

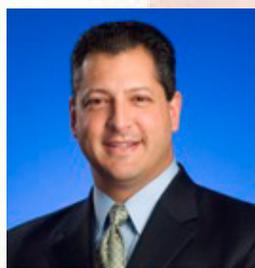
HOWARD COUNTY ISSUES

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

* LAND USE *
* THE



From Council Chairperson Courtney Watson



From Councilmember Greg Fox



From Councilmember Jen Terrasa



Councilmember Mary Kay Sigaty



On increasing referendum use:
The advantage to the use of referendum in land use decisions is that it provides voters with an action-oriented process to express objections.

Generally I support processes to give citizens more power rather than less. My hope is that the time consuming process of referendum can be avoided through the use of open and transparent land use processes where citizens feel they are heard and fairly represented by their elected officials.

On limiting campaign money from land developers:

I chose to hit the road on foot during my campaign to meet voters. After knocking on 6000 doors for the open District 1 Council seat in 2006, I discovered and not surprisingly, that the impact of growth and development was foremost on voters' minds. Overcrowded roads and schools predominated the conversations. I have used my first year and a half on the council to legislate with those concerns in mind. I believe my very positive record of votes on land use legislation speaks for itself.

While campaigns may be expensive to run, I do not feel that the accep-
Continued on page 13

On increasing referendum use:
This question requires more thought and at the moment I'm focused on current legislation, for example, rather than asking how much housing will be needed to accommodate BRAC, we should be asking how to have the associated commercial business placed in Howard. BRAC is being used as an excuse to build housing which is fine as long as it complies with the master plan, but adding single family attached and multi family housing was not part of the Rt 1 planning. I've added amendments to have the discussion on critical items to solve the Rt 1 problems. I could overlook the fact that the developer gave money and gained this decision to front load development but this and other mixed use projects could make sense if the projects were part of APFO. In this case, APFO is not met.

Another problem is that project allocations could be moved unfavorably, or could be stalled indefinitely without knowledge of where the allocations were targeted.

Another issue to be solved is the multi-use septic problem, and the legislation I've intro-

Continued on page 13

On increasing referendum use:
I believe referendum should be used only as a last resort. The judicial process is the most efficient and effective venue for resolving contentious land use issues in a way that protect the rights of all parties.

On increasing citizen standing on land use matters:

Of course, the rights of any party can only be protected through the courts if that party is deemed to have standing. I support an expansion of citizen standing because I believe the specially aggrieved status is too restrictive. However, I believe extending standing to all citizens may be too broad. For example, the result of providing citizens everywhere with unfettered standing would be that a national chain across town could suppress new competition of a locally owned business that neighbors support. I would like to hear more about what standards has worked successfully in other jurisdictions.

On countywide rezoning to accommodate a single property:

Because comprehensive zoning is generally done every ten years, there are times we may want to make land use changes in between comprehensive zoning. In these situations we may

Continued on page 13

Councilmember Sigaty met with the Howard Land Use Coalition but did not respond to the set of queries by press time. Her time and consideration in meeting with citizens is noted.

Citizens were disappointed in Councilmember Sigaty's responses during the land use meeting, including suggesting that citizens and land developers possessed an equal stake in land use where one group seemed privileged and another group lived with the resulting consequences and housing values of her decisions.

Citizens believe that the long term consequences of prioritizing developer profits above citizen interests is highly inappropriate. Indeed, levelling the two might be a boon for citizens in our current environ.

Following multiple contacts using more than one medium, Calvin Ball did not respond or otherwise meet on land use.

From Howie Feaga, President of the HC Farm Bureau

On behalf of the Howard County Farm Bureau we would like to see land uses looked at very seriously with our input if possible, single lots should not be what changes policy for everyone. We are losing more land all the time and we can not be expected to farm small lots that are hard to access with our machinery. We need to see what is best for all the people of Howard County as well as those of us that farm for a living.



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- Citizen written contributions
- Voting records for elected representatives and/or campaign money records

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CURRENT LAND USE ISSUES

From: A Concerned Group of Citizens

Devastated Senior Citizens: Have State & County Officials Failed to Protect Residents?

Residents of the Villas at Cattail Creek (VCC) in Glenwood, a 55 plus community, are still waiting for State and County officials to correct the travesty that government officials allowed to happen and which has become the bane of existence for the homeowners in this community.

Construction of the community began in 2003 and the last residents moved in by late 2005. The community was to have a shared well system and a multi-use septic system. It is now well into 2008, and the septic system has never functioned.

HUGE REVENUES

The homes were constructed by one of the largest homebuilders in the U.S., with at least 50% of its annual multi-billion dollar revenue derived from home sales in the Baltimore-Washington area. The builder received more than \$50 million in revenue from the sale of homes to the residents of the VCC community. The land developer who constructed the well and septic infrastructure also has an extensive record of development in Howard County.

Virtually all of the residents were told by sales representatives that both the septic and well-water systems would be fully functional. In reality, it was not disclosed that the sewage plant had never met State requirements. However, the builder continued to sell homes and the county continued to issue Use and Occupancy Permits.

TRANQUILITY INTERRUPTED

Residents now must endure the disruption of a septic pumping truck coming into the community 3-5 times daily, seven days a week, 365 days a year, arriving at all hours to remove unprocessed solid waste from a holding tank.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The agencies didn't exercise their oversight responsibilities in ensuring compliance with existing regulations. Documentation indicates that the County from the beginning of construction shared responsibility with the Maryland Department of Environment. Lack of oversight by state and county officials, as well as the requirement of adherence to existing procedures and laws, not only allowed these situations to occur; but, actually created an opportunity for the developer to circumvent normal requirements.

As an example, the State has a financial requirement

Continued on page 5

HOWARD COUNTY TAXPAYERS ARE BEING IGNORED BY THEIR REPRESENTATIVES

Recently I joined the Howard Land Use Coalition after attending an initial brainstorming meeting to gather citizens who were concerned, dismayed and disgusted over Howard County's handling of land use issues. The comments made by a large citizen group that evening were enlightening and ignited passions that were indescribable. I have always felt the development community, the realtors, their legal teams and the Chamber of Commerce were all working in conjunction with our elected officials to further common agendas. Unfortunately, an agenda that seems to be continually ignored is that of the common citizen ... the taxpayer.

This is evidenced by recent situations that have come to my attention since I joined the coalition. There was House Bill (HB246) cosponsored by Del. Liz Bobo which endeavored to allow Howard County citizens the legal standing to appeal land use decisions. Our county is one of the few in Maryland that does not allow citizens to appeal land use decisions. This bill was passed in the House but opposing Senators, including Sen. Robey, took actions that resulted in the bill never reaching the Senate floor for debate.

Last week I attended a County meeting of the Public Engagement In Land Use (PELU) Task Force. This task force was created by the County Executive to study the land use process and to recommend ways to more broadly involve the public in land use planning. Unfortunately, our elected Council members, the Bar Association, the HoCo Realtors, Home Builders, the League of Women Voters, EDA, the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties and the Chamber Of Commerce were tasked to nominate the members of this task force. From what I witnessed at last weeks meeting, they have not served the interests of the common citizen/taxpayer in their nominations. It is more apparent they intend to serve the development community as their top priority. I was appalled to hear their opinions and remarks during the meeting and felt disenfranchised as their comments indicated the common citizen/taxpayer really did not need to be a part of the process. Citizen representatives

Continued on page 5

Economic Eminent Domain in Howard From Monica Machovec

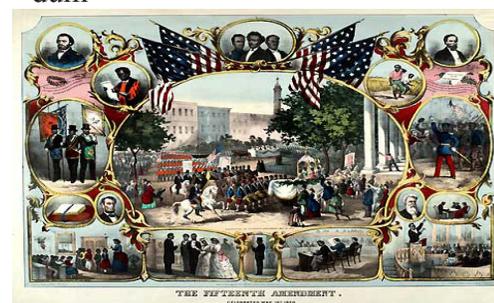
The Deerfield Drive Sewer Easement Acquisition project was removed from the Capital budget, enabling the Spring Ridge Homeowner's Association to negotiate privately with the landowners.

Editor's Note:
The economic eminent domain item was originally in the county budget to use taxpayer money to force the sale of land from a private holder to a commercial interest.

Our understanding is that the threat exists, has been expressed by developer attorneys, and can be used against individual citizens without greater voter knowledge.

REFERENDUM: a direct vote in which an entire electorate is asked to either accept or reject a particular proposal.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Referendum>



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CURRENT LAND USE ISSUES

Village Centers as Our Opportunity - From Michael Cornell

“Urban growth is our opportunity, not our enemy. It invites us to correct the past, to build places that are productive for business and for the people who live there, places that are infused with nature and stimulating to man’s creative sense of beauty ...” JAMES ROUSE

At a meeting of the CA Planning and Strategy Meeting last week a resident offered an idea to Kimco about redevelopment of the Wilde Lake Village Center – make it Green.

Columbia is a crossroads; presented with a unique opportunity. Residents, CA, the County and We can transform the Village Centers into a destination – a place people want to go to because they offer something unique.

Wilde Lake could be a green village. David’s, arguably the greenest business in any Village, is already anchored and seeking to expand there. Add in specialty stores that trade in organic, homeopathic, alternate energy savings devices, green home living, clothing from recyclable and sustainable materials, herbalist apothecaries, holistic wellness centers and you have a great start.

New housing units? A reasonable number might be a welcome addition ... especially if they were green! There are a variety of new green building materials becoming available almost daily, including environmentally friendly drywall called EcoRock. Drywall, the material used in building interior walls, might look innocuous, but one of its main ingredients -- gypsum -- is a significant producer of planet-warming carbon dioxide. Serious Materials’ scientists were able to concoct a gypsum-free version of drywall. There is also a recyclable version of concrete. It’s a concrete world and the production of cement, a key component of concrete, is a huge source of greenhouse gas emissions. And because concrete is often sealed with a waterproof chemical membrane, it is difficult to recycle. Carlstadt, N.J.-based Hycrete replaces that membrane with a waterproof solution that is mixed into the concrete itself. That allows concrete to be recycled, thus cutting down on cement production.

Mix in passive solar heating systems, light tubes, energy efficient windows, and other home components made from recyclable or recycled materials including carpets, counter tops and carpeting and you have a Village Center with homes many people would want to live in. Creating an open green gathering place amidst housing and shopping with stores shoppers will come to and Wilde Lake evolves into something new and visionary rather than fading into the background of condos and store front retail shops that litter the country.

This is far from a conventional model of the strip mall that promotes the homogenization of America, but something unique and different.

Moreover, that is just a start. The challenge for Kimco, and the County, is to create other unique environments in our Villages to make them places of destination. Perhaps one Village would be an arts center with a community stage, avant-garde Movie Theater, artists’ studios and storefronts for local artists and crafts persons, and a village square populated at rime by performance artists, jugglers, musicians, magicians and storytellers. Heaven forbid there should be a Jazz club or an entertainment club that would attract local youth making Columbia a bit more teen friendly, and a gathering place for 20-somethings.

What I fear is that our villages are in danger of becoming obsolete. They now exist in a different world than the one Jim Rouse planned. Our Village Centers may be swallowed into the suburban sprawl that Howard County is fast becoming, unless we seize the opportunity before us – one, I believe, Jim Rouse would recognize as something new and bold.

Voice to be Heard

I attended the county council meeting on the 19th and am opposed to CB39-2008. I also have some questions I would like to ask.

APFO states:

How Is The Test Applied?

If a project is in an area designated on the chart as a closed elementary school district, elementary school region or middle school district, the project is temporarily delayed in the subdivision or site development plan process until all three become open. This means that a project could not be approved unless the Howard County Public School System builds a new school, adds on to an existing school or, through redistricting, reassigns students so that the children generated by the new development can be accommodated. A project can be delayed up to four years at the initial plan submission stage for reason of inadequate schools. If the Department of Education has not resolved the adequacy problem within four years, the project may proceed forward in the subdivision or site development plan process.

The above highlighted area concerns me - Why should this be allowed to occur. Why is it more important to let developments proceed when the schools are overcrowded. It seems to me there is never enough money or NO MONEY in the budget for school additions, there is hardly any money or NO MONEY to purchase land for schools but yet APFO allows this loophole to occur!!!! It doesn’t seem like Howard County Schools can ever totally correct the adequacy problems if there isn’t enough money to fix the problems. Why is it more important to let developers build houses in an already overcrowded area. Thus overcrowding our schools and overburdening our teachers. Please explain why this can occur!!!

Another concern that I have is Marsha McLaughlin stated that the projects along Furnace Avenue were being considered for CB39-2008. Why should they be included, they are not directly on the Route 1 corridor!

Finally, can someone please tell me why the school capacity figures are always WRONG, the system is broken and needs to be fixed! For example the HCPSS Fiscal 2008 budget projected 626 students for 07-08 in grades K-5, as of now we have 701. (This figure may be even higher as of today.)

I am still trying to learn all of the howard county zoning regulations etc, so forgive me if I sound stupid but would like my voice to be heard.

Thank you,
Laura Bauman
Elkridge

...and Still More on Land Use

DEVASTATED SENIORS Continued from page 3

that an escrow fund be executed between the owner of the proposed sewage system and the Maryland Department of the Environment to ensure completion and provide that the deposited funds will cover the repair or replacement of the treatment plant. This requirement has not been enforced. In addition, Howard County did not follow its own commercial zoning requirements (a public hearing must be held for all affected residents) for the construction of a multi-use sewage plant on a "Bulk Parcel" in a residential development. There has been no public hearing for the proposed new construction either.

Howard County does require a bond for trees and roads, etc., but no requirement for something as vital as a sewage plant. Problems arising from a faulty septic system are far more devastating to the environment than planting a tree in the wrong location.

EFFORTS BY LOCAL OFFICIALS

Thanks to recent efforts by local officials, State Representative Warren Miller and Councilman Greg Fox, supported by the current Howard County Delegation, laws are being written that will allow the "Howard County Council to enact local laws governing the installation and use of multi-use septic systems that are not inconsistent with State law". We hope the new laws will require rather than "allow" the recipient of a permit to install a multi-use septic system to post a performance bond. It is very sad to see that separate legislation must be authorized to require government officials to follow State law as set forth in the Code of Maryland Regulations.

TAXPAYER IMPACT

Residents of VCC want government officials to enforce existing regulations and procedures that are in place and hold the builders/developers accountable; not only for future developments, but also to provide us with the fully functional septic system that was warranted by the builder.

The new laws enacted this year should protect other Howard County citizens in the future from finding themselves in the same circumstances as the homeowners in this community. Unfortunately, the residents of VCC have had to expend considerable funds in attempting to seek resolution of the various issues that have been brought to light in the development of this community. It has been and continues to be a very stressful time for those residents and they do not want to see other citizens having to endure similar bitter experiences.

Independent Presidential Candidate Ralph Nader kicked off a signature drive to get on the ballot in Maryland. Volunteers are organizing and have begun to circulate petition sheets throughout the state with the goal of gaining the 10,000 signatures required by Maryland Election Law.

To find out more about the Nader campaign and policy statements you can go to www.votenader.org A registration form is available as a volunteer or to donate.

Tom
(734) 718-5356

HOWARD COUNTY TAXPAYERS Continued from page 3

were also criticized for wanting standing in land use appeals and were vehemently accused of working personal agendas. It is obvious the PELU Task Force feels elitist and all-knowing in their role and most observing taxpayers walked away from the meeting with feelings of anger and bewilderment. This was due in large part to the fact that of the 18 PELU members present, 10 of them voted against citizen standing or involvement in land use decisions.

I appeal to the County Executive to exercise better judgement when creating and controlling the PELU. The citizens of Howard County have elected you to represent them and to support their interests. The membership of the PELU has been chosen in large part by the business and development communities and there is the appearance that certain council members wish to foster the agendas of the real estate, business and development communities primarily ... not the common citizen. This is why I and many others feel the taxpayers of Howard County are being ignored by our elected officials.

Froydis H. Beckerman
410-730-8462
Thunder Hill
Columbia

HOSPITAL NOT PART OF ADEQUATE FACILITIES?

I have a startling and alarming statistic that every Howard County citizen should know – just go to the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Systems website. There you will discover our hospital is ranked 23 out of 24 Hospitals in Region 3 issuing the number of Code Yellows in the Emergency Room. This means that the emergency room does not accept any patients during a specified time. In 2007, these occurred 192 times for an average of over 11 hours each time, which equates to 90 days. Yes – we have a major problem that requires a remedy before we start thinking of increasing growth. This statistic is so alarming that it can't be ignored especially if you're a representative of the people.

-From Stuart Kohn

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.

LAND USE AND CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Campaign contribs from PELU members Sang Oh, Richard Schimel, Paul Skalny
The "TO" View

At least one Council member received 200 email messages opposing escalated development in the already strapped Elkridge area, presumably those same email messages and volume were seen by the County Executive. Here is Executive Ulman's response:

Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for taking the time to contact me regarding Council Bill 39-2008. I have heard from a number of Elkridge residents and want to thank you for your input. I also want to thank Councilmember Courtney Watson for her advocacy on behalf of the Elkridge community and for working with me collaboratively to address the community's concerns. After working with Councilmember Watson, I am pleased to support amending this bill to respond to the concerns raised about the amount of new development in Elkridge and the need for community facilities such as schools, a community center, library, and fire station.

I understand and appreciate your concerns about the amount of new development which Elkridge has absorbed in recent years. In response to these concerns, I support the amendment to prohibit advancing allocations north of Troy Hill. I also understand and appreciate the need for community facilities. Therefore, I also support amending the bill to require that developers who wish to advance allocations (at locations further south on Route 1) must either pay an additional charge that will help fund new public facilities to serve the existing communities in the Route 1 corridor or donate land on which such a public facility can be constructed.

The purpose of CB-39-2008 is to promote revitalization of the Route 1 corridor. This revitalization effort is one of my top priorities, and community facilities are a critical component of revitalizing Route 1. I believe that advancing allocations will help facilitate the investment needed to strengthen the corridor. This legislation does not create any additional density nor does it waive any Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO) requirements. All residential development, whether or not allocations are advanced, must meet the APFO tests for roads and schools.

With the amendments to exempt Elkridge from advanced allocations and to require additional funding and/or land for community facilities whenever allocations are advanced, I believe we have found a solution which allows for the original intent of the legislation and provides additional safeguards to address the concerns raised by citizens.

Thank you again for contacting me to share your opinions on this issue. I look forward to working with you to continue to strengthen the Elkridge community and the entire Route 1 corridor.

Sincerely,

Ken Ulman
County Executive

Candidates Account	Last Name	Address	City	Date Received
Hodge, (Robert) For Cecil County	SCHIMEL	10361 BLUEARROW CT	COLUMBIA	11/13/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Schimel	10361 Blue Arrow Ct	Columbia	4/10/2007
Mitchell, Keiffer Jackson Jr. Friends Of	Schimel	10361 Blue Arrow Ct	Columbia	2/26/2007
Judge Becker And Judge Bernhardt Slate, Comm	Schimel	10361 Bluearrow Court	Columbia	11/1/2006
Merdon, Chris Committee To Elect	Schimel	10361 Blue Arrow Court	Columbia	10/26/2006
Robey, James The Team to Elect	Schimel	10361 Blue Arrow Court	Columbia	10/24/2006
Sigaty, Mary Kay Friends Of	Schimel	10361 Bluearrow court	Columbia	10/16/2006
Terrasa, Jennifer Friends Of	Schimel	10361 Bluearrow Court	Columbia	9/25/2006
Quinter, Neil Friends Of	Schimel	10361 Bluearrow Court	Columbia	7/26/2006
Guzzone, Guy Friends Of	Schimel	10361 Bluearrow Court	Columbia	4/5/2006
Robey, James The Team to Elect	Schimel	10361 Blue Arrow Court	Columbia	3/28/2006
Feldmark, Joshua Friends Of	Schimel	10361 Bluearrow Ct.	Columbia	1/30/2006
Judge Becker And Judge Bernhardt Slate, Comm	Schimel	10361 Bluearrow Court	Columbia	1/30/2006
Merdon, Chris Committee To Elect	Schimel	10361 Blue Arrow Court	Columbia	6/8/2004
Guzzone, Guy Friends Of	Schimel	10361 Blue Arrow Court	Columbia	4/12/2004
Gray, C. Vernon Citizens For	Schimel	10361 Blue Arrow Ct.	Columbia	10/30/2002
Lancos, Joan Friends Of	Schimel	10361 Blue Arrow Court	Columbia	5/14/2002
Robey, James The Team to Elect	Schimel	10361 Blue Arrow Court	Columbia	3/23/2002
Robey, James The Team to Elect	Oh	10315 Owen Brown Road	Columbia	11/25/2007
Siddiqui, Janet Friends Of	Oh	10315 Owen Brown Road	Columbia	10/24/2007
Robey, James The Team to Elect	Oh	10315 Owen Brown Road	Columbia	10/16/2006
Giles, Ellen Flynn Friends Of	Oh	10315 Owen Brown Rd	Columbia	6/23/2006
Livesay, Wayne Friends Of	Oh	10315 Owen Brown Road	Columbia	5/22/2006
Weathersbee, Frank For States Attorne	Oh	10315 Owen Brown Road	Columbia	5/3/2006
Judge Becker And Judge Bernhardt Slate, Comm	Oh	10315 Owen Brown Road	Columbia	3/23/2006
Judge Becker And Judge Bernhardt Slate, Comm	Oh	10315 Owen Brown Road	Columbia	3/23/2006
Robey, James The Team to Elect	Oh	10315 Owen Brown Road	Columbia	3/21/2006
Watson, Courtney Friends Of	Oh	10315 Owen Brown Road	Columbia	3/6/2006
Ball, Calvin Team, The	Oh	10315 Owen Brown Road	Columbia	2/22/2006
Feldmark, Joshua Friends Of	Oh	10315 Owen Brown Rd.	Columbia	1/30/2006
Turner, Frank S. Committee To Elect To The House of	Oh	10315 Owen Brown Road	Columbia	1/9/2006
Terrasa, Jennifer Friends Of	Oh	10788 Folkestone Way	Woodstock	11/29/2005
O'Malley, Martin Friends Of	Oh	10315 Owen Brown Rd.	Columbia	11/3/2005
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Oh	10788 Folkestone Way	Woodstock	10/1/2005
Guzzone, Guy Friends Of	Oh	10788 Folkestone Way	Woodstock	9/19/2005
Kittleman, Allan Committee To Elect	Oh	10788 Folkestone Way	Woodstock	9/13/2005
Watson, Courtney Friends Of	Oh	10788 Folkestone Way	Woodstock	4/6/2005
Pendergrass, Shane E. R. People For	Oh	10315 Owen Brown Road	Columbia	1/11/2005
Quinter, Neil Friends Of	Oh	10315 Owen Brown Road	Columbia	1/10/2005
*Various addresses could be more than one Sang Oh				
Bates, Gail Friends Of	*Skalny's Law Fi	10211 Wincopin Circle, Su	Columbia	12/10/2007
Fox, Greg Friends Of	*Skalny's Law Fi	10211 Wincopin Circle Su	Columbia	12/3/2007
Chamber PAC, The Maryland	*Skalny's Law Fi	10211 Wincopin Circle, Su	Columbia	11/14/2007
Kittleman, Allan Committee To Elect	*Skalny's Law Fi	10211 Wincopin Circle	Columbia	10/24/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Paul G. Skalny	10211 Wincopin Cir	Columbia	4/4/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	*Skalny's Law Fi	10211 Wincopin Cir	Columbia	3/30/2007
Kittleman, Allan Committee To Elect	*Skalny's Law Fi	10211 Wincopin Circle	Columbia	11/15/2006
Ellrich, Gina Citizens For	*Skalny's Law Fi	10211 Wincopin Circle, Su	Columbia	10/11/2006
Watson, Courtney Friends Of	*Skalny's Law Fi	10211 Wincopin Circle	Columbia	9/25/2006
Merdon, Chris Committee To Elect	*Skalny's Law Fi	10211 Wincopin Circle	Columbia	9/18/2006
Ellrich, Gina Citizens For	*Skalny's Law Fi	10211 Wincopin Circle, Su	Columbia	9/12/2006
Judge Becker And Judge Bernhardt Slate, Committee T	*Skalny's Law Fi	10211 Wincopin Circle, Su	Columbia	9/7/2006
Salazar, Tony Committee To Elect	*Skalny's Law Fi	10211 Wincopin Circle	Columbia	9/6/2006
Fox, Greg Friends Of	*Skalny's Law Fi	10211 Wincopin Circle Su	Columbia	9/1/2006
Bates Miller Victory Fund Slate	*Skalny's Law Fi	10211 Wincopin Circle Su	Columbia	8/31/2006
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	*Skalny's Law Fi	10211 Wincopin Cir	Columbia	8/31/2006
Judge Becker And Judge Bernhardt Slate, Committee T	*Skalny's Law Fi	10211 Wincopin Circle, Su	Columbia	3/20/2006
Chamber PAC, The Maryland	*Skalny's Law Fi	10211 Wincopin Circle, S	Columbia	3/6/2006
Kittleman, Allan Committee To Elect	*Skalny's Law Fi	6345 Woodside Court	Columbia	1/2/2006
Kittleman, Allan Committee To Elect	*Skalny's Law Fi	6345 Woodside Court	Columbia	1/2/2006
Kittleman, Allan Committee To Elect	*Skalny's Law Fi	6345 Woodside Court	Columbia	1/2/2006
Merdon, Chris Committee To Elect	*Skalny's Law Fi	10211 Wincopin Circle	Columbia	11/28/2005
Firm title: Davis, Agnor, Rappaport & Skalny,				

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

Amounts were excluded here due to the ability for individuals to use LLCs to mask true contribution amounts.

LAND USE AND CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

****NO NEED FOR CAPITALISM WHEN EASIER TO UNDERMINE DEMOCRACY ****

Campaign money totals are a good indicator of who will win because special interests buy elections - not because lots of voters contribute. The money is used by the candidate to hook voters by disseminating empty rhetoric about the future while obfuscating the horrid voting record of the past which, if known, would be a certain indicator of how the candidate will *not* work for citizens. This method of winning elections has been quite successful until now.

Voters need information if local government is to represent interests of residents,. We need succinct, clear data and we need it just prior to election night. Howard County Issues will provide information throughout the year as well as the month prior to voting – each year in the Howard County Issues Fall publication we will summarize items like voting records and campaign contribution sources so that people know who they are voting for.

...aggressive
anti-citizen email
campaign from
the Howard
County Chamber
of Commerce

Amounts and the timing of the contribution are critical. A situation where a contributor supplies the County Executive \$7,500 in the 4 months *after* the election begs for more research. One well known Columbia group headed by an individual with a suspect corporate past sets up many (many) organizations who collect and disseminate money to campaigns allowing a single individual to far exceed the \$4000 annual limit, but voters wouldn't know this unless the campaign contributions database was cross-checked against the MD SDAT site where sometimes company officer information is available, except in the case of LLCs which contribute covertly. These LLCs contribute en masse and we can never know who is behind the "partnership", so \$7500 may represent a fraction of what was paid.

Legitimate companies who contribute to campaigns can also use these empty-shell organizations to disseminate additional funds to candidates without detection.

And finally, this past General Assembly session included a shockingly aggressive anti-citizen email campaign from the Howard County Chamber of Commerce to our representatives – even a casual observer would question the basis for the Chamber's aggression. Maybe our Chamber doesn't see the need for capitalism when undermining Democracy has worked so well.

Another suggestion: Just vote against the moneyed candidates – this will also work.

From Mona Eurice-Brinegar

EXCERPT FROM MD VOTER SURVEY ON GROWTH:

FROM: Dave Metz
Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates
RE: Results of Recent Maryland Voter Survey on Growth Issues
DATE: October 10, 2007

Voters see traffic, housing costs, loss of farmland and poorly-planned growth as some of the most serious problems facing Maryland. The survey offered voters a list of issues and asked them whether they consider each one an "extremely," "very," "somewhat" or "not too serious" problem for Maryland. Traffic ranked near the top of voters' concerns, with two in three voters (66%) calling it an "extremely" or "very serious" problem. More voters rated traffic as a very serious problem than said the same for public education, the cost of health insurance, or taxes. Majorities of voters also rated loss of farmland (56%) and poorly-planned growth and development (56%) as "extremely" or "very serious" problems.

COUNTY CONTACTS:

Contact the County Council and County Executive to support campaign finance reform as other counties have already enacted. Ask your representative to be a leader on this critical citizen issue:

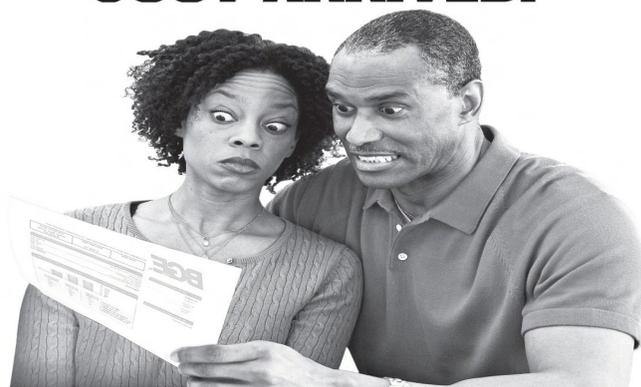
Phone 410 313-2001

The County Government website is extremely easy to use and informative:

Find your County Rep:

http://www.co.ho.md.us/countycouncil/cc_mapbio.htm

THE BILL FOR IGNORING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM JUST ARRIVED.



IT'S FROM BG&E.

NOW IT APPEARS WE'RE ALL PAYING A BILLION-DOLLAR SURCHARGE FOR LETTING POWER COMPANY CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS INFLUENCE OUR LAWMAKERS!

We don't have to tell you what a shocker your next electric bill will be. Rates across Maryland are running 72% higher than last year—and they're about to go up again.

Consumer advocates warned this would happen if Maryland deregulated electricity. But it seems all Annapolis could hear was the jingle-jangle of power company money. Utilities doled out more than \$1 million in campaign contributions since 1999. Now they're getting it back—big time.

The time for change is now.

Can we break the grip of big money on Annapolis? You bet we can—with publicly financed elections. But we need your help.

Call your State Senator today, at 1-800-492-7122. Demand a floor vote on The Public Campaign Financing Act, SB 593. It provides public financing for candidates who agree to observe spending limits and stop taking special interest money.

Tell them Maryland can't afford pay-to-play politics any more.

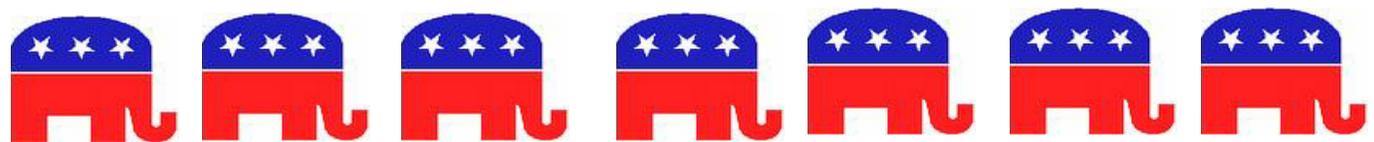
www.CommonCause.org/BreakTheGrip

CONTACT YOUR STATE REP: <http://mlis.state.md.us/mgaweb/mail32.aspx>

HOWARD COUNTY GOP SUPPORTS RELAY FOR LIFE



By John W. Bailey IV,
Howard County Republican Party
Thursday, June 19, 2008



The Howard County Republican Party on the night of June 6th into the morning of June 7th participated once again in the Howard County Relay for Life. The Relay for Life celebrates the lives of over 220 cancer survivors and honored over 2,000 people from our community who have battled cancer. This year the Relay for Life was able to raise \$230,000 to continue the fight against cancer. The Howard County Republican Party had a team that comprised of 14 members who walked around the track in two hours shifts for the entire 13 hours that the Relay for Life was taking place. On top of the team members that walked, there were 26 donors that gave money on behalf of the Howard County Republican Party to sponsor the walkers and help support the American Cancer Society.

To be a part of this event once again is truly awe inspiring. The Relay for Life each year begins with a tribute lap, celebrating the members of our community that have battled and are winning the fight against cancer. The strength and resolve of these individuals are a continual inspiration for all those that were in attendance and witnessed the pride exhibited by these individuals who are survivors. Everyone knows someone that has been impacted by cancer, whether it's a family member, friend, or co-worker. Cancer is the number one cause of death in America and more research needs to be conducted in order to find a cure for this deadly disease. The Relay for Life is just one important way that we can be involved in helping to find a cure.

The Howard County Republican Party is proud of its continued involvement in this worthy cause. Next year we plan on having even more walkers and raising even more money. Nothing is more important than the health and welfare of our community. Raising money to find a cure for cancer by participating in the Relay for Life is something that everyone should participate in and become involved with. We are glad that we have had the opportunity to help and we look forward to continuing our efforts for years to come. Until there is a cure, the Howard County Republican Party will continue to walk to save lives.

For more information about the events and activities of the Howard County Republican Party, please visit our website at www.hocogop.org.

COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS WITH MONIQUE DeBERRY



Java Grande Coffee Café opened its doors in December with the optimistic perspective of 1,000 people walking through the doors and welcoming its presence to the community.

Well it has not seen 1,000 people in a day but people are finding it and enjoying the spacious, colorful, welcoming atmosphere. The Owner, Monique DeBerry designed Java Grande along with Denie McLaren of Denie Design Studios with networking groups, business people, and live entertainment in mind. The spacious coffee café seats about 50 people and has outlets everywhere to accommodate those with lap tops or cell phones that need recharging and yes there is free wireless access. Monique has tons of ideas to continue to increase the patronage at Java Grande like a series that began in May called “Coffee Conversations”.

On the 2nd & 4th Monday evening of the month, Java Grande invites the community to “join the conversation” about different topics of interest. The conversations are informal discussions that include local people who are experts on the specific topic. The conversation begins at 6pm and is discussed until 7pm after which people are welcome and encouraged to continue mingling and to gather resource material or to network with the participants in the group. The conversations are on various topics that the Howard County community will find interesting, useful and enjoyable. We have discussed “Mothers’ Day - gift ideas that MEAN A LOT but don’t cost a lot”; “Aging Parents - Preparation & Options for Their Best Care”; “Making a Healthier You” and other interesting topics. Some topics that are coming up this summer include political discussions about local and national government and how it affects Howard County Residents; and how Howard county residents can get involved in and learn more about the issues in Howard County that affect our lives. We will also touch on Finances and how we can prepare our kids for the global economy; and the things that we could do to relieve some financial strains in a weakening economy along with how we might reinvent ourselves in order to prepare for change in an economy that is shrinking.

The idea of Java Grande Coffee Café is to offer more than great coffee and food to the community but a place where the community can gain knowledge, meet other people; get exposed to the arts and relax and unwind. Call, visit www.javagrand-md.com <<http://www.javagrand-md.com/>> or go by today to learn more.

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HOWARD COUNTY ISSUES

IS COMING TO THE 2008

**HOWARD COUNTY FAIR**

**HOWARD
COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS**

2210 Fairground Road
West Friendship, MD 21794

August 2-9, 2008

OUR LOCATION: MAIN EXHIBITION HALL

INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT
** **RALPH NADER** **

*Doesn't see you as red or blue,
he'll campaign in all the states, maybe meet you.
So don't be blue and stop seeing red,
get Ralph on the Maryland Ballot instead!*

“Declare your independence.”

Volunteers working to gain Ballot Access for Ralph Nader in Maryland,
To join please contact: toms@votenader.org or call (734) 718-5356

Paid for by Nader for President, www.votenader.org

COMMENTARY

Maryland State Senate Votes to continue to give Driver's Licenses to Illegal Immigrants

Senator Allan Kittleman

While there were many controversial issues addressed in the 2008 General Assembly Session, there was one very important vote in the State Senate that has not received much notice from the media.

As you may know, there are only four states that do not require proof of legal presence before issuing driver's licenses. Those states are Maryland, New Mexico, Washington and Hawaii. That's right; the only state east of New Mexico to allow illegal immigrants to obtain driver's licenses is Maryland!

Illegal immigration is a serious problem in Maryland and throughout the United States. It threatens homeland security and is a drain on government resources. Currently, if you are an illegal immigrant who lives east of the Mississippi River and you want a driver's license, Maryland is the closest place for you to travel to get one. Consequently, it should come as no surprise that every year Maryland has over 100,000 new applications for driver's licenses from people who cannot prove legal presence. Unfortunately, under the leadership of Governor O'Malley and the Democrats in the General Assembly, Maryland has truly become a "sanctuary" state.

In an effort to deal with this problem, I co-sponsored Senate Bill 621 with Senate Minority Leader David Brinkley and 13 other senators. SB 621 would have required individuals

to prove that they were in the United States legally before they could obtain a driver's license. Unfortunately, SB 621 never received a vote in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. The Senate Democrat leadership sought to protect their members from having to vote on this controversial issue.

Near the end of the Session, Senator Brinkley learned that House Bill 478, a motor vehicle commercial licensing bill, had passed out of the House. Before HB 478 came to the Senate floor, Senator Brinkley requested an amendment to HB 478 that would add the language from SB 621. Through clever procedural maneuvers, Senator Brinkley was able to force a Senate vote on his amendment that would require the Motor Vehicle Administration to obtain proof of legal presence before issuing a driver's license to anyone in Maryland.

Much to the chagrin of Senate President Miller, all 47 senators were forced to take a public stand on whether to deny driver's licenses to illegal immigrants. After some debate, the vote on the amendment was 23 in favor and 24 opposed. The amendment failed by one vote!

Each of the 24 Democrat senators who voted against the Brinkley amendment cast the deciding vote to continue to provide driver's licenses to illegal immigrants. If you go to the Maryland General Assembly web site, you can see how each senator voted on the Brinkley amendment. The web site is www.mlis.state.md.us. You can get the vote totals by looking up HB 478 and scrolling down to the vote summary.

There is no question that the majority of Marylanders oppose giving driver's licenses to illegal immigrants. Unfortunately, the majority of Democrat senators sided with illegal immigrants over law abiding citizens. This is one vote that all Marylanders should remember when it comes time for the next state elections in 2010.

Feedback on HC Issues

Congratulations on the 4th issue. It is great and provides a valuable service to our citizens.
LK

Great publication and thanks for bringing the issues to our attention.
FT

The issue looks great -- so informative about so many issues -- I will pass it along to my Howard County contacts. Thanks for including campaign finance reform and for giving it such a high profile!

Thanks,
Matthew

PERMANENT SOLUTIONS: Be Independent

If we're to control our own future we could be individually independent of energy price increases or supply constraints by using resources that are infinite:

"Carroll County has become the first jurisdiction in Maryland to allow wind turbines in private yards."

(Source: http://www.examiner.com/a-1379006~Carroll_County_to_allow_wind_turbines_in_yards.html?cid=rss-Maryland_Headlines)

Going one step further, instead of toxic lawns we could each be producing vegetables in our own gardens in place of lawns which are comparatively unproductive. And we could be buying local produce for several good reasons.

-Editors



Maryland is one of four states that allows illegal immigrants to obtain driver's licenses

ORGANIZING => INFLUENCE => REPRESENTATION => DEMOCRACY

Citizens organize for many reasons, including working for fundamental protections like the economic eminent domain item - astonishingly occurring with some frequency in our midst. But there are also reasons why citizens don't want to organize.

LONG TERM VIEW OBSTRUCTED

If life is clicking along without much interruption, people see no need to stir things up. Many issues just seem to work themselves out. Activists might argue that a few energetic people are ensuring the 'working out' part, and support the fundamental rights for all - including the application of law and rules evenly applied across populations. But powerful forces burn through activists who are a finite resource. Putting your name on a list is reasonable and results in a Democratic influence.

POWER DETERRENT

To a degree, default support for the powerful is probably human nature. We all want to be on the winning side, and there's a feeling of safety when you've been loyal to people with power. It's just easier to side with the powerful and aggressive.

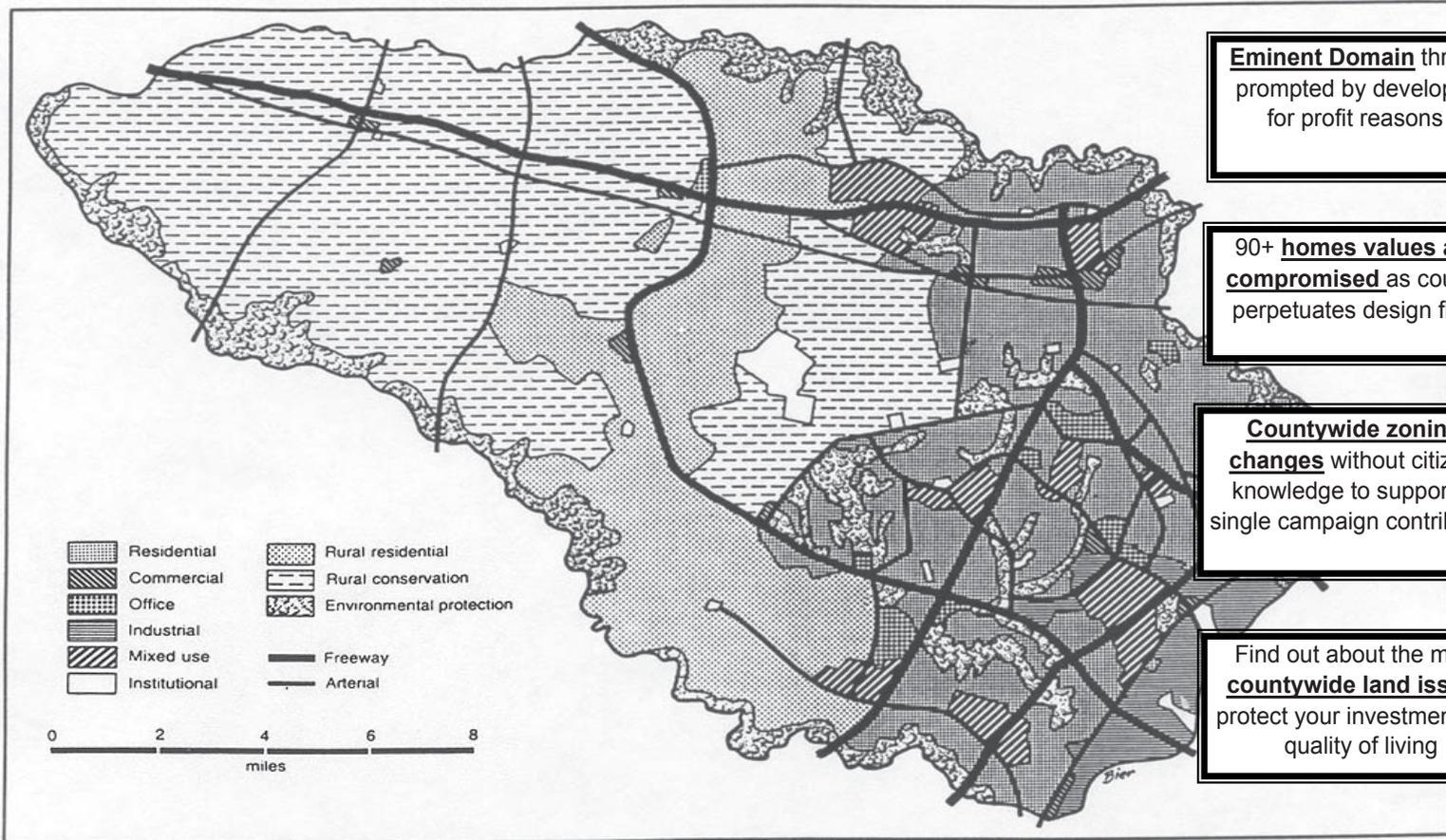
EQUALIZE POWER

While it may be true that power attracts, organizing results in leveling power on all sides of an issue and allows citizens to be heard as a force to be recognized. Each voter is more powerful when part of a group. Howard Land Use Coalition brings citizens together so that elected reps hear more than just the ching of campaign money dropping into their bank accounts.

HOWARD * LAND USE * COALITION

Become part of a growing group of residents from across the county who are gaining citizen influence with elected representatives

Register to receive notices on land use issues at :
<http://groups.google.com/group/hclanduse?lnk=sq>



Eminent Domain threat prompted by developer for profit reasons

90+ **homes values are compromised** as county perpetuates design flaw

Countywide zoning changes without citizen knowledge to support a single campaign contributor

Find out about the many **countywide land issues**, protect your investment and quality of living

FIGURE 4. Howard County, Maryland, General Plan, Land Use 2010
Source: Adapted from Howard County 1990

More information: Visit HOWARDCOUNTYISSUES.ORG and click "Land Development"
or
eMail: EDITOR@HOWARDCOUNTYISSUES.ORG
or
Phone 443 889-9070

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN LAND USE

County representatives initiated a task force to “study the land use process and recommend ways to involve the public more broadly.” Several citizens took issue with the manner in which the task force was populated after the final meeting in which the public was excluded from participation and non-land-use-professional participants were accused of working a personal agenda among other things. Keeping in mind the purpose of the task force, below is the breakdown regarding how task force participants were selected:

PELU TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Last Name	First Name	Nominator
Oh	Sang	Bar Association
Taylor	Katherine	Bar Association
Howard, II, Co Chair	James	Calvin Ball
Lewis	William	Calvin Ball
Vacant		Calvin Ball
Erskine, Esq., Co Chair	William	Chamber of Commerce
Hudson	Cathy	Courtney Watson
Mattis	Julia	Courtney Watson
Crowe	Patrick	Courtney Watson
Schimmel	Ronald	EDA
Skalny	Paul	Greg Fox
Scheidt	Susan	Greg Fox
Mirabile	Frank	Greg Fox
Mugane	Bridget	HCCA, Inc.
Poquette	Deb	HoCo Realtors
Ballentine	Tom	Home Builders
Stack	Andrew	Jennifer Terrasa
Fisher-George	Judy	Jennifer Terrasa
Zaret	Shari	Jennifer Terrasa
Bohorfoush, Esq.	Ada Louise	League of Women’s Voters
England	Brian	Mary Kay Sigaty
Nix	Debbie	Mary Kay Sigaty
Sosinski	Tim	Mary Kay Sigaty
Ward	Cathy	National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP)

The first Bar Assn. representative is a developer’s attorney, the second could not attend meetings. James Howard simply supported land developer votes. William Erskine was at the time working for a developer’s law firm. Julia Mattis is a real estate professional. Ronald Schimmel, attorney and associated with Econ Dev Authority and has strong ties to the County Chamber of Commerce. Paul Skalny - Developer’s attorney. Some on this list did not attend, others substituted.

Appointing these people might have been productive had the atmosphere not been starkly adversarial while citizen displays of civility were exploited and citizen suggestions were dismissed by the overrepresented and vociferous developer community.

Council members are both directly and ultimately responsible for the Public Engagement participant selection.

Letter to the Editor: Land Use, Zoning and the Disenfranchised
Last Thursday evening was an exercise in futility. Residents from all over Howard County sat quietly in the Banneker Room awaiting their turn to testify before the Public Engagement in Land Use (PELU) Task Force. Rather than comment on the Task Force’s proposals to alter, enhance or modify the County’s zoning process, many of the residents proceeded to share personal stories and offer their own proposals to both policy and process. Among the more startling - requirements for zoning board members to recuse themselves from voting on zoning decisions if they accepted campaign contributions from developers involved with that zoning change or development project. I say “startling” because that requirement is NOT already in place. The stories shared that evening left me - and others - shaking their heads in stunned disbelief. The next day, I spoke to one county official who was somewhat mystified as to why residents felt so “disenfranchised” with the zoning process.

Here’s my take on the disenfranchised:
When residents feel they have no advocate, when they have perhaps only one or two Council members sincerely acting on behalf of the interests of the residents in land use and zoning matters, when it seems developers have the upper hand in every decision made (whether by the zoning and planning bodies or in the courts), when the co-chair of the Task Force is a developers attorney, when existing regulations appear to have back doors or loop holes in them the size of a semi tractor trailer, when county officials (appointed or elected) appear to fail in looking out for residents, does one really have to wonder why residents feel disenfranchised?

Here is another prime example: County leaders, including Executive Ken Ulman, had an opportunity in the recent legislative session in Annapolis to endorse and actively support HB246 in its initial form. The bill, sponsored by Howard Delegate Liz Bobo, would have granted residents in Howard, and six other counties in Maryland, legal standing in the courts to challenge some land use decisions. Meanwhile, residents of the other 17 Maryland Counties and all municipalities already have this right under state law. Instead of advocating, our elected leaders remained silent. Even after a compromise was reached on a measure that would have simply enabled the local governing body of the remaining seven counties – including Howard - to adopt legislation providing for some form of legal standing for their residents, they remained silent. Coincidentally - or perhaps not - the PELU Co-Chair, Bill Erskine, testified against HB246 on behalf of the Howard County Chamber of Commerce. (Interesting combination of roles for Mr. Erskine!)

Continued on page 13

- Visit howardcountyissues.org for links to county citizen groups:
- Nocondos.org – videos of county meetings
- Howard Land Use Google Group – Coalition of citizen groups
- Coalition for Columbia’s Downtown – Building citizen influence
- Alliance for a Better Columbia – Reform Columbia’s governance



Fox Continued from pg 1

duced will solve this problem for projects currently in the pipeline. We're working on having the solution apply to Cattail, but it's uncertain. Actually, I'd like to see all multi-use banned – it's not a good idea.

-On limiting campaign contributions from land developers:

People should use their own judgment. I don't consider campaign money from developers a big deal either way, but I'm open to viewing the options. I'd encourage you to view my contributions, particularly after I was elected. I'm neutral on this issue and realize that some people limit contributions in practice, and everyone now has the option to limit and monitor on their own.

-On increasing citizen standing on land use matters

I might consider some forms of standing but this issue needs research. I would like to see what counties in surrounding areas do for citizen standing. When this issue comes back up next year we'll have had chance to look at best practices, what works and what does not work well.

-On countywide rezoning to accommodate a single property:

There are legitimate circumstances in which ZRAs are sensible. In situations where a single property brought a problem to light and the change would benefit all similar properties across the county, and the citizens were aware of the change, then a countywide zoning change is warranted.

Watson Continued from page 1

tance of money from anyone expecting special treatment is appropriate. That includes developers and anyone else who is eager to impact the legislative process for their own gain.

On increasing citizen standing on land use matters:

I have not fully explored the options for standing on land use matters, so I am not informed enough on this issue to present a solid opinion at this time.

On countywide rezoning to accommodate a single property:

I believe that the use of Zoning Regulation Amendments to effectively rezone a property is not appropriate because of the unintended consequences that may affect many properties across the county.

Please describe circumstances in which economic eminent domain is and is not warranted.

I do not support the use of eminent domain when government intervenes to takes property from one landowner for the gain of another land owner. I recently opposed an eminent domain budget item against the Spring Ridge Homeowner's Association. Fortunately, the County Executive agreed to remove that item from the budget and the threat of eminent domain no longer exists against that HOA by Howard County government. Thorough due diligence is necessary to ensure that eminent domain is used only in the most rare instances and only when the public benefit is abundantly clear, and only when there is no other option. I do not believe that eminent domain for economic development is appropriate in Howard County.

In reference to the PELU document items that were not approved by the group – do you see any items that you can support?

The PELU group voted 9 to 9 on item #2 on the list of items receiving less than a majority vote. Had I been on the Committee I would have been the swing vote to support the measure. It reads "discourage rezoning via ZRAs for individual parcels (Zoning text amendments); rezoning should be in the comprehensive rezoning process whenever possible."

I recently introduced a bill to 'batch' ZRA's two times within the year. While batching ZRAs in this way doesn't totally discourage rezoning via ZRAs as written in the PELU recommendation, it does bring a focus to the ZRAs so they can be reviewed and discussed in concert with one another at two times during the year. This makes for a more streamlined and efficient approach and more user-friendly for citizens and citizen groups.

Terrasa Continued from page 1

want to use a text amendment (ZRA). An example of this was the ZRA filed in the tower case. However, notification, access to information, and citizen input are definitely important concerns when using ZRAs and we are working toward improving all of these. However, I do believe ZRAs should be used sparingly.

-Please describe circumstances in which economic eminent domain is and is not warranted.

I do not support economic eminent domain (the taking of land from one private citizen to give to another).

-On limiting campaign money from land developers

There is no question we need election reform, but such efforts have more impact at the State or Federal level. A publicly funded election system is one possibility. I believe we need a more comprehensive review of all alternatives.

Land Use and the Disenfranchised Continued from page 12

A researcher for Howard County Issues further found:

"... Ken Ulman taking thousands from Metroventrues - the developer for Merritt Properties. Calvin Ball took money from Revellopment before the campaign, during and continues still to take money even while introducing zoning bills ... circumventing notification of citizens. Jen Terrasa has thousands from developers and said she couldn't support the strong bill (HB246) and couldn't support the weak bill." There's plenty more.

Anyone still mystified as to why residents feel disenfranchised?

Locally, I have called on the CA Board of Directors to adopt a policy to monitor out parcel, infill and other development projects adjacent to CA property and those of resident lien holders and to advocate on their behalf to protect property values, the watershed and quality of life.

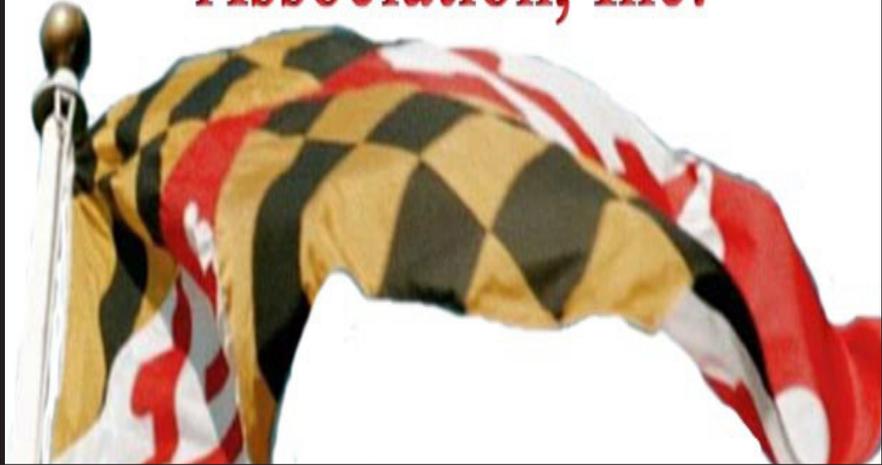
Isn't it time the County did the same for all residents?

-From Michael Cornell

TAX SECTION

<http://www.mdtaxes.org/>

Maryland Taxpayers Association, Inc.



Join MTA! NOW! Join Online or Join by Postal Mail
Fight Tax Hikes Effectively

Katz & Company, PA

Certified Public Accountants

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Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

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F (410) 782-3199
mike@katzco.com
www.katzco.com

PATRICK DORNAN ON TAXES

Five years ago, then County Executive Jim Robey and the county council, led by current County Executive Ken Ulman, pushed a 30% income tax increase through the council, even though they had a surplus in the general fund. Over 100 concerned citizens, led by Howard County Taxpayer's Association, attempted to bring this unwarranted tax increase to referendum. 7000 petition signatures were garnered in just 26 days, more than enough to put the issue on the November 2006 ballot.

..7,000 SIGNATURES

However, the right to petition the government does not exist here in Maryland (we have seen this more than once!). It seems

WERE GATHERED IN

26 DAYS

that the State Court of Appeals had ruled that a tax increase is an appropriation, and that appropriations are not subject to referendum. A child can see the fallacy of their opinion, but when we live in a state with one party rule, the citizens have no rights.



12 YEAR HISTORY OF STATE AND LOCAL INCOME TAXES

STATE and LOCAL Income Tax Liability on \$90,000

YEAR->	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
State Tax \$	\$4,441	\$4,441	\$4,332	\$4,311	\$4,311	\$4,267	\$4,224
Local Tax \$	\$2,221	\$2,221	\$2,166	\$2,169	\$2,169	\$2,187	\$2,205
Exemptions	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,750	\$1,850	\$1,850	\$2,100	\$2,400
Tax Liability	\$5,462	\$5,462	\$4,748	\$4,630	\$4,630	\$4,354	\$4,029
Yrly Inc/decrease		\$0	-\$714	-\$118	\$0	-\$276	-\$325
Governor	Glendening	Glendening	Glendening	Glendening	Glendening	Glendening	Glendening
County Exec	Ecker	Ecker	Ecker	Robey	Robey	Robey	Robey
County Council	C. Vernon Gray	C. Vernon Gray	C. Vernon Gray	Guy Guzzone	Guy Guzzone	Guy Guzzone	Guy Guzzone
	Charles Feaga	Charles Feaga	Charles Feaga	Vernon Gray	Vernon Gray	Vernon Gray	Vernon Gray
	Mary Lorsung	Mary Lorsung	Mary Lorsung	C. Merdon	C. Merdon	C. Merdon	C. Merdon
	Darrell Drown	Darrell Drown	Darrell Drown	A. Kittleman	A. Kittleman	A. Kittleman	A. Kittleman
	D. Schrader	D. Schrader	D. Schrader				

*2004 State Filing fee tripled for Personal Property returns

PARTY POLITICS, REGISTRANTS, ELECTION

LIBERTARIANS MOST ACTIVE

4/30/08						
Affiliation	Active	Not Active	Total	% inactive	Jun 2006	% change
Dem	78,699	7,309	86,008	8.5%	82,542	4.0%
Rep	53,666	6,022	59,688	10.1%	61,587	-3.2%
Green	425	59	484	12.2%		
Libertarian	332	18	350	5.1%		
Unaffiliated	28,988	3,870	32,858	11.8%		
Other	1,840	201	2,041	9.8%		
Not D or R	31,585	4,148	35,733	11.6%	35,303	1.2%
TOTAL	163,950	17,479	181,429	9.6%	179,432	1.1%

* Active = voted in at least one of the last two Fed Elections

Population in HC:

272,452

25.8% under age 18

Voting age population: 202,159

Current Registered Voters: 181,429

(from board of elects)

2006 US Census Population

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/24/24027.html>

The 2008 **Green National Convention** in Chicago will highlight Illinois Greens' triumph over ballot access obstruction
 2008-06-27 Washington, DC -- the Green Party, holding its 2008 national convention in Chicago, will highlight the growth of the Illinois Green Party after adversity faced by Illinois Greens in the 2006 election. The convention, at which Greens will nominate their presidential ticket, will take place July 10-13.

AND INCREASE / DECREASE

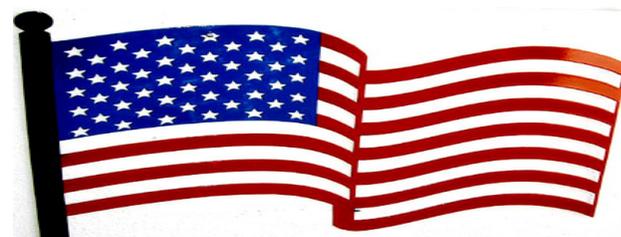
2003	2004*	2005	2006	2007
\$4,224	\$4,224	\$4,224	\$4,224	\$4,224
\$2,205	\$2,880	\$2,880	\$2,880	\$2,880
\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400
\$4,029	\$4,704	\$4,704	\$4,704	\$4,704
\$0	\$675	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ehrlich	Ehrlich	Ehrlich	Ehrlich	O'Malley
Robey	Robey	Robey	Robey	Ulman
Kittleman/Feaga	Kittleman/Feaga	Feaga	Feaga	Ball
Rakes	Rakes	Rakes	Rakes/Ball	Fox
Merdon	Merdon	Merdon	Merdon	Sigaty
Ulman	Ulman	Ulman	Ulman	Terrasa
Guzzone	Guzzone	Guzzone	Guzzone	Watson

WHAT IS A LIBERTARIAN?

The central tenet of libertarianism is the principle of liberty, namely individual liberty. To libertarians, an individual human being is sovereign over his/her body, extending to life, liberty and property.

Source/Read More:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libertarian>



Earn \$165 - \$220 per day as an election judge:

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!



THE HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS IS SEEKING MOTIVATED INDIVIDUALS TO WORK AS ELECTION JUDGES IN THE UPCOMING 2008 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

THE ELECTION DATES ARE:

~~PRIMARY ELECTION - FEBRUARY 12, 2008~~

GENERAL ELECTION - NOVEMBER 4, 2008

NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY AND TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED TO YOU.

THE HOURS ON ELECTION DAY WILL BE 6AM TO 9 PM AND YOU MAY NOT LEAVE THE POLLING PLACE ON ELECTION DAY.

PAY RANGES FROM \$165-\$220 A DAY, AND YOU WILL ALSO BE PAID FOR ATTENDING TRAINING.

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO HELP SERVE IN YOUR COMMUNITY, KEEP THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS ALIVE...AND MAKE SOME MONEY!!!

PLEASE CALL THE HOWARD COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS AT 410-313-5820 AND ASK FOR AN ELECTION JUDGE RECRUITER!!!

One Example of Money and & Subjectivity

Our County Executive is the type of political leader who is easy to support. Ken Ulman seems fair and backs up that assessment with occasional and significant demonstrations of substantial courage.

But the current method of electing our neighbors to public office mandates a dominating give and take with commercial interests who view campaign contributions as a cost of doing business rather than a circumvention of capitalism while undermining Democracy.

The chart on the right underscores the need to reform this horrific circumvention of Democracy, and represents one, indeed, not the worst example of the mutually exclusive goals of winning an election and raising money without ties. Ken Ulman just happens to occupy the county's highest office at the moment.

If we're to gain representation for citizens, we must reform campaign finance. Our County Councilmembers provided an indication regarding who we can count on to modify current rules in this Summer 2008 Issue by responding to questions about enacting what other counties have done regarding campaign money from commercial interests who gain from county lawmaker decisions.

-Mona Eurice

DISMANTLING CLAIMS ABOUT OBJECTIVE DECISION-MAKING

Candidates Account	Organization	Address line 1	City	State	Amount	Date Rec'd
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Howard County Home Builders	1502 Woodlawn Dr	Gwynn Oak	MD	\$6,000.00	1/22/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of		300 E. Lombard Street	Baltimore	MD	\$4,000.00	1/5/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Wilde Lake Business Trust	Post Office Box 5678	Lutherville Tir	MD	\$4,000.00	1/11/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	AscendOne	8930 Stanford Blvd	Columbia	MD	\$4,000.00	1/12/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Petrie Ventures, LLC	170 Jennifer Rd	Annapolis	MD	\$4,000.00	1/15/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Ebh, Inc	8820 Columbia 100 Pkwy	Columbia	MD	\$4,000.00	4/23/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	James Phippen	453 South Polk Drive	Sarasota	FL	\$3,000.00	3/25/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	I.M.A., Inc. Dba Merriweather P	10475 Little Patuxent Pky	Columbia	MD	\$3,000.00	4/10/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Douglas Homes, Inc.	P.O. Box 628	Ellicott City	MD	\$2,500.00	4/4/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Envirotec	7111 Dorsey Run Rd	Elkridge	MD	\$2,500.00	4/11/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	MV Contract Transportation, Inc	360 Campus Ln	Fairfield	CA	\$2,500.00	8/14/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	MAMSI Maryland PAC	4 Taft Ct	Rockville	MD	\$2,000.00	1/15/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Gary Michael	2526 Coxshire Ln	Davidsonville	MD	\$2,000.00	1/16/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Kim Michael	2526 Coxshire Ln	Davidsonville	MD	\$2,000.00	1/16/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Steven Braesch	3523 King Arthur Rd	Annandale	VA	\$2,000.00	1/17/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Reid Liffmann	7914 Radnor Rd	Bethesda	MD	\$2,000.00	1/17/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Antwerpen Motor Group	6440 Baltimore National F	Catonsville	MD	\$2,000.00	3/21/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Triangle Montgomery Associate	453 South Polk Drive	Sarasota	FL	\$2,000.00	3/25/2007
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Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Chris Pappich	4281 Montgomery Rd	Ellicott City	MD	\$2,000.00	3/25/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Fred Maier	PO Box 600	Beltsville	MD	\$2,000.00	3/28/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	North Point Builders, Inc.	4210 North Point Blvd.	Dundalk	MD	\$2,000.00	3/29/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Metroventures	1 N Charles St	Baltimore	MD	\$2,000.00	4/3/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Richard Alter	8578 Leisure Hill Dr	Pikesville	MD	\$2,000.00	4/10/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Tucker Construction Group, Inc.	6737 Old Waterloo Rd	Elkridge	MD	\$2,000.00	8/8/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Revellopment, Inc.	7017 Meandering Stream	Fulton	MD	\$1,667.00	4/12/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Dale Thompson	6300 Woodside Ct	Columbia	MD	\$1,666.00	4/11/2007
Ulman, Ken Friends Of	Ermis Sfakivayudis	41 Old Solomons Island E	Annapolis	MD	\$1,639.69	11/5/2007

Points:

1. Why do additional "campaign funds" exceed \$200,000 during the first 6 months following the election decision?
2. Far too many of these contributors have experienced favorable decisions at the expense of citizens.
3. Indirect contributions occur from the organizations listed - who is responsible for the contribution?
4. Metroventures and Petrie who have both enjoyed favorable decisions at the expense of taxpayers contributed \$7,500 each, directly, that we know about within a 12 month period.
5. Kimco would be the future beneficiary of a decision that is being pushed in Wilde Lake.
6. Watch the remainder, including MAMSI for benefits at the taxpayer's expense.
7. Not a reflection on one political party - Competitor Merdon's record was worse if transparency is a concern.

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

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