgage can be foreclosed on, a homeowner and his or her mortgage lender/servicer must engage in mediation. With many people losing their jobs due to the recession, foreclosures in Maryland have continued to increase. Other states that have required foreclosure mediation have seen a decline in foreclosure rates.

BPA Ban

Bisphenol-A (BPA) is frequently used in infant cups and baby bottles. But BPA has been linked to developmental problems in children and other health problems, as confirmed recently by the Food and Drug Administration.

One of the first bills to pass both houses of the legislature was **SB 213**, which bans the use of BPA in baby bottles and infant cups sold in Maryland.

Deer Hunting

As in 2009, one of the more controversial bills was a proposal to allow deer hunting on four Sundays a year in Baltimore County. After hearing from many constituents concerned about the safety of expanded deer hunting, I voted against this legislation, which was defeated.

Capital Projects

I sponsored legislation that requested funds for expansion of HopeWell Cancer Support Center in Lutherville. HopeWell offers the social, educational and psychological supports that are vital to a cancer patient and his or her family. I am pleased that the General Assembly included \$175,000 for HopeWell in its capital budget.

The District 11 delegation also obtained capital funding for other important projects. Owings Mills High School is the only high school in Baltimore County without a stadium for its athletic teams. State bond money of \$100,000 was secured for the planning and construction of a stadium at the high school. Capital funding in the amount of \$150,000 was also secured for the Humane Society of Baltimore County, which operates an animal shelter, a spay/neuter center, a memorial park, and a wildlife sanctuary.

I am proud to be representing you in Annapolis and to be a part of the District 11 legislative team. Please contact me at 410-841-3527 or dana.stein@house.state.md.us if I can ever be of assistance.

Sincerely, *Delegate Dana Stein*

11th District – Delegate Dan Morhaim

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you in the House of Delegates for the past sixteen years. I am honored to serve the 11th District of northwest Baltimore County with my teammates Bobby Zirkin, Jon Cardin, and Dana Stein. I would also like to express my gratitude to those of you who contacted me during this legislative session. Your opinions shape my perspective and votes, and I truly appreciate your involvement.

This was a difficult year for many members of our community. The blizzard left most of us stranded in our homes, many without access to power, food, and other necessities. Then the water main break left thousands without clean water for days. During both events, schools and businesses were closed. Despite these difficulties, our community rose to the challenge. We saw neighbors helping one another and reaching out to total strangers as well. Let's build on the positives and make it a routine part of what we do on a daily basis.

There has been a great deal of discussion and concern regarding the fate of the Rosewood property. Working together, we have determined that Rosewood will become part of Stevenson University. Stevenson brings academics, sports, theater, movies, fine arts, as well as more economic activity to our community. This will be accomplished with the highest environmental standards. Having a vibrant four-year university in Owings Mills is a wonderful and defining asset that will distinguish northwest Baltimore County for decades to come.

In addition to addressing important community issues, the District 11 team won financial support for projects at the Hopewell Community Center, Owings Mills High School Stadium, Stevenson University, and Baltimore County Humane Society. These provide support for cancer victims, students, and animals while building and strengthening our community in general. Further, these are shovel-ready construction projects that bring jobs and business growth.

In the House of Delegates, I have two major roles. As Deputy Majority Leader and Chair of the Government Operations Subcommittee, I am responsible for evaluating hundreds of bills, as well as being the House floor manager for many of these. This involves coordinating and communicating with constituents, advocacy groups, and other legislators. It is a challenging, complex, and important job that I take most seriously.

I also introduced important legislation that passed with bi-partisan support. Information is available at <http://mlis.state.md.us/>. (KEY: HB=House Bill, SB=Senate Bill)

HB 147/SB 314 streamlines billing procedures for physicians and hospitals.
HB 224 promotes “greywater” recycling systems.
HB 250/SB 130 and **HB 251/SB 131** help grow minority and women-owned businesses.
HB 292 facilitates the development of electronic medical records.
HB 323/SB 308 helps physician assistants and their role on the health care team.

Legislation I introduced regarding the medical use of marijuana (**HB 712/SB 627**) got a great deal of attention. With these bills, I hoped to ensure that those with serious debilitating medical conditions not relieved by other treatments would have access to medical marijuana in a safe, responsible, and supervised way without increasing illegal use or compromising law enforcement. Working with others, we wrote a narrow bill that received overwhelming bi-partisan sponsorship from across the political spectrum. Additionally, the Department of Health, Board of Pharmacy, Maryland Nurses Association, Maryland Pharmacist’s Association, EPIC Pharmacies, United Seniors of Maryland, and the Baltimore Jewish Council supported this legislation, and supportive editorials appeared in the Baltimore Sun, Frederick Post, WBAL radio, and the Jewish Times. The bill passed the Senate 35-12, but stalled in the House and did not pass.

Several other important pieces of legislation were passed by the General Assembly and will affect our community.

Health

HB 319/SB 484 clarifies and supports the role of nurse practitioners.
HB 1034/SB 633 gives a small but long overdue pay raise to those who care for the developmentally disabled.
HB 929/SB 855 takes important steps to establish patient centered medical homes.
HB 933/SB 328 protects people from “medical” bankruptcy in paying hospital bills.
HB 1564/SB 1125 positions the state to stabilize and grow its high-risk insurance program.
HB 1353/SB 1033 helps military health care personnel transition into civilian health care fields.

Public Safety

Highway Safety: **HB 461/SB 51** helps protect bicyclists from accidents involving automobiles. **SB 321** outlaws the use of hand-held cell phones while driving.

Gangs: **HB 756/SB 517** increases the penalty for crimes committed by gang members.

Sex Offenders: **HB 60/SB 618, HB 254/SB 622, HB 289/SB 620, HB 473/SB 280, HB 599, HB 811, HB 931/SB 856, HB 936/SB 854, HB 1046, HB 1053, and SB 559** are a package of bills to protect the public from sexual predators.

These bills strengthen the registration requirements for sex offenders, require lifetime supervision of serious and repeat sex offenders, eliminate sentence-shortening “diminution credits” for certain categories of sex offenders, strengthen prohibitions against possessing or promoting child pornography, and reconstitute the Sex Offender Advisory Board.

HB 1322/SB 542 and **HB 283/ SB 261** start the long process of eliminating human trafficking and sex slavery.

Theft: **HB 1174/SB 99** requires better record keeping by junk dealers and scrap metal processors to help stop theft of catalytic converters, copper pipes, gutters, etc.

Education

HB 243/SB 590 establishes a neutral public school labor relations board to resolve labor disputes.

HB 467/SB 275 provides for keeping longitudinal data on individual student performance.

HB 1160 is the Safe Schools Act that increases schools’ knowledge of juvenile offenders in their schools.

HB 1263/SB 899 is the Education Reform Act that will make Maryland more effective in competing for Race to the Top funds and also begin the third wave of education reform.

Environment

Energy: **HB 464/SB 287** extends a tax credit for clean energy. **HB 471/SB 277** improves solar energy standards and encourages the use of solar energy.

Project Funding: **HB 474/SB 278** establishes the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission. **HB 943/SB 311** creates the Chesapeake Conservation Corps to fund projects that preserve, protect, and conserve the environment.

Hunting: A controversial bill that would allow deer hunting on certain Sundays in Baltimore County failed this year. After hearing that many of you were against Sunday hunting, I voted against this bill.

The Budget This is always one of the defining actions of every legislative session, as balancing pressing needs with available funds is a difficult process. Given the ongoing economic crisis, this year’s budget saw many reductions. We were able to maintain the necessary funding for spending on vital issues such as health, education, and public safety.

I continue to focus on identifying efficiencies and streamlining government, which saves money without raising taxes/fees or cutting important programs.

This is an election year. I urge you to register and to vote. For more information, please contact the Baltimore County Board of Elections at 410-887-5700 and the State Board of Elections at 1-800-222-8683. My full-time, part-time, and volunteer staff did an outstanding job. Mary Lou Cole, Jessica Stevens, Keshia Pollack, Clarence Lam, Shannon Frattaroli, Eliza Little, and Fang Fang Yin all worked hard to meet constituents' needs.

Please stay in touch on any issue of concern to you.

Sincerely, *Delegate Dan Morhaim*

11th District – Delegate Jon Cardin

The 427th session of the Maryland General Assembly drew to a close last night, and I again thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you. I have been honored to serve the 11th District with my teammates Bobby Zirkin, Dan Morhaim and Dana Stein. As we work our way out of a difficult fiscal situation, we have also worked hard to reflect your priorities. This letter will offer you a modest synopsis of my 2010 accomplishments and a personal perspective on the successes and shortcomings of the recently completed legislative session.

“Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together.” - Vincent Van Gogh

While there are some early positive signs of an economic recovery, the reality is that our state and our citizens are still suffering financial hardships. Once again, the Ways and Means Committee, on which I serve, decided not to raise taxes. The General Assembly passed a shrunken \$13.2 billion general fund budget which was smaller than last year's budget. The fiscal responsibility shown by your state government has resulted in back-to-back years of smaller budgets.

It is sad but enlightening to say that during the O'Malley-Brown Administration we have cut the budget by more than \$5.6 billion and cut 3,500 state positions in order to meet the fiscal challenges facing our state and our country. These significant savings demonstrate the commitment of the current administration and your elected officials to demonstrate fiscal responsibility and live within the spending affordability limits of our state.

Balancing the budget without sacrificing our strong commitment to public education was a challenge we eagerly tackled. Governor O'Malley's pledge to our students has resulted in our state being ranked #1 in the country two years in a row. This effort also extends to higher education, where after the 30 percent tuition increase of years' past, university tuition was nearly frozen for four years. Community colleges have also seen a dramatic increase in funding as demonstrated by the new library under construction at the CCBC-Catonsville campus. This undeniably contributes to Maryland having the best educated and highest paid workforce in the country.

As the Chairman of the Election Law Subcommittee, I led the fight to protect our election process from the undue influence of corporate money. I look forward to future work on this important issue. I championed a bill which restores voting rights to those under guardianship for mental disability. Working with the Maryland Disability Law Center, the bill ensured that a citizen's right to vote was not lost because he or she was placed under guardianship. I also sponsored legislation which allows 16-year-olds to register to vote, although they cannot actually vote until they are 18 years old.

Protecting our environment is a personal passion of mine. The beauty of our state's mountains, countryside, and Chesapeake Bay must be diligently protected. We also must look for alternatives to fossil fuels to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and protect our air, land and water. I supported the storm water compromise that resulted in the Maryland Department of the Environment's new guidance on this subject. I also supported the Solar Renewable Energy Credit bill to increase the percentage of our energy that comes from renewable sources.

One of the concerns for our future is our aging infrastructure. The water main break in Owings Mills, which left thousands of us without water for several days, demonstrated that we must not ignore aging pipes and other infrastructure. I am working with my uncle, U.S. Senator Ben Cardin, who is the lead sponsor of S. 1005, the Water Infrastructure Financing Act. This bipartisan bill represents a major step forward in how the federal government supports local wastewater and drinking water infrastructure. The bill would also increase Maryland's share of funding for clean water infrastructure to

better reflect our share of the national need. I plan on using the post-session period to investigate what can be done to protect our community from future water outages.

Bond bills are one of the best ways to create jobs in our state, and so I proudly co-sponsored projects in our community. Stevenson University received matching funds of \$3 million towards the cost of its continued growth as a community anchor and center of academic excellence. The Humane Society of Baltimore County was awarded \$150,000 to improve its facility and ensure the humane treatment of animals. Owings Mills High School received \$100,000 towards the cost of a much needed stadium project. In addition, HopeWell Cancer Support Facility received \$175,000 to expand its ability to provide needed programming. The state also approved \$2.5 million towards the construction and renovation of Sinai Hospital's Pediatric Wing, which will benefit many families in our district.

I was honored to sponsor bills benefiting our veterans and the Maryland Defense Force (MDDF). The veterans bill passed this session ensures that all veterans groups receive a sales tax exemption. I will continue my efforts to provide a tax credit for our MDDF volunteers next year. I also was pleased to make it a misdemeanor offense for those who abuse the Uniform Commercial Code by filing false and misleading UCC statements.

I always welcome your thoughts and comments. One of the best parts of the upcoming campaign season is the opportunity to speak to so many of you in person when I knock on your door or meet you at a community event. I invite you to visit www.joncardin.com or find my page on *Facebook* as ways of helping me to better represent you in Annapolis. During the session, I endeavored to keep you updated on the legislative process through my weekly *Annapolis Reports* by discussing various pieces of legislation. Reactions from constituents and supporters to my comments have served as a good way to gauge the mood of our district.

Our community is my priority. Balancing local desires with the needs of all Marylanders is a never-ending challenge. Together, we will continue to work on improving policies benefiting the economy, education, public safety, personal health and the environment. Thank you for your continued confidence and trust, and please enjoy the attached "Legislative Highlights" as outlined below.

Sincerely, *Jon S. Cardin*

Thousands of bills were introduced, hundreds passed and each one has its own constituency and its own sense of urgency. Below are some that were either under my sponsorship or have significance to my constituency. All bills, including those below, were given due attention in their respective committee of jurisdiction.

Budget: The budget is the most important piece of legislation of the year, and is required to be balanced at the end of each legislative session. This session, I am proud to have been a part of the production of a fiscally sound and socially responsible document. Interestingly, I successfully fought to protect the integrity and funding of our **University System of Maryland** and its academic independence when the **environmental clinic program** was under attack. Its decision to assist in lawsuits against powerful polluters should not put it in the center of a political game, or jeopardize its funding and ability to make a difference.

PUBLIC SAFETY

HB 461- Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety: By clarifying and codifying the responsibilities of all who utilize Maryland's roadways, this bill will foster a safe environment for bicyclists to recreate, exercise and commute. Creating a three-foot standard for passing distance between bicycles and motor vehicles is a common sense approach to sharing the roads. The bike season is just getting started and already we have had fatalities and accidents to remind us of how important it is to share the road and be careful.

HB 385- Hand-Held Cell Phones: I have been a vocal advocate for the legislation to ban hand-held cell phone use while driving. No matter how inconvenient the ban may be, it is obvious how much hand-held cell phone use distracts a driver's focus.

HB 756- Maryland Gang Prosecution Act of 2010: I supported the efforts of my fellow delegates in pressing for this legislation that would give the State more tools in prosecuting gang members. This bill expands the realm of offenses for which gang leaders could be charged and extends sentences for gang members convicted of certain crimes.

HB 254- Jessica's Law Enhancement: I am also in support of measures that would enhance Jessica's law to toughen penalties for sex offenses against children. This bill would lengthen the minimum sentence for these offenders.

ELECTION LAW

HB 1251- Campaign Finance Reform: After the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United* overturning more than 100 years of legal precedent on corporate independent expenditures, I pressed for new campaign finance reform bills. I am concerned about the consequences of the Supreme Court giving corporations the same rights as individuals in the electoral process. As chair of the election law subcommittee, I intend to continue working on this important issue.

HB 816- Voting Under Guardianship: I am proud to have championed legislation that restores voting rights for those under guardianship. Currently, our state arbitrarily strips said voting rights, and this bill restores to individuals under guardianship the opportunity to exercise their fundamental right to vote, which is the essence of what it means to be a citizen.

HB 444- Overseas Voting: This bill removed an anomaly and allows United States citizens born to Maryland voters living abroad to vote in federal elections in the State of Maryland. Currently, federal law allows U.S. citizens living abroad to vote; however, no such rights are currently extended to the children of those citizens living abroad. We will try again next year to see this to fruition.

HB 217- Voter Registration for 16-year-olds: I successfully sponsored a measure that permits youngsters to register to vote when they go to get their drivers' licenses. Why do we give 16-year-olds a voter registration card at the DMV if they cannot use it? This does not permit them to vote, but it does allow them to be a part of the political process if they so choose.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

Restoration Tax Credits: I supported Governor O'Malley's bill concerning sustainable communities which provided for the designation of specified areas as sustainable communities eligible for tax subsidies. It also reestablished and altered the Maryland Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program to be the Sustainable Communities Tax Credit Program, thus authorizing the Director of the Maryland Historical Trust to issue up to \$10,000,000 in the aggregate in initial credit certificates for the tax credit.

Solar Renewable Energy Credits: Having my own solar panels, I understand how important it is for our state to encourage homeowners to install solar panels at their homes and provide them assistance in doing so. The bill alters the renewable portfolio standard for power derived from solar energy. It does this by increasing the percentages of energy that must come from renewable sources beginning in 2011 and by increasing the compliance fees for failing to satisfy this standard. This reduces our dependence on oil, generates cleaner electricity for the power grid, and saves homeowners thousands of dollars annually as my own BGE bills prove every month.

Storm Water Management: A difficult compromise was reached on an issue regarding storm water management for new construction projects. The result is a balance between the needs for protecting our environment and the economic requirements of our growing state. As the lead sponsor on a bill that sets up county storm water funds, I will continue to protect Maryland's environment and encourage cooperation in keeping our Chesapeake Watershed pristine.

Net Metering: This year the legislature passed bills to further permit net metering. This is a system in which the owner of an energy-generating facility, such as solar panels, can receive at least partial credit for the energy they generate as a reduction from their total energy bill. This is another measure by which we can encourage homeowners to install and use these important devices.

EDUCATION ISSUES

HB 1263- Race to the Top: This bill is a joint House and Senate legislative package containing several measures designed to improve Maryland's chances of receiving funding through the federal *Race to the Top* program. Included, is a provision to lengthen the time it takes for teachers to reach tenure and another to account for student performance in teacher evaluations.

HB 243- Fairness in Negotiations Act: This piece of legislation will substantially improve the efficiency of the bargaining process regarding labor disputes. It does so by providing a neutral third party to decide these disputes between

local public school employers and employees. This bill had my hearty support as well as the support of the Maryland State Education Association and educators across the state.

LEGAL MATTERS

HB 1385- Retention Elections: I am proud to have testified alongside Attorney General Doug Gansler on a bill that would have changed the judicial election process from competitive elections every 15 years to retention elections every 10 years. This type of election would require the judges to get out into the community and meet the public, however, it would not require the raising of large sums of money, that the current system requires.

HB 202- Uniform Commercial Code: I am pleased to have passed legislation which makes filing a knowingly false or misleading financing statement a misdemeanor. Previously, there was no punishment for those filing false UCC financing statements, a mechanism that makes the filer a creditor (secured party) in someone else's personal property. False filings have affected landlords, judges, prosecutors and the general public at the expense of innocent victims.

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

HB 203- Tax Status for Veterans' Organizations: I championed this new law that establishes the equitable treatment of organizations dedicated to aiding our service men and women. Additional organizations, including but not limited to, the Jewish War Veterans and the Order of the Purple Heart, will now qualify to file for an exemption from sales tax allowing them to make charitable donations for the purpose of aiding our service personnel without being required to pay sales tax.

HB 681- MD Defense Force: This bill provided for the reimbursement of expenses incurred in the service of our state. The MDDF, headquartered in Pikesville, is comprised of volunteers in the area of fire, rescue, emergency medical, legal, and engineering who fill in for the National Guard while they are deployed overseas. While the bill did not pass this year, I am looking forward to working on it in the coming session.

BILLS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

Healthy Maryland Day: I am proud to have spoken alongside Governor Martin O'Malley, World Champion figure skater Kimmie Meissner and former Baltimore Oriole Billy Ripken when March 29, 2010 was declared Healthy Maryland Day: Steps to a Healthy Maryland. I have supported Healthy Maryland legislation to incent Marylanders to lead healthier lifestyles. It is common sense that this will have the positive fiscal impact on our state of improving personal health and thereby reducing our collective health care costs. We move closer to passage of this bill every year. This is one financially sound and noncontroversial way to prepare Maryland for a successful implementation of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act.

Bond Bills: The **Owings Mills High School Stadium Project (HB 1421)** will serve as a centerpiece for the students and the community. OMHS needs your help to raise additional money for this project beyond the \$100,000 bond bill to make this needed community improvement a reality. **Hopewell Cancer Support** provides a support system to thousands of cancer patients and their families free of charge. Its facilities require expansion and the state has committed \$175,000 towards these costs. The **Humane Society of Baltimore County** operates an animal shelter, a spay/neuter center, a memorial park, and a wildlife sanctuary and will receive \$150,000 for facility improvements. **Stevenson University** is getting \$3,000,000 in state bond money to support its continued growth as an anchor for our district and a home for outstanding academics. **Sinai Hospital** has received \$2,500,000 for the construction and renovation of a new pediatric wing to provide in-patient and out-patient services for children from birth to age 18. Sinai Hospital also received \$425,000 to expand its operating room capacity and build four new state-of-the-art operating rooms.

Local Projects: I am closely following the planned renovations of **Main Street in Reisterstown**. Many constituents are also concerned about the disposition of the **Rosewood** property once the State-run facility closes. I will continue to ensure that the interests of the local community are considered. Finally, I will be monitoring Baltimore County's study on **bicycle and pedestrian access** in western Baltimore County.

7th District – Senator Andy Harris

The 2010 Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly came to a close last night at midnight. While there were many difficult, complex decisions to be made, I greatly appreciate hearing from so many constituents like you about the important issues you care about. I am proud to represent the citizens of Baltimore and Harford Counties and I will continue to put my constituents' best interests first when making legislative decisions.

This year, by far and away, the most important issue facing Maryland is our economy. Our state is experiencing the highest unemployment rate in more than a generation. Our state budget is still relying on using federal stimulus funds that will soon dry up - leaving Maryland taxpayers responsible for paying for that unrestrained spending in future years. And the state, already facing a \$9 billion fiscal deficit over the next four years, has insisted on adding nearly \$2 billion in new debt to our books. I voted against both the Capital Budget and the Operating Budget this year because of the failure by the Administration and General Assembly leadership to address the structural deficit. I also strongly believe that the state should not be increasing borrowing right now - especially for \$15 million pork projects earmarked by legislators.

We heard from the governor and leadership in Annapolis this session all about "jobs, jobs, jobs," but the rhetoric did not match any positive action for our jobs creators. Small businesses will soon see increased regulations and new taxes which will hurt their ability to keep workers employed, much less allowing them to start hiring again. We have to get Marylanders back to work and cannot afford to keep putting additional burdens on our job creators. One good example of burdensome new laws for business is SB 789, or the "Shift Break Bill." This bill will require each and every retail business that employs 50 or more people to give a 15 minute shift break for every four hour shift and a 30 minute shift break for every shift of 6 hours or more - regardless of the individual business' situation on any given day. When an amendment was offered to require the government to follow this same shift break law requirement, it failed 17-30. I oppose micromanaging business and voted to make government play by the same rules they impose on the private sector. Alas, the mantra in Annapolis is often, "do as I say, not as I do."

It is becoming clear that Maryland taxpayers also need protections from the overspending by their government. This year, I again introduced the Taxpayer' Protection Act and Taxpayers' Bill of Rights. These two bills would have given taxpayers a real voice in how our state taxes and spends. They also would have required significant accountability by state and local governments to voters. It's just too easy to pass taxes in Maryland - as we saw in the Special Session of 2007 when the sales tax and other taxes were increased as part of the largest tax increase in our history. Unfortunately, the Budget and Taxation Committee did not pass either bill.

There has also been much discussion about rising utility rates. You can imagine my surprise when the governor sponsored SB 277, which will require energy suppliers to purchase an increased amount of power from solar energy sources or pay a substantial fine (to be passed on to consumers). Energy suppliers testified that they cannot possibly meet the standards and will have to pass on those fines to rate payers - which will amount to at least \$185 million. I worked to amend SB 277 to be more consumer friendly; however, the leadership in Annapolis was not interested and my amendment was rejected largely along party lines. Fifteen senators out of 47, including me, voted against this \$185 million increase in our utility bills. Our economy and our families simply can't afford the increased energy costs.

Once again, the majority in Annapolis does not want to make the tough decisions on getting Maryland's fiscal house on better footing. The state is still facing a \$2 billion budget deficit next year. By failing to provide long-term solutions to address our deficit and debt problems, the leadership in our state have quietly made choices which will require raising numerous taxes next year - this after the largest tax hike in state history just three years ago! I believe we need much more fiscal responsibility in Annapolis if we are serious about creating and keeping jobs here in Maryland.

As always, please let me know if I can ever be of assistance to you and your family.

Sincerely, Senator Andy Harris, MD



11th District – Delegates Pat McDonough & Rick Impallaria

Thank you for contacting me during this past legislative session. As usual, the Maryland General Assembly (MGA) experienced the good, the bad and the ugly. Unfortunately, there was more bad and ugly than usual.

The most important issue was the fiscal year **2011 budget**. The Governor and the leaders of the MGA produced an election year budget that fails to address the long-term deficit problems confronting our state. The \$2 billion deficit was "fixed" by \$300 million in one-time transfers, raiding more than 40 trust funds and utilizing \$1.3 billion in federal stimulus money. None of these gimmicks address the \$8 billion in future deficits predicted for the next 4 years. More importantly, this dishonest budget will guarantee a significant tax increase in 2011, after the election years.

The Republican minority, which is grossly outnumbered, participated vigorously in preparing \$800 million in other budget reductions. Those recommendations were ignored by the MGA leadership. For the fifth year in a row, we voted against the budget because it was dishonest, unfair, and guaranteed a tax increase.

We requested that the Attorney General join Maryland into the lawsuit being initiated by other states against the Obama Care health plan passed in Washington. We also supported and co-sponsored the **Health Care Freedom Act** in the MGA that would help disengage Maryland from the health care monstrosity passed in Washington.

In the area of concern about **illegal immigration**, we sponsored the 287g Law Enforcement Act. This bill would have utilized Homeland Security support, funding and training to help law enforcement agencies throughout Maryland to conduct a forceful crackdown on criminal gangs, drug dealers and other violent illegal immigrant criminals. The bill was defeated in the House Judiciary Committee.

We sponsored an **E-Verify** amendment on the floor of the House that would become part of the Governor's jobs bill. Since the Governor decided to provide \$20 million in taxpayers' money to create 6,000 jobs for unemployed Marylanders, we believed that those workers must be citizens. The E-verify amendment would have guaranteed that only citizens would receive these jobs. Although the amendment generated strong support on the floor of the House, it still fell short.

We introduced two local bills promoting the recognition of **English** and the formal language of both Baltimore and Harford County. The Harford County English bill passed by an 8 to 0 vote of the delegation. The Baltimore County version passed the county delegation by a vote of 13 to 7. However, as both bills moved forward through the process, they were unsuccessful in the House Health & Government Operations Committee (HGO), losing by 4 votes. This was the first time that an English bill had been passed by a local delegation, but the HGO Committee disrespected what is known as the tradition of "local courtesy" and voted against the measures.

Another piece of legislation that we believe was important was the **Fallen Heroes Memorial Act**. This bill provided the opportunity for citizens who had lost their lives in the line of duty to be honored by a plaque on State bridges and overpasses. Fallen Heroes included military, firefighters, law enforcement, and first responders. Once again, another standing committee decided to vote against this good bill.

During our 8-year terms, it has become obvious to us that the merits of legislation are not the primary motivation on how legislators vote. It is clear that the minority Republicans are denied the opportunity to fully participate and pass meaningful legislation because of partisan politics. This is not an excuse; it is a sad reality which we could explain in more detail if we had the space available.

Some positive events did occur. **Jessica's Law** protecting children against predators became much stronger. We were both co-sponsors of this legislation. The anti-gang legislation, sorely needed, finally passed to help arrest and prosecute the growing number of gang members in our state. The **Firearm Safety Act of 2011**, a "draconian" bill designed to rob us of our Second Amendment rights and issue massive gun control, was defeated.

We hope this information has been helpful to you as a summary of the 2011 Maryland General Assembly session. If we may be of any assistance to you or your family, please do not hesitate to contact us at 410-841-3334.

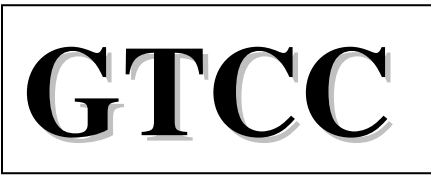
Sincerely,



Delegate Rick Impallaria



Delegate Pat McDonough



The Greater Timonium Community Council

The Next GTCC General Meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2010 at Ridgely Middle School, Room 103 at 7:00 pm

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)

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. The reconsideration was denied, and People's Counsel is considering an appeal.(E. Rockel)

Aylesbury Road: Owner is proposing a mixed use project for the property on the north corner of Aylesbury Road and Business Park Drive. Residential, commercial and office uses are planned. This project may take until 2011 to receive County approvals. (E.Rockel)

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

York Road, Timonium Condo Project: Recently land owner A&A Global Industries notified GTCC that the condo project proposed by Keely & Company will not proceed. A & A Global is examining other possible uses for the site, none of which at this time would include a high rise residential development. (E. Rockel & GTCC Executive Committee)

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

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)

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.)

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)

York & Ridgely Roads: The former Lincoln/Mercury dealership has been reported to be the future site of a Walgreen Drug Store and pad site. The property currently has the Walgreen's building constructed, with the interior to be completed. (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 Councilman Bryan McIntire will rectify the rezoning error in which 60 acres of this property were zoned for commercial usage during the Comprehensive Rezoning Process of 2008.

COMPLETED ISSUES

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)

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)

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 Giant has successfully opened at this location. (L. Miller, F. Regan, 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)

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)

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)