



# The Greater Timonium Community Council

Volume IX Issue V

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

November 2007

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## \*\*\*\*\* NEWSLETTER \*\*\*\*\*

### President's Message – Eric Rockel

#### Stepping Up to the Plate and Hitting A Grand Slam !

It started with the Pine Valley-Valleywood Community Association's concern about a child care center being located on Timonium Road. The residents of that community needed a fund raiser to pay for legal expenses associated with opposing the child care center. The community decided to hold a bull roast, and the success of that event empowered certain people to believe that they could help the broader community with other needs. When the Lutherville Volunteer Fire Company announced that it would start a capital campaign to replace its antiquated station on Bellona Avenue, members of Pine Valley-Valleywood community started to set a fund raiser in motion.

Members from other communities were recruited to help with the variety of tasks that demanded attention - finding a venue, catering the event, soliciting for auction items, publicity, entertainment, set up and the numerous other details. Needless to say, countless hours were spent making sure that all of these elements would come together in a successful fashion. The chair women heading the event ran a thorough and energized campaign.

When the Climb the Ladder Bull Roast took place at the Timonium Fairgrounds, the night was a huge success for all involved. The fifteen hundred people who attended the evening were treated to good food, lively entertainment and a variety of local auction items. The event came off as if run by a professional fund raising outfit, when in fact it was organized by some inspired volunteers who are now being asked to apply their expertise for other organizations. At the end of the evening, approximately \$85,000 was raised for the Lutherville Volunteer Fire Company, and there is some talk that this event may be repeated to raise even more money. So let's congratulate Stephanie Radebaugh, Karen Regan and Kiki Worthington for chairing a great night of fund raising. You and the many other volunteers deserve our thanks for inspiring the community.

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### **NEXT MEETING 'SPECIAL' NOTE:**

Due to scheduling conflicts at the Cockeysville Library, please take note of the next two meeting dates. Our November meeting will take place on TUESDAY, November 20, at 7:00 pm, but it will be held at the Alms House, which is about a block away from the Library. Continue on Greenside Drive northerly from the Library, and at the next intersection, you will see signs for the Alms House and Baltimore County Historical Society. Our guest speaker will be Mr. Louis Diggs, a noted expert on African American history in Baltimore County. He will have many vintage pictures of old Cockeysville and Lutherville. Mr. Diggs is also a member of the Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Commission. ( see [www.louisdiggs.com](http://www.louisdiggs.com) for more information)

Our December meeting will return to the Cockeysville Library, but will be held on December 19 at 7:00 pm.

**GTCC General Meeting – Next Tuesday, November 20th, 2007**

The GTCC will hold their 'Next Meeting' on **Tuesday, November 20th, 2007 at the "Alms House" Meeting Room**, at 9811 Van Buren Lane off Greenside Dr., Cockeysville beginning at 7:00PM. The Ridgely Middle School will be undergoing major renovations through 2006 and 2007. They have asked the GTCC to vacate our use of Room 103 effective February 10, 2006. Therefore, we have arranged to hold our meetings at the Cockeysville Library in their Meeting Room except for a scheduling conflict for the month of November.

Please note the meeting changes and remember that our *meetings will STILL begin promptly at 7:00 PM.*

Subsequent meeting dates are posted on our web page "www.gtccinc.com" and are noted in this Newsletter below.

**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 2007**

**NOTICE !!!**

\*\*\*\*\* **Meeting Schedule** \*\*\*\*\*

**Board of Directors 7:00 pm – 9:00pm**

**General Membership 7:00 pm – 9pm**

February 14, 2007

April 11, 2007

June 13, 2007

August – No Meeting

October 17, 2007

December 19, 2007 ( **At Library** )

January 10, 2007

March 14, 2007

May 09, 2007

July – No Meeting

September 12, 2007

November 20, 2007 ( **Alms House** )

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

**The GTCC's "Newsletter" Emailed – Frank Regan**

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

In order for this to be a continuing success: **WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS !!!** Please forward me your email address if you have not submitted it already to: **regan87@comcast.net**. Otherwise, you may not be receiving future Newsletters.

We hope that you continue to find this form of our Newsletter delivery easy to use and as informative as always. Please feel free to forward this Newsletter to all those in your Association that you think might benefit from it.

**Agenda and Speakers - GTCC *November 20th Meeting*** - for our next meeting: Tentative Schedule...

1. Introductions
2. Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports
3. Report from the Cockeysville Precinct
4. Featured Speaker: Mr. Louis Diggs on African American History from Lutherville to Cockeysville.  
Mr. Diggs will also have available for sale some of his history books on the topic.
5. Old Business:
  - A. Review of Selected CZMP Issues
  - B. Tentative Success for Community efforts in Hampton Manor
  - C. Update on Global View Condos
  - D. Installment Two on Mays Chapel Park
6. New Business
  - A. La Farge Wetlands permit - at press time LaFarge representatives have been invited to our meeting but have not confirmed their acceptance.
  - B. Nomination of Officers

**Slots Legislation Takes An Unexpected Twist** – Eric Rockel

Based upon the past response from its members, the Greater Timonium Community Council has opposed the introduction of slots at the Fairgrounds during the past administration and during Governor Martin O'Malley's tenure. Petitions in opposition to slots at the Fairgrounds were presented to the Ehrlich administration, and more recently we sent Governor O'Malley a letter outlining our feelings. (See Attachment at the end of this Newsletter) The Governor's recent plan naming the general location of all slots venues made many in Timonium breath a sigh of relief when Timonium was not part of the package, but during special sessions anything is fair game. In Saturday's Baltimore Sun, it was announced that the Fairgrounds were making noise to be included in the slots legislation.

If the slots legislation wasn't enough of a concern, it was also discovered last week that a last minute Comprehensive Zoning request seeks to 'change all' of the Fairgrounds to the Business Roadside classification, a commercial zone. What's the motivation behind that request? A slots emporium? Restaurants to support gaming patrons? A hotel? Who knows? One thing is certain however. Timonium would unalterably change for the worse in my opinion if the double whammy of slots and the zoning change hits the Fairgrounds.

Going forward, we *ALL* need to let our elected officials know how we feel about these two issues. County Executive Jim Smith ( Email to: [jimsmith@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jimsmith@baltimorecountymd.gov) ) has been supportive in opposing slots at Timonium, but we also need to let him know that we oppose the rezoning request. 3rd District Councilman Bryan McIntire ( Email to: [bccdistrict3@comcast.net](mailto:bccdistrict3@comcast.net) ), the single most important voice in the rezoning request, also needs to know your feelings. Governor Martin O'Malley (Email to: [governor@gov.state.md.us](mailto:governor@gov.state.md.us) ), while not involved in the zoning process, also needs to hear many voices in opposition to slots at Timonium. Your silence on these issues is not something the area can afford.

**Annual GTCC Membership Dues** – Marge DiNardo

GTCC '2007' Membership dues of \$50 dollars for the year are still due at this time. We had a great response from (48) Associations contributing their Annual Membership dues payment last year! Dues notices for 2007 have been mailed out earlier this year so if you haven't received one or if you need a copy, please don't hesitate to let us know. . Please send your 2007 dues payments, if you haven't sent them yet, to **GTCC, 9b Ridgely Rd., Box 276, Timonium, Maryland 21093**. Thanks to all our contributing Associations for all their dedicated support for the ongoing work of the Greater Timonium Community Council!

## **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:*

It's hard to believe that the holiday season is just around the corner. Holiday gift shopping will bring additional folks to area shopping centers. Unfortunately, along with the influx of shoppers comes the potential of an increase in crime. I just want to remind everyone of the basics – starting at home and all the way through to safe shopping - that we *always* discuss in this newsletter column. After that, I want to direct your attention to preventing credit/debt card fraud and identity theft.

So, first of all, a quick but *important* review...LOCK those doors and windows of your homes. Take the time to check and double-check. Remember, at the present time nearly 30% of the burglaries reported in Precinct 7 this year have involved an open door or window. Secondly, *don't* hesitate to call 911 to report suspicious activity or subjects. I don't have any actual figures, but from my personal monitoring of the police talk channels it seems to me that the folks in the GTCC area have done just that! We are able to respond to these calls and ruin potential criminals' plans. That's a good thing that may have helped to reduce the number of reported robberies in the precinct 30% from the same time period last year.

When you get to your shopping destination, remember not to leave valuables on display inside your vehicle. Take the extra minute and put them into the trunk...out of sight, out of mind. Try to park in a well-lit area of the parking lot and keep an eye out for the amber flashing lights of the vehicles used in the patrols made by security officers. Many shopping centers use these folks to help patrol their parking lots. These are all simple steps that we can all use to make the shopping trip safer.

Lastly, Identity Theft is becoming an increasing concern to all law enforcement agencies. Be protective of your credit cards and debit cards and your wallets and purses as well. While you are protecting them, be very careful about using your PIN numbers at ATM machines, gas pumps, etc. We have recently investigated and made arrests on cases that involve "ATM Skimming." Because of column space constraints, I will write more about this in an upcoming issue. There are a few important things to be aware of during this busy season. If the card slot on an ATM machine looks like an "add-on" or otherwise suspicious, *do not* use that machine. Check with the bank as soon as possible as to the authenticity of the card reader. Some of the recent scams have involved slipping an "add-on" card-reader (aka "skimmer") over the real front slot of the machine and then downloading information from the skimmer. PIN numbers can be obtained through placement of micro cameras near the ATM machine. In a successful "skim" the culprits will be able to make a clone debit card...in your name...with your PIN! Secondly, try to get into the habit of using your free hand to cover the keypad on the debit card reader as you enter your PIN. Make it difficult for anyone looking over your shoulder to get your PIN.

More on this in a future issue. Meanwhile, please try to use these tips to make your shopping experience better for you and worse for potential thieves. Have a safe and happy holiday season !

## **The Librarian's Corner** – Margaret Prescott

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

Baltimore County Public Library will introduce a new service starting November 5, 2007. Our customers will be able to place a hold on most items for free through our website at [www.bcpl.info](http://www.bcpl.info). In addition, a new service called "Book Ahead" allows customers to put items on hold before they are received in the library. These items will display in the catalog as being "On Order." With "Book Ahead," you can be one of the first to check out new items. Holds cannot be placed on entertainment DVDs or videogames. There will be a charge of \$1 if you don't pick up your reserved item within seven days of notification. It's easy to find the newest items in our catalog. Just go to our website and click on "Books and More" then "Hot Titles." You'll find lists of new books, DVDs, and music CDs. Or call the Cockeysville Library at 410-887-7750; we're waiting to help you and answer any questions that you may have!

## **The Councilman's Corner** – Kevin Kamenetz & Bryan McIntire

We have invited both of our 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> District County Councilmen, Kevin Kamenetz & Bryan McIntire, to provide us this month with an article for our newsletter in the form of 'The Councilman's Corner' on any issue(s) that he feels might be of interest to our membership. The following articles are from both Kevin & Bryan:

### **2<sup>nd</sup> District** - Councilman Kevin Kamenetz

Greetings to the Greater Timonium Community. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to update you on the activities of our County's legislative body. Your seven member County Council serves as the independent Legislative Branch of County government. The Council meets year-round, generally in bi-monthly Legislative Sessions (held at night) and bi-monthly Work Sessions (held during the day). All proceedings are open to the public, and the Legislative Sessions are broadcast on BCTV (Comcast Channel 25). The Council's web site at [www.baltimorecountycouncil.org](http://www.baltimorecountycouncil.org) provides helpful information as well.

Recent matters of interest include the following:

**TOWING LICENSES** \_ The Council significantly revamped the long-established process for the towing of disabled vehicles from the scene of an accident. Bill 67-07 requires the County to contract for the provision of towing services from a single contractor who will be responsible for clearing the roads quickly and efficiently after a vehicle is disabled in an accident, or after a vehicle is otherwise not drivable because of an incapacity (e.g., driver arrest). The County will continue to license a pool of available qualified towers, and the bill also expands the hours and days that police-initiated tower must be open to release vehicles, in addition to other performance requirements. The contract will be competitively bid.

**LEGAL SERVICES TO SENIORS** – The Council approved a \$52,000 annual contract with Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. to provide legal services to County residents 60 years of age and older, in accordance with the federal Older Americans Act. The contractor will provide legal advice, representation at administrative hearings and court, community legal education, workshops and informational consultations. Services will be provided through telephone contract, home visits and other accessible, convenient locations, with a target population of seniors living in rural areas seniors with limited English proficiency, and lower income, minority and frail seniors, including institutionalized, isolated and homebound seniors. The contractor was selected through a competitive procurement process.

**PIT BULLS** – The Council declined to enact breed-specific legislation aimed at muzzling and kenneling all pit bulls, deciding to focus on refinements to existing County laws affecting all dangerous and menacing animals, regardless of breed.

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

### **3<sup>rd</sup> District** - Councilman Bryan McIntire

It looks like autumn has truly arrived with the advent of cooler weather and leaves of different colors. This also means that our CZMP year is underway! As of this writing, 86 issues have been filed in the Third Councilmanic District and needless to say, there will be more by the end of the filing period on November 30, 2007. The County Council will then begin a review process which, of course, will allow for community comment at the Planning Board and County Council public hearings in 2008. Please rest assured that my office will provide you with the dates, times and locations of those hearings well in advance.

Of particular interest to The Greater Timonium Community Council is that the Board of Education is looking at building a school for children with special needs at Mays Chapel Park. The Baltimore County Board of Education recently held a very well attended community meeting at Dulaney High School. The Mays Chapel Community was quite outspoken about their desire to maintain their park and walking paths. I am looking into what other properties are owned by the Board of Education or Baltimore County that could serve as an alternative to the Mays Chapel Park site. I certainly believe that there is precious little open space in Mays Chapel and what there is, needs to be maintained.

A continuing issue in my district and many other parts of Baltimore County is the problem with the overpopulation of deer. I recently learned that our winter salted roadways may be serving as huge salt licks that actually attract deer, contributing to deer-vehicle crashes. Road salting is a safety measure yet total animal-vehicle (not just deer) crashes now kill more than 200 Americans each year. In 2006 in Maryland there were nearly 1,500 animal-vehicle crashes, including 3 fatalities. Since 1994 in Maryland there have been 17,630 reported animal-vehicle crashes severe enough to cause personal injury or fatalities or requiring a vehicle to be towed, causing 3,957 human injuries and 17 fatalities. Since 2001 the Maryland State Highway Administration alone has reported 29,967 deer carcasses along roadways.

So the debate continues as to what method would best serve communities who are not only dealing with deer related vehicle crashes but also Lyme Disease and other related deer problems as well. I urge everyone to be cautious while driving at all times.

As always, I thank you for your feedback and leadership. It is a privilege to represent you and please feel free to call upon me or my staff at any time that we can be of assistance at 410-887-3387.

### **Only You Can !** – Lou Miller

The title above might confuse you, the reader of this Newsletter. Yes, it is stated to cause YOU to think - Who is YOU?

Having lived in Timonium for now over fifty years and participated in the civic, governmental, and social life of this viable community causes me to reflect on the title above.

The Greater Timonium Community Council, Inc. (GTCC) has been active for, likewise, many years. Those in leadership positions, elected earlier by Board Members or since year 2000 designated by member Community/Condo Associations as a delegate to GTCC Board.

Thus, GTCC has an Officer group and a representative Board. The Council has represented over fifty associations toward its basic PURPOSE, to protect the residential standard of living in its community. That community is approximately 25 miles in circumference. Sounds like a big job!

This is where YOU enter the picture. It is only by YOU participating in this activity can the PURPOSE be accomplished. Whether it is working for or against those elements which would cause a disruption or satisfaction of that purpose.

Having been associated with GTCC for the last 12-15 years provides me with suggestions for today and the future of GTCC's efforts.

1. YOU should participate!
2. How? Be an Officer. (Currently, we have a VP vacancy)
3. Serve on a Committee.
4. Learn the ins and outs of Government that affect YOU.
5. Zoning, Development, Variances, Special Exceptions, all can affect YOU.
6. NIBY, GTCC can provide assistance for YOUR issue.
7. Currently there are 22 Issues in the four year comprehensive zoning cycle filed in GTCC's geographic area. (One specific is Fair Grounds filing for BR (Business Roadside) zoning. In addition, two DR 3.5 zonings to BR.) Just an example of the Issues that must be addressed.

Only YOU can work on these Issues and assist those dedicated residents who strive to maintain the PURPOSE of GTCC

### **GTCC Website** - <http://www.gtccinc.com> – Frank Regan

The Greater Timonium Community Council maintains a website to provide everyone information related to our organization and many activities of Community interest. We have recently taken on the challenge to update 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. Check out our 'NEW' look coming very soon! A hardy "Thanks" goes out to Lou Miller for his insight in the development of our very first presence on the web many years ago! We invite all of you to 'surf' our site where you can even find a brief summary of neighborhood Code Enforcement Definitions for Baltimore County in the Zoning Section. Additionally, we shall be posting our past 2007 "GTCC Newsletters" for you to read or download as well

**The Legislator's Corner** – Delegate Susan Aumann, Delegate Dan Morhaim & Delegate Pat McDonough

We have also invited our State Representatives to provide us with an article for our newsletter in the form of 'The Legislator's Corner' on any issue(s) that they feel might be of interest to our membership. The following articles this month are from the 42<sup>nd</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Legislative Districts from Susan, Dan & Pat:

**42<sup>nd</sup> District** – Delegate Susan Aumann

On Monday, October 29, 2007, Governor O'Malley took the first major step in his plan to make up for a budget shortfall the State is facing in the next fiscal year. This plan includes a 20% increase in the sales tax, doubling the cigarette tax, indexing and steepening the income tax, increasing business taxes and even raising the gasoline tax.

When will enough be enough? One of my colleagues in Annapolis stated that Maryland does not have a revenue problem, it has a spending problem. I could not agree more.

At the beginning of this year, it was clear to everyone in State government that the budget for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2008 was going to be a problem. As a member of the Appropriations Committee which analyzes funding for each agency, I had great concerns over the lack of discipline in spending and the lack of attention to reducing the projected deficit. Further impacting the budget forecast is funding the Thornton education plan, because when it was enacted in 2002, no dedicated source was identified to pay for the \$1.8 billion expense.

I worked with two colleagues from the Appropriations committee and offered a reasonable solution by limiting spending increases for the current fiscal year. When the budget was introduced, our amendment was proposed which would have kept the spending levels at the previous year's level with a few exceptions. That amendment was rejected on the House floor after a long debate and the \$30 billion budget was passed by the House of Delegates knowing that the problem had not been addressed. Unfortunately, the leadership blocked every attempt to deal with the impending deficit. They insisted a "comprehensive plan" from Governor O'Malley would be the best solution.

No "comprehensive plan" was presented. Instead, the administration recklessly increased the budgets for virtually every agency and department, spent even more money for special projects and programs by submitting four supplemental budget increases, and obliterated the Rainy Day Fund by depleting it by almost \$1 billion. After doing nothing about the impending budget crisis during his post-election transition, during the 2007 Session, or during the spring and summer, the Governor has finally realized there is a problem. His solution is to raise taxes, legalize slot machines without reducing state spending.

It is not my style to emphasize the negative, but I have strong reservations about the special session. All of us in our professional lives demand a thorough analysis of a plan before acting. I am concerned that going into a special session without clear objectives and solutions will lead to a waste of time, and money or the passage of harmful legislation. In particular, only tax increase measures and not spending reductions will be dealt with at this time.

I cannot support a sales tax increase which hurts families and people on a fixed income, more than any other tax.

I cannot support an expansion of the sales tax to professional services because of the negative impact it has on businesses.

I cannot support an increase in the gasoline tax, with oil prices continuing to set records; it would be a disastrous combination for many people.

I cannot support a piecemeal approach to the budget deficit by raising some taxes and ostensibly reducing others while ignoring how the government is arbitrarily spending taxpayers' hard-earned money.

In summary, I believe that pursuing new taxes without thoroughly examining ways to reduce spending is a sham and is outrageous. If I could ask you to take time and voice your opposition to this plan to Speaker Busch, President Miller, Chairman Conway, Chairwoman Shelia Hixson and Governor O'Malley, maybe they will understand what harm they will have on the people who live in this State. You can also check the bills that Governor O'Malley has proposed. The website is [www.mlis.state.md.us](http://www.mlis.state.md.us) and click on "Special Session Notice."

## 11<sup>th</sup> District - Delegate Dan Morhaim

Dear Friends, ..... with the special legislative session upon us, here are some comments.

While I did not support calling a special session, one is here, and I will do the best I can to work in a positive way with all concerned.

Some constituents have called saying they oppose all taxes, while others favor some, and others believe a comprehensive plan as outlined by the Governor is needed. Many have offered innovative ideas, and I am working to see that these are put forward and considered. Please keep these good ideas coming.

The situation is a bit like squeezing a water balloon. Put pressure in one area, and it bulges out somewhere else.

Basically, there are only 3 ways to deal with this fiscal crisis.

1) Increasing Revenues: Whether called taxes, fees, surcharges, it boils down to the same thing: bringing money into government. I believe each revenue source needs to be analyzed individually. I have found that some constituents who call opposing "all taxes" turn out, upon reflection, to support some of them, such as increasing the tobacco tax for health care. The Maryland and Baltimore County Chambers of Commerce support an increase gas tax to be used for transportation needs, whereas many commuters feel gas prices are high enough already.

2) Reducing Spending: Government, like households, can help to balance its budget by reducing spending. However, many constituents also ask for increased spending on specific items. The problem is that there is not enough money to meet all the needs, however worthwhile. We need to be strategic about spending cuts. Some proposals, like across the board cuts, apply a "one-size fits all" approach. This does not take into account different circumstances and needs. For example, some areas of spending might need to be increased, while others should be drastically reduced or eliminated.

3) Efficiencies: This needs to be emphasized. Each dollar spent by government should be spent as efficiently as possible. For example, procurement (the purchasing of good and services) is about \$9 billion of the State's \$29 billion budget. Even small percentage savings here translate into big dollars. This is an area where I have worked to enact numerous bills that save money by streamlining government operations. We've made progress but still have long way to go. Unfortunately, this topic does not get the public or media attention it deserves. While it may be less fascinating than other parts of the budget debate, it is just as important. There are areas of government bureaucracy that ought to be consolidated, but this involves taking a fresh look at how government operates, something some do not like to do. Part of success in efficiencies includes strategic investment. For example, I support "high-performance/green" building construction for all state-supported buildings. The private sector is rapidly moving in that direction because it makes economic (reduced utility costs, increased employee performance) and environmental sense. The State should be building to 21st century standards, not 20th century ones.

Ultimately, I hope that we can find a balance that works for as many people as possible.

Regarding slots, independent of whether one is "for" or "against" slots: the devil is in the details, so whatever happens, it will be important to emphasize these. I voted for the House slots bill in 2005 but would not have voted for the Senate version. Details - such as ownership/management, license costs/fees, location, distribution of slots revenue, etc. - are critical, and we all need to understand these distinctions. To be specific, the House bill would not have placed slots in Timonium, whereas the Senate bill kept that as a possibility.

Regardless of the outcome of the special session, the January 2008 session is almost here, so it is very likely that these issues will surface again.

Last, I want you to know that I am actively listening to every point of view. These are complex matters and deserve our full attention and careful consideration. Your suggestions about what to do - and what not to do - are very helpful. Please continue to offer your ideas.

Last, your input is key. We won't always agree, but it's important that we communicate. Please stay in touch with me and with my legislative staff: Mary Lou Cole and Penny McDougal. We will do our best to respond. [www.drdanmorhaim.com](http://www.drdanmorhaim.com)

## 7<sup>th</sup> District – Delegate Pat McDonough

Pat McDonough is serving his third term as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates. Delegate McDonough represents the Seventh Legislative District, which includes Baltimore and Harford Counties. He is a member of the Health and Government Operations Committee and the Joint Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The Seventh District lawmaker is a radio talk show host on WCBM, former public affairs analyst for Fox 45 TV, and a regular newsmaker guest on the Ed Norris Radio Show and WBAL Radio. He is the producer and host of "Inside Annapolis" on Cable TV.

Delegate McDonough is considered a national leader of efforts to stop the invasion of illegal aliens into America. Besides introducing numerous pieces of model legislation on the issue, he has appeared on CNN, the Lou Dobbs Show, and the Bill O'Reilly program. Mr. McDonough is the primary sponsor of the legislation mandating English as Maryland's official language. Currently, he is leading a campaign to collect petitions to place a charter amendment on the November, 2008 ballot making English the official language of Baltimore County.

As a member of the Health Committee, Delegate McDonough has helped pass legislation to protect consumers and patients, particularly the elderly. Last year, he sponsored a bill that passed the General Assembly unanimously directing a total overview of the nursing home industry. He was instrumental as a co-sponsor of legislation that prevented CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield from leaving Maryland and becoming a private corporation.

Delegate McDonough has been a forceful, independent voice both in the Legislature and in the community. His constituent service efforts and volunteer services are excellent. Delegate McDonough regularly publishes his home phone number, maintains a growing 20,000 person e-mail communications network, and an information loaded website at PatMcDonough.org. For information regarding scholarships, issues, projects, or Delegate McDonough's availability as a guest speaker, contact him at [Patmcdee@comcast.net](mailto:Patmcdee@comcast.net) or call 410-238-0025.

## 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 (49) 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	Wellington Valley	Pebble Creek HO	Dunloy Condo

## Traffic Calming for Cinder Road

Cinder Road between York and Pot Spring recently qualified for traffic calming measure Public Works has drawn up plans to install speed humps and traffic calming islands. The community has approved the plans and construction is expected to begin before the end of the year. **Information:** 410- 887-3554

## **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](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/MeetingsandEvents/pdm_d3.html)  
Council District 2 at: [http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/MeetingsandEvents/pdm\\_d2.html](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](http://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. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (B&O) founded in 1827 traversed Baltimore County. What was significant about its founding?
2. The Beaver Dam Swim Club is located at the site of an important nineteenth century commercial activity. What was it?
3. A Castle once stood on the land that became the Loch Raven Reservoir. What was its name?



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. The B&O was the nation's first chartered common carrier railroad.
2. The Oregon Iron Furnace established in 1849 by Richard Green. The abandoned iron ore pit on the property is always full of water and provides a supervised swimming hole.
3. Glen Ellen. It was the birthplace and estate of Harry Gilmore, the notorious native son and Confederate raider. It had turrets and high mullioned windows, 18 rooms and one bathroom. It is now in ruins.

### **Helpful Contacts & Phone Numbers:**

More and more of our Associations are bringing their presence onto the Web! It's interesting and informative to check out these many websites. The following helpful info is available on the Dulaney Valley Improvement Association's Website. We thought that we would share these helpful numbers with you again. Please check out their full website at: <http://www.dvia.org> We will try and feature other Association Websites in the future as time and space permit. Thanks to our friends and neighbors at the DVIA !

### **Frequently Requested Phone Numbers**

Baltimore County General Information & Referral	410-887-0000	Animals Licenses	410-887-2594
Animal Control	410-887-5961	Consumer Protection	410-528-8662
Education Information	410-887-5555	Education Planning	410-887-4215
Employment & Training	410-887-2008	Fire Department : Information	410-887-4500
Police Department: Information	410-887-2222	Recreation & Parks	410-887-3871
Refuse Collection : Bulk	410-887-2000	Recycling	410-887-2000
Roads & Streets Maintenance	410-887-3560	Social Services	410-887-2800
Water : Drinking Water	410-396-5352	Building Permits	410-887-3900
Environmental Concerns	410-887-3733	Special Permits & Licenses	410-887-3616
Traffic Engineering	410-887-3554	Zoning : Information	410-887-3391

### **Recycling Information - What You Need to Know**

Effective October 2005, recyclable bottles and cans may be placed out for collection in open-top bins (such as laundry baskets and plastic storage bins) or in see-through, plastic bags (blue, clear, tan, etc.). However, still no trash containers (to avoid confusion with medical and hazardous waste).

By accepting loose bottles and cans in open-top bins and in a broader range of plastic bags, the County hopes even more citizens will participate in the recycling program. Blue plastic bags, such as those provided by supermarkets for many years, remain a perfectly acceptable option for placing out bottles and cans for collection. Residents who want to continue using blue bags are free to do so. The County is increasing the number of options for bottle and can recycling, not limiting them.

For further information, call the County's customer service line at 410-887-2000 or e-mail them at: [recycle@co.ba.md.us](mailto:recycle@co.ba.md.us).

For a recycling and trash collection schedule, please request one at the following web site: <http://www.co.ba.md.us/Agencies/publicworks/recycling/collectschinfo.html>

*The Next GTCC General Meeting is scheduled for November 20th, 2007 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)

**York Rd.-Timonium Condo Proposal** – A & A Global Industries and Keelty Company are proposing a two tower Condo and mixed use on York Rd across from the north end of the Fair Grounds. Meetings were held 9/21/05, 10/27/05, 1/10/06, 3/08/06, 5/24/06 concerning adopting the site plan to minimize sight lines from Stratford Community at top of the hill. What started with 14 stories and one underground and two above ground parking stories is now reduced to two underground parking and one above is now 10 stories of 216 Condo's. Movement into the hill is now approximately 35 feet. Councilman will not grant a PUD going forward until the residential communities are satisfied with the plan. Concerns remain about the scale of these Condo towers and the precedent for future development on York Road. A meeting before Christmas 2006 produced a compromise. Keelty's architect reduced the towers to eight stories of residential units and one above-ground level of parking. The scale of the cupolas were also reduced. The Stratford Community Association's Board of Directors and GTCC have recently agreed not to oppose the Planned Unit Development (PUD) with respect to height and size. As stated at the Community Input Meeting, concerns still exist regarding hours of construction, landscaping, and lighting. A Planning Board hearing is scheduled for November 1, 2007. (E. Rockel, L. Miller, GTCC Executive Committee & Stratford Community)

**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)

**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. (E. Rockel)

**Mays Chapel School Site:** The Baltimore County Board of Education has approved preliminary funding in its FY 2009 to relocate the special needs school to Board of Education-owned and Baltimore County-owned property on Padonia Road. Residents of Mays Chapel are concerned about losing this parkland in their community. Few details about the size and layout of this proposed school are currently available. (E. Rockel & Mays Chapel Community Associations)

## ON-GOING ISSUES

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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. Longford North is appealing the forest buffer variance requested for the development.

**Comprehensive Rezoning for 2007:** See the list of properties requesting a zoning reclassification under the Comprehensive Zoning Map Process by looking at the GTCC website.

## COMPLETED ISSUES

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

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

**Frankel Property (Old AAI north property) – Super Wal-Mart** – Comprehensive Zoning Cycle changed the zoning from ML to BM. Land was sold by AAI to Frankel. Statement made he planned to build a 260,000 sq. ft. retail center. Early May 2006 it was understood Wal-Mart would occupy that site. Construction began in the fall of 2006 with an expectation that the site would open in late 2007. E. Rockel attended a zoning hearing for variance requests concerning signage. Signs will be affixed to the building. No signage will be installed on York Road. Wal-Mart officially opened on October 24, 2007. For one man's take on the new store, see Kevin Cowherd's column in the Sun, Oct. 29, 2007. (E. Rockel, L. Miller, GTCC Executive Committee)



# The Greater Timonium Community Council

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9b Ridgely Rd., Timonium, Maryland 21093

October 01, 2007

Governor Martin O'Malley  
State House  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1925

Re: Video Slots Gambling at Timonium State Fairgrounds

Dear Governor O'Malley:

The Greater Timonium Community Council, Inc. (GTCC) is an umbrella organization with memberships of over 50+ area Community Associations which collectively represents some 65,000 residents throughout a 25 mile perimeter of the Greater Lutherville/Timonium/Cockeysville area. We are a vibrant organization which tries hard to maintain and improve the quality of life in our area which has been something that is so important to you. We pride ourselves in working with our elected officials and businesses to achieve these goals. Our membership values the many resources that we enjoy within the Greater Lutherville/Timonium/Cockeysville area here in Northern Baltimore County. One of these cherished resources is the Timonium State Fairgrounds which for years hosts not only the annual Maryland State Fair but also the many family oriented events during the week and weekends throughout the entire year.

The Greater Timonium Community Council, Inc. would like to inform you that this Council and many local residents voted unanimously to **Strongly Oppose** the addition of Video Lottery Terminals to the Timonium Fairgrounds. We take this position based on the following:

1) The Fairgrounds is currently a very viable non-profit venue that conducts "minimal" racing and resulting gambling operations on a very limited schedule of eight to ten days for the entire year. The Pimlico Race Track, however, is a 'for profit' venue that already operates existing gambling operations for seventy four days throughout the entire year. Currently, each venue has its own individual stabilized revenue market. It only stands to reason that the introduction of Video Lottery Terminals to the Timonium Fairgrounds could dramatically impact the economic viability of both the Pimlico and Timonium venues by cannibalizing each others market share due to the fact that they are geographically located so close to each other and would compete for similar clientele. We don't need to risk jeopardizing the financial viability and economic impact of either venue by the addition of Video Lottery Terminals at the Timonium Fairgrounds.

2) The Fairgrounds today serves as a Family Entertainment venue for the north central metropolitan area, featuring many Shows and Exhibits of such events as: Home and Garden Shows, Flower Shows, Model Train Shows, Arts & Craft Shows, Collectables Shows, Gem & Jewelry Shows, Antique Sales and Auctions, Auto Shows, Animal & Kennel Shows, and many 4-H Club Events to name just a few in addition to the **prestigious annual "Maryland State Fair"**. Our members feel strongly that introducing Slots Gambling will destroy the family oriented venue that exists today and bring with it the problems inherent with a gambling culture which will resonate far beyond the boundaries of the fairgrounds property.

3) The Fairgrounds today already attracts a large volume of vehicle traffic in and around its facilities in order to accommodate the large numbers of people that attend the many attractions and functions that it hosts. This traffic contributes to an already heavy congestion resulting from the regular use of these main roads by the many people that live in this heavily populated area. With York, Padonia, and Timonium roads already close to failing based on State Highway Studies, the impact on these roads would result in absolute gridlock with the introduction of additional traffic by adding Video Lottery Terminals to Timonium. This would have a direct negative impact on the residents and communities that have to use these roads on a daily basis. We have heard that the Fairgrounds Management claims that the Video Lottery Terminals traffic would simply be staggered into the Fairgrounds. However, the point is that any additional traffic that they would bring would overwhelmingly compound an already existing terrible problem. With only two existing entrances currently on York and Timonium Roads, even the State Police is required to control traffic on a daily basis each year while the Maryland State Fair is in operation. We do not need to impose an extraordinary traffic burden to this area that the addition of Video Lottery Terminals would bring to an already overburdened roadway system.

In conclusion, The Greater Timonium Community Council, Inc. is asking for your support in preserving the “Quality of Life” in the Timonium Area by **Opposing** any efforts to introduce Video Lottery Terminals at the Timonium Fairgrounds. Please help us maintain the Fairgrounds as a successful high quality “**Family Oriented**” destination that it currently is today.

Thank you for your time and consideration on behalf of our Council, our Community Associations and all of our Residents.

Sincerely Yours,

Eric Rockel  
President,  
Greater Timonium Community Council, Inc.  
erockel-gtcc@earthlink.net

cc: Honorable Mike Miller, Senate President  
Honorable Michael Busch, House Speaker  
Honorable James T. Smith, Baltimore County Executive  
Honorable Senator James Brochin, Senator, 42<sup>nd</sup> District  
Honorable Delegate Susan Aumann, Delegate, 42<sup>nd</sup> District  
Honorable Delegate William Frank, Delegate, 42<sup>nd</sup> District  
Honorable Delegate Stephen Lafferty, Delegate, 42<sup>nd</sup> District  
Honorable Senator Bobby Zirkin, Senator, 11<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorable Delegate Daniel Morhaim, Delegate, 11<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorable Delegate Jon Cardin, Delegate, 11<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorable Delegate Dana Stein, Delegate, 11<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorable Senator Andrew P. Harris, Senator, 7<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorable Delegate Patrick L. McDonough, Delegate, 7<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorable Delegate Richard K. Impallaria, Delegate, 7<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorable Delegate J. B. Jennings, Delegate, 7<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorable Kevin Kamenetz, Baltimore County Council, Councilman 2<sup>nd</sup> Dist.  
Honorable Bryan T. McIntire, Baltimore County Council, Councilman 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Executive Committee and Member Associations of the Greater Timonium Community Council