

HOWARD COUNTY ISSUES

A Civic Publication from the Independent Voter Group providing critical data on local issues. Distribution locations posted at howardcountyissues.org.

Why are these local people important?

Three of These Candidates Will Vote on 55% of the County Budget

From Allen Dyer



1. Education:

My most important educational degree is my class of 1964 high school diploma from Lincoln High School, a Seattle public school. I was the first member of my family to graduate from high school and my high school diploma opened the doors to the world of higher educational opportunities. Based on what my high school diploma meant to me, I see a high school diploma as evidence of a young person's willingness to stay

From Ellen Flynn Giles



1. Education/Training:

BA, French/Art History (Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA)
Certification, Language/Literature/History (Istituto Internazionale, Roma, Italia)
Certification, IMS (American University, Washington, D.C)
Employment: Senior Editor & Analyst (Energy Division of a large publishing, research and analytics company)
Elected Office: Vice Chairman,

From Janet Siddiqui



1. Education:

Pediatric Residency Georgetown University
M.D. Eastern Virginia Medical School BA Biology, SUNY at Buffalo AA Accounting Bryant & Stratton Business School
2. Experience
Member, Board of Education Howard County, Howard County Recreation and Parks Advisory Board Anti Bullying Task Force, HCPSS Citizens Advisory Council, HCPSS

From Betsy Grater



1. Education :

- B.A. Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA, Elementary Education
- M.A. Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, Early Childhood Education
- Certificate-Women's Management Institute, Goucher College. Towson, MD
2. Experience
- After moving to Howard

From Diane Butler



1. Education:

AA/AS Degree from Diablo Valley College. I did the rest of my college studies at University of Maryland and Sacramento State in Ocean Engineering and Geo Physics.
2. My experience in working for the citizen residents of Howard County:
I have learned a lot about the needs of Howard County residents during my 4 terms as President of the St.

CASTING A VOTE FOR ONE SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE BOOSTS THE POWER OF YOUR VOTE, THOUGH UP TO THREE SELECTIONS WILL BE ALLOWED

the course and finish public school. Thus, I believe that no young person who stays in school and passes all required courses should be denied a high school diploma.

In 1968 I graduated from the United States Air Force Academy with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Sciences and in 1976 I graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law and was admitted to the Maryland bar.

2. Your experience in working for the citizen residents of Howard County I have served as a:

\$ Western Howard County Recreational League soccer coach;
\$ River Hill High School Boosters Board member;
\$ Registered Maryland lobbyist for community associations;
\$ Howard Public Education email list co-founder and moderator;

Continued on page 3

Howard County Board of Education

2. Community/Civic Activities: Leadership:

•Vice Chair, Howard County Board of Education (current)
•Dir, MABE Legal Services Association (current)
•BOE Audit Committee (current)
•Chair, Community Advisory Council (CAC) to the Board of Education (1998-2006)
•Chair, BOE Operating Budget Review Committee (2006)
•Trustee, Vision Howard County (2005-07)
•Exec Committee Member, Howard County School Health Council (2004-06)
•Chair, Vision HC Committee on Substance Abuse Among

Continued on page 16

Ho. Co. Dept. of Citizen Services, Community Services Grant Review Committee, Patuxent River Commission, Ho. Co. Commissioner.
3. Represent citizens equally and fairly

As a pediatrician I have the training and experience to be fair and impartial to all people. On a daily basis I handle difficult and sensitive situations. I listen to people, hear their concerns, and help them come to the appropriate outcome. In the county and education system I am an advocate for children and their families.

4. Family Data
3 Children

Continued on page 3

County from Baltimore City, I continued my involvement in the League of Women Voters as Voter Service Chair and then served four years as Co-President. I continued on the Board of Directors as 2nd V.P. until I filed as a Candidate for the Board of Education. My service in the League included involvement in Voter Education projects such as voter registration, producing the Voters Guide and conducting Candidate Forums, and also testifying before the County Council on issues on the environment, education, social policy, natural resources, and ethics that affect the citizens of Howard County.

Continued on page 3

John's Community Association. This association of roughly 1,000 homes has dealt with redistricting, school overcrowding, and infill growth. I served on the original "infill" committee a few years back, as well as the Route 40 committee and am currently on the new Infill Committee. I have worked in the past with Valerie Gross (the head of the Howard County Libraries) to get more library services, funding, and buildings. When my daughter was at Northfield Elementary School I volunteered for

Continued on page 3

Di Zou is also running for school board. For information on his candidacy, email Dizouforboe@gmail.com

In this issue ...

School Board Candidates.....pg	1	Critical Maryland Legislation.....pg	12
Students on CIVILITY!.....pg	4	Representing Citizens (or other).....pg	13
Columbia Electionspg	8	Local Tax Changes and Leaders.....pg	13
Countywide Land Use.....pg	9	Citizens Need Response to Queries.....pg	14
Support Local Business.....pg	10	Civility Has it's Place.....pg	15
Commentary.....pg	11	Payment for Ignoring Campaign Reform.....pg	16

IN EACH ISSUE:

- Multiple perspectives on the same issue
- Writer contributions
- Voting records for offices that serve as feeder positions for moving up the political ladder

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Dyer, from pg 1

\$ Howard County Citizens Association member; and,
\$ Howard County Conservancy Blacksmith demonstrator.
In addition, I have provided testimony relating to public education issues at public hearings before the Board of Education, the County Council and the County Executive; represented Howard County Public School employees; filed Public Information Act requests; filed citizen complaints with the Open Meetings Act Compliance Board; and created a proposal for a Teen Passenger & Driver Safety Coalition which can be reviewed online at — <http://www.riverhill.org/driving/project/index.htm>

3. An example of your ability to treat all citizens fairly, researching disparate positions with equal vigor I don’t see treating all citizens fairly as an ability but, rather, as a process. While I don’t claim to be a perfect citizen, I do have a history of engaging in open, rational discussions about civic (and, in particular, public education) issues and devoting my time and training to strengthening public processes via citizen enforcement of the Open Meetings and Public Information Acts.
With respect to my faith in rational decision making, since 1996 I have actively contributed hundreds of email contributions to Howard County public education email lists. For example, the yahoogroups public archive for the howard public education list (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/howardpubliced/>) includes over 1600 of my messages (advanced search: author contains “aldyer@lawlab.com”).
Over the years, my public messages memorialize my willingness to state my position, defend my position and sometimes, in response to facts and arguments presented by other list members, a willingness to admit that my original position was wrong. I am a proud person and I love to be right but, sometimes, I’m wrong and rational discourse is the process that allows me to recognize when I am mistaken. In sum, I believe fair treatment of citizens rests on a vigorous, open discussion of all viewpoints rather than some Solomon-like ability that elected officials magically acquire when they receive a 51% vote on election day.

4. Family information
My wife, Tamara, and I have been married since 1968 and we have two children both of whom attended and, graduated from, Howard County Public Schools. Our son, Abe, graduated from Boston University in 2004 and our daughter, Ann Marie, will graduate from Boston University this May.

5. Civic information that is important for voters.
I served five years in the U.S. Air Force including a year of combat in Vietnam as a Forward Air Control Pilot. My background as an educator includes providing flight instruction in light airplanes, gliders and free balloons and computer science instruction at Anne Arundel Community College. I have served on the Board of Directors of the TeX Users Group which is an international organization that provides education and support for the mathematical typesetting program written by Dr. Donald Knuth of Stanford University. As an attorney I have extensive experience in matters involving the interpretation and application of the EDUCATION ARTICLE OF THE MARYLAND ANNOTATED CODE.
campaign site, <http://www.lawlab.com/campaign/>

Grater, from pg 1

- I was appointed by the Howard County Council and served on the Child Care Task Force in 2000 and 2001.

3. Represent citizens equally and fairly
In 1971 I was elected to the Board of Education in Raleigh, North Carolina. At the time, the schools were not integrated. My platform had nine points of concerns about the issues then facing the people of Raleigh. My top priority was the need to integrate the schools, an issue that was not popular. I maintained that the Supreme Court Decision integrating schools resolved the law about the schools integrating and Raleigh must do so immediately. This position prevailed, although there was considerable opposition at the time.

4 Family Data
I have four grandchildren living in Columbia. My grandson will graduate in May 2008 after attending Swansfield Elementary, Harpers Choice Middle School and Wilde Lake High School. A granddaughter is in the 8th Grade at Harpers Choice Middle School and will enter Wilde Lake High School in August of 2008. The two youngest will attend Swansfield, one is currently in the first grade and the youngest will enter Kindergarten in August of 2008.

5 Civic Information
- I taught kindergarten through third grade for five years in Montgomery County PA and Montgomery County MD.
- I was a woman business owner in Baltimore operating a Bed and Breakfast and also a Bed and Breakfast Reservation Service which I grew to a regional service in a seven-state area. This experience of working with the public enhanced my abilities to communicate, educate and cooperate with the public. I designed and taught a course, How to Open and Operate a Bed and Breakfast which I taught at local community colleges for ten years.
- Soon after I retired in 2001 I became a Master Gardener certified by the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension. One of the several volunteer projects that I have participated in is a program called Schools and Streams. The Master Gardeners, in conjunction with the Howard County Schools, demonstrate and help fifth grade students plant trees in stream buffers to protect the Chesapeake Bay. Over the years, the students have planted over 10,000 trees in Howard County.
- When I was a Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Howard County in 2003, I made a quilt that was raffled as a fund-raiser for the League. In 2006 I presented the League with another quilt, a Signature Quilt, to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Howard County League. Over 96 signatures of current and former members were gathered and pieced into the quilt that hangs on the wall in the League office.

Campaign/Contact Info: betsygrater.com

Listen to voters on the issues from across the country, including Howard County callers at 90.1 FM starting at 7am daily on C-Span’s Washington Journal, or at www.c-span.org.

Siddiqui, from pg 1

Daughter graduated from Atholton HS
Son, currently at Athloton HS
Son, currently at Clarksville MS

5. Civic Information
My educational background and profession as a pediatrician brings a unique perspective to the board, with an understanding of child development. I understand the needs of the “whole” child, the cognitive, physical, emotional and social needs. As a parent with children in the school system, I understand the issues faced by most parents today and share the same concerns. As a current Board of Education member and from my experience in the healthcare industry I have the leadership, background and knowledge to handle the fiscal responsibilities of the board.

Butler, Continued from page 1

their at risk reading intervention program. I also volunteer at my church and with The First Tee. I am currently the Vice President of the St. John’s Community Association.

3. An example of fairness:
One example of my ability to treat all citizens fairly is when, as the President of the St. John’s Community Association, I have set up numerous candidates debates and have moderated them. Courtney Watson once commented that she was “surprised at how fair I was” at one of the debate forums. You must hear as many sides of an issue as you can if you want to make educated decisions. On the Infill Committee we are constantly having to negotiate positions, but, I do know when to stand firm.

4. Family information:
I was born and raised in Montgomery County and then lived in California for most of my adult life. My 15 year old daughter Amber Dawn, went to public school in California and for a short time in Howard County. I took her out of public school here, as Howard County needs to do a better job of treating and educating EACH child as an individual. In my case, I did not find the School Board open to listening about my daughter’s needs and achievement levels as a transfer student. She currently attends classes at HCC, CCBC, and at home. My husband, Andy, graduated from UMBC.

5. Other civic information for profile:
Besides my work here in Howard County I was also a community and civic leader in California before I moved back

Continued on page 14

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COUNTY STUDENTS ON CIVILITY

Hammond Elementary School

West Friendship Elementary School

What Civility Means to Me.
Declan Downie

When a person is civil they are caring, fair, and helpful. Civility is to be a good citizen. A good citizen is respectful and responsible. Trustworthy people are civil. When people are polite to others and they help others, they are practicing civility. That is what civility means to me.

Diata Burns 3-6-08

What civility means to me
I think civility means to treat people how you want to be treated from other people. That means you have to be respectful and treat people with civility and you'll get good stuff back.

What civity means to me
Patrick Raymond

Civility mean to be kind respectful, helpful, and sometimes greet people. If somebody drops something help them pick it up. If somebody needs help with something help them. If you want to be civility never hurt anyone. Be nice to people.

Rebecca Kaylie 3-13-08

What Civility Means to Me,

Civility means to help out and be polite. I think that civility means to help out because if someone falls you can help them up. Also, you can help out by if something falls instead of stepping over it you can pick it up and there's more things you can do to help out. I think civility also means to be polite because a part of being civil is to be polite. That is what civility means to me.

Erika Savers March 6, 2008

What Civility means to me.

To me Civility is to be polite and say please and thank you. Civility is when you pick up trash when it's not yours. Civility is when you do good things when your not asked to do it. Civility is all these things. Please be a civility person..... Thank you.

What Civility means to me!
Haley Tiller 3-20-08

Civility means to do the right thing and to be polite. To do the right thing you could help someone if they get hurt, pick up trash that has fell, and to be kind. Being polite means to show your manners, by saying please and thank you, be helpful, and answer people when they talk to you. Civility also means to be a good citizen. To be a good citizen you can shovel your neighbor's driveway after it snows. This is what civility means to me!!

All About Civility
Civility means to be nice & generous. I am a Civility kind of person. Civility also means to be nice to other people.

To: MS. Carlyle
By: Nicolette Alyse Burton

What Civility means to me
Tonya Petty 3-13-08

Civility means to show your best effort and be respectful to others. It also means respect people's property and the world's property. It can also mean treat others the way you want, then to treat you. It can mean lots of things like help the sick or hopeless, do things that you were not asked that are good, help people with bad energies by getting a parent/nurse.

That is what civility means to me.

Civility Julia Clements
by Julia Clements

I think civility means to be helpful, helpful means to care for others. When you care for others, they want to be your friends. Show you're trustworthy by not lying to people. When you do that, people want to stay near you. Civility is the right thing to do, it makes people smile.

Civility By Maxwell Daugherty 3/12/08

Civility means to be respectful to others. I treat other people as I would like to be treated. My mom and dad tell me to be civil to my siblings, though it is really hard sometimes. Everyone should be civil to each other, even if they are different. I try to be civil to everyone. You try it, too!

Jonathan Zheng 3/11/08

Civility is about friendship. Civility means you don't harass people or hurt them. It is also about respect. Remember: Treat people the way you want them to treat you.



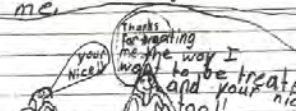
To: Mrs. Carlyle
What Civility Means to me

Civility means to be loyal to everyone. It also means no bad words. I am good at civility. I know you can too. It means to be respectful and well-mannered. I love to be a civil person.

Hope Meffert

Civility Means
By: Sarah Beth Sines

Civility means not to call people names, treat people the way you want to be treated. Civility means to be kind, nice, respectful and courteous. I wish everybody would be civil. I'm civil. That is what civility means to me.



3/14/08

Civility by: Zachariah Jim

Civility means to encourage others. Civility has a nickname, it is kindness. Civility is following the rules and obeying the laws. Civility is about loving each other.

What Civility Means to Me By: Jenna Johnson

Civility means to give respect to each other. Also it means not to make fun of other people's culture. Respect other people's religion. And also to be kind and courteous and understand. Civility makes the world a better place.

COUNTY STUDENTS ON CIVILITY

Clarksville Middle

Civility is to be polite, to have manners. Happiness is key. – Gabby Arguello-Abramson, Kaitie Benedek, Katie Smith

Civility means being polite when nobody tells you to. It is being friendly to everyone. –Anna Schoonover, Allie Morris, Abena Frempong, Emily Cohee, Morgan Jefferson

Civility is: being calm, nice, peaceful, making choices that will help the community, helpfulness to others, preserving society, being polite, friendly, welcoming, hospitable. -Alex Raulin, Maansi Vatsan, Angelica Dayhoff

By Abigail Bleakney
On a daily basis I see people doing the opposites of civility. The rule of civility that I see broken all the time is “Think the best.” Often kids will say, “I’m going to fail” or “my parents are going to be so mad at me.” On occasions I have felt like this . Very often kids think the worst or feel upset. By supporting those kids and helping them, they may start “Thinking the best.”

Civility
By Kathleen Hupfeld
Clarksville Middle School

During my soccer game a few years ago, one girl on the opposite team accidentally kicked one of our players in the shin. The girl then walked away without a second glance at my teammate who was on the ground. When the referee called a foul on her, she let out a loud, noticeable groan. Even worse, when everyone was shaking hands at the end of the game, my teammate refused to shake her hand. This is an example of not being civil. The girl on the other team neglected to “apologize earnestly,” and didn’t take responsibility. My teammate would not acknowledge the other girl nor forgive and forget.

Civility is respecting other people’s time. Just because you want to do something doesn’t mean someone else can provide you instantly with your request.-Melissa Nunn

By Holly Sandler
Clarksville Middle School

Every day when I come home from school, there’s always somewhere to go, within the next ahlf hour. Of course, I need someone to drive me and my mom always gets the job done. I have never really though about how much of her time she spends tohelp me do the activities I want to do.

Civility is respect for other people’s time.

By Cece Farley
Clarksville Middle School
In my reading class we were working on action research projects and aafter each person’s presentation, the class would give the presenter praise and constructive criticism. Everyone was very accepting of the classes’ comments. It was a great way to learn your strengths and weaknesses to prepare for the next time.

Civility is giving and accepting constructive criticism.

Civility
During one of my basketball games, the other coach got into an argument with the referee about a call. Being civil is accepting the rules even if you don’t agree with them and still have fun. The other coach should haave let the call go, even if the call was bad.

Civility is accepting other people’s opinions, being agreeable, and refraining from idle complaints.

What is Civility?
What is civility? It can mean a lot of things. It can be doing the “right thing” or using good manners. But to me, civility is genuine caring for people, whether you know them or not. Civility is the random acts of kindness that people seem to have forgotten. A day while I was at the airport, an older woman was struggling with her luggage. My brother dropped his belongings and helped the woman carry her bags. Later when we were in the bathroom, the woman expressed her gratitude to my mother. She said “when I see such genuine caring and help like that, I know that’s a Mom raising a very good kid.” To see how much that small act of kindness meant to someone, that is a true example of civility.
CAMILLE CALVIN

Sophie Keane – 8th Grade

Bursting in the door without ringing the doorbell.
Going through the refrigerator without asking.
Borrowing things and never returning them.
These, as we all know, are excellent displays of rudeness and disrespect. If someone were to do this in my home, my parents would be appalled and I would probably not continue to invite them over, as would many others if this happened to them. However, there is one place where, in today’s society, manners, courtesy, and all-around civility seems to be, in some cases, completely disregarded – a place that not many of you probably think of when they hear the words “rude” or “impolite” – this place being your best friend’s house. I’m sure it has something to do with the comfort level best friends have with each other (that’s why we call them “best” friends). Perhaps they’re too comfortable. I’ve seen it happen – best friends barge into each other’s houses and invade privacy, throwing civility out the window. The majority of best friends are probably O.K. with this (I’ll assume that if they truly are best friends, then they have the ability to tell each other if one is doing something that bothers the other). However, it’s not so much the issue of best friends being O.K. with this – rather, their parents. As I mentioned before, my parents would not be so thrilled if one of my friends, even a best friend, barged into our house and took things without asking for them. This can only lead to stress in relationships. Your parents don’t want you to invite your friend over because of his/her rude behavior, your friend wants to come over but your parents won’t let them, so they get mad at you, you get mad at your friend for acting inappropriately, and everyone ends up worse off because of a simple lack of civility. And that’s why I’m so glad I have such a polite best friend. Every time she comes over to my house, she asks for things nicely, but only when she needs them (she never demands things). She calls my parents Mr. and Mrs. Above all, she is NEVER rude, mean, or disrespectful to my parents – or anyone really, for that matter. And after seeing other best friends and how they act in each other’s houses, I am truly grateful for mine and her sensitive, courteous, civil nature. It’s very easy to be friends with her. Being respectful to all people. Not being greedy or selfish. Saying “please” and “thank-you,” for goodness’ sake. These, as you probably know, are excellent examples of civility. I certainly hope that you consistently demonstrate this quality to others, and that at least one person consistently demonstrates this quality to you. Hopefully, probably, one of these people is a best friend.

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COUNTY STUDENTS ON CIVILITY

Mount Hebron

[civil]ity
By: Madison Farruggia
Mt. Hebron HS

Wrapped up in the moment-
doesn't think (pay attention!)

someone is calling for help.
Can't you hear them?
Who will help them, will anyone?

Wouldn't you want someone to
hear your calls?
Acknowledge you?
(why is it so hard for you-
No-
everyone
to do the same?)

Can't you look me in the eye?
Afraid I see all you hide-
the lies?

Listen.
Be kind.
Respect.
[Apologize]

What good do words do if it's only
on paper?
Helping, becoming.
(it won't hurt you)

Doing nothing will.

Civility
Höflichkeit
Beleefdheid
□□□□□
La Civilité
La Cortesía
□□□
La Civiltà
O Respeito

Πιοβεζность
Höflichkeit
نتشادگزب
□□
Figyelembevétel
Saygı
قلص

R E S P E C T
can transcend all barriers

by Ryan Haq
Mt. Hebron HS

“What Civility Means to Me”
Erin Hanlon

“Civility: A series of Haikus”

Civility is
Flowing calm as a river
To be respectful

Civility is
A respectful understanding
Being courteous

Being on the road
Requires a level head
Civility is



Civility is one of the core concepts of society today. Without civility, complete anarchy would reign. There would be lawlessness and bitterness sweeping across the country. Life without civility would be a terrible one. It would be like sweeping a floor without a broom. Although it may be possible, you job would be greatly inconvenienced and you would only get a haphazard job. Your life would be much harder. There would be no one there to help you when needed, there will be no one there to praise your accomplishments, but there will be plenty of people there to point out and laugh at all of your mistakes. Therefore, it makes little sense for people to adopt a cynical attitude about civility. Although not everyone may show their utmost care and kindness every moment of the day, it takes everyone to be civil for its positive effects to show.

Some people may say, “Why should I be civil to him if he won’t be civil to me?” or “I know if I do something kind for him, I will get nothing in return.” The attitude in this person is the same as the person whom it is directed towards. It only takes one person to break the chain of civility, and it spreads exponentially. Instead, be the grown up person and step forward to mend this break in the chain. Because all it takes is one good act towards a cynical or temperamental person to open their eyes to the wide variety of benefits offered by a civil life. Therefore, do not take the stance of the cynic, believing that nothing good will happen, because, with that attitude, you are just adding an additional chink in the chain of civility.

Not only does civility grow and disappear exponentially, but its positive repercussions spread even faster. A simple act of opening the door for someone on crutches, or supporting a person who is struggling at a task goes a long way. No matter how small the act, that person will remember it. They will take note of how you went out of your way for you, and will be more inclined to help you out when needed. In addition, others will be more willing to spend time with you, and, overall, you will lead a more satisfying life.

So, the next time you see someone struggle, or you see someone who may have done some wrong to you, do not make the nasty, degrading, or rude remark that people are so apt to do these days. Instead, take an extra step say a civil and kind remark to that person. Instead of ridiculing something they did wrong, praise something they did right. Instead of retorting with a rude remark, compliment the person and walk away. And if you see someone who needs help, don’t walk away. Make the little extra effort to make that person’s life easier and help them out. A negative act eats away at society bit by bit, but a positive act raises society that much higher, and if you and everyone else takes the time to be a bit more civil, life will be more enjoyable and successful than ever before. To sum it up, if you are unsure what to do in a certain situation, “Treat others as you want to be treated.”

Erik Schmidt
Mt. Hebron HS

Civility
by Haosi Sun
Mt. Hebron HS

A few weeks ago, I was at the Miller Branch and saw the “Choose Civility” display board. I picked up one of the car magnets, thinking that “Choose Civility” sounded like a pretty noble cause. Of course, I saw the posters and signs telling me to check out one of the books and read it, but I did not pay attention to those; all I wanted was to decorate my car. But what does “civility” really mean? It cannot just be picking up a magnet telling everyone else on the road to choose civility. Civility is not limited to a place and a time, such as driving to school or waiting at a drive-thru. To me, civility is being kind and courteous to others at all times. It is being thoughtful to people you have never met. For example, when I was a freshman and did not always have rides home, I often sat in the front hallway until my dad could pick me up. There was a teacher, however, who would often pass me in the afternoons, and although I never had her for class, she still said “Hello” every time she saw me. Many times she would also make some conversation with me. Thus, you do not need to know someone to be thoughtful and talk with them; in fact, the most pleasant conversations can be the ones with people you have never met who go out of their way just to say “Hello.”

Another important aspect of choosing civility is being able to accept others for who they are. One thing I love about Howard County is the diversity; people from all kinds of races, religions, political views, and economic backgrounds can be found in Howard County; thus, tolerance and a willingness to explore other cultures is important in civility. Our county does a great job in fostering this kind of growth, from the events planned out by community centers and libraries to the activities schools hold for their students. No matter how we decide to be thoughtful or accepting of others, it always begins with our own decision to choose civility.

Choose Civility
by Chelsea Soobitsky
Mt. Hebron HS

I wish I were a fly on the wall of a classroom. So that I could see, the teachers teach and the students learn. Better yet, so I could see a student put forth no effort, look off someone’s paper, fall asleep on the desk, or laugh at a fellow classmate.

I wish I were a fly on the wall of a kitchen in someone’s home. So that I could see, all of the meals prepared and smell all of the delicious food. Better yet, so I could see the empty chairs at the table, the awkward moments of silence when the chairs are filled, or the arguments over the day’s events.

I wish I were a fly on the ceiling of someone’s car. So that I could see, the people go from one place to another, and pass over all of the beautiful scenery. Better yet, so that I could see the absentmindedness of the driver talking on his or her cell phone, hear the radio blasting, feel the wind passing through the windows as the car flies over the speed limit and see the surrounding cars cutting off others.

I wish I were a fly on the wall of a restaurant. So that I could see, people sitting down together holding a conversation and bonding over a meal that they did not have to prepare themselves. Better yet, so that I could see the rudeness to the waiters, the arguing amongst family, friends, and lovers, the small tip left behind, and the manager yelling at his staff.

I wish I were a fly on the wall of a school dance. So that I could see, teenagers laughing and having a good time. Better yet, so I could see the girl that had just been teased by a boy she likes, a group of friends that intentionally excluded someone because they were jealous, the couple that just broke up and the “cool” kids leaving early.

I wish I were a fly on many walls.

But in reality, those are not the types of walls that I would wish to be a fly on. Who would want to witness families fighting, tears falling, hearts breaking, feelings hurt, or the ignorance happening. Instead, in my world, I want to see people being the best people they can be, and helping others instead of hurting them. After all, “What you feel only matters to you. It is what you do to the people you love. That is what matters. That’s the only thing that counts”. People’s actions have a greater impact on others then they may think. If I had my choice, I would love to be a fly on the wall to someone who cares more about others, then themselves. That to me is civility.

Civility
by Larissa Larson
Mt. Hebron HS

Civility: Waking up every morning, even on weekends, at 6:30 to feed the outside cats; telling everyone to have a nice day; letting someone merge in front of you on a highway, especially when you’re running late. These are just a few examples of civility, but they are examples I see and demonstrate everyday. But, why does all this civility matter to me?

In my mind, being civil is part of being an adult. Most kids my age want to be considered an adult when they still act like children. I want to be treated as an adult because I deserve to be. I try to raise above all the prejudices against teenagers today by being civil to my elders, my peers, and everyone else in the world. Respect is a big part of being civil and of “Choos[ing] Civility.” I work hard to earn respect from my teachers, my boss, and my parents mainly by respecting them. Civility makes me an adult.

Civility is also important to me because it doesn’t seem to be very important to many other people. Many times when I worked at Starbucks, a customer would come in who would just make me sad. They wouldn’t be polite in the way they ordered, they would shove their money in our faces and, after all that rudeness, they wouldn’t say thank you when they took their drink. Just because someone is an adult, doesn’t mean they are civil, unfortunately. More and more I see adults being completely rude and utterly uncivil to their peers and to their kids. Whether it’s on the highway, at Starbucks, at a store or wherever, I can’t go a single day without seeing an adult be uncivil. Civility is important to me because I don’t want to be one of the uncivil adults I see everyday.

Civility is important because being civil to someone can in turn make them civil. I once met a man in Key West who was a street performer, a fire eater to be exact. He is one of the kindest, most civil people I have ever met. His philosophy was that one smile made by one person to one person can eventually make a worldwide smile. If you smile at someone, they smile at someone, on and on...ad infinitum. This isn’t exactly an original philosophy but the way he said it wasn’t corny or annoying, it really affected me. Now I try to smile at everyone I see whether I know them or not. A smile is a small way of being civil and just like my fire eating friend, William Dark, I believe that being civil to someone can in turn make them be civil to someone else.

Civility is a way to earn respect and become an adult. Civility is a kindness that everyone deserves. Civility is needed throughout our world today, and more and more I am seeing less and less of it. Everyone should make the right choice by “Choos[ing] Civility.” It’s not hard to make the world a better place, simply respect, smile and lend a helping hand, because, no matter how corny this sounds, it actually is rewarding.

COUNTY STUDENTS ON CIVILITY

Mount Hebron

Civility

Hammond High

If acting Civil Is a Virtue and I Live to be virtuous,
Should I Try to Right wrongs, Undo false Truths, revive Honor?

If acting Civil Is a Virtue and I Love to be virtuous,
Should I Render Every Sin and Provide EnCouagementT?

If acting Civil Is a Virtue and I Like to be virtuous,
Should I Keep In the Negative and Deny those that harm?

If acting Civil Is a Virtue, but I Loathe being virtuous,
Will the Hurt And Rage ensue, will all Men who rise, fall?

If acting Civil Is so Virtuous, and Indeed so says the Law,
Why are civilians not too civil, and the Civil War not at all?

By Winnie Au

“What Civility Means to Me”
Sinead Hyde

“Choosing Civility”

Civility means rules or actions to make our society with better people. Civility is a reminder of a healthy environment and how people want to be treated. Civility is not a hard thing to do; it’s simple tasks to make someone’s day better or easier. Simply just listening to someone’s problems or just being considerate can be civil, or giving money to the poor.

Care for your peers and society
Inclusive
Violence is not the answer
Be an Individual
Think about others’ needs
You can make a difference

If you start out small you can grow. Start civility in your home; then spread it out to your school. It’s just a safer, healthier way to live your life. Think, “how would I want to be treated?”. The way you want to be treated is civility.

Civility

Jerks honking and speeding by,
Roadside litter a sore in my eye.
Profanity and slurs sliding forth
On the tongues of those who don’t know their worth.

Desperate voices rush past my ears,
Those surrounding me break into tears.
Rudeness, hate, disrespect abound,
Rationalized by self righteousness readily found.

Manners, clearly a thing of the past
Chivalry gone, dead at last.
Scared to speak, many are mute
For what they say may bring a law suit.

Casual cruelty makes people frown,
What does it matter if you’re white, red, yellow, black, or brown?
Mistrust is easily found in the eyes,
Of the victims of abuse, insensitivity, and lies.

Unsocial neighbors who no longer care,
A community that does not seem to be there.
Society swirls, spiraling down,
Civility is needed back in this town.

Emily Phillips

A young boy helped an elderly woman carry her groceries to her car at the supermarket. Civility. When an array of papers fell out of a middle school girl’s binder, a random girl on her way to class lent a helping hand and reassembled the girl’s papers. Civility. Stopped at a stoplight on Baltimore National Pike, a man offered his spare change to a stranger who was without a home. Civility.

How many of us can say we stop to be polite to others? Not just occasionally, but to every single person, every single day. Yes, it’s hard to take time away from our busy schedules, but taking the time to do someone a favor, to be courteous to others, and to stop and listen to those in need is something that needs to be happen in our everyday lives. Think about it. Isn’t it a nice feeling when someone performs a kind act just for you? Being civil not only causes a warm feeling in the person receiving the act but also in the person performing the act. Being civil brightens the day of the person or people on each end- the receiving and the giving. Civility. It’s such a great thing.

A four year old girl said “please” when she asked for her pink crayon and “thank you” when she received it. Civility. A teacher took the time to inquire about a student’s life outside of the classroom. Civility. A high school boy wrote a letter to someone who is simply an acquaintance just to let them know that he’s thinking of them. Civility.

Civility lessons start when we’re young, but it’s up to us to retain those valuable lessons and use them in our lives. It starts with simple lessons from our parents, such as “please and thank you” then evolves into lessons we learn on our own like “treat others as you would want to be treated.” Civility is so important to the environment of many work places. At home, it’s nice to know that your family loves you. They’re always going to be there for you and will always be looking out for your best interest. At school, there are some teachers that make students feel so appreciated- their work, their progress, and their attitude. In the office, it’s nice to have people keep an open attitude and show that they care about their colleagues. Civility. It’s everywhere.

When a woman had a really rough day, her friend baked her a fresh batch of brownies because she knew that was her friends favorite dessert. Civility. When a boy in a musical was expected to be in three places at the same time, his director said that he could miss rehearsal that day. Civility. When a girl moved from another state, someone told her to sit with them at lunch. Civility. Civility: let’s make it happen.

Civility

You enter and I rise,
Walking over you kiss my hand, compliment the room.
Sit? Stand, wherever, there will be food later.
Tea arrives, and more of your companions.

Stand. Sit. Stand. And sit once more.
Inquiring after mothers and business we reminisce.
I walk over to shut the window curtains,
the afternoon sun is shining into your eyes.
Gratitude in your eyes, I flush with pleasure.

A game of cards is proposed, the men readily comply.
Your mother would prefer to sit and rest.
I remain where I am to keep her company.
Appreciation shines in your face and I am delighted.

And how does one proceed?
Can we talk of the theater?
No, there are those who have not seen the show.
If only.
I can find nothing but the weather.
Through tears of boredom I find my reward
as everyone knows what it is.

Later, when the others are leaving you take my hand.
(Lower your voice, there are others present)
And ask for a walk while the daylight lasts.
My eyes radiate my answer, and you are ecstatic.

In the lane we meet an old gentleman.
Worn, his brown plaid coat and cap give him
a distinguished and pitiable air.
Doff your cap, let the poor man by.
His choked “Thank you” is all I want.
How about you?

As we return, the serving girls come to the door.
You speak up and address them,
Equality drenching both from head to toe.
Their faces alight in surprise, you blush and bow.

Wait for me to enter first,
tell me how you enjoyed the day.
You need not say how you enjoyed being with me,
I can see your satisfaction.
It is the mirror of my own.
Your manner has told me that I am precious,
And in your gentle smile I find I am.

by Annie Fritz

Civility

Civility is like a giant hardback book
Ancient, pages unturned on rusty hinges
Dusty on the back shelf.
The word holds little meaning for us,
The New Generation, the punks and preps and
Everyone in between
All glued to the screen of a cell, a monitor, a television.

How can we, oh desensitized people,
Grasp the allusive essence inside the word
Civility?
A two second attention span is far too short a time
To open our eyes
Take a wide eyed look around
Notice the shrugged-aside tome
And dig deeply,
Excavate an unconvincing cover

To discover the treasure of the word
Civility

Civility is like a senior citizen
More than it appears.
Frequent usage has left the outside
Worn, sagging, and disinteresting
To the unperceptive eye

But take a closer look
And benefit
Fruit of years’ experience long gone by
Still ripe and appealing
So much goodness swelling up inside
For anyone un-busy enough to try a taste
But alas, we are a superficial people
We seldom visit senior citizens
And rush away too soon.

This is what Civility is like.
Prompting doubts, a tired out word.
But still full of meaning.
Full of treasure.
Full of fruit.

by Laura Tschirgi

What Civility Means to Me

It seems like today everyone wants to be a leader when no one has ever really learned to follow. I look at a world that is in peril and dismay; it seems like everyone is searching for a long sustainment in love and peace, but in return they receive only temporary satisfaction that will eventually bring them back to another broken heart or teary eye. The world needs serenity and harmony; and civility between our neighbors is a logical place to begin to make this change in our world. If we can stop the hatred, jealousy, and envy of our brothers and sisters, then we can use love, compassion, and concern to lift each other up and stand up behind each other as a strong support system to stay encouraged and uplifted. When someone just stops to smile at me, or when the people of Kosovo declare and proclaim that they are free, that is what civility is to me. Stopping just to ask how can I help you or being that person that changes your face to red from that shade of blue, that is what civility is to me. When I stop to help a stranger I do not know, or pray for the homeless people in Mexico, that is what civility is to me. Allowing myself to be the one person in the crowd who stands up for what is right, and taking adverse situations head on with truth, honesty, and integrity that is what civility means to me. Being the change in the world that I want to see, just like Mahatma Gandhi said I must be, that is what civility means to me. Lifting up my brother and sister the way I should without tearing down their self esteem, that is how we can gradually attain this goal of becoming civil. “I can sense that leaders such as, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Mahatma Gandhi, and even Mother Teresa are rolling in their graves with all the chaos and mayhem that the world is in today,” says Bill Cosby. They will not be able to rest in peace until we as a people stop all of this fusing, cursing, and being abusive and just let it all go. In closing I would just like to mention a quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson which reads, “There can be no high civility without a deep morality.”

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Hammond High School

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ELECTION TIME IN COLUMBIA

KINGS CONTRIVANCE

Lorraine Kelly and Marguerite Walsh are both running for election to the Kings Contrivance Village Board. We have 3 open seats on the board.

From Alex Hekimian OAKLAND MILLS

I have lived in Oakland Mills for 30 years and have been involved in civic activities for many of those years. Having previously served on the Columbia Council and having led a Columbia-wide citizens advocacy organization, I would bring much knowledge and experience to this important position.

This is a crucial period in the history of Columbia. The impact of a new Master Plan for Downtown Columbia is one of the key issues that we face. As a Columbia Council representative and member of the Columbia Association's Board of Directors, I would work diligently to ensure that any new construction meets the expectations of our residents, is built at a human scale, and is accompanied by better pedestrian ways and much improved transit service.

Residents also deserve to get the most value for the payments they make to the Columbia Association. And, during these difficult economic times, I would like to find ways to give residents a break on their payments to CA.

As a candidate for the Columbia Council. I very much appreciate the support of Oakland Mills residents in the upcoming village election.

To Support Alex in the Columbia Election, email:
alexhekimian@hotmail.com

Town Center:
Village Board Candidates:
Two Seats on Village Board
two-year terms: May 1, 2008-April 30, 2010
As a result of a referendum which the village passed in the 1998 election, when the election is uncontested the Board of Directors is authorized to elect the qualified nominees as directors. There were two applicants for two open seats on the Village Board this year, Jean Israel and Linda Wengel. Therefore, Jean and Linda will automatically be installed on the Village Board for a two-year term, May 1, 2008-April 30, 2010.
Columbia Council Representative Candidates:
Two-year term: May 1, 2008-April 30, 2010
Stephen Meskin
Hugh Tousey
Suzanne Waller

WILDE LAKE
From Mary Pivar:

Because of its 40 year plan, Columbia has been somewhat sheltered from the land use issues that the rest of Howard County has dealt with for years.

Now with the proposal to add significant development to Downtown Columbia and the effect that larger stores have had on our village centers, we are no longer sheltered.

We are residents of Wilde Lake Village, committed to Jim Rouse's original vision of inclusiveness, sustainability, and community, who are running for the Village Board and CA Board. As members, we will work for a comprehensive plan to revive our Wilde Lake Village Center while protecting its unique human scale qualities. We want a balance of retail and some housing.

Our commitment is first to the residents of our Village of Wilde Lake, those already living here as well as those to come.

HICKORY RIDGE:
Miles Coffman is running unopposed for Columbia Council.
In addition to our five incumbents (Linda Hitzelberger, Tom Louden, Nancy McCord, Gregg Schwind and David Zeitzer), three new people are running for Village Board : Len Berkowitz, John Bailey and Michelle Wood.

Wilde Lake
Village Board:
Vince Marando
Lisa Mikelsen
Mary Pivar
Elliott Simons
Columbia Council:
Phil Kirsch

From Phil Engelke:
In the next few days you will be receiving a mail-in ballot for the upcoming village elections. I ask you to vote for Phil Engelke for Columbia Council/Columbia Association Board of Directors.
Vote for Phil Engelke for Columbia Council. Contact Information:
pengelke@rtkl.com

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HOWARD COUNTY LAND USE SUMMIT

Seventy people attended the first Countywide Land Use meeting. Ongoing activities include building a citizen email list for gaining influence with elected representatives. Momentum is on the gain with issues like land use and campaign finance reform. Contact us to be included in updates: 443 889-9070, mona@howardcountyissues.org



Citizens from across Howard County and a multitude of political affiliations addressed a list of solutions on land use



Ken Ulman Left Speechless (almost)

Let me start by saying that Ken Ulman was courteous and gracious in welcoming all those who attended the Howard County public hearing for the 2009 budget. The topics of addressed during the 3-hour meeting were many including skateboard parks, swimming pools, Howard County Community College funding, the Harriet Tubman building and funding for the Howard County Library system. Last but not least the issue that the majority of attendees were there to address and learn about was the renovation plan for Mt. Hebron High School (MTH).

There were approximately 30 speakers who provided testimony regarding the MTH renovation plan and to a person each requested that the County Council not approve any funding for the renovation in 2009 so that the community, county council and school board could put together a plan that actually meets all of the needs at MTH. Hebron. After 5 people had provided testimony requesting that the council not approve funding Mr. Ulman provided feedback. He was very surprised and was “almost” speechless that a community group would refuse \$50M in funding. He said this would be the single largest piece of funding ever in Howard County and seemed incredulous that the community group would turn it down.

Frankly, the MTH community is the most responsible group of taxpayers I have ever been associated with. Typically, most people would take the money and run. We won’t. If spending \$50M means that the renovated school still will not meet educational specs and there will still be portables on site after the renovation is complete, then either the funding level or the plan or both are wrong. Don’t waste taxpayer dollars on a renovation that is incomplete and leaves a problem for the next group of elected officials, parents, teachers and students.

By the end of the meeting, having listened to parents, community members, students, teachers and parents of former students, Mr. Ulman made it clear that he understood there must be something wrong with the plan and process. The next step is for him to not fund the renovation in the upcoming year and get personally engaged with guiding the HCPSS to put a responsible plan in place for MTH. If this is truly the largest single appropriation in the history of Howard County, it warrants that level of involvement and per my last letter it is more than clear that HCPSS needs the leadership and help of someone like Ken Ulman.

Shane Snyder

Mr. Ken Ulman - Ref: S-6271; Testimony for March 6, 2008 County Executive’s FY09 Citizens’ Budget Hearing

We are deeply concerned about the process that is being used by Howard County to acquire privately owned property for the benefit of one private party over another. It appears that the county is utilizing its resources to intervene on behalf of a county resident in pursuit of a matter that will result in personal financial gain.

This matter involves the acquisition of land owned by the Spring Ridge Homeowner’s Association to facilitate the development of six new single family homes along a private use-in-common driveway located at 2885 Rosemar Drive in Ellicott City, MD. Capital Budget Project S-6271 was initiated based on a request from the owners of property located at 2885 Rosemar Drive to acquire an easement for gravity sewer service in furtherance of their desire to gain financially through private development of their property. Neither the landowner, nor their developer, attempted to negotiate with the Spring Ridge Homeowner’s Association to acquire the easement prior to the initiation of the county’s capital budget project.

Members of the Spring Ridge Homeowner’s Association first learned that a capital budget project was being pursued to acquire their land on December 20, 2007 after seeing a public notice posted in front of their property. At a hearing before the Public Works Board on January 8, 2008, testimony was given which informed the board that negotiations had not taken place between the owners of the property at 2885 Rosemar Drive, or their developer, and the Spring Ridge Homeowner’s Association. The board recommended that the developer of the property negotiate with the members of the Spring Ridge Homeowner’s Association in an attempt to acquire the easement.

The owners of the property at 2885 Rosemar Drive have access to public sewer service through their own property, but they prefer not to use their own property access because it will require the use of pumps. However, plans of other neighboring properties have been approved for new construction using pumps to access public sewer service. It appears that the County has taken a position to give special attention in assisting the developer and landowners of 2885 Rosemar Drive to acquire an easement within private property owned by the Spring Ridge community. By establishing this matter as a capital budget project prior to the initiation of negotiations, the county is setting aside taxpayer dollars to acquire the easement through condemnation proceedings, thereby undermining the negotiation process. Why should the developer or landowners of 2885 Rosemar Drive make any meaningful offer to the Spring Ridge Homeowners’ Association when they know that if negotiations fail, the county will acquire the easement for them?

The county also needs to take into consideration that funding Capital Budget project S-6271 to take private property through condemnation proceedings for the financial benefit of one private party is contrary to the county’s own legislation; County Resolution 130 passed in 2005 states that the power of eminent domain should not be used for the benefit of one private party over another. The owners of the property at 2885 Rosemar Drive are requesting public sewer service to be provided for the construction of six new single family homes along a private use-in-common driveway to be created within their property. The intent of approving Capital Budget S-6271 is to set aside funds to be used along with condemnation proceedings should negotiations fail between the owners and developer of 2885 Rosemar Drive, and the Spring Ridge Homeowner’s Association. However, it should be noted that public sewer service can be accessed without taking the private property belonging to the Spring Ridge community.

Approval of Capital Project S-6271 to acquire an easement through the Spring Ridge open lot also contradicts the county’s position with respect to its proposed legislation pertaining to neighborhood infill development. The county’s proposed legislation supports the protection of environmental features and limits the number of homes sharing a use-in-common driveway to four. The Spring Ridge open space lot identified for the easement provides a natural buffer between neighborhoods and contains wetlands and a stream buffer. More importantly, it contains large poplar and other trees that will be damaged when the roots systems are severed during installation of the sewer line, causing a potential hazard to life and property of the Spring Ridge residents. It may be for these very reasons that when the Spring Ridge community was established, this area was left as open space specifically to protect these environmental features. Moreover, it is incomprehensible that the private property owned by the Spring Ridge community would be taken by the county to provide public sewer service to six new homes yet to be constructed along a private use-in-common driveway.

The extent of involvement by the county in support of Capital Project S-6271 creates an appearance of favoritism towards the developer and the owners of the property at 2885 Rosemar Drive who stand to gain financially from the development of their property. The approval of Capital Budget project S-6271 in the FY2009 budget sends a message to members of the Spring Ridge community that this is not a matter between two private parties, but a matter between the county and the Spring Ridge Homeowners Association. Moreover, the unique handling of this matter raises questions regarding the ethical standards of Howard County officials.

We strongly recommend that the county not approve Capital Project S-6271. The county should avoid any

actions that exert pressure or influence on the owners of the Spring Ridge property to concede to a decision that is not in their best interest and places another private party in a position to gain financially.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Nagy, President, Spring Ridge HOA

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COMMENTARY

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The Meaning of Civility
by
Guy Burgess, Ph.D. and Heidi Burgess, Ph.D.
Co-Directors, Conflict Research Consortium, University of Colorado
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The increasingly vocal campaign for civility in public discourse reflects an understandable and widespread frustration with the current tenor of political debate. There is a growing realization that our inability to deal with broad range of problems is largely attributable to the destructive ways in which the issues are being addressed. This raises a crucial and increasingly controversial question--what exactly do we mean by “civility”?

Clearly, civility has to mean something more than mere politeness. The movement will have accomplished little if all it does is get people to say, “excuse me please”, while they (figuratively) stab you in the back. Civility also cannot mean “roll over and play dead.” People need to be able to raise tough questions and present their cases when they feel their vital interests are being threatened. A civil society cannot avoid tough but important issues, simply because they are unpleasant to address. There must also be more to civility than a scrupulous adherence to the laws governing public-policy decision making. Clearly, there are numerous instances in which the parties to public-policy conflicts act in ways which are destructive and inappropriate, even though they are (and should continue to be) legal.

In short, any reasonable definition of civility must recognize that the many differing interests which divide our increasingly diverse society will produce an endless series of confrontations over difficult moral and distributional issues. Often these issues will have an irreducible win-lose character and, hence, not be amenable to consensus resolution. While continuing confrontation is inevitable, the enormous destructiveness which commonly accompanies these confrontations is not.

In our work at the University of Colorado’s Conflict Research Consortium, we have been developing an approach which we call “constructive confrontation.” This approach combines an understanding of conflict processes, dispute resolution, and advocacy strategies to help disputants better advance their interests. In addition to explaining why the politeness embodied in conventional definitions of “civility” is important, we also identify a number of other areas in which adversaries, decision makers, and those caught in the middle can work individually and collectively to increase the constructiveness of public debate. Examples of these areas include:

Separating People from the Problem

First, and most obviously, is a commitment to civility in the traditional and relatively narrow sense of the word. People need to recognize that other thoughtful and caring people have very different views on how best to address their community’s many complex problems. Constructive debate needs to focus on solutions which are most likely to be successful, and not upon personal attacks leveled by adversaries against one another. This is summed up by Roger Fisher, Bill Ury and Bruce Patton, authors of the New York Times best-seller *Getting to Yes*, who advise disputants to “separate the people from the problem.” When this is not done, conflicts tend to escalate so much that key decisions are made on the basis of very personal, “us vs. them” animosities rather than the relative merits of competing problem-solving strategies.

Obtain Available Technical Facts

Many public policy disputes involve factual disagreements which are amenable to resolution through some type of fact-finding process. Failure to discern available facts substantially increases the probability that the situation will be so misunderstood that the solutions adopted will fail to achieve the desired results. Constructive civil debate, therefore, requires that the parties work together to resolve factual disagreements wherever possible. There are, of course, many cases in which factual issues can’t be resolved because of irreducible uncertainties associated with the limits of scientific inquiry. When, this is true, contending parties need to publically explain the reasoning behind their differing interpretations of the factual information which is available.

Limit Interpersonal Misunderstandings

Often the adversaries proceed on the basis of very inaccurate (and usually unjustifiably evil) images of the interests, positions, and actions of others. Civility requires that contending parties make an honest and continuing effort to understand the views and reasoning of their opponents. The community needs to condemn the deliberate distortion of information and the presentation of unbalanced views as unacceptable.

Use Fair Processes

Civility also requires that the public issues be addressed by a process that is fair in both appearance and fact. Public input needs to be honestly solicited and considered. Decisions also need to be made on the basis of substantive arguments. For example, advocates of the status quo should not be able to prevail by simply introducing endless procedural delays which prevent alternative proposals from being considered or acted upon.

Limit Escalation

The most destructive confrontation process, escalation, arises when accidental or intentional provocations beget greater counter-provocations in an intensifying cycle that transforms a substantive debate characterized by honest problem solving into one in which mutual hatred becomes the primary motive. De-escalation and escalation avoidance strategies are needed to limit this problem.

Honor Legitimate Uses of Legal, Political, and Other Types of Power.

Public policy disputes involve issues which people feel very strongly about. Given this, disputing parties can be expected to use all of the powers available to them in an attempt to prevail. In our political system this means that people are entitled to use the legal and political system to advance their interests. We should respect this right and not attempt to require that the parties renounce their power options as a precondition for discussion.

Separate Win/Win from Win/Lose Issues

Wherever possible, the parties should try to reframe the conflict in ways which transform win-lose confrontations into win-win opportunities. In cases where this is not possible, the parties need to recognize and accept the fact that political and legal institutions will repeatedly be called upon to make the tough choices.

Limit the Backlash Effect

While political, legal or other types of force may produce short term victory, they also tend to generate a powerful backlash. People hate to be forced to do things against their will and can be expected to launch a “counterattack” at the earliest opportunity. The best way to limit this backlash effect is for parties to take positions which can be justified on the basis of broadly acceptable principles of fairness which all members of society have an interest in supporting. While such justifications cannot be expected to convert all opponents, they can be expected to increase the parties’ base of support by attracting some opponents as well as a larger number of “middle of the roaders.” This emphasis upon the justification tends to produce more reasonable positions on both sides while making it more difficult for contending parties to pursue purely selfish objectives.

Keep Trying to Persuade and Allow Yourself to be Persuaded

One crucial element of civility is recognition by conflicting parties that it is possible that they are wrong and that the policies advocated by their opponents are actually better. This entails an obligation to seriously consider the persuasive arguments made by opponents and to carefully try to explain and justify one’s own position to one’s opponents and others.

More Persuasion, More Exchange, Less force

The best ways to produce stable, long-term policy change is through persuasion in which parties are converted to their opponent’s point of view, or through exchange through which the parties negotiate mutually beneficial win-win trade-offs. This implies that the use of force should be minimized wherever possible.

More information on these and many related approaches for improving the civility of public discourse is available from the Consortium. Contact Guy Burgess or Heidi Burgess: Campus Box 580, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 80309; phone: (303)492-1635; fax: (303) 492-2154; e-mail: crc@colorado.edu; web: <http://www.colorado.edu/conflict>.

CIVILITY
From Sal Cosentino

Civility, it is said, “...is the pearl-string on which all other virtues are strung.” The saying evokes the image of a perfectly matched string of pearls. That image invites one to think abstractly about perfection in general and the perfection of humanity in particular.

Baroque is a word derived from the Portuguese, barrooco, a term for a less than perfect pearl, one that is overly large or misshapen. Baroque as an adjective relates to an exuberant style of art and architecture prevalent in the reformation and counter-reformation from circa 1600 to 1750 and was used as a pejorative by Renaissance scholars when commenting on the emerging Baroque style.

Renaissance, although intended to be a re-birth of Greek idealism, was actually just inspired by the Greeks. The Renaissance of the 14th through 17th centuries was built on a Greek foundation but was a new structure incorporating new concepts and perspectives. The Renaissance preoccupation with Greek geometry and orderliness lead, in at least one extreme instance, to dissatisfaction with the natural world, as represented in a quote from the French philosopher Malebranche:

“The visible world would be more perfect if the seas and lands were made more regular figures, if the rains were more regular – if in a word the world had fewer monstrosities and less disorder.”

Gothic, art and architecture of the Middle-Ages, between the fall of Rome and the Renaissance, had more in common with Baroque than with the Renaissance in that it was a time of transition.

Civility, or the perception of civility, therefore can be seen to be cyclical. On one hand there is a need for order and on the other hand a tolerance for change.

KNS, Stephen Wolfram’s A New Kind of Science is in many respects, representative of our current era. Simple cellular automata can be envisioned as the single grain of sand in an oyster that creates a pearl, either perfect or Baroque. In contemporary society therefore one should not view argumentation as contrary to civility but essentially civilized, since it challenges society to adapt.

Civility - to me - means manners. Good old fashioned “Good morning,” “Thank you,” etc. It’s a smile. It’s holding a door. It’s little kindnesses. It means that when we disagree with each other, even get angry, there’s some little part of us that is aware that we are all in this together. I can be angry, yet I don’t need to be mean.

Civility is about respect. It is a recognition that I and others, alike, are probably doing the best we can. Civility - to me - does not mean that we all have to agree on everything. It does not mean that everyone has to be a “team player.” It does mean, however, that I will listen to your truth without, I hope, blame or judgement, as I would want you to listen to mine. Hmmm . . . sounds like the Golden Rule, doesn’t it? Peace, JD Smith

ON SPEED CAMAERAS:
With the recent revelation that Montgomery County collected 2.6 million in revenue in just 7 months, is it any wonder that Senator Jim Robey and the General Assembly want in on that action? Speed cameras represent a regressive tax on the community. The inequities of fines might not jump out at the average citizen but nothing could be more lopsided than a large fine for moving too fast through a camera zone.

For example, Lonnie Lawyer, or Bob the Big Businessman can smile and wave for the camera a couple times per month. For them the fines won’t Represent a blip on their budget. A strategically placed phone call to the appropriate authorities will likely make the picture disappear altogether. I come from a law enforcement family, believe me it works that way. In addition to campaign contributors, no General Assembly persons, friends or family members will ever need fear paying a speed camera fine.

In the meantime, Susie Who, single mom, will be photographed rushing from the babysitters to her seasonal job at the mall, which she took on to afford Christmas presents for her little Cindy Lou. She’s late and afraid of losing her job when Mr. Robey’s camera steals Cindy Lou’s Christmas. And what about Wally warehouse worker who subsists somewhere just above minimum wage, living paycheck to paycheck to meet his rent and car payment? Wally’s rushing. He can’t afford to be late for work because they’ll dock his pay. Bad enough he’s working overtime to fill up his tank and pay BGE now he has to contribute to the General Assembly coffers. Who does he call to make his ticket magically disappear?

In the interest of full disclosure I am against the “Big Brother” notion of my government taking pictures of it’s citizens to control their behavior and do not believe for a minute that this move is about public safety. But I didn’t just fall off a Western Howard County turnip truck. These cameras are as inevitable as spring showers. So I throw my support behind Police Chief McMahon and all the citizens who believe these cameras are about public safety.

If speeding cameras are indeed about public safety and not revenue generation, then I ask for the Columbia Flier editorial board, the Howard County Police Department and all concerned citizens for safety to join me in calling upon the General Assembly to make two provisions essential to their bill. First public access and full disclosure of all camera records, no disappearing pictures, nobody gets a free pass because of privilege opposition. Second, infractions result in points rather than fines. As an example, at 3 pictures you are heading to driving school which carries a fee. At 5 pictures you are on work permit suspension for a year and a big fine. These provisions would slow down everybody including Lonnie Lawyer yet allow some breathing room for the mother of Cindy Lou Who. From William Powers Town Center

Civility
From Rob Dorsey

I tend to think that ‘Civility’ has a connotation of more government, or excess government. I am 71 years old, retired, and I have seen our rights and freedoms erode, expansion of more government, more rules, more government poking its nose in areas that it does not belong.

I am talking about things such as seat belt laws, smoking laws, (I do not smoke), consumer laws, “soak the rich”, taxing Social Security Benefits, and arbitrary distribution of wealth, even an arbitrary award of government jobs, not based on ability, or being qualified, but racial quota. We have become a complex society, a Socialist Society, where we depend on government too much, feeding and housing the poor and widows (Really the job of the church) There are far too many folks milking the system of Government programs, including welfare and entitlements that threaten to bankrupt and ruin this once great country. The Government has made it legal to Kill unwanted babies, but has made it illegal to kill certain animals, such as Spotted Owls, Whales, Seals and more, but has made it OK to kill Baby Humans!

If this is what Civility means, I do not want it!

New Conversations about Smart Growth

From Michael Cornell

The confluence of recent zoning changes and developer influence in legislative decisions and agendas have led to the formation of a citizen’s advocacy group: Land Use Coalition.

Residents are concerned and have a right to be. To some, local leaders appear to espouse populist views only to give ground to developer interests. From my vantage point, I see members of the Land Use Coalition looking for politicians to come out form behind “green” and “smart growth” smoke screens and engage in discussions of larger, forward-looking issues.

Planned or Smart Growth operates from a premise that growth is necessary, good and sustainable. Arguably so. Let’s see where we are today. We have:

- Insufficient infrastructure to accommodate planned growth including the impact of BRAC (Base Realignment at Fort Meade). With BRAC, for example, more jobs mean more people, with them more families and more children, requiring more school construction and inevitably more redistricting which uproots students from their friends and communities, puts more buses on the roads creating more traffic and more pollution.
- Lack of affordable housing. We are awash in McMansions, more upper income housing is built every-day. Affordable housing is not increasing for those who work in and around Columbia, while more local jobs are being filled by workers from outlying counties. More commuters, more cars, more pollution. (See a pattern yet?)
- Environmental degradation. Continued construction and suburban life styles are exacting havoc on the local and global environments. Increased runoff, chemicals and nitrogen result mean local rivers are dying, and consequently, the Chesapeake Bay. Air quality is not improving and asthma rates among youth are approaching epidemic proportions.
- People live but do not work in our communities. Fully two thirds of resident workers commute to Baltimore, Washington and surrounding areas. Howard commuters rack up more miles in their cars than any other county in the State.

Do Smart Growth strategies work? Not according to Al Bartlett, Professor Emeritus at the University of Colorado who keenly observes:

“Smart growth destroys the environment. Dumb growth destroys the environment. Smart growth just destroys the environment with good taste.”

So perhaps we need to change the conversations we are having about growth. Smart growth may be a myth and even “green” growth is still growth. Such planning is short sighted. It does serve the bottom line interests of companies who profit from continued sustained development.

Looking forward to a long-term conversation about growth, we need to change our assumptions and examine our values that factor into our decision-making.

Below are three values that could serve as a rational foundation. I have co-opted these from the 10 Key Values that govern the US Green Party. Embracing these values will help re-frame and re-shape our development dialogs and debates.

- Ecological Wisdom. Societies must operate with the understanding that we are part of nature, not separate from nature. We must maintain an ecological balance and live within the ecological and resource limits of our communities and our planet. We support a sustainable society that utilizes resources in such a way that future generations will benefit and not suffer from the practices of our generation.
- Community-Based Economics. We recognize it is essential to create a vibrant and sustainable economic system, one that can create jobs and provide a decent standard of living for all people while maintaining a healthy ecological balance. Local communities must look to economic development that assures protection of the environment, broad citizen participation in planning, and enhancement of our “quality of life.”
- Future Focus and Sustainability. Our actions and policies should be motivated by long-term goals. We seek to protect valuable natural resources, safely disposing of or “unmaking” all waste we create, while developing a sustainable economics that does not depend on continual expansion for survival. We must counterbalance the drive for short-term profits by assuring that economic development, new technologies, and fiscal policies are responsible to future generations who will inherit the results of our actions.

Economist Robert D. Feinman makes a compelling argument for re-thinking our current growth policies: The world cannot continue to support an ever increasing population; the access to specialty natural resources will become limited and there may be constraints on the sources of energy as well. Compound growth is an exponential function and is mathematically unsustainable. Even a modest 2% growth rate implies a doubling of size in just 35 years. The growth model must fail at some point. There will always be some limiting factor that will inhibit growth, it may be energy, water, or arable land, but there will eventually be a choke point. So what do we do?

The locally based Land Use Coalition recognizes the need to re-shape local discourse and policy and have rightly issued a warning to elected officials: either start addressing the real issues or we will vote you out and find someone who does.

Dumb growth destroys the environment. Smart growth just destroys the environment with good taste

IMPORTANT STATE LEGISLATION

HOUSE BILL 971 Crossfiled with: SENATE BILL 593
Sponsored By: Delegates Cardin, Ali, Barkley, Barnes, Benson, Bobo, Bronrott, Carr, V. Clagett, Doory, Feldman, Frush, Gutierrez, Healey, Heller, Hixson, Holmes, Howard, Hucker, Jones, Kaiser, Krysiak, Lee, Love, Manno, McIntosh, Mizeur, Montgomery, Nathan-Pulliam, Niemann, Pendergrass, Proctor, Rosenberg, Schuler, Stein, Taylor, F. Turner, V. Turner, and Waldstreicher
Entitled: **Election Law** - Public Campaign Financing Act for Candidates for the General Assembly
Synopsis: Establishing a system of public financing of campaigns for candidates for the General Assembly; establishing an Election Financing Commission; creating the Public Election Fund...

HOUSE BILL 246
Sponsored By: Delegates Bobo and V. Clagett
Entitled: Charter Counties - **Land Use Appeals** - Standing
Synopsis: Authorizing a charter county to enact a local law to include among those persons authorized to appeal a decision of a board of appeals or a zoning action of a local legislative body or quasi-legislative body a person who is not aggrieved by the decision or action; providing that the local law may establish terms and conditions under which the person may appeal, and the procedures for taking an appeal; etc.

Special Advertisement



THE BEEHIVE BULLETIN

“If reasoning were like hauling I should agree that several reasoners would be worth more than one, just as several horses can haul more sacks of grain than one can. But reasoning is like racing and not like hauling, and a single Barbary steed can outrun a hundred dray horses.”

Galileo Galilei
2/15/1564 – 1/8/1642

Galileo is considered by many to be the 1st modern scientist, not for his ideas but for his reliance on the scientific method of reasoning. Reasonableness is therefore, a desirable attribute.

Civil discourse need not be much removed from scientific inquiry providing it conforms to a discipline. The purpose of THE BEEHIVE BULLETIN is to examine Howard County Issues using the following analytical sets of tools for reasoning.

Set #1 A Secular Ethos

Does a proposed public policy address:	Yes	No	Annotations
Wealth without work.			
Commerce without accountability			
Action without consideration			
Education without understanding			
Science without proof			
Power without constraint			

Set #2 Reality Test of Argumentation

Is it Factual?	Yes	No	Is it Inference?	Yes	No	Annotation
Verifiable			Unproven			
Stays with what can be verified			Extrapolates			
Approaches certainty			Open-ended			
Inherently consistent			Internally conflicting			
Dispassionately objective			Open to extraneous motive			

REPRESENTATIVES WORKING FOR CITIZENS

.....REPRESENTATIVES WHO REQUIRE CITIZEN WATCH



Our State Delegate Elizabeth Bobo co-sponsored a bill to provide residents with legal standing on land use appeals.



Our State Delegate Gail Bates voted in favor of residents/citizens for legal standing on land use appeals.



Our County Council Member Mary Kay Sigaty opposed large campaign funders to generate bills that would limit heights in Columbia (later withdrawn). Councilmember Sigaty has a solid contributions record including many small amounts from many citizens.

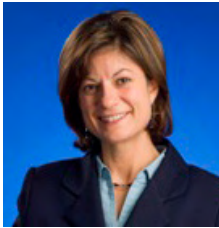
Candidates Working for Citizens



Allen Dyer has been a tireless supporter for citizens, working to be sure we have information we need to make informed decisions. Allen levels the power imbalance by elevating citizen knowledge. Allen is running for School Board.



Alex Hekimian is well known in Columbia as someone who supports the community agenda. His intelligent and focused goals will support all citizens. Alex is running in Oakland Mills for Columbia Council.



Our County Council Member Jen Terra in District 1 (Laurel) has a public position of 'no comment' on her opposition of citizen rights for standing in land use matters. This position is anti-resident, anti-citizen and requires watching to determine patterns of voting an agenda that does not serve the public. Campaign contributors include large land developers, their attorneys, and individuals who have worked with zeal against citizen land use appeals.



Our County Executive Ken Ulman has a public position of 'no comment' on opposition of citizen legal standing on land use appeals. Also, Executive Ulman is in the process of purchasing/renting unneeded office space in support of a company that heavily funded his campaign and beyond.

http://www.examiner.com/a-1187058-Ulman_seeks_to_scrap_plans_for_new_government_campus.html
<http://www.meridian-square.com/team.php>
http://mdelections.umbc.edu/campaign_finance/contributions1.php



Our State Senator Kasemeyer is prepared to break from his party and vote against campaign finance reform per Progressive Maryland. He does not answer queries regarding his position, so we researched his contributions and posted to the right for voters to view and watch his voting record to determine if a relationship exists.



Our State Delegate Warren Miller was one of 7 out of 138 votes to oppose citizen standing on land use appeals.

Kasemeyer, Ed For Senate Committee - April 2005->Present, larger or non-local contributions			
Contributor	City	Zip	Amount
Berlin Nursing & Rehab Center	Berlin	21811	\$2,000.00
Health Policy Leadership Alliance	Elkridge	21075	\$2,000.00
Maryland Trial Lawyers Assoc., PAC	Baltimore	21201	\$2,000.00
Mid-Atlantic of Fairfield, LLC	Crownsville	21032	\$2,000.00
MSTA Fund For Children And Public Education	Annapolis	21401	\$2,000.00
NAIOP PAC	Baltimore	21230	\$2,000.00
Oakland Nursing & Rehab Ctr	Oakland	21550	\$2,000.00
Realtors Political Action Committee	Annapolis	21401	\$2,000.00
Rifkin, LLC	Towson	21286	\$2,000.00
Baltimore County Lodge #4 - FOP PAC Fund	Baltimore	21234	\$1,500.00
Baltimore County License Beverage Assn.-PAC	Arbutus	21227	\$1,000.00
Cambridge Plaza LLC	Rockville	20850	\$1,000.00
Charles Kountz	Catonsville	21228	\$1,000.00
Constellation Energy State PAC	Baltimore	21202	\$1,000.00
Ernest Litty	Stevensville	21666	\$1,000.00
Frank Moran & Sons	Baltimore	21227	\$1,000.00
Freeman Hrabowski	Owings Mills	21117	\$1,000.00
Health Policy Leadership Alliance	Elkridge	21075	\$1,000.00
I.Helen Kasemeyer	Savage	20763	\$1,000.00
John Mosner	Pikesville	21208	\$1,000.00
John Mosner	Pikesville	21208	\$1,000.00
Maryland Medical Political Action Committee	Annapolis	21401	\$1,000.00
Maryland New Car And Truck Dealers Association PAC	Baltimore	21204	\$1,000.00
MD Daily Lottery Agents Assoc., Inc.	Ellicott City	21043	\$1,000.00
Merritt Properties LLC, MD PAC	Baltimore	21244	\$1,000.00
MSTA Fund For Children And Public Education	Annapolis	21401	\$1,000.00
Point View Campus, LLC	Baltimore	21228	\$1,000.00
Realtors Political Action Committee	Annapolis	21401	\$1,000.00
Red Gate IV Associates	Rockville	20850	\$1,000.00
Ronald Kasemeyer	Savage	20763	\$1,000.00
Tinton Falls Campus	Baltimore	21228	\$1,000.00
Maryland Medical Political Action Committee	Annapolis	21401	\$750.00
Maryland Realtors Political Action Committee	Annapolis	21401	\$750.00
Health Policy Leadership Alliance	Elkridge	21075	\$600.00
Health Policy Leadership Alliance	Elkridge	21075	\$600.00
120 West Fayette Street, LLLP	Baltimore	21201	\$500.00
Apartment & Office Bldg Assoc., MD PAC	Washington	20036	\$500.00
Baltimore County Fire Fighters PAC	Cockeysville	21030	\$500.00
Baltimore County Fire Fighters PAC	Cockeysville	21030	\$500.00
Baltimore County License Beverage Assn.-PAC	Arbutus	21227	\$500.00
Bruce Taylor, M.D.	Ellicott City	21041	\$500.00
Constellation Energy State PAC	Baltimore	21202	\$500.00
Ell Litty and Company	Indianapolis	46265	\$500.00
Enterprise Rent-A-Car Company PAC	Saint Louis	63105	\$500.00
Fire Fighters PAC	Cockeysville	21030	\$500.00
Freeman Hrabowski	Owings Mills	21117	\$500.00
G. Scott Barlight	Lutherville	21093	\$500.00
John Mosner	Pikesville	21208	\$500.00
John Mosner	Pikesville	21208	\$500.00
Maryland Bankers Political Action Committee	Annapolis	21401	\$500.00
Maryland Bankers Political Action Committee	Annapolis	21401	\$500.00
Maryland Bankers Political Action Committee	Annapolis	21401	\$500.00
Maryland Jockey Club	Laurel	20725	\$500.00
Maryland Realtors Political Action Committee	Annapolis	21401	\$500.00
Maryland State Professional Firefighters PAC Fund	Baltimore	21230	\$500.00
Merritt Properties, LLC	Baltimore	21244	\$500.00
Mid-Atlantic Petroleum Distributors' Association, Inc. PAC	Arnold	21012	\$500.00
NAIOP PAC	Baltimore	21230	\$500.00
Oaklee Village Associates, L.P.	Baltimore	21229	\$500.00
Rickman Picard LLC	Rockville	20850	\$500.00
Salvatore Anello	Baltimore	21227	\$500.00
Scott Rifkin	Owings Mills	21117	\$500.00
The Commonwealth Mutual Insurance Co. Of America	Ellicott City	21043	\$500.00
Tinton Falls Campus	Baltimore	21228	\$500.00
UFCW Local 400	Landover	20785	\$500.00
Whalen Properties	Catonsville	21228	\$500.00
Williams Grove Farm, LLC	Rockville	20850	\$500.00
AFSCME	Baltimore	21203	\$450.00
Health Policy Leadership Alliance	Elkridge	21075	\$400.00
Health Policy Leadership Alliance	Elkridge	21075	\$400.00
C. Dankmeyer	Arnold	21012	\$300.00
Charles E. Kountz Attorney At Law	Baltimore	21227	\$300.00
Charles E. Kountz Attorney At Law	Baltimore	21227	\$300.00
Committee to Elect Patrick J. Hogan	Montgomery V	20886	\$300.00

Find political contributions from anyone, to anyone:
http://mdelections.umbc.edu/campaign_finance/contributions1.php

STATE & LOCAL TAXES AND PRESIDING REPRESENTATIVES

STATE and LOCAL Income Tax Liability on \$80,000												
YEAR->	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004*	2005	2006	2007
State Tax \$	\$4,441	\$4,441	\$4,332	\$4,311	\$4,311	\$4,287	\$4,224	\$4,224	\$4,224	\$4,224	\$4,224	\$4,224
Local Tax \$	\$2,221	\$2,221	\$2,186	\$2,189	\$2,189	\$2,187	\$2,205	\$2,205	\$2,880	\$2,880	\$2,880	\$2,880
Exemptions	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,750	\$1,850	\$1,850	\$2,100	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400
Tax Liability	\$5,462	\$5,462	\$4,748	\$4,630	\$4,630	\$4,354	\$4,029	\$4,029	\$4,704	\$4,704	\$4,704	\$4,704
Yrly Inc/Decrease		\$0	-\$714	-\$118	\$0	-\$276	-\$325	\$0	\$675	\$0	\$0	\$0
Governor	Glendening	Glendening	Glendening	Glendening	Glendening	Glendening	Glendening	Ehrlich	Ehrlich	Ehrlich	Ehrlich	O'Malley
County Exeo	Ecker	Ecker	Ecker	Ecker	Robey	Robey	Robey	Robey	Robey	Robey	Robey	Ulman
County Council	C. Vernon Gray	C. Vernon Gray	C. Vernon Gray	Guy Guzzone	Guy Guzzone	Guy Guzzone	Guy Guzzone	Kitterman/Feaga	Kitterman/Feaga	Feaga	Feaga	Ball
	Charles Feaga	Charles Feaga	Charles Feaga	Vernon Gray	Vernon Gray	Vernon Gray	Vernon Gray	Rakes	Rakes	Rakes	Rakes/Ball	Fox
	Mary Loring	Mary Loring	Mary Loring	C. Merdon	C. Merdon	C. Merdon	C. Merdon	Merdon	Merdon	Merdon	Merdon	Sigaty
	Danell Crown	Danell Crown	Danell Crown	A. Kiddleman	A. Kiddleman	A. Kiddleman	A. Kiddleman	Ulman	Ulman	Ulman	Ulman	Terrasa
	D. Schrader	D. Schrader	D. Schrader					Guzzone	Guzzone	Guzzone	Guzzone	Watson
*2004 Projections based on 2003 Progs.												

2007 Neighboring Counties & Howard Real Estate Assessment Rate	
Baltimore Co	1.1000
Carroll Co	1.0480
HOWARD CO	1.0140
Frederick Co	0.9360
Montgomery Co	0.6270

<http://www.dcl.state.md.us/dawp/assess.htm>

Continued from page 3

here in 2000. In California I was a PTA officer each year, as well as the fundraiser coordinator, at my daughter's schools. Judy Javert and myself were the founders of Eagle Readers, an at risk reading program that we implemented in California Elementary Schools. As a city leader in California I dealt with massive growing pains in the school district. I served on the Executive Board of MRCTET (Mello Roos Citizens for Tax Equity in Tracy). Mello Roos taxes were used to build new schools. I was also on the Tracy Tomorrow planning board which was a city leaders planning group for the next 20 years, and I worked with the United Way funding group. These experiences, as well as my community service in Howard County, over the past dozen years have given me the experience to run for the School Board position.

Contributions can be made to:
The Committee to Elect Diane Butler, c/o Angie Boyter, Treasurer 3914 Mac Alpine Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042
Contact: politicodiane@msn.com

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Certified Public Accountants

Michael Katz, CPA
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HAIR SALON

Citizens Need Answers from County

In a recent article, it was reported that County Executive Ulman has proposed selling over 24 acres of county owned property in Rogers Avenue, virtually adjacent to the existing Howard County government complex. This property was purchased by the previous administration for the purpose of “consolidation, efficiency and effectiveness”. This property was also to accommodate expansion of Circuit Court needs. By doing so, Mr. Ulman proposes to expand government services away from Ellicott City to three different locations in Columbia. He has stated that his proposal will “consolidate” services to Howard County citizens.

Most questionable is his proposal to purchase or rent one floor in the Oakland Mills Village Center to help “revitalize” the center. I would suggest that the Economic Development Authority ought to be working in that vein and we citizens should not be asked to subsidize the developer of the Oakland Mills site. If the County Council approves Mr. Ulman’s proposal, government services will NEVER expand in the county seat of Ellicott City.

Since this is a “major policy change”, I believe that Howard County citizens whose taxes purchased the 24-acre property should be involved in making this decision. They need to know more about future plans to spend their tax money for expansion. I have asked the County Executive, along with the County Council to hold a forum on these issues. Many citizens are not aware of this proposal because it is hidden in typical capital budget language.

I also want to note that promises were made to the adjacent community about the uses for the Rogers Avenue site.

Not only do questions have to be asked, but questions have to be answered. This kind of information cannot thoroughly be addressed at a capital budget hearing where there is limited opportunity for an exchange of information.

From Angela Beltram

One of the things we want to do in the Independent Voter Group in our focus on electing people who will represent citizens, is to outline how we will rate candidates. Included to the right is a chart of attributes that would rate candidates and the level of priority of each. The 8th item is lowest on the list, but because it made the list, it is very important. Please send feedback on things you'd like to see in future candidates.



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We are a volunteer organization with no exclusionary inner circle. If you are looking for a way to support voter knowledge, civic involvement, free speech, or interested in levelling the field between those with influence and citizens, contact us:

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RATING CANDIDATES

Importance	Rating Description
1	Has history of working for citizens
2	Handles power responsibly
3	Demonstrates egalitarian treatment of all citizens
4	Specifies support for increasing voter turnout, election system integrity
5	Campaign fund amounts are small, and from private citizens
6	Demonstrates energy
7	Demonstrates intelligence
8	Background with <i>successful</i> experience applicable to position

Civility Has It's Place
From Mona Eurice

Civility is laudable – in the grocery line, in our schools, wherever children are, and certainly while driving. But in arenas that house political discourse a dominant culture of civility will at some point result in oppression.

Studies show that culture is a more powerful determinant of behavior than law. A firm enough culture of civility would restrict input, discovery, truth to those who delivered the message in a prescribed manner, ie., civilly. This reeks of an anti-Democratic process particularly considering the breadth of interpretations of other's behavior and fluid nature of perception.

Dissent is a critical part of Democracy. While highly civil disagreement is a skill that might propel individuals into a status of role model, this skill may not be achievable for everyone even though virtually everyone has something to add to the conversation in a Democracy.

Civility is politeness; it is not the answer to all of our problems. Behavior can still be quite bad even though it meets the civility parameter. Concerns might be better spent on honesty, trust, wisdom, reverence, and truth in some environments. Think of the intensely likable, polite politician who runs only a personal agenda rather than an agenda supporting constituents.

Many highly intelligent people are short tempered; possibly few understand them when they speak. But their ideas are needed along with everyone else's and they must not be shut out because they can be uncivil.

One must love free speech more than hating incivility in a Democracy.

Civility has it's place – navigating through the day and given opportunity during each encounter with others we make decisions to lighten or burden them. In Democracy, the burden is already ours to bear.

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Continued from page 1

School Age Children (2004-2006)

- Chair, HCPSS Calendar Committee (2003 & 2005)
- Chair, HCPSS Boundary Line/Attendance Area Committee (2002 & 2003)
- Vice Chair, CAC (1996-97)
- Sub-Committee Chair, CAC Policy & Procedures Subcommittee (1995-96)
- Sub-Committee Chair, CAC Redistricting Subcommittee (1992-94)
- Chair, Fund-raising & CAC Representative, Atholton HS PTA Exec Board (1993-02)
- First VP & CAC Rep, Hammond MS PTA Exec Board (1993-99)
- Exec Board Member & CAC Rep, Forest Ridge Elementary PTA (1992-95)
- Exec Board Member, Hammond Elementary PTA (1984-91)

Education Activities:

- BOE Liaison, Community Advisory Council (current)
- Advisory Committee Member, PCs 4 Kids (current)
- Member, HCPSS Superintendent's District Planning Team (2003-06)
- Member, BOE Operating Budget Review Committee (2004-2006)
- Member, HCPSS Boundary Line/Attendance Area Committees (2000-03 & 2006)
- Member, HCPSS Calendar Committee (2003-2006)
- Host, Education Segments - Channel 72's Parent-Teacher Connection (2002-06)
- Member, HCPSS School Walking Route Committee (2003-06)
- Member, HCPSS Former Cedar Lane Planning Committee (2005-06)
- Member, HCPSS Advisory Committee for Elementary Curriculum (2000-06)
- Member, HCPSS Advisory Committee for World Languages (2002-06)
- Member, HCPSS Advisory Committee for Media & Information Technology (2003-06)
- Member, HCPSS Technology Advisory Committee (2003-06)
- Member, HCPSS Middle School Scheduling Committee (2004-05)
- Member, HCPSS Task Force on Teacher Workload, Planning and Assessment (2004-05)
- Representative, County Executive's Committee on Education Funding Alternatives (2004)
- Member, HCPSS New Cedar Lane Planning Committee (2003-04)
- Member, HCPSS Elementary School Educational Specifications Committee (2003-04)
- Member, HCPSS Vocational, Career Technology & Academy Program Committee (2002-04)
- Representative, BOE Study Group on BOE Composition & Responsibilities (2000-01)
- Member, HCPSS High School Redistricting Task Force and Transition Team (1995-96)
- Member, HCPSS Middle School Educational Specifications Committee (1994)
- Various HCPSS/BOE policy review committees and school planning panels

Awards:

- BOE Friends of Education Award (2006)
- National PTA Lifetime Achievement Award (2003)

3. As Chair of the Community Advisory Council to the BOE, it was often difficult to arrive at consensus with the membership on an issue. When reporting on a policy, budget, or planning question, I tried to convey the range of opinion and highlight the points identified by the membership as having significant importance. These might have been the subject of strongly differing opinions or unanimous agreement, but each was presented to the Board along with key arguments and assessments of the strengths and weaknesses of various options and/or proposals. I continue to support the citizen voice in the development of public policy as a Board member. As representatives for the view of the community in matters affecting education, the Board must encourage active public participation on policy, planning, and curriculum advisory committees and solicit citizen input through hearings and forums that support informed and open debate on these important matters.

4.Children: All four of my children attended Howard County Public Schools from Kindergarten through graduation: Hammond Elementary, Forest Ridge Elementary, Hammond Middle and Atholton High

JP	Atholton HS/University of MD-College Park
Jack	Atholton HS/University of MD-College Park
Alice	Atholton HS/WV Wesleyan College
Rob	Atholton HS/James Madison University

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