



The Greater Timonium Community Council

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

November 2008

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***** NEWSLETTER *****

President's Message – Eric Rockel

Tightening Our Belts

The recent economic downturn will cast a shadow on many strategies, both nationally and locally. It will affect personal finances, as well as local, state and federal finances. As we gaze into the crystal ball to anticipate upcoming events, let's hypothesize about some of the consequences to personal and public actions.

On the personal level, the consequences are very straightforward. In tough economic times, one has to cut spending and become even more dogmatic about living within ones budget. Dining out takes place less frequently, or in some cases is reserved for special occasions only. The latest and greatest electronic gadget sits on the retailer's shelf instead of in your living room, and you find ways to stretch out the life expectancy of your automobile for at least another year. In short, you sacrifice. This sacrifice also causes the public to reexamine their credit situation, and many people make attempts to pay down their short term debt, like credit card balances, and be more frugal with their short term debt going forward.

On a local government level, it's much the same as on a personal level. Projects get deferred for a period of time so that revenues can replenish. Baltimore County has, historically, proven to be frugal with its expenditures, overall, and the County has set up a rainy day fund to tide itself over in periods of economic downturn. Other local governments have introduced talks of employee furloughs or similar tactics to weather the storm, but Baltimore County's wise fiscal management has thus far been able to avoid such steps.

On a State level, there have been budget reductions already put into place. But if the reports are correct, even with the reductions enacted thus far, the State plans to spend about one percent more than expenditures from the previous year. This may be the result of mandated programs and expenditures for those programs, but I know many would feel better if the State were spending one percent less than the previous year. I was amazed by some of the logic espoused in one of the commercials advocating the passage of the slots referendum. It was the commercial that argued that the only recourse to not passing the amendment on slots was to increase taxes by six hundred million dollars. What ever happen to the notion that you tighten your belt and not spend the money in the first place? That you wait until economic times are better and then, and only then, do you examine if you can afford the increased expenditures. The current economic downturn offers the Legislature a compelling reason to ask the hard questions and make some meaningful decisions about curtailing spending. We shall see if our representatives possess the will in a few of months.

And on the national level, it seems that there is no willingness to live within ones means. The government prints more money and sells more bonds while the national debt reaches new highs in a far too predictable pattern. And the problem is not confined to one political party. The Democrats of the Clinton years faired better than the Republicans of the Bush years in keeping the national debt down. Certainly our next president will have a challenging time to say the least. But what I found most perplexing was that neither candidate would concede that some of their promised programs would have to be scaled back or compromised in light of our present economic woes.

Let's hope that all levels of government become reacquainted with the economic realities that are faced on Main Street. If you want to read a very dry but accurate account of what has led to the current economic problems, one that details the consequences of over spending on the personal and national level, pick up the book *BAD MONEY* by Kevin Phillips. It may put you to sleep, but it offers an interesting account on how the country's thirst for debt has led to our present circumstances.

GTCC General Meeting – Wednesday, November 12th, 2008

The GTCC will hold their 'Next Meeting' on **Wednesday, November 12th, 2008 at the Cockeysville Library Meeting Room**, on Greenside Dr., Cockeysville 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 2008

NOTICE !!!

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

Board of Directors 7:00 pm – 9:00pm

General Membership 7:00 pm – 9pm

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

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

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

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

1. Introductions
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Report from the Cockeysville Precinct
4. Featured Guest: Richard Cobert, Business Development Rep., Balto.Co. Department of Economic Development
“Trends in the Business Sector for the York Road Corridor”
5. Introducing the New Head Librarian for Cockeysville: Mollie Fine
6. Fairgrounds Update
7. Old and New Business

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:

With the holiday shopping season approaching, I want to remind all area residents of the importance of personal safety as you make your rounds through area shopping centers and parking lots. As I have written before, *most* thieves are opportunists who are looking for the right conditions to commit their crimes. You can make that more difficult by taking the simple steps of parking in well-lit areas, locking your car doors and by not leaving valuables inside your car in plain view. We still investigate thefts from vehicles that are the direct result of not locking the car doors! If you make several trips back and forth to your car while shopping, make every effort to place your valuables and gifts in the trunk...and make sure you don't lock your keys in the trunk when you do! And try to park in a well-lit portion of the parking lot. Many of these lots have security cameras mounted atop the light poles. Light deters thieves and the cameras take that one step further!

And, for personal safety...many area malls and shopping centers employ uniformed security personnel who make their rounds through the parking areas. Many of the security vehicles have roof-mounted amber flashing lights. I always tell folks to wait for these vehicles to come their way if they are apprehensive about walking through a certain portion of a lot. We are also asking that ALL citizens be aware of their surroundings when withdrawing money, cashing checks, etc., particularly at banks and ATMs. Always – no matter where you are night or day – take a second to look around and make sure you aren't being followed by anyone or that you're not walking towards a potential problem. If you feel that you are, wait to walk with a group or wait for the security officer to drive by. As in past years, on-duty uniformed Baltimore County Police Officers will be doing added patrols in the shopping areas during the holiday season.

Remember, awareness, cooperation, and "calling 911" are the keys to keeping your neighborhoods safe. We are fortunate to have the cooperative spirit of our communities working with us to prevent and solve crime. Let's keep working together! My officers and I truly appreciate your support.

The Librarian's Corner – Margaret Prescott

I would like to take this opportunity to say good-bye to members of the Greater Timonium Community Council. I left the Cockeysville Library at the end of October to become the manager at the Catonsville Library. During the past eight years that I was the Cockeysville Library Manager, the Greater Timonium Community Council was a valuable friend of the Library. Most notably, members of GTCC advocated for an expansion (and the design process began this fall!). GTCC was also instrumental in acquiring a \$30,000 PUD donation for the Cockeysville Library that allowed us to build a new circulation desk and create an attractive new fiction lounge at the entrance. I am very grateful for your support of these and other projects. I have always been in awe of your devotion to preserving the quality of life in this area. I am sure you will continue to have a wonderful relationship with the new manager, Mollie Fein, previously the manager at the Essex Library. My best wishes to all members of GTCC; it was a great pleasure working with you.

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

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

Traffic Calming for Pot Spring Road

Residents on Pot Spring Road (ADC Map 19 D6) north of Bosley recently requested traffic calming for their street. Traffic engineers from Public Works have approved the street for calming measures and will submit plans to residents in November. Information: 410-887-3554.

Membership & Annual Dues Report

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

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

Please find a list of participating Community Associations below:

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

This & That – Regular and New Helpful Items

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

<http://www.baltimorecountyonline.info/Subscribe/communitynews>

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

You can find a weekly calendar of development- and zoning-related hearings and meetings for County:

Council District 3 at: http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/MeetingsandEvents/pdm_d3.html

Council District 2 at: http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/MeetingsandEvents/pdm_d2.html

Full Newsletter at: <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/communityupdates/d3/060901d3.html>

Previous Editions at: <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/agencies/communityupdates/d3/index.html>

- **Baltimore County Public Library** – The Cockeysville Library is located at 9833 Greenside Drive adjacent to the Baltimore County Home Park. Library hours are Monday-Thursday 9-9; Friday and Saturday 9-5:30, and Sundays 1-5 (October-April). The library has 153,000 books, DVDs and videos, CDs, newspapers, magazines and more. Annual circulation is more than 1.1 million items. There are 19 computers available for the public that have Internet access and Microsoft Office for typing resumes and other documents. All programs are free and include drop-in story times for children, family puppet shows, computer courses and book discussions for adults. The BCPL website (www.bcpl.info) has magazine, newspaper, genealogy, literature and other databases for research and general information. Librarians welcome information requests and questions at 410-887-7750. Please..... Give them a call!

GTCC Trivia – Did You Know?

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

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

1. What is the land area of Baltimore County?
2. Where is the oldest African American settlement in Baltimore County?
3. What beverage that originated in the 17th century is imported, bottled and distributed in Baltimore County?

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

1. 612 square miles.
2. On Troyer Road near Monkton. The oldest building in it dates from 1798 and belonged to Martin Fugate who might also have been the builder. A blacksmith was recorded to have been working in this building in the 1798 tax assessment for the area. The Historic District contains 15 historic residences and two churches
3. Captain Morgan's Rum. It was first produced in Jamaica by Henry Morgan the notorious 17th century Caribbean pirate. In the 20th century it continues as the fourth largest brand of spirits in the United States. The plant is located in Arbutus.

Hampton National Historic Site

The Mansion can be toured daily...check out their website: <http://www.nps.gov/hamp/index.htm>





The Greater Timonium Community Council

The Next GTCC General Meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the Cockeysville Library

CURRENT ISSUES

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

Bill Kidd's Volvo, 10525 York Road: The Deputy Zoning Commissioner has approved zoning relief to allow commercial parking in a residential zone, to allow a very limited amount of parking in a 100 year flood plain and to allow for a reduction in the residential transition area buffer. The Sherwood Hills improvement Association and the People's Counsel have appealed this decision. GTCC has requested to be an interested party in the appeal. Recently, the car dealer asked for a postponement of the Board of Appeals hearing, indicating that he may be reevaluating using the site as a dealership. (E. Rockel, Sherwood Hills)

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)

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. (GTCC Executive Committee, Community Organizers)

York & Ridgely Roads: The former Lincoln/Mercury dealership has been reported to be the future site of a Walgreen Drug Store, as well as a pad site for some other use. The owner cancelled an October appearance before the DRC, and we are uncertain if the project is on an extended hold. (E. Rockel)

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

ON-GOING ISSUES

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

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

York Rd. Widening, Seminar to Ridgely Rd. – York Road is a Md. State road. Funding approved of \$5.5 million from Md. State and \$875 thousand from Baltimore County to widen and provide for a third middle lane. Utility relocation activity started in August. Estimates of two years of construction were previously given for the entire project, including utility pole relocations, water main replacement and road work.. From the Fall of 2006 to Fall 2007 expect water main construction, and road widening to take place from Fall 2007 to Fall 2008. Expect project completion in the Spring of 2009.(E. Rockel, GTCC Executive Committee)

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

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

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. (E. Rockel, L. Miller & GTCC)

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

COMPLETED ISSUES

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

Jessup Property – The County Landmarks Preservation Commission has approved placing the Jessup House on the landmarks list. The Baltimore County Council would have to also approve the inclusion. As of August, the developer's attorney indicated his client was reviewing how this would impact the proposal. Regardless of the Landmark's issue, the developer has not submitted a development plan for County review. Longford North was to hold a fundraiser in early November to help pay for its legal expenses. The developer has submitted a revised development plan in December. The Hearing Officer's Hearing was held in April with Longford North, Pine Valley/Valleywood, Huntridge and GTCC offering comments on the plan. A consistent remark from all was that the number of units, 103, needed to be reduced. The hearing officer approved the 103 unit plan. The Longford North Community reached a compromise with the developer and has dropped any plan to appeal the development. It has come to our attention that the original developer is trying to sell the property to a third party to develop. (E. Rockel, Longford North)

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

York Rd.-Timonium Condo Proposal – A & A Global Industries and Keelty Company are proposing a two tower Condo and mixed use on York Rd across from the north end of the Fair Grounds. Meetings were held 9/21/05, 10/27/05, 1/10/06, 3/08/06, 5/24/06 concerning adopting the site plan to minimize sight lines from Stratford Community at top of the hill. What started with 14 stories and one underground and two above ground parking stories is now reduced to two underground parking and one above is now 10 stories of 216 Condo's. Movement into the hill is now approximately 35 feet. The Stratford Community Association's Board of Directors and GTCC have recently agreed not to oppose the Planned Unit Development (PUD) with respect to height and size. The Planning Board approved the condo plan., and the Zoning Commissioner approved the project. (E. Rockel, L. Miller, GTCC Executive Committee & Stratford Community)

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