



Baltimore County Council Fifth District News from Councilman Vince Gardina



Rental Registration for Communities

The absentee landlord who fails to cut the grass or fix the broken window can be a problem for any community. That is why Councilman Vince Gardina has successfully pushed legislation through the Council to require that rental properties in neighborhoods like yours, register with Baltimore County and obtain a permit based on an inspection. The legislation introduced by Gardina requires that six new neighborhoods be subject to the rental registration.

The communities of Rodgers Forge, Loch Raven Village, Towson Manor Village, Rideley, Seven Courts, and Knettishall are now subject to this requirement. A landlord must apply for a permit, pass inspection for compliance to the livability, zoning, health and safety codes and then if the property

passes, obtain a two-year permit. The goal of this new law is to ensure that tenants are living in a safe and properly maintained house and that the surrounding community is protected from rental properties that are not maintained or have problems with tenants. "I am very pleased that we were able to pass this bill because it protects home owners and tenants from irresponsible landlords," stated Councilman Gardina.

Parks for Perry Hall

After nearly eight years of effort, five new parks are either open or on they're way to opening in Perry Hall.

Councilman Gardina made open space requirements a major part of the nationally-award winning Honeygo Plan and it has paid off. The new parks are becoming popular gathering places for young and old alike as they are used for organized sports

activities to leisurely walks. The most popular park seems to be the Honeygo Regional Park that is nearly 170 acres of fields, trails, playgrounds and a paved walking/jogging park. The Cowenton Ridge Park is also a favorite with handicapped-accessible trails in the woods and lighted athletic fields for soccer, lacrosse and field hockey. The other parks include the Gough Park at Honeygo Blvd. and Joppa Rd. that will be designed based on community input meetings to be scheduled next year.

Hillendale/Loch Raven Community Employment

Councilman Gardina has extended the revitalization district to include the former Bendix property at 1400 Taylor Avenue. The extension of this district provides tax incentives to businesses that expand or renovate existing buildings. Councilman Gardina has

been working to try to bring new tenants to this old vacant site so that jobs and community services will be available for the area. "These are great communities and this site can help provide the services and most importantly jobs for residents in these areas. This revitalization bill and the efforts of the Baltimore County Department of Economic Development will help us turn this property around and make it viable again," stated Councilman Gardina.

Carney Area Building Controls

Concerns from the Carney community about infill development and a need for more parkland has led Councilman Gardina to impose a temporary building moratorium on the Carney area north of Joppa Road. The councilman has also asked that a plan be completed to help address community concerns regarding traffic, open space, environmental protection and sensible plans that would allow

for reasonable development. The moratorium is in effect and the plan will be started soon.

Fire Safety for Concerts

The terrible tragedy that occurred in Rhode Island in 2003 leaving hundreds of young night club attendees dead led Councilman Gardina to introduce and successfully pass legislation that requires any night club or other venue that has shows using pyrotechnics to have sprinklers and obtain a permit from the Baltimore County Fire Department. "We cannot sit by after such a terrible accident in Rhode Island, I am very pleased that this legislation will help prevent the type of disaster that occurred in Rhode Island and could happen anywhere. Baltimore County now has stricter safety requirements than most other jurisdictions," said Councilman Gardina.

New Environmental Commission

Environmental concerns have always been a

priority for Councilman Gardina so when he saw that environmental issues were not always a priority; he introduced legislation creating the Baltimore County Commission on Environmental Quality. The Commission is comprised of appointed volunteers including professionals in science, engineering and education and community representatives with the task of reviewing and recommending action to improve the natural environment in Baltimore County.

Towson Revitalization Underway

Councilman Gardina served as a Baltimore County police officer in Towson for many years and always felt the Towson business district was not a good representative of the County Seat. That is one reason he has moved forward with efforts to revitalize the business core. A new Starbuck's has replaced the old vacant Crown gas station at York Rd. and Burke Ave., the Greene Turtle Restaurant has replaced the former

trouble spot Generation Xtremes, a new white table restaurant is planned for the Towson Circle building, Towson Commons will be completely rebuilt with new restaurants, stores and other features and a national stock brokerage will locate their mid-Atlantic headquarters right in the heart of Towson. There are many other proposals being worked on and all resulted from efforts that Councilman Gardina made either through legislation or assisting in direct negotiations.

Blighted Properties Removed from Parkville

Two properties left vacant and allowed to deteriorate for many years have been torn down and the sites cleaned thanks to a little known provision in the Property Investment Act. The old Shell station at Taylor Avenue and Perring Parkway were vacant for nearly tens years and an old house left to deteriorate on Oakleigh Road near Taylor Avenue was demolished after Councilman Gardina pushed for strong enforcement of the law.

“Removal of these two blighted properties is crucial to preventing the perception of blight in Parkville,” stated Councilman Gardina.

Perry Hall High School Stadium has Plumbing!!

No more buckets of ice and no more tubs of water, that is the result of \$25,000 appropriated by Baltimore County for a sewer hookup to the concession stand at Perry Hall high School. “Councilman Gardina and County Executive Jim Smith worked with Senator Kathy Klausmier and the Perry Hall Booster Club to obtain funding to install the sewer line. “This is another addition that will make this stadium a first-rate place for high school athletics,” stated Councilman Gardina.

Perry Hall High School is Too Big, Says Gardina

Councilman Gardina requested funding for a study of the northeast area high schools in 2003. The study was funded at \$35,000 and became known as the DeJong Study. The

study recommended a new high school for the northeast area. Councilman Gardina is strongly in favor of a new high school and has made this position known to the Baltimore County School superintendent Dr. Joe Hairston, the school board; state elected officials and Baltimore county Government. The cost of a new high school is estimated at \$75-85 million. “I feel that the high school in Perry Hall is a top facility but it is simply too large to properly manage .A new high school in the northeast area could make Perry Hall High School more manageable. More than half of Perry Hall High School students do not live in Perry Hall nor do they live in my council district,” emphasized Gardina. “A new school at this cost requires help from the Maryland State Government and support from the Governor, school board and state elected officials.”

Gardina has requested that the school board consider redistricting those areas outside of Perry Hall as a temporary solution. The school board has failed to act thus far.

New Library for Perry Hall

It's old, too small and not owned by Baltimore County. It is the current library in Perry Hall. For this reason, a new library has been funded and a site has been purchased for a new 25,000 square feet library with the most modern conveniences and technology. The new library will be located directly fronting Honeygo Blvd. between Cross Road and Forge Rd.

This site is accessible to all of Perry Hall and will provide a perfect location for the new Perry Hall Library with an expected opening in the Fall 2007.

Historic Preservation

Two major historic sites have been added to the Landmarks list providing protection in perpetuity. In Towson, the Towson Methodist Church on Allegheny Ave. and Bosley Ave. has been added this year.

The Perry Hall Mansion was added, as well. Thanks to the support of Councilman Gardina both sites have historical status and permanent protection from the wrecking ball.