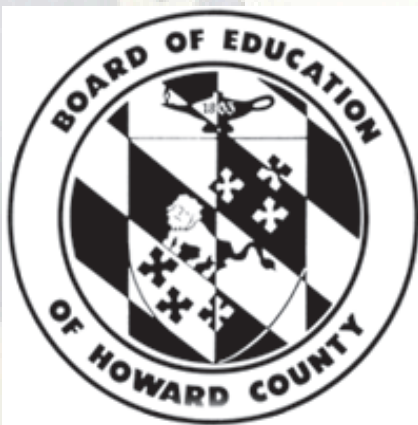


HOWARD COUNTY ISSUES

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

PUBLIC OR PRIVATE

ISSUE
SCHOOLS
THE



Public School

Advantages:

- The HCPSS is among the highest performing public school systems in the state and the nation.
- The HCPSS prides itself on educating our entire student population (now 49,070), one child at a time.
- Our

school populations are diverse -- racially, ethnically, and socioeconomically. This enhances the educational experience by giving students the opportunity to learn first hand to appreciate, live and work with individuals who may be different from themselves.

- Due to the preparedness of our student population, the level of curriculum is on average one-year ahead of other school systems. In addition, differentiated instruction is provided for students who need additional help and students who need more challenge.

- Continued on page 6

Homeschooling Advantages

From Ian Slatter

The main benefit of homeschooling is that it provides an individualized education. Each child is unique. Homeschooling allows a tailor made curriculum to be provided where a child can move ahead rapidly in subjects which they excel and spend more time on subjects where they may experience difficulty.

The environment for learning and development is also better. There are fewer distractions and less wasted educational time. For example, no commute to school, and no shift-

Continued on page 6

PUBLIC and PRIVATE Schools

From a Parent's Perspective

Five measures of evaluating prospective schools include Parents, Administration, Programs, Teachers, and Facilities. Later in High School, parents look for specifics like percentage of graduates who are accepted to college, average SAT score, etc.. But the core five measures are solid tools for assessing the potential for long term academic success of the student, which is the parent's number one priority.

PRIMARY CAREGIVERS

Mothers, Fathers, or primary caregivers are the weightiest determinant of school success because they impress the importance of school on the child

at an early age. Prioritizing homework and school attendance become habit and the child has a greater opportunity for academic success.

ADMINISTRATION

But even parents cannot overcome a severely dysfunctional school administration. Public schools are too often uncooperative with parents compared to private schools. Public school commentator Sandra Tsing Loh writes, "...we parents take our place behind the mayors, the unions... and public school parents' priorities are routinely placed below those of building inspectors, plant managers, even, given

an errant bell schedule, cafeteria workers." To parents, getting someone in public school to listen or actually act on priorities is, by many accounts, Continued on page 6

Private School Advantages

From Mary Ellen Russell

A WORTHY INVESTMENT

As the state of Maryland continues to face budget deficits and an anticipated influx of thousands more students through the military's base realignment and closure program, one overlooked piece in the state's economic puzzle is the tremendous savings provided by Maryland's non-public school community. The Maryland State Department of Education estimates that the average public school per-pupil cost for 2006-2007 was about \$11,500. At that rate, it would cost the state more than an additional \$1.5 billion annually to educate the nearly 137,000 K-12 students

Continued on page 6

"Of indisputable benefit to the state...136,000 students using nonpublic options save taxpayers more than 1.5 billion annually"

<http://www.catholicpaper.net/eeusers/catholicreview/>

IN EACH ISSUE:

COMMENTARY:

- Multiple views on the same issue(s)

- Citizen written contributions

OBJECTIVE INFORMATION

- Data that can be used by voters

CORRECTION: 12 YEAR HISTORY INADVERTENTLY SUBTRACTED EXEMPTIONS -

Summer 2008

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SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES ON THE ISSUES

PARENTS ASKED, WE ORGANIZED, AND HERE ARE THE ANSWERS



From Allen Dyer

Issue 1. Expanding school year into summer, expanding school day or decreasing days in school

I am against mandatory year round schooling and the Board should take immediate steps to reverse the on-going diminishment of the summer break by another day or two every year. Board approval of the school calendar activates mandatory school attendance enforced by fines of \$100 per day and imprisonment of 30 days. EDUCATION ARTICLE § 7-301. This is a heavy responsibility and the Board should not engage in willy nilly “tweaking.”

I am for voluntary summer school classes for students who need a continuing academic experience as well as for those students desiring to take courses during the summer that they didn’t have time to take during the regular school year.

The Board of Education should also study the costs involved if the school day was lengthened since a longer school day would make many more options available to our students and enrich their K-12 experience. If the estimated costs are not prohibitive, the Board should then engage the community in an exploration of all of the tradeoffs involved before voting on whether to expand the school day.

Issue 2. Middle school sports

I support school athletics and, as a parent, I served seven years on the board of the River Hill Boosters. Beyond the immediate health benefit of

Continued on page 12



From Diane Butler

Our calendar seems to have more broken up weeks with “this day off” and “that half day off” that students rarely have a full week of school. It is difficult for parents to juggle the odd schedule and it is extremely disruptful to the learning environment, especially with all of the half days. Starting before Labor Day is waste as we go right into a holiday week the following

week. Some of the summer programs our kids are enrolled in are still running until the end of August. Our kids go the bare minimum days/hours mandated by the state. Why are we striving for bare minimum? The children in this country are falling behind other countries sharply in education, especially in the math/science/technology component. School districts need to be flexible to get the most out of their schools. I have seen charter schools and year round schools that work well, especially for at-risk students, and those with learning disabilities; the continuity was helpful. These year round schools were in place right along side traditionally scheduled schools. Keeping our minds open to new things might bring improvement to a staid district.

We used to have calisthenics in elementary school as well as recess every single day. Where has recess gone? Recess is a great social time for kids to learn how to interact in large group settings. In middle school, children used to have P.E. and team sports after school. Most children walked to and from school every day. Our redistricting policies make

Continued on page 12



From Betsy Grater

1. Expanding school year into summer, expanding school day or decreasing days in school

Summertime is not necessarily down time for our schools. During the summer of 2008, more than half of the 72 schools in the system had summer programs. These programs consisted of enrichment, reinforcement and creative opportunities. Meanwhile, administrative staff was evaluating, planning and preparing for a new school year to begin in less than two months. In addition, the maintenance staff and contractors cleaned, repaired, and painted while the students were not underfoot.

Expanding the school year into the summer for every student to “year round” schools would

be a major change for the way the school systems have traditionally operated. However, I would be willing to take a serious look at the feasibility of such a change and if there were compelling evidence that such a change would be in the best interest of the students, I would be supportive. I will be constantly aware of making any changes that may have negative unintentional consequences.

2. Middle School Sports

When I first spoke with one of my granddaughters - who was then in middle school - about my running for the school board, I asked her what she would change. She said, “Have

Continued on page 12



From Ellen Flynn Giles

1. Expanding school year into summer, expanding school day or decreasing days in school

The school system should be looking at all viable options in designing a school calendar that will most efficiently conserve our financial and environmental resources while still supporting a continuity of instruction for students, and expansion of opportunities for targeted supports, interventions and enrichment. The state mandates a 180 day school year and minimum hours of instruction, but we are virtually the only industrial national

that does not have children in school at least 220 days/year. Given the challenges of our global economy and our obligation to our students, all options should be on the table.

2. Middle school sports

Providing opportunities for students to engage in productive and structured physical activity beyond the school day is the object of the middle school intramural program. However, participation in many areas is severely limited by the lack of after-school transportation. The school system should be actively pursuing partnership opportunities with local agencies, non-profits and foundations to provide after-

Continued on page 12

Middle School Sports

COMMENTARY

COLUMBIA VILLAGE CENTER ZONING AMENDMENT

From Lloyd Knowles

An interesting line item in the New Town (Columbia) zoning regulations--one that has enjoyed little notice of the community in the past--has now roared into prominence. New attention has come about because the owner of the commercial part of the much-loved Wilde Lake Village Center plans to tear down the existing stores and build 500 new residential units and a much smaller retail component in their place. Kimco, the owner of this shopping center and five others in Columbia, is one of the country’s largest retailers, operating at 2,000 locations.

This hardly noticed Howard County zoning rule states that only the original developer (General Growth Properties, as the Rouse Company’s successor) may apply to the county to change the Final Development Plan that defines what can be built on any particular non-residential parcel. Even after 40 years, the original developer, not the owner of the property, serves as the “gatekeeper” for controlling commercial land uses.

Kimco has proposed an amendment (ZRA 102) to the NT zoning regulations that, on the face of it, would essentially remove GGP’s gatekeeper role. In fact, it does just that, but only in the county regs. A second little known fact is that many, if not all, of the property transfers between Rouse/GGP and commercial land purchasers over the years, have attached to the bills of sale, a private covenant that keeps GGP in the role as gatekeeper.

These covenants, which are private, legally enforceable contracts between the parties involved, restrict the type and intensity of future uses of the parcel in question. Such covenants can only be broken by mutual agreement of the parties involved. When restrictions are relaxed, considerable amounts of money accompany the required signatures. For instance, it has been said that when the Rusty Scupper restaurant on the shore of Lake Kittamaqundi in downtown Columbia was replaced by an office building, hundreds of thousands of dollars changed hands, along with other valuable considerations.

All this to say that, regardless of how the amendment is explained, the gatekeeper role of GGP will almost assuredly remain, even with the removal of the restriction in the zoning regs. That’s not to say that keeping GGP in the loop is all bad, after all the Rouse Company has, for 40 years, played a major role in making Columbia, what People magazine has called, the most livable town east of the Mississippi.

So, if ZRA 102 doesn’t fully remove the gatekeeper role, what does it do? In short, if passed as submitted, it will allow an owner of any portion of one of Columbia’s village centers to ask the County Council to approve, without limit “...any use or density, even if that use or density is not otherwise allowed by the New Town District or any previously approved Preliminary Development Plan, Comprehensive Sketch Plan, Final Development Plan, or Site Development Plan.” That means that all of the governmental requirements that have controlled what many experts have called the most successful new town in the world, may be waived with the concurrence of 60% of the Council.

Tax credits for school

The benefits of nonpublic schools, including Catholic schools, are clear. Equally apparent is the duty of the Maryland Legislature to pass measures that would provide tax credits for businesses that make donations to scholarship organizations and educational programs.

A recent study, funded in part by the Maryland Catholic Conference, found that more than four in five citizens would prefer to choose for their children a school outside the realm of public education. Some may choose to ignore the stronger achievement, discipline and moral grounding found in nonpublic options. Of indisputable benefit to the state, however, is the fact that 136,000 students using nonpublic options save taxpayers more than \$ 1.5 billion annually.

During recent legislative sessions, attempts to enact BOAST (Building Opportunities for All Students and Teachers in Maryland) have failed. That proposed legislation would have provided businesses with a 75 percent state income tax credit on donations made toward scholarship organizations and certain educational programs. The program would have been capped, and 40 percent of the credits would have gone toward businesses supporting public education.

Catholic school rolls in the state have dropped by more than 5,000 this decade alone. Economic pressures will not lessen that sacrifice any time soon.

It is up to the state to encourage, not discourage, those who support valuable institutions – be they parish schools or neighborhood public schools. Proposals like BOAST benefit all, and it is past time that they are enacted.

Reprinted by permission from the Catholic Review, Sept 4, 2008, Schools, p.10.

MARYLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS RANKINGS IN LATEST NATIONWIDE NEWSWEEK RATING

RANK	SCHOOL	LOCATION
32	Richard Montgomery	Rockville
60	Wootton	Rockville
64	Bethesda-Chevy Chase	Bethesda
69	Walt Whitman	Bethesda
76	Walter Johnson	Bethesda
98	Winston Churchill	Potomac
204	Montgomery Blair	Silver Spring
216	Broadneck	Annapolis
246	Towson	Towson
272	Centennial	Ellicott City
298	River Hill	Clarksville

Howard County Public Schools’ top ranking school was #272

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Letters

The Property Tax is the BEST Tax in the World – and the WORST!

That’s because it’s really two taxes in one:

Worst - because it falls on buildings, making them more expensive to live in and work in.

Best – because it also falls on land, requiring it to be used efficiently, thereby increasing production and providing jobs.

What To Do – over a 5-10 year period, gradually reduce the property-tax rate on buildings and replace the lost revenue by increasing the property-tax rate on land (ask for proof that others have successfully done that). Taxing buildings less and land-sites more will increase production (it’ll be less taxed) and most taxpayers will get lower property taxes. The government’s revenue will remain the same.

You can get a free no-obligation report containing brief summaries of 23 empirical studies based on government documents (building permits) showing that this tax approach has always improved the economy and lowered taxes for most people whenever it has been applied. There are literally hundreds of such studies – ask for them (at no cost or obligation). We have never encountered even one empirical study proving otherwise; have you?

It can happen in Howard County if you reduce taxes on what jobs produce (such as on buildings) and regain public revenue by taxing land values instead. Most people will pay less because their building down-tax will exceed their land up-tax. Protect the few homeowners who will pay more by specifying that a land-tax-rate change will not require any property owner to pay 3% more than what they paid in the previous year.

A political party can win win at the polls with this tax; we’ve induced 21 localities in Pennsylvania to down-tax most voters and a building-permit increase always followed. You can do it, too, if you respond.

To find out how exactly to do this, contact Steven Cord (Professor-Emeritus, I.U.P.), 410-997-1182, 10528 Cross Fox Lane, Columbia MD 21044, stevencord2000@yahoo.com.

If the county I live in (Howard County, Md.) levied a 100% tax on land values, it needn’t tax anything produced and could remit \$4,374/yr. to every resident (including children); also, land prices would be zero for incoming businesses & homebuyers. Retail prices in the county would be lower because county taxes wouldn’t be included. It’s almost too good to be true, but documentation is freely available. Stevencord2000@yahoo.com

So far as recycling is concerned, my motto is use less, a corollary to the precept Less-is-More.

I still separate my news papers and bottles and deposit the newspapers in the PAPER RETRIVERS at the local elementary school. I save the bottles for a month or more before I put them on the curb for recycling.

There is a conundrum in recycling called the THROWING-AWAY-A-BOOMERANG CONUNDRUM. If I accept a wheeled bin how do I dispose of my small blue plastic recycle box? Do I throw it in the trash or in the recycle bin (like a Russian doll, a box, within a 35gal bin, within a 65 gal bin)?

If I had to fill a 65gal wheeled bin I would have to haul waste paper from my office to my home so HoCo could realize a \$21 advantage in selling a ton of recycled paper vis-à-vis trash. Somehow that doesn’t make sense to me.

-From Sal Cosentino

So who’s running for President?

Last time I looked ... and I really had to look ... there were at least 5 candidates running for president. Besides the two major parties, the Libertarians have nominated former Republican Congressman Bob Barr, the Green Party nominated former Democratic Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney and the perpetual candidate, Ralph Nader, is running once again.

So where’s the coverage?

A search on the Washington Post web site - reflective of the national media - finds 6 hits on Nader between August 1st and 10th. None of the articles reported Nader’s stands on issues. A few mentioned how Nader was polling and others mentioned him as someone who was also running. McKinney was mentioned once. Barr four times. That’s not coverage. Voters deserve a little substance.

Nader, and all third party candidates, are about expanding the political dialog beyond “who flip flopped the most” and the race issue, and who is more supportive of off shore drilling. Historically, momentous

Continued on page 10

Thanks, Howard County Issues

You do good work for the County and we all need you and what you do... You did such an excellent job with this [Land Use] issue.... I am very impressed with the work you have done.

FB - Columbia

Thanks, Howard County Issues

Dear Editor and Contributors,

I’m sitting here in Marktheidenfeld, Germany waiting for the rain to stop so that I may continue my week long bicycle trip down the scenic Main valley. What better time than to read the latest copy of Howard County Issues. I was impressed by the research on campaign financing and the reporting on the PELU task force. I was at your founding meeting and have been unable to follow things closely as I’ve been out of county since April. Reading the latest issue helped me keep up.

Keep up your great work. -WS, Columbia

Caplan continued from page 1

The school system provides special support in terms of family outreach and language instruction to limited- and non-English speaking families and students. Most of our major publications and forms are available in Spanish, Chinese and Korean.

- HCPSS students have opportunities to participate in an wide array of arts activities including drama, music and fine art.
- High schools offer students the opportunity to participate in 14 different interscholastic sports.
- High school students have the option of attending one of a number of Career Academies that focus course work in
 - Architecture and Engineering
 - Biotechnology and Health Services
 - Business and Entrepreneurship
 - Culinary Arts and Hotel Management
 - Energy, Power and Transportation
 - Human Resources
 - Multimedia Arts and Information Technology.
- We provide a continuum of special education services to children birth through age 21. Students receive special education services in the least restrictive environment. Integration teaches all children acceptance of persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities interact with non-disabled peers, form friendships and participate in school activities.
- Our Gifted and Talented Program provides distinctive services for advanced-level learners in academic areas and the visual and performing arts. Program services offer accelerated and enriched learning opportunities. Program implementation varies at the elementary, middle and high school levels. In high school, students can participate in internships and mentorships with professionals in their field of interest.

That's just a start.

Ms. Caplan is HCPSS Spokesperson

Parent Perspective continued from page 1

an uphill battle. When parents are targeted with claims of disinterest in education, the solution may be in how well the school works with all parents, or is at odds with parents. In the same manner that parents are responsible for the culture in their household, Administrators are responsible for culture in their schools. Loh goes on to say, "... it might shock you ...how poorly parents are treated out here in Public-School-Landia. ...often we parents approaching the counter are treated as felons, or more often simply ignored.... Forget best-practice research and technology-driven classrooms. I really believe if anyone in the multibillion-dollar industry called U.S. public education were ever listening to us, improved schools would start, simply, with this: 'Hello! May I help you?'"1

PROGRAMS AND TEACHERS

A good program can outweigh a moderately bad teacher much like a good teacher can overcome a moderately bad program. While we hope that good teachers are cultivated, Loh writes, "Although, teachers are down in the bunkers with us, too. You'd be amazed how many extraordinary schoolteachers, who've served faithfully, conscientiously, daily for 40 years, just keep their heads down at this point." 1

Private school teachers are notoriously lower paid than their public school counterparts which is ironic when tallying the numbers of public school teachers who send their own children to private school, a majority by some estimates.

But private school programs, while nowhere near as diverse and broad, are more focused and standard so that average children have a better chance to perform at a higher level in private education. In addition to cooperating with parents, private schools offer structure where expectations are monumentally clear, an

Homeschool continued from page 1

ing between classes. Furthermore, a child grows up having more contact with responsible adults. Since we spend the majority of lives interacting with adults it makes sense to teach children how to be part of the adult world. Homeschooling allows this freedom and flexibility. We would therefore contend that the peer segregated environment of institutional schools is an artificial social environment and not the best way to socialize children into the adult world.

Research backs up the success of homeschooling. A homeschooler scores on average 20 to 30 percentile points above the national average on standardized achievement tests and homeschool graduates were shown to be more involved in their local communities than the general population.

Academic study conducted by Lawrence Rudner - Homeschooling Works. Socialization study conducted by Dr. Brian Ray - Homeschooling Grows Up. [visit www.hslda.org](http://www.hslda.org).

important attribute for the average child.

FACILITIES

Facilities are important to the extent that students are not distracted. In the Howard County Public School system it's been reported that the new Reservoir High has rodents, and Mt. Hebron is in serious disrepair. These situations are considered distracting. However, students in an eighty-year-old school building made of stone seem to be focused and none the worse in private schools.

And lastly, note the absence of money as a measure of student success. School system salaries are not a measure of academic success for students. Mona Eurice has a daughter and son who have attended Howard County Elementary, Middle, and High schools in

Private Schools continued from page 1

who attend Maryland's nonpublic schools.

Responding to this fact, 66 percent of participants in a recent Maryland poll of likely voters conducted by the Friedman Foundation [www.friedmanfoundation.org/friedman/downloadFile.do?id=314] agreed that nonpublic schools were important to public education in Maryland. This vital relationship between Maryland's public and nonpublic school communities is important to keep in mind when considering the recent enrollment declines and school closings that have occurred due to the economic pressures facing both nonpublic schools and the families they serve - especially lower- and middle-income families. Fortunately, the Maryland legislature is poised to pass a promising solution next year. The BOAST (Building Opportunities for All Students and Teachers in Maryland) Maryland Tax Credit would help build the partnership between Maryland's business and education communities by providing a state income tax credit for business donations to private school scholarship organizations or to organizations supporting public school students and teachers. To learn more about the proposal, and how to get involved in supporting this innovative idea, go to www.mdnonpubs.org.

Mary Ellen Russell, Legislative Coordinator

Maryland Nonpublic Schools Legislative Coalition

addition to two Catholic Schools, one private school, and a boarding school. Mona served as Catholic School Board member elected to Finance Officer, and served on the PTA with the HCPSS.

1. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/09/12/AR2008091202412.html?hpid=opinionsbox1>

VIEWPOINTS-Turf Valley

Turf Valley Residents Opt for Larger Grocery
From Donald Sadler

To All -- I am sending this message to you with the full support of the Legends of Turf Valley community and homeowners association. We, as a community, are in full support of the proposed increase in the square footage of the food store planned for the Town Square at Turf Valley (ZRA-100). Our residents participated in a community meeting to discuss the topic and have supported by an affirmative response of 54 of 56 households (two owners were physically unable to affirm) the following petition:

"We the undersigned are homeowners in the Legends of Turf Valley and members of the Legends of Turf Valley Homeowners' Association. We support the zoning changes the developers of Turf Valley Planned Golf Course Community (TVPGCC) are seeking concerning the development of Town Square at Turf Valley in conjunction with Greenberg Gibbons Commercial.

It is our belief that inclusion of a larger grocery store up to 55,000 sq. ft. as an anchor store would give residents in the area a choice uniquely different from the same chain stores that currently dominate. The design proposed by Greenberg Gibbons Commercial compliments the existing homeowners communities and establishes a convenient town square, offering a wider range of community activity than do the strip malls that are prevalent throughout the Route 40 corridor.

The Legends of Turf Valley community implores you not to stall or negate the increased square footage for the grocery store in ZRA-100 and ultimately the Town Square project in general. If you feel necessary, I will provide a copy of the sign petition outlined above. We feel we are in the majority (maybe the silent majority) of citizens on this issue and have been afforded open collaboration with the developer. This has led us to believe this is a good happening and should receive your full support. Thank you.

Donald Sadler
Board Member, Legends of Turf Valley Homeowners Association
(Submitted with full support of the Legends' community)

The Issue is Obfuscation
From Marc Norman

Regrettably, I am writing to inform you that our County government has quietly been approving a “back door” attempt to increase the commercial zoning at Turf Valley. ZRA-100, which seeks to increase Turf Valley’s grocery store floor space by more than 300%, was filed in June by Greenberg Gibbons Commercial of Owings Mills (represented by Turf Valley’s attorneys, Dick Talkin/Sang Oh) and approved by the Planning Board in August.

You may recall that the Department of Planning & Zoning (DPZ) partnered with Turf Valley in attempting a similar increase during the 2004-05 “Comp Lite” comprehensive rezoning process. Unexpectedly, and without explanation, they withdrew their request hours before the County Council was scheduled hear opposing testimony from more than 300 citizens that were planning to fill the Council chamber for a special session devoted to Turf Valley.

Unlike the developer’s previous upzoning attempt, ZRA-100 specifically limits all reference to Turf Valley and is titled “Greenberg Gibbons Commercial” on the Planning Board agenda. Despite dozens of summer conversations/Emails between community members and DPZ staff, adjoining property owners were not notified of the Planning Board meeting and the property was never posted with signs.

Technically, DPZ and the legal team of Talkin & Oh were able to avoid public notification and the new ZRA batch processing legislation (CB26-2008) by requesting a text amendment to the Planned Golf Course Community (PGCC) section of the zoning code. Considering the current mistrust and acrimony surrounding efforts to rezone Columbia’s Town Center, it is particularly troubling to uncover this unusual and suspicious attempt to circumvent the public process.

It doesn’t appear that the County Executive nor any of the Council members have agreed to sponsor/introduce the legislation required for approval of ZRA-100. Members of our community are hopeful that our elected leaders will recognize the “end run” that is being made around the comprehensive rezoning process and avoid the taint of becoming associated with it.

Please ask our County’s elected and appointed officials (listed below) to resist the lucrative temptation of succumbing to developer requests for piecemeal rezoning by deferring ZRA-100 until the next comprehensive rezoning.

West County:

“ULMAN PUTS HOLD ON CAR LOT APPLICATION PROCESS; WANTS REEVALUATION OF THE PROPOSAL’S IMPACTS”

CONCERNED CITIZENS OF WESTERN HOWARD COUNTY
PO Box 243, Lisbon, MD 21735-0243
CCWHCo@verizon.net 410-489-2767

Sign petition to oppose bailouts:
<http://www.petitiononline.com/bailout/petition.html>

Sign petition for Rt. 29 and Rt. 70 fix:
<http://www.petitiononline.com/safert29/petition.html>

Sign petition for fair coverage of third party candidates:
<http://e-activist.com/ea-campaign/clientcampaign.do?ea.client.id=97&ea.campaign.id=1459&First%20Name=&Last%20Name=&Address%201=&City=Ellicott%20City&Region=MD&Postcode=21042&Email%20Address>

TALKING WITH Parents, Citizens, Taxpayers AT THE HOWARD COUNTY FAIR



Top left: Diane Butler, Top Right: Allen Dyer, Bottom left: Mona Brinegar, Bottom right: Angela Beltram

Howard County Issues Editor Mona Brinegar organized a presence at the Howard County Fair including Board of Education Candidates Allen Dyer and Diane Butler along with Land Use Activist and former council member Angela Beltram. Hundreds of parents passed through and suggested the talking points provided to the Board of Education candidates in this School publication.

Fair goers were forthright in their opinions and contrary to some reports, voters were very engaged while expressing a strong interest in local politics.

Thousands of stickers, pens, candidate brochures, and Howard County Issues publications were handed out to fair attendees who were Howard County voters.

Following the strength of this interest, Howard County Issues sought the help of media professionals, produced a commercial, and is advertising on CNN, Fox, and MSNBC at prime time during the week preceding elections.

See our commercial at HowardCountyIssues.org

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

If a national candidate is on the ballot in most states, should the candidate be included in debates? Register your opinion at:

editor@howardcountyissues.org

LOCAL PUBLICATION ESCALATES PROMOTION

Having been encouraged by the number of engaged Howard County voters who are genuinely interested in local candidates and local issues, the commitment was made to generate a commercial and contract for airtime to promote our local publication.

The local and sometimes hyper-local Howard County Issues publication will air a commercial during CNN, Fox, and MSNBC at prime time in the week preceding elections. Visit HowardCountyIssues.org and click the link to view the promotion video.

Our local Howard County Issues publication is citizen backed, citizen controlled, and staffed by volunteers. We research elected leader voting records compared with decisions, we present votes in chart format and provide information on sources of information. We print submittals from citizens, and county and state leaders directly from the source to connect to the readers and print multiple sides of issues.

Howard County Issues provides data and commentary, right where you live.


CNN

FOX

MSNBC




Howard County Issues



- Voter Meetings
- Taxes & Fees
- County Budget
- Unaffiliated/Independent Voter Group Platform
- Land Development
- Political Candidates
- Law Enforcement/States Attorney
- West County
- Columbia Association
- School Board
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President continued from page 5
change was driven by third parties: abolition of slavery, establishment labor reforms including the 40 hour work week, Social Security, and our progressive tax system.

We need to hear substance on the staggering national debt, fair (not free) trade policies, foreign human rights abuses, genocide in Darfur, corporate influence in politics, the continued erosion of civil rights, failed drug policies, our broken health care system, future supreme court appointments ... and the list goes on and on.

Since the two presumptive nominees of the major parties aren't talking about substantive issues, the electorate deserve to have third party candidates covered in the media and included in presidential debates. Anything less serves only to perpetuate the status quo. And after all, isn't this election supposed to be about change?

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Independents We Will Miss

From Michael Cornell

August and September saw the passing of two very special people involved with independent and third party politics, locally and nationally. One, Eddie Boyd, a war veteran committed to those in need and working to improve the lives of those least served by government and society; the other, Peter Camejo, a tireless and courageous founder of the California Green Party and former vice presidential candidate.

Many of you may not have known or heard of Eddie Boyd. Among the many places he called home was Baltimore. His most visible role was the first African American candidate for Governor in the state of Maryland, but he was so much more. I had the please of meeting Ed several times before he succumb to a long battle with cancer - a battle he met with courage, dignity and grace. Those who truly knew him, held deep fondness respect for someone who embodied so many of the values we all claim as our own and served as a shining example of what one man can do to make a difference, regardless of the personal cost. Ed was a Navy veteran and a tireless advocate for peace and social justice. After military service, Ed worked with the Community for Creative Nonviolence, a homeless advocacy organization founded by homeless advocate, the late Mitch Snyder. Ed had been homeless himself, which spurred him to help others who were homeless. Before Ed moved to Baltimore, he had been living in Vermont where he began his own recovery from drug addiction and worked with homeless and drug addicted veterans.

Eddie was the Maryland Green Party's candidate for governor in 2006. His platform included re-regulation of BGE, creation of a publicly owned utility, funding equity for all Maryland schools, opposition to the ICC and the death penalty, fundamental reform of our political and campaign finance systems and, above all, the freedom of all human beings to live in peace. As a tireless campaigner, he never failed to impress people - Eddie talked with people, not at them.

Ironically, Eddie was a huge proponent of single payer health care system that would have given everyone – including himself - access to needed medical diagnostics, care and treatment. Lacking access to a medical system so many of us take for granted, Eddie had complained to the VA for years of pain in his leg resulting from an accident while he served his country the Navy before finally being diagnosed last July with bone cancer that had metastasized to his lungs. Even though he was very ill and in pain, Eddie never lost his smile, his intense interest in what was going on outside his life and his commitment to peace and

social justice. A close friend Maria Allwine shared: “A lot of people in Boyd’s predicament would have put their political interests aside and focused on getting better. But Boyd’s battle with cancer, exhausting as it has been for him, has given him intensity and focus. More than ever, he’s one of America’s down and out citizens--with no health care except for the VA, and no ability to pay for better treatment; he is one of millions that would benefit from a single-payer health-care system that would provide the same quality of care to everyone, regardless of income or employment status. He sits up in bed a bit and pulls the blankets up over his chest to talk about why now, more than ever, he feels the need to promote Green Party values to anyone who will listen. Even fellow hospital patients.”

This past month also saw the passing of Peter Camejo, 68 of California, who helped pioneer the financial market niche of socially responsible investments. Camejo also served as a San Francisco City Supervisor, ran for California Governor three times and once for US Vice President with Ralph Nader in 2004.

In a prepared statement, Ralph Nader described Camejo, his former vice presidential candidate, as having “... used his eloquence, sharp wit and barnstorming bravado to blaze a trail for 21st century third-party politics in the U.S. “Mr. Camejo was a “politically courageous champion of the downtrodden and mistreated of the entire Western Hemisphere.”

Active in the Free Speech Movement and in protests against the Vietnam War as a student at UC Berkeley in the late 1960s, Mr. Camejo landed on then-Gov. Ronald Reagan’s list of the 10 most dangerous people in California. School officials eventually expelled him, two quarters shy of a degree.

The spark of activism stayed with him, as he became a leader in the movement to give voice to third-party candidates. He fought for universal health care, election reform, farm worker rights, living wage laws and against the death penalty and abortion restrictions.

His forum was often electoral politics, where he chal-

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COUNTY OFFICIAL REPRESENTS CITIZENS
From Mona Eurice

Land developers Don Reuwer and NVR represent two of the most powerful entities in Howard County, which is why it's surprising that the county is suing them for long standing septic malfunction per the recent explorehoward.com article (link below). Maybe we're turning the tide in this county.

Citizens, taxpayers, residents appreciate actions on our behalf. It's gratifying when citizens have an influence on government, and elected people take leadership positions to represent the entire constituency.

Legal action against powerful parties requires significant courage, and Ken Ulman is credited for this one, in addition to others who are involved and encouraged the action.

Article: <http://www.explorehoward.com/news/11691/county-sues-glenwood-developer-over-septic-system/>

STATUS OF LAND USE IN HOWARD COUNTY

- The eminent domain threat has been neutralized.
- The home values of the 90+ residents is on the way to restoration.
- Daisy car lot issue stalled for county research - result will be posted in Howard County Issues.
- Process for countywide rezoning to accommodate single property still abused. We'll post county official votes in the next issue.

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT LEADS TO A RESPONSIVE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP

When we don't enjoy responsible leadership, taxpayer citizens are ultimately the only source of restoration.

UP NEXT: THUNDER HILL AND DAISY

THUNDER HILL IN VILLAGE OF OAKLAND MILLS, AND DAISY IN THE WEST COUNTY

DEVELOPMENT PLAN AT A WELL KNOWN COLUMBIA INTERSECTION CONCERNS LOCAL RESIDENTS

Currently Howard County is reviewing a proposed site development plan submitted by a developer that wants to build a full-sized Walgreens store at the intersection of state Rt. 175 and Thunder Hill Rd. (a well used county road) in the Village of Oakland Mills in East Columbia.

During the OMCA village board meetings, residents voiced and attempted to voice, an array of concerns and were permitted to ask some questions. Unfortunately, because of the protocol for the conduct of these village board meetings and the "resident speak out" session, residents seldom have an opportunity to become integral to the discussions or take part in dialogue or debate with the presenters. This village board normally holds a "resident speak out" session at the very beginning of the meeting and often before the presenters even arrive. Residents are limited to three minutes and during discussions by the board and presentations by invitees, village residents are asked not to question or comment.

[remainder of Thunder Hill document available on howardcountyissues.org]

ULMAN PUTS HOLD ON CAR LOT APPLICATION PROCESS; WANTS REEVALUATION OF THE PROPOSAL'S IMPACTS

Howard County Executive Ken Ulman has put a hold on the application process for a site development plan to establish a used car business at the intersection of Daisy and Union Chapel Roads while he and members of his administration reevaluate the potential impacts of the proposal on the community.

Ulman told the Department of Planning and Zoning and the Department of Public Works "to put everything on hold" while they "take another look at the whole area" affected by the proposal of the Car Corporation of America, which last year applied to build a used car lot that would involve more than 160 vehicles, a two story office building, and 700 gallons of waste water a day on a 4-acre lot in the middle of the County's largest agricultural preservation and rural conservation area.

[remainder of CCWHC newsletter available on howardcountyissues.org]

THE HOWARD COUNTYWIDE LAND USE GROUP SUPPORTS CITIZENS FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE COUNTY ON LAND USE. SUCCESS IS CONTINGENT ON FULL CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN EACH EMAIL CAMPAIGN TO CONTACT POLITICIANS IN SUPPORT OF ALL OUR NEIGHBORS THUS LEVELING THE INFLUENCE ON COUNTY LEADERS.

[eMail Editor@HowardCountyIssues.org](mailto:eMailEditor@HowardCountyIssues.org)

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sports activity is the long term benefit of a habit of sports activity. For example, the middle school sports program should include at least one fitness for life activity such as handball, squash, golf, tennis and swimming.

We can, and should, do a better job of providing opportunities for all of our middle school students to engage in properly supervised athletics and the cost of participation in sports should not be a barrier to any student in Howard County. As Gen. Douglas MacArthur emphasized: “Upon the fields of friendly strife are sown the seeds, that upon other fields, on other days, will bear the fruits of victory.”

Issue 3. Vocational Training
Vocational/technical education is an effective strategy for increasing student engagement and improving attendance. The “all kids are college bound” mind set needs adjustment — we need, and our students need, technical education involving hands-on skills at every Howard County high school. Theory alone is not enough.

Issue 4. Half days on the school calendar
Half days are a serious problem for working parents and an inefficient use of student and teacher time. Reducing

the number of half days would increase learning time and reduce the risk of our students being home alone and unsupervised.

Issue 5. Funding for aging schools - Mt. Hebron building, mice infestation in new Reservoir High
I opposed the decision to “renovate” rather than rebuild Mt. Hebron High School. I believe the decision to renovate rather than rebuild was driven by a lack of funds and I preferred delaying the decision until sufficient funds were available to rebuild Mt. Hebron in compliance with the LEED environmental standards. We must plan for the long term. Mice infestation is unacceptable. Caution, however, must be exercised in any attempt to combat any infestation be-

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Butler Continued from page 3
this impossible. Exercise is essential for proper brain function and the building of healthy bodies.

Vocational training has its place in our high schools. Not everyone is cut out for college. We could set up individual programs at different high schools and our students could attend the pertinent programs. In this county we have a high rate of college hopefuls, but there are plenty of students who would welcome learning a trade in high school.

Every proper school budget should have a fund for aging vehicles, aging equipment, a specific maintenance plan for structures, and money for new school sites. Our budget is simply not set up that way. We have dug ourselves a deep hole by not preparing in advance. We are now stuck with really serious infrastructure problems and a lack of school sites.

I was at a council meeting recently when the budget was being discussed and heard one of our council members say “I thought we were done building schools.” How

can we be done building schools when we are building 1,500 homes a year? Let’s take a look at Elkridge - they have no high school and none in the plans, the elementary will be overfull the day the renovations are done. Yet, the county executive and the county council just passed a bill to add extra building allotments to the Route 1 corridor. This is just not good planning. The school district must work with the county.

I do not believe the transfer tax is the right way to support the school funding. The taxes and fees in this county to buy and sell a home are so high now (as well as the cost of the homes) that fewer and fewer

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competitive sports in the middle schools.” It is a great idea but not easily achieved. There are 18 middle schools in the system. Which sports are appropriate for that age level? Do we have adequate facilities? These are just two of the questions that come to mind in contemplating the possibility. I would support the concept, but, like many issues, there are problems that would have to be faced, not the least of which would be funding in these lean times.

3 Vocational Training
I support the many parents, teachers and administrators whose goal is for all graduating seniors to move on to higher education. It was a goal that I expected of my own children. However, ten percent of graduating students (and the one percent that do not graduate) do not pursue college education. The question here is do we prepare these students to take their place in society engaging in trades or other occupations not requiring higher education? I would like to see additional programs in the areas of technical/vocational opportunities be included in the options for

our students. Vocational skills are preparatory for these students and useful to all students.

4 Half days on the school calendar
Half days are not “off days” for the staff. In fact, the teachers arrange parent conferences and often work beyond the normal hours to accommodate as many of their parents as possible. These half days correspond to the reporting periods and end-of-school preparations. I don’t know when they would be able to arrange for and conduct their conferences if half days were eliminated.

5. Funding for aging schools - Mt. Hebron building,
Mt. Hebron is scheduled for a major renovation. The school board is currently reviewing the options for the future of the building. The school board is currently reviewing the options for the future of the building. The school board is currently reviewing the options for the future of the building.

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school transportation for a range of student activities for student growth and development.

3. Vocational Training
Courses in business education, career research and development, family and consumer science, and technology education are offered at each high school. In addition, the CTE academy model supports 2-year programs that develop skill sets and provide an on-the-job practicum for a range of career and post-secondary opportunities. The school system should support earlier identification of student interest and aptitudes to assist parents and students in setting up 7-year plans that would prepare students for a variety of options in the real world.

4. Half days on school calendar
Half-days are in place to allow teachers time to calculate and record grades, implement and grade end of term examinations, conference with parents in the spring and fall, collaborate with team members to assess student performance and effective cross-curricular approaches.

Half-days reduce the operational cost of providing teachers with time away from the classroom to meet their responsibilities, since this time is provided as part of the regular schedule. However, students, teachers and parents have all voiced dissatisfaction with the effectiveness of this option. Scheduling a limited number of full “teacher” days during the school year would return more half days to students for instruction and provide the teachers with dedicated time to address professional needs. A comprehensive review of the instructional calendar is essential to determine the most

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YOU HAVE THE FREEDOM TO VOTE YOUR DREAMS, WITHOUT FEAR, IN MARYLAND

By Kevin Zeese

We already know where our Electoral College votes in Maryland are going. Individuals do not vote for president, the electors to the Electoral College do. In Maryland, Obama-Biden have consistently held a ten to fifteen point lead in polls. There are 1.8 million Democratic Party registered voters in Maryland, 900,000 Republicans and 450,000 independent or third party registered voters.

Does this mean you should not bother voting? No, it means Marylanders are freed from fear-based voting that dominates battleground states. Too often U.S. voters feel like they must vote for the least worst candidate presented by the Democrats or Republicans because they do not want the one they consider the worst to win the election. Voters “hold their nose” and vote for candidates they disagree with. But, there is an alternative.

Throughout American history voting outside of the two dominant parties has helped to change the direction of the country in paradigm shifting ways that today seem obvious but in their era were considered too radical. Today, most Americans see a need for a significant change in direction but realize they will not get the change they seek from the two parties because they are indebted to the big money, big business interests that dominate the political system and profit from the status quo.

This is not too different from previous eras of American history. In the 1840s after more than a hundred years of advocacy to end slavery, the abolition movement saw slavery off the agenda in Washington, DC. The two parties refused to discuss it because the Democrats, who were dominated by plantation owners, and the Whigs, who were dominated by northern industrialists who profited from cheap cotton, agreed that abolition was not to be discussed. What were the abolitionists to do? How could they challenge the most valuable business in the United States, slavery, which was more valuable than all other businesses combined?

The abolitionists decided to get involved in electoral politics. They created their own party and ran a candidate for president, James Birney, in 1844. Birney, a Kentuckian and former slave holder, was the candidate of the Liberty Party which made abolition its cause. Birney received 2.3% of the vote. Democrat James Polk won the election by 1.3% of the vote. The abolitionists were labled spoilers by many because Polk went on to start the Mexican-American War and was characterized by many as the greater evil compared to Whig candidate, Henry Clay.

In 1848 the abolitions evolved into the Free Soil Party and nominated Martin Van Buren as their candidate, Charles Adams the son and grandson of presidents as their Vice Presidential candidate. The ticket received 0 electoral votes but 10.3% of the popular vote. The Free Soil Party focused on westward expansion and the slavery issue arguing for “free men on free soil” as the morally and economically superior system to slavery. The party was made up primarily of disaffected Democrats and Whigs who opposed slavery.

In 1852 the abolitionists under the Free Soil banner nominated John Hale of New Hampshire who garnered 4.9% of the vote. And, in 1856, the abolitionists evolved into the Republican Party, nominating John Fremont who created a real three-way race garnering 33.1% of the vote, coming in second to James Buchanan who won with 45.3%. The Whigs dropped to

third, their candidate, Millard Fillmore receiving only 21.6% of the vote. Then, in the election of 1860 the most successful third party candidate in history was elected president, Abraham Lincoln, and before he was assassinated slavery was abolished.

In 1844 would you have voted for one of the pro-slavery parties or the abolitionists – even though the latter had no chance of winning?

Those voters who courageously voted for their dream – an end to the horror of slavery – are the heroes of American history. The voted for what they wanted rather than allowed themselves to be controlled by the two dominant parties.

Throughout history we can see this story repeat itself. Women’s suffrage was something neither dominant party would consider. Political parties advocating for women being allowed to vote became a key part of advocacy for suffrage. Similarly, the Populist Party of the 1880s advocated for rights of workers, a forty hour work week, ending child labor and the rights of farmers. And, at the beginning of the last Century the Bull Moose Party and Socialist Party advocated for breaking up monopolies, health care for the poor and elderly, retirement benefits for all and union rights – issues neither party would consider. Many can recall Ross Perot’s third party runs in 1988 and 1992 when he raised the issue of budget deficits and the need for government to live within its means.

In all of these cases third parties put issues on the agenda, brought them into the electoral arena and showed political support for their concerns. One of the two parties adopted the issue and rode them to victory – and the people got the change they wanted. Change they would not have seen if third parties had not challenged the status quo parties.

Today, there are some major issues of concern that neither of the parties will seriously consider. Neither Senator Obama or Senator McCain are calling for an end to the occupation of Iraq. McCain says the U.S. could stay 100 years and Obama’s plan would leave a residual force of up to 80,000 along with 140,000 mercenaries in Iraq. Neither party will advocate for true universal health care – a single payer system that is the only way any country has ever achieved health care for all. Two candidates, Cynthia McKinney and Ralph Nader advocate for single payer. A majority of Americans see the destruction of civil liberties with the Patriot Act and FISA act that granted telecom companies immunity for spying on Americans. Four candidates on the ballot make civil liberties a priority, Nader, McKinney, Bob Barr and Chuck Baldwin.

In Maryland voters will have six choices on the ballot. In addition to the major parties that includes: Chuck Badwin of the Constitution Party, Bob Barr of the Libertarian Party, Cynthia McKinney of the Green Party and Ralph Nader of the Independent Party. These alternative party candidates present a tremendous opportunity for voters to change the direction of the country and the state.

Recently, the four third party candidates were brought together by Con-

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Kevin Zeese, Michael Steele, Ben Cardin at the 2006 debates

<p>Dyer Continued from page 12</p> <p>cause some of our students have strong sensitivities to many common pesticides and rodent poisons. Our schools must be safe for all students.</p> <p>Issue 6. Transfer tax to support school funding</p> <p>The Board of Education does not have statutory authority to levy taxes. Furthermore, before supporting any tax increase, the Board of Education should make the budget more accessible to the public and comb through it to understand exactly why the money we have is not enough. After all efforts to economize are taken, if a funding shortage still exists, I would support an increase to the transfer tax because you don't have to be a realtor to know that the price of a house is directly associated with the quality of nearby public schools.</p> <p>Issue 7. Restoring recess</p> <p>Kids need time to eat and time to work off energy and if we don't provide an outlet for their pent up energy we make the job of teaching those students doubly difficult. The National Association for the Education of Children reports that recess play is an active form of learning that unites mind, body & spirit; reduces school tension; permits the expression of emotional aspects of the day; develops cooperation, helping others, sharing, and problem solving; sharpens perceptual abilities; and, improves the child's ability to navigate the real world safely.</p> <p>Finally, from a purely economic perspective, if our students don't have adequate recess, we fail to get the full benefit of our staff's professional training because the students are so restless that teaching time is turned into "settle down" time.</p> <p>Issue 8. Method of decisions regarding admin and teacher placement</p> <p>Currently, the lowest scoring schools have the newest teachers because, over the years, teachers acquire seniority and tend to migrate away from the schools where they are most needed. We need to get maximum benefit from our professional resources. The Board of Education can help by establishing an incentive system that the Superintendent can use to precisely position our best teachers where they are most needed.</p>	<p>Butler Continued from page 12</p> <p>people are able to buy here. Even a lateral move within the county is really costly. We are already spending enough on our schools; we are just not spending our money wisely. Our school budget is huge, yet we do not even have an International Baccalaureate program for our high school students. We don't have the magnet programs that are so prevalent in nearby affluent counties, yet we are one of the richest counties in the country. I would like to see some reallocation of our many funds.</p> <p>Time and again, we read about problems with our administration versus teachers GAP. The administration and teachers are way too far apart. We have an upside down pyramid with a lot of highly paid administrators at the top, and very few Indians at the bottom. A pyramid like this is bound to tumble. We need to put a whole batch of "resource this" and "resource that" personnel back into the classrooms where they will do the children the most good. Our best people should be our children's teachers. As a district our parents also need to take a more proactive role in their children's education. Parent/student/teacher partnerships can only happen when the administration is working right at the level of these partnerships, and not above them.</p> <p>My focus for the children of this county is to have them taught in their core neighborhood schools by great, dedicated teachers. We should be focusing on critical thinking, creativity, innovation, and team work and not teaching to the test. This requires the whole school system to work as a team.</p>	<p>Grater Continued from page 14</p> <p>jor renovation that will improve the present conditions, but may not completely satisfy the community desire for a new school. The faculty and staff will have to contend with a great deal during the renovation phases but I am sure in the long run they will be pleased with the results and the students will have a better learning environment. We have additional renovation needs at Atholton High, Old Cedar Lane, Northfield Elementary, Waverly Elementary, just to mention a few that have renovations scheduled in the near future. However long the wish list, funding is currently a major stumbling block and creative ways to approach this situation are needed.</p> <p>6 Transfer tax to support school funding</p> <p>We are facing difficult financial times with reports of a large deficit in the state budget. It is time to consider a broad approach of creative methods of funding the schools. The transfer tax is one of the ways under consideration.</p> <p>7 Restoring recess</p> <p>Recess is a part of the elementary school day, and weather permitting; the children spend that time on the playground or in the school gym. Recess gives them a chance to breathe fresh air and get some exercise. Recess is another form of learning and has been found to help reduce tension.</p> <p>8 Methods of decisions regarding admin and teacher placement.</p> <p>There are policies in place regarding the hiring and placement of administrators and teachers. As a board member I would be diligent in seeing that those policies were carried out. If there appears to be a need for additional clarification or change in the policies, they will be reviewed in detail by the board to be certain that they are balanced and in the best interests of the students and the community.</p>	<p>Giles Continued from page 14</p> <p>effective means of meeting the needs of students, teachers and families.</p> <p>5. Funding for aging schools - Mt. Hebron building, mice infestation in new Reservoir High</p> <p>The renovation at Mt Hebron, funded over FY 2009-10, will address the critical areas identified in the Gilbert study, including major system improvements, instructional and program space expansion, and core enhancements to increase operational efficiency. Renovation specifications under development will utilize these same standards to identify critical maintenance projects and systemic renovations, prioritize modernization projects and additions, and incorporate green efficiencies and sustainable strategies. This will further improve long-range capital planning and budgeting for critical maintenance projects and timely systemic renovations.</p> <p>Many of our schools were constructed on former farmland that was quickly surrounded by development. Custodial and grounds crews should be alert to the need to protect our facilities against rodent and pest incursions. The efforts should employ techniques and materials with minimal toxicity to protect the students, staff and the environment.</p> <p>6. Transfer tax to support funding</p> <p>I served on the County Executive's 2003 committee that recommended an increase in the transfer tax on all real estate transactions. The transfer tax option was the only option that recognized both new construction and re-sales as contributors to enrollment growth and thus appropriate revenue sources. The legislature opted for an excise tax on new residential construction only, yielding about \$5M annually. After initially funding new construction bonds, the current revenues are obligated to the retirement of that debt. It is unlikely that the original transfer tax option could be implemented, given the burden already placed on new construction. However, the current County Executive should re-</p> <p>Giles continued from page 12</p> <p>Continued on page 16</p>
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Zeese Continued from page 13

gressman Ron Paul and agreed to a joint statement on four issues that are currently “off the table” of the two parties. Their statement read:

Foreign Policy: The Iraq War must end as quickly as possible with removal of all our soldiers from the region. We must initiate the return of our soldiers from around the world, including Korea, Japan, Europe and the entire Middle East. We must cease the war propaganda, threats of a blockade and plans for attacks on Iran, nor should we re-ignite the cold war with Russia over Georgia. We must be willing to talk to all countries and offer friendship and trade and travel to all who are willing. We must take off the table the threat of a nuclear first strike against all nations.

Privacy: We must protect the privacy and civil liberties of all persons under US jurisdiction. We must repeal or radically change the Patriot Act, the Military Commissions Act, and the FISA legislation. We must reject the notion and practice of torture, eliminations of habeas corpus, secret tribunals, and secret prisons. We must deny immunity for corporations that spy willingly on the people for the benefit of the government. We must reject the unitary presidency, the illegal use of signing statements and excessive use of executive orders.

The National Debt: We believe that there should be no increase in the national debt. The burden of debt placed on the next generation is unjust and already threatening our economy and the value of our dollar. We must pay our bills as we go along and not unfairly place this burden on a future generation.

The Federal Reserve: We seek a thorough investigation, evaluation and audit of the Federal Reserve System and its cozy relationships with the banking, corporate, and other financial institutions. The arbitrary power to create money and credit out of thin air behind closed doors for the benefit of commercial interests must be ended. There should be no taxpayer bailouts of corporations and no corporate subsidies. Corporations should be aggressively prosecuted for their crimes and frauds.

If you agree with those issues you may want to vote for one of the four candidates espousing them. The ship of state is not only moved by those who win elections, but by those who help to change its direction by voting for what they want. If you support Obama or McCain – vote for them; but if you don’t there is no need to fear voting for what you want. In Maryland, we already know where our presidential vote is going.

Kevin Zeese is the Director of the Campaign for Fresh Air and Clean Politics (www.FreshAirCleanPolitics.net) whose projects include Voters for Peace (www.VotersforPeace.US), True Vote (www.TrueVote.US and www.TrueVoteMD.org) and Climate Security (www.GlobalClimateSecurity.org). He was a candidate for the U.S. Senate in Maryland in 2006 nominated by the Green, Libertarian and Populist (now the Independent) Parties.

Political Campaigns are Beauty Contests - and that may be an insult to Beauty Contests. Instead of listening to what candidates say, look at how they've voted and who financed their campaigns. Our system did not envision the purchasing of campaign offices by small numbers of voters. To correct this we'll need to stay informed. Read HCI before going to the voting booth. We'll tell you who has been working for citizens, rather than working for campaign money sources.

Allegorious Political Beauty Pageant



"I'd like to see
World Peace"

Democratic
Candidate



"I'd like to see
Worldwide Freedom"

Republican
Candidate



"I'd like to see
Peace and Freedom"

Independent
Candidate

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lenged Republicans and Democrats alike.

Mr. Camejo earned his living as a financier and helped start an investment firm, Progressive Management Asset Inc. in Oakland. Clients can arrange their portfolios so that their investments, for example, are not linked to animal testing, weapons or sweatshop labor.

He created the first environmentally screened fund - the Eco-Logical Trust - for a major Wall Street firm, Merrill Lynch. He also founded the Council for Responsible Public Investments and wrote the book, “The SRI Advantage: Why Socially Responsible Investing Has Outperformed Financially.”

We live in a political age where main topics of discussion revolve around “lip stick on pigs,” where blatant lies and half-truths are repeated like a mantra, and where campaign promises are light on substance and even lighter on delivery. Candidates and activists like Boyd and Camejo struggled to elevate the debate to the real issues that concern Americans – not just the politicians, power brokers and Wall Street investors.

Their passing diminishes us all. Citizens in Howard – and everywhere – should demand the depth and breadth of discourse they fought to bring to the political arena. They fought because they believed voters shouldn’t have to settle for less. That’s real change!

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!!!

<p>Mail Delivery, send your address and \$10 to: Howard County Issues PO Box 6172 Ellicott City, MD 21042</p>	<p>examine the range of options examined in the original report as a first step to identifying additional dedicated funding for critical education projects.</p>	
<p>Printing/distribution Statistics FALL 2008 5,000 hardcopies 4,900 distributed Howard County Libraries Most Village Centers Various neighborhoods Internet Availability: Indefinitely SITE: HowardCountyIssues.org</p>	<p>7. Restoring recess Board policy states that elementary schools must provide daily recess for unstructured physical activity, while incorporating physical activity into the school day to reduce extended periods of inactivity. Several elementary schools have implemented a program that places recess before lunch; encouraging students blow off steam first, then eat their lunch without rushing, and return to class ready to work. This practice has allowed students to re-charge their batteries with physical activity and the time to eat and digest a midday meal.</p>	<p>8. Method of decisions regarding admin and teacher placement The Superintendent is charged with the responsibility of evaluating administrator and teacher performance on a regular basis. These evaluations are critical to recommending placements and assignments that build effective leadership and instructional teams. This balancing of strengths, experience and expertise into effective collaborations is essential to meeting the needs of the students and families in each school community.</p>
<p>Editor-In-Chief: Mona Eurice-Brinegar Design Editor: Michael Cornell</p>	<p>Winter 08-09 to cover upcoming law and the legislative session.</p>	<p>Prefer free electronic delivery? Email: editor@howardcountyissues.org</p>

*We are actively looking for writing contributions, send your thoughts to editor@howarcountyissues.org.
Any writing contribution is appreciated in this publication that connects citizens and government.*