



April 2012

Volume IX, Issue II

O'Malley's Master-Plan for Maryland

April 12 at 7:00 PM

St. Marks Church

Special Guest, Sen. Allan Kittleman

President's Message:

Please, gently put aside the fight over health care – you are not on the Court -- and focus on our community's future, over which we might have some influence. **Senator Kittleman** has agreed to give us his views on the Governor's initiative to plan the future growth of our community down to the last detail, and discourage us from "stupid land-use decisions."

Over the last 3 years **Gov. O'Malley** has been utilizing a 37-year-old law to develop a master plan for MD without further participation of the Legislature, and to withhold funding from local governments that don't yield to his vision. At a [hearing](#) in August, O'Malley summarized his view most succinctly: Homes built on two-acre plots with septic systems are sprawl; homes built within city limits on half-acre plots, and in range of sewer hookups, are not. The plan "is not a straitjacket for counties," O'Malley said. "This is not a wall that prohibits counties from making stupid land-use decisions. They're still free to do that, but we're not going to subsidize it anymore." – Wash. Post, 8/19/11. **O'Malley's shotgun approach directly affects Highland which, to GHCA's knowledge, is not subsidized nor inhabited by people making stupid land-use decisions.**

House Bill 1107, sponsored by **Delegates Lafferty, Bobo, Cardin, Carr, Frush, Gaines, Hucker, and S. Robinson** would prohibit construction of septic systems in developments with five or more homes, and force anyone building two or more homes in Maryland to use

more expensive technology to limit nitrogen emissions. Some homes being constructed would be grand fathered in and exempt from the rule – Wash. Post, 2/14/11.

Please give your MD Senator the benefit of your views by participating. As always we will be there by 6:45 to conduct sign-in and prepare to begin promptly at 7:00. Don't forget to bring your dues and invite at least one neighbor to join you.

GHCA Website

We got a new Webmaster! **Chuck Gait**, whose column appears in the **Howard County Times** has agreed to take a hand off from **Eric Kirksey**. A thousand thanks to Eric! Visit the site, <http://www.highlandmd.org/> and send your comments or suggestions to **Chuck** at: Chuck.Gait@gmail.com

!!! THE SCOOP -- SIGHTINGS – RUMORS – BARGAINS

- No ruling has been made yet on the appeal of the 16-bed assisted living case.
- **Funeral Home Round Two:** The neighboring residents of the second **Donaldson Funeral Home** on Clarksville Pike came out in force at the **Board of Appeals** after **St. Louis Church** dropped its opposition in response to a substantial plan modification by the applicant for conditional use. The opponents cited traffic, compatibility, danger of embalming fluids to people and well water, and water runoff as issues.
- You'll get a kick out of this **Boarmans'** video, and it's fun to send to friends and relatives who ask about your neighborhood: [http://www.meetlocalbiz.com/state/MD/Highland/Grocery Stores/profile/Boarman's Old Fashioned Meat Market--112.html](http://www.meetlocalbiz.com/state/MD/Highland/Grocery%20Stores/profile/Boarman's%20Old%20Fashioned%20Meat%20Market--112.html). Click on the steaks to view.
- Work continues on the Highland Inn.
- The **Highland Sign** on 216: Please contact me if you know what happened to the sign posts and the rest of the sign. I was getting ready to repair it when it disappeared? Danielol@aol.com. Or 301-854-9424

Membership Special Appeal: Shortly, we will be representing GHCA's position on **Comprehensive Rezoning**. I ask every current member to bring at least one neighbor to our next meeting and to join, we need double our numbers and clout in 2012. Please join or rejoin GHCA. The Membership is **\$50 for the calendar year**. **Now more than ever your participation and membership is needed to support the continued efforts of GHCA to**

represent your interests before Maryland/Howard County government, development interests, and community events.

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