



Councilman Todd Crandell District 7 Newsletter



April 2015

Volume 4

County Budget

The Council has plunged into the annual budget process, which kicked off April 14th. While our district received some much needed attention, our district still has many unmet needs. As long as we have roads to be paved, schools to be built or renovated, and parks to maintain, I will continue to fight for every dollar available to fix the neglect of the past.

Included in the budget for district 7 are a number of proposed school renovations: Middlesex Elementary, Chesapeake High School, and Essex Elementary are slated to receive new roofs. The Rosedale Center is also slated for a new roof. Funds have been allocated for what is being called a "systemic renovation" of district schools. Patapsco High and Stemmers Run Middle School are on the list for renovation. This renovation includes air conditioning for Patapsco High School. The county also provided funding for a satellite spay/neuter/microchipping facility to be located at Merritt Point Park.

It is important to remember that this is an ongoing process until the end of May when the Council votes on the final version.

Community Clean Up Efforts

April 11th kicked off one of several community cleanup events which will span several months. This year has seen perhaps some of the most effective cleanup efforts in the history of our district. Clean Bread and Cheese Creek group was so successful that they were able to venture into areas they have never before cleaned. The Bear Creek community was able to field hundreds of volunteers on the weekend of April 25th.

In addition to the large groups which hold many cleanups throughout the year, several smaller groups and community organizations held their own.

Throughout the district, young and old armed themselves with all manner of gardening and other equipment designed to clean up outdoors and went to work in the places where they live. In the Middlesex community Cliff's Hi-Tech rounded up a dozen volunteers and transformed a common dumping ground. The results are amazing.





And while a thousand volunteers are impressive alone, it is just as impressive to feed them with corporate and local business sponsorship. I could not begin to list all the businesses and organizations large and small who either donated food, money, or both to make this success a reality. If you take a moment to look around, you can find cleanup events. Call my office if you need assistance and we will help locate one where you can volunteer.

New Staff

As warmer weather sets in and the volume of calls to our office increases, we have brought in several new people to help. If you have called the district office, you may have spoken to Cleo Everd. Cleo helps us with constituent service during the week. Also joining us is Dawn Jessa. Dawn is a retired Baltimore City Police Officer who spent over a decade as Chief of Staff to 3 different Baltimore City Police Commissioners. Dawn has a passion for community outreach and some of you have already met her during your evening community meetings. We anticipate additional staff coming on board in the fall, including an individual to assist our non-profit organizations in grant funding efforts.

Harborview Community Meeting

On April 22nd, Mr. Richard Fletcher was brutally attacked by a group of students who attend the nearby Baltimore Community High School. Several days later, a number of arrests were made with more arrests pending. The following Wednesday 29th, a meeting was held at the school. Over 200 people attended, as well as city, county and state officials. I was present at the meeting which was understandably, emotionally charged. This is a long standing issue for the community, and the community will not stand for such abhorrent and intolerable behavior.

Towards the end of the meeting, Mr. Hassan Charles of Baltimore City Public Schools offered some actionable items and requested a follow up meeting. He promised to immediately address some of the largest issues. Even though the school is located in Baltimore City, Baltimore County police Captain Lilly of the 12th precinct is moving resources around to ensure a county police presence during school dismissal. I will attend upcoming meetings regarding this incident and make every effort to assist with county resources where I am able. The school is scheduled to close in 2017, and in my opinion it cannot come soon enough.

Animal Services Advisory Board

In February, the Council passed a resolution creating an Animal Services Advisory Board in order to address some long standing issues with the Baltimore County Animal Shelter. The board is composed of one appointee from each Council member, and four appointees from the County Executive. Nothing is quite as effective as a board staffed by highly skilled and passionate people. I received many inquiries, resumes, and conducted interviews.

I appointed Mr. Roy Plummer to the position. Roy has decades of experience in many roles relating to animal services, including training, various certifications, and experience as a veterinary assistant. Roy comes highly recommended by prominent veterinarians and brings an understanding of the sciences that inform public policy regarding animal welfare.

I believe Roy will serve our district well in his term on the new Animal Services Advisory Board. I hope that you will support him in his effort.

Commitments From the Administration

After discussions with County Executive Kevin Kamenetz, I can confirm that the administration is committed to replacing the artificial turf at the South Eastern Regional Recreation Center (SERRC.) Additionally, the playground that was removed from the former Eastwood Elementary School will be replaced. I am working with the administration and the community on a new site.

Finally, our office has received assurance from the Department of Public Works that the Watersedge/Turner Station traffic circle will be restored.

“Shake off any dust that may accumulate from lack of purpose.”

- Cpl. Chris Coffland, US Army, KIA Afghanistan, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Grumbell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "T" and "G".