



**Dulaney
Valley
Improvement
Association, Inc.**

P.O. Box 102 · Lutherville, MD · 21094-0102

**DVIA
Newsletter
June 2008**

**IMPORTANT UPDATE REGARDING THE GREEN RIDGE SEWER
INTERCEPTOR PROJECT!!!**

President's Message – by Larry Townsend

In order for the Quarters at Towson project to go forward, the sewer lines that bisect our community have to be enlarged to provide the capacity necessary to support this project and other projects north of the Towson ridge. Baltimore County has partially funded the enlargement project to support the Quarters at Towson and additional new development north of the Towson ridge. The contractor building the sewer line is working under the supervision of Baltimore County and it has been reported that this contractor is one that Baltimore County has worked with on similar projects. They are boring a forty inch (40") tunnel under I695 that parallels Long Quarter Branch as it passes under the Beltway. The tunnel ends north of I695 on the west side of Long Quarter Branch just south of Tenbury Road. In the last newsletter, I reported that the project was making headway with little problem. I had received calls that the pumps being used to move sewage while the project continued were noisy but, after the persistence of a community member on Meadowvale Road, quieter pumps were installed.

Just before the May, 2008, DVIA Meeting, I received a call from a consultant hired by the management of the Quarters at Towson. His job was to mediate any challenges that might occur if it became necessary to complete the tunnel by using **explosives** to break the rock that is hampering completion of the tunnel. It seems that the contractor has encountered Cockeysville Marble in the tunnel. I have been told that no amount of pre-planning or testing could have been predicted whether there was any such problem. The tunnel is under I695 and the only method that could have used was to sink borings every ten (10) feet along the path of the tunnel. This could (and would) interrupt Beltway traffic and even after the borings were completed and the material analyzed, there was no guarantee that some sort of rock (marble in this case) would not be encountered.

Years ago, after I added a basement under one level of my house without incident, a neighbor attempted to do the same on the other side of the street and they now have a large marble display in their partially excavated basement. The same thing happened to their next door neighbor's attempt but they were able to excavate enough to complete a usable space. Thus, I am confident that the same marble that stopped the attempts at basement excavations on the west side of Longbrook Road is probably the same vein that is now creating a problem for the sewer line.

The consultant met with the DVIA board in May on short notice. He answered our questions as best he could. Do they have to blast? "Maybe." When will they blast? "Not sure." Will we have notice? "Most likely we would have about forty-eight hours (48) notice." Could there be any damage to adjacent homes. "Maybe." Needless to say, we didn't get many answers. The reason for the lack of answers is simple – no one knows if they will have to blast, when they will make the decision, when will they test and what will most likely be the outcome. The State Highways Administration basically told the contractor that if, during the testing phase or any later phase, they "break" the Beltway, they have "bought it". The Beltway will have to be brought to a stop during any test or any additional blasting. Specially equipped vehicles will scan the road surface before and after any blasting. The State Police will be used for traffic control.

All three (3) of our State delegates have been contacted and our State senator as well. Our councilman also has been contacted. They have all asked the Baltimore County Director of Public Works, Ed Adams, for information. He has responded but has not provided any reassurance that a 100% guarantee of "no damage" can be given. The State Highway Administration has also responded but also cannot provide us with any guarantees. Our neighbors adjacent to the immediate area are concerned about damage to their foundations that probably rest on or near the marble vein. In case you were not aware, they have had to blast along York Road between Cavan Drive and Ridgely Road as they proceed with the current widening project. This is different from blasting in a tunnel as they dig down as far as they can and then set charges in an open trench which has been covered/over-laid with blast protection fabric. The blasting that will be done under the Beltway will be sort of like a shotgun blast with the explosives being detonated inside of the tunnel liner, sort of like the inside of the barrel of a shotgun.

How did we get to this point? Simply, Baltimore County decided to fast-track the Quarters at Towson project and other projects north of Towson ridge without any consideration for the impact on our community (or on our neighbors south of the Beltway). The Quarters at Towson, the expansion of Towson Towne Center, the new jail, and projects along York Road near the top of the ridge have all contributed to the need to increase the magnitude of the Greenridge Sewer Interceptor. We were not given the opportunity to make our voices heard. In fact, I only found out about the sewer project when a neighbor called last July to tell me that the trees along Long Quarter Branch had been clear cut from Ridgefield Road to the sewage pumping station off of Greenridge Road leaving a barren pathway about seventy-five feet (75') wide. My attempts to find out what was going on were to say the least difficult. The next salvo was when they built a road along side of our neighbor that sits just west of Long Quarter Branch on Tenbury Road. This time, while attempting to get further information, I was threatened with arrest and I cannot in this newsletter tell you what I was called by a county employee (who is still employed). Now, we are faced with blasting.

Even if the blast is a "poof", we don't want it, don't see a need for it, don't like it, and are opposed to it. Our representatives are telling me that they agree with me – for the most part – but I doubt that we can do much to stop the "progress" of a project that has the blessing of our top county officials. I guess the best we can do is put up with the "sewage" and attempt to make changes in that area at the next election!

I welcome your comments – both pro and con.

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Congratulations to all of our recent graduates. We wish that we had a list so that we could mention each one of them.

Congratulations to Edwin and Jennifer Bodensiek of Longbrook Road on the birth of their son Evan.

Our condolences to Don Imwold, also of Longbrook Road, on the passing of his mother.

DVIA NEEDS YOU!

Yep, the same as the last issue! We still need a Vice-President and the President would like to "retire" to a board position only. When the elections are held in November, we hope that you will volunteer.

ZONING ISSUES

Our agreement with Valley Baptist Church was heard by the Zoning Commissioner and a favorable decision was rendered. Unfortunately for Valley Baptist Church, the People's Counsel entered an appeal due to the size of the moveable copy sign that was made a part of the request and the decision. The appeal hearing has not been scheduled yet.

A request for a garage with a height of twenty-one feet (21') in a side yard on Oak Croft Road was partially denied by the Zoning Commissioner. The written decision is pending, but the height was limited to the regulated fifteen feet (15'). The petitioners were permitted to build their garage in the side yard at the point where the rear line of their house ends. They must wait for the decision to be published and the wait thirty days (30) until the appeal window has closed.

The Galleria case is now awaiting a date in Circuit Court. All materials from the original case and the Appeal Board case have been transcribed and forwarded to the court. This relates to the construction of parking spaces in a residential zone.

Baltimore County Code Enforcement was satisfied by the owner of a property on Ridgefield Road that only two (2) unrelated persons now reside at that address. As Towson University is now closed, we will have to wait until fall to see if further action might be required.

The sale of motor vehicles from a house on Dulaney Valley Road continues. The case will be investigated by the Maryland State Department of Motor Vehicles.

A reminder that ALL residential rental properties in Baltimore County MUST be inspected. A license must be purchased from Baltimore County as well. This requirement is effective July 1, 2008. Fines for non-compliance are set at \$1,000 per day!

BROKEN PAVEMENT

A list of areas having broken pavement has been compiled using information that you supplied after our last newsletter and was forwarded to Baltimore County. We are awaiting their reply.

TRAFFIC CALMING

No progress! Delegate Bill Frank is attempting to set up another meeting with Baltimore County to discuss what can be done about speeding on Charmuth Road. With construction continuing on York Road, Charmuth Road has become a major thoroughfare. ***Note to residents of Charmuth Road:*** You may be asked to sign a petition asking that the county do something. Think about it, ask DVIA questions and be ready to sign up. We may not be able to do anything about traffic calming unless you ask us and Baltimore County via this petition. We are hoping, however, to get some action before we resort to the petition route.

WELCOMING COMMITTEE

We had a favorable response to our request for participation and will be working to establish a Welcoming Committee. Thank you to those who have expressed interest. We think we even have a chairman!

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER! If you haven't paid your dues, still only \$15, please consider doing so. Right now, we do not have the man-power to send a reminder. To those that have paid, we really appreciate your support. Watch for our fall newsletter with a meeting schedule.

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