

The Greater Timonium Community Council

Volume XIII Issue II

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

March 2011

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***** NEWSLETTER *****

President's Message – Eric Rockel

Do You Appreciate Publically-Owned Open Space Land?

Open Space land is an important amenity for our communities that are increasingly becoming more urbanized. Within easy reach of the Timonium, area residents can enjoy Oregon Ridge Park, Cromwell Valley Park and the wonderful Loch Raven Reservoir. Getting back in touch with nature at any of these places can help cleanse the soul of the trials and tribulations of everyday life, allow you to observe all sorts of wildlife, such as deer, fox, falcons and eagles, or teach you all sorts of lessons about how the environment functions.

How do these areas and many others become preserved? Well, in most cases it takes taxpayer dollars to fund the preservation. True, in the cases of Oregon Ridge Park and Cromwell Valley Park some of the land was donated at no cost or a reduced cost, but mainly it takes tax dollars to amass these large areas that become the signature parks. Smaller parks, in the five to fifteen acre size range, almost always come about at the expense of tax dollars as well.

Program Open Space has been the State of Maryland's signature means of land conservation for the past forty one years. Basically, a portion of the recordation taxes from each land transfer within the State goes towards the Program Open Space budget. Some of these funds are kept for State-initiated projects and the remainder is apportioned to the individual counties so that they can develop their own initiatives. Not unexpectedly, the Program Open Space budget has been very lean in the last few years as the real estate market tanked, but Governor O'Malley kept the program intact in the fiscal 2012 budget. However, the Department of Legislative Services has recommended to the Legislature that all transfer tax money that had been allocated to Program Open Space should be redirected to the General Fund for the years 2013 through 2016. This proposal would essentially gut the preservation efforts of Program Open Space, and in its place the Department of Legislative Services proposes to replace that funding with a flat \$50 million per year. Supporters of land preservation in Maryland argue that this change would in essence abolish Program Open Space as we now know it.

If you feel that land preservation is an essential service that should be funded, please contact your legislators and voice concerns over this funding change for Program Open Space. A link to the contact information for these legislators can be found on the home page of the GTCC website.

GTCC General Meeting & 'New' 2011 Meeting Calendar

The GTCC will hold their 'Next Meeting' on Wednesday, March 9th, 2011 at the Cockeysville Library Meeting Room, with meetings STILL beginning promptly at 7:00 PM.

Meetings are being held at the Cockeysville Library until further notice as the Ridgely Middle School has not been available to us at this time. Please check out website under the Meeting's Tab just prior to a meeting for any updates.

The Greater Timonium Community Council, Inc. (GTCC) is an umbrella organization with memberships of over 50+ area Community Associations which collectively represents some 60,000 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. We pride ourselves in working with our elected officials, businesses and Community Associations to achieve these goals. Please feel free to attend one of our upcoming meetings and by all means, bring one or more of your Association members with you we look forward to seeing everyone there !!!

***** 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 2011

NOTICE !!!

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

Board of Directors 7:00 pm – 9:00pm

General Membership 7:00 pm – 9pm

**February 09, 2011
April 13, 2011
June 08, 2011
August – No Meeting
October 12, 2011
December 14, 2011**

**January 12, 2011
March 09, 2011
May 11, 2011
July – No Meeting
September 14, 2011
November 09, 2011**

*All Meetings are **NOW** Scheduled at the “Cockeysville Library” on the **DATES NOTED ABOVE !!! Please check or Website or Newsletter before each meeting !***

Agenda and Speakers - GTCC March 9th, Meeting

1. Introductions
2. Treasurer’s Report
3. Report on Public Safety from the Cockeysville Precinct
4. Featured Speaker: Lt. Robert McCullough, Baltimore County Police, I-Watch, a new Interactive web-based policing technique
5. Old Business:
 - a. Use of School Facilities
 - b. Development of the parcel at Pot Spring & Old Bosley
 - c. Mercy Medical Center at York & Ridgely
6. New Business:
 - a. Auction of Spencer Crossing Property
 - b. Redistricting at the County level

Attend an Emergency Preparedness Program - Frank Regan

“Neighbors Helping Neighbors” is an all-hazards program to teach people the skills required to get through the first, critical 72 hours following an emergency, begins March 22, 7 - 9 p.m. Sponsored by the Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, the program continues on consecutive Tuesdays through April 26 at the Cockeysville Volunteer Fire Co. Topics include: emergency preparedness; natural and technological hazards; fire safety and extinguishers; first aid and CPR. Call 410-887-2715 or register online at: <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Contact/neighborshelping>

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:

Spring is approaching and that means an increase in outside activities such as lawn care and gardening. It also means that some homeowners *may* discover lawn care tools and accessories are missing from outdoor sheds and garages. This is due to the fact that trips to the outdoor shed are less frequent in the winter months! It is important that you make a police report if you find that any of these items have been taken over the winter months and provide an accurate description and serial number if known. We often find items that we suspect may be stolen at pawnshops but we are unable to locate the owner because no police report had been made.

As your outdoor activity increases, be aware that some thieves will cruise neighborhood looking for unlocked doors while the homeowner is in the back yard cutting the lawn, etc. Entry into a home can be made without detection and the thief can remove a wallet or purse in less than a minute. So, be aware and lock your doors. Taking a moment to do that is a lot less aggravating than having your purse or wallet stolen, having to cancel credit cards, and so on.

As we have discussed at GTCC meetings in the past, "target hardening" can defeat a thief's ability to enter your home or shed or even your car. And, the number one method of target hardening is simply using common sense by locking doors and windows and keeping car doors locked as well. Don't keep garage door openers visible inside a car parked in your driveway.

Going hand-in-hand with target hardening is getting information to us by calling 911 to report crimes and suspicious persons and activities. Remember, what seems inconsequential to some may be an important piece of information to the police department.

Remember too that the Precinct 7 email tree is still active and continues to grow every day! We will continue to send items of interest, crime alerts, etc., to you for your awareness. My thanks to the entire GTCC board for directing that email information to all residents.

Captain Martin Lurz – Precinct 7

Annual 2011 GTCC Membership Dues – Frank Regan

GTCC '2011' Membership dues of \$50 dollars for the year are due at this time. We had a great response from (50+) Associations contributing their Annual Membership dues payment last year! Dues notices for 2011 are being mailed out in March so if you don't receive one or if you need a copy, please don't hesitate to let us know. . Please send your 2011 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!

An RSVP Volunteer Goes the Extra Step – Eric Rockel

For the past 40 years, RSVPs, Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs, across the nation have encouraged individuals age 55 and over to volunteer and be a part of the solution for many of our community problems. By forming partnerships with a wide variety of non-profits and government agencies, Baltimore County's RSVP has striven to offer a diverse array of service opportunities i.e, one-day or ongoing, short or long-term duration, spread throughout the County, and with all age groups.

RSVP seeks talented and motivated individuals to address problems in areas such as the following: mentoring children, supporting seniors' independence, alleviating hunger, providing meal delivery, promoting energy-efficiency, offering Medicare Counseling, assisting nursing home residents to resolve problems, housing rehabilitation, preparing for disasters, addressing unemployment, free preparation of taxes, educating about financial literacy, planting trees, cleaning streams, and so much more.

Take that extra step today and call Eddrena Miller, RSVP Volunteer Coordinator, at 410-887-3101 for additional information and to explore volunteer opportunities. (email: emiller@baltimorecountymd.gov)

The Librarian's Corner – Mollie Fein

We have also invited our Cockeysville Library Manager, Mollie Fein, 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:

“Goings on at the Cockeysville Library”

Librarians Knit Scarves for Kids Who Need Them

Cockeysville staff members have been working to crochet and knit at least 100 scarves to donate to the Baltimore County Department of Social Services, to help needy families. To quote the February 23rd, Towson Times, “This is a yarn about members of the staff at the Cockeysville Library, who are keeping themselves in stitches during their breaks”. The scarves are all different colors and sizes for older kids and younger kids. Once completed the scarves will be paired up with the annual Coats-for-Kids drive conducted in the winter. “For librarians, who are used to ‘due dates’ stockpiling for next winter was a logical idea.” When staff member Cay Cocco was asked what pattern they follow, she replied, “The yarn tells us what it wants to be”. The GTCC community is invited to donate yarn for this worthwhile project.

Circulation Numbers continue on an upward trajectory

Since the reopening of the Cockeysville Library circulation figures have continued to go up every month. For example, in February, this year, our circulation was 106,937 and in February 2009, before we partially closed for renovation, our circulation was 92,981. So, who says people aren't reading anymore? Well, they sure are in Cockeysville!

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.

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	Dulaney Gate		

iWatch, iReport, iKeep Us Safe – Frank Regan

iWatch Baltimore County is a neighborhood awareness program created to educate and encourage citizens to vigilantly watch around them and report suspicious behaviors that may have connections to crime, as well as local, state, or national security threats. The Baltimore County Police Department has initiated this community partnership to help and assist local neighborhoods in staying safe from crime and possible terrorist activities. Together we can make our streets safe for our families and children, and can prevent our communities from being the target of possible terrorist attacks.

Subscribe to iWatch Crime Alerts: <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/police/media/iWatch/index.html>

iWatch crime alerts provide information about wanted criminals, missing persons, criminal arrests, and other significant cases. In many of these cases the public's help is requested to help identify or locate a suspect. You can make a difference by alerting police to information you may have about crime trends and wanted criminals. Receive iWatch crime alerts directly in your e-mail inbox when you subscribe to this free service. iWatch crime alerts provide the most immediate information available to the public from the Police Department and are also available on the County web site.

Report Suspicious Activity !!! Citizens are encouraged to report activity that just does not fit. You can now use our web tips form to submit a tip or report suspicious activity to police. Information can be sent from your cell phone, hand-held device, or computer 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Tips can also be e-mailed to: iwatch@baltimorecountymd.gov. However, to report an emergency or a crime in progress call ...“911” immediately.

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>

GTCC Trivia – Did You Know?

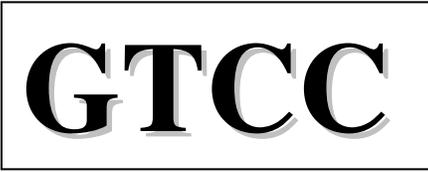
There is so much history and tradition here in both the greater GTCC and the Baltimore County areas that books could easily be written and filled with all the information. However, from time to time we will provide a source for the lighter and interesting sides of our many Communities.

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

1. What Baltimore County retirement community traces its origins to the efforts of a famous flag maker?
2. What village in Baltimore County was settled by immigrants evicted from Ireland?
3. Where in the County is a street named for a home-run hitting catcher for the Orioles?

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

1. Mary Pickersgill (1776-1857) 150 years before women entered the business world, Mary Pickersgill was a successful businesswoman whose flag-making business was chosen to sew a flag to fly over Fort McHenry during the 1814 Battle of Baltimore. From 1828-1851, Mrs. Pickersgill was President of the Impartial Female Humane Society that helped impoverished families with school vouchers for children and employment for “deserted” wives. Under her astute direction, the Society erected an aged women’s home in Baltimore in 1850. In 1959 this institution moved to its present location in Towson and is known as the Pickersgill Retirement Community.
2. Texas, near Cockeysville. In the 1850s, the Padian family arrived in the area. Richard Padian was one of fourteen defendants in a legal action against the tenants of Ballykilcline for non-payment of rent. He was the ringleader in the dispute. Richard, Mary and their four children were put on a ship in 1847. Other evicted families were sent with them and also settled in the area.
3. In Timonium. Triandos Drive was named for Gus Triandos who lived in the area for 4-5 years while playing for the Orioles (1954-1962). It is off East Timonium Road.



The Greater Timonium Community Council

The Next GTCC General Meeting is scheduled for March 9th at the Cockeysville Library at 7:00 pm

CURRENT ISSUES

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

Aylesbury Road: 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 proposed. This project has not moved beyond the preliminary concept stage. (E.Rockel)

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

1734 York Road (Ridgely Plaza Shopping Center): Neighboring businesses report that Mercy Medical will occupy the vacant space previously used by Giant Foods. A zoning hearing was held on March 3, 2011 to allow Mercy Medical to increase the size of the building by approximately 3,000 sq. feet. (E. Rockel)

Pot Spring Road, South of Old Bosley Road: A ten acre parcel is under contract to a developer who wishes to construct an “over 55” age restricted development. Originally proposed as a four, 4-story building complex, the plans have been changed to call for 33 carriage style units. This parcel would require PUD approval because the number of units exceeds the density permitted under the current zoning. At a community meeting on the proposal, nearly 200 residents expressed opposition to the increased density on the site. (E.Rockel, Dulaney Gate HOA, Springlake HOA, Timberline Park HOA)

Hunt Valley Crossing, 11119 McCormick Road: This existing Verizon-owned warehouse property is being proposed to be redeveloped as a 262 unit apartment complex under the Planned Unit Development guidelines. The project’s architectural design attractively fits into the Hunt Valley Business Community landscape. A community input meeting to learn about the project produced no objections to the project from nearby residential communities. However, nearby businesses did raise some objections. (GTCC Executive Committee)

Spencer’s Crossing, West Timonium Road: This housing development, just west of the I-83 interchange, had originally been proposed to be a large day care center. Through negotiations with the developer and an offer to support increased housing density on the site, a residential housing development became approved in lieu of the day care facility. One unit was completed, as well as a model home, and several units are partially completed. Recently, it was learned that the property has gone up for foreclosure, and a public auction is scheduled for March 9. (E. Rockel and PVVW Community Assoc.)

ON-GOING ISSUES

Texas Station – Jacoby Properties sold property to Peter Angelos. Zoning changed in 2004 Comprehensive Zoning Cycle from ML-IM to BM (Business Major). GTCC continues to monitor this property. (E. Rockel, F. Regan, GTCC Executive Committee.)

York & Ridgely Roads: The former Lincoln/Mercury dealership has been converted to a Walgreen Drug Store and pad site. The pad site recently received approval for the proposed building to be enlarged by approximately one third. (E. Rockel)

Galloway Avenue and Texas Station: Recently the Development Review Committee postponed consideration of a decision to allow two-way traffic at the entrance from Galloway Avenue into Texas Station. Both GTCC and the County Home Park association questioned two-way traffic in light of the original development plan restrictions on the site. Before any change takes place, an assessment of the York Road and Galloway Avenue intersection should take place. (E. Rockel)

Timonium Fairgrounds: Both the GTCC and adjoining neighborhood associations hope that the next Councilman will rectify the rezoning error in which 60 acres of this property were zoned for commercial usage during the Comprehensive Rezoning Process of 2008.

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

COMPLETED ISSUES

11311 McCormick Road: The owner has received a variance to construct signage larger than permitted under zoning regulations. In conjunction with the Sparks/Glencoe Association & People's Counsel, GTCC opposed the variance. The County Board of Appeals, in its public deliberation, gave indication that the variance would be denied, but in its written decision, the Board of Appeals upheld the variance. The People's Counsel has asked for a reconsideration of the ruling in light of the public deliberation comments. This case ultimately went to the Circuit Court, where the Judge ruled that the signage variance was not appropriate, and the tenant will have to remove certain signage on the building...(E. Rockel)

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)

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)

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

302 North Avenue, Lutherville: The property owner was given a side yard variance in order to subdivide this parcel and construct a second house on a newly created second lot. The creation of the second lot will allow the owner to afford to rehabilitate the existing Victorian dwelling on the initial lot. (E. Rockel)

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

Padonia Swim Club: Grace Fellowship Church announced plans to purchase the 29 + acre site of the swim club. Many nearby residents have expressed concerns that the church plans to build a 2,500 seat sanctuary on the site. GTCC members have voted to disapprove the site for the church's intended use. In November, the Church announced that it would not build on the site. (GTCC Executive Committee & Community Organizers)

1904 Pot Spring Road: The owner has appealed a prior Zoning Commissioner's decision, with restrictions, to allow a professional office in the dwelling at this location. The adjoining community associations wish to minimize any nonresidential intrusion into the residential community. The owner ultimately dropped the appeal, and only residents of the property will be able to work in the home office.(E. Rockel, Valley Crest C.A., Dulaney Forest C.A. & Valley Garth CA)

Anderson Automotive: Dealership wishes to reconfigure its site layout by establishing the Honda dealership on the current GMC site and moving the GMC trade to the Hummer site. The site at the corner of York & Halesworth would be sold for another usage. At a Hearing on January 15th, Deputy Zoning Commissioner Thomas Bostwick approved the amendment of the previous PUD plan (E.Rockel, J. Rogers & People's Counsel)