

SPARKS-GLENCOE COMMUNITY PLANNING COUNCIL BOARD 2011-2012

<i>Goals</i>		<i>Officers and Directors</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Educating residents and land use representatives about the natural resources in northern Baltimore County; ◆ Encouraging the protection and preservation of the rural, historical, and agricultural environment of northern Baltimore County; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Promoting responsible community planning which maintains the rural character of the area; ◆ Advocating growth in keeping with the level of public services available in the area. 	<p><i>President</i> Kirsten Burger</p> <p><i>Vice-President</i> George Rew</p> <p><i>Vice-President</i> Theaux Le Gardeur</p> <p><i>Treasurer</i> Ty Young</p> <p><i>Recording Secretary</i> Wendy McIver</p>	<p><i>Corresponding Secretary</i> Nedda Evans</p> <p><i>Additional Directors</i> Lee Bishop Lawrie Deering Bob Stanhope Carol Stevenson Renaë Olver</p>

Contact us at our website: www.sgpc.org at info@sgpc.org



Miller's Minuteman Press
design • copy • print • promote • mail

2010
MD Chamber of Commerce
Small Business of the Year

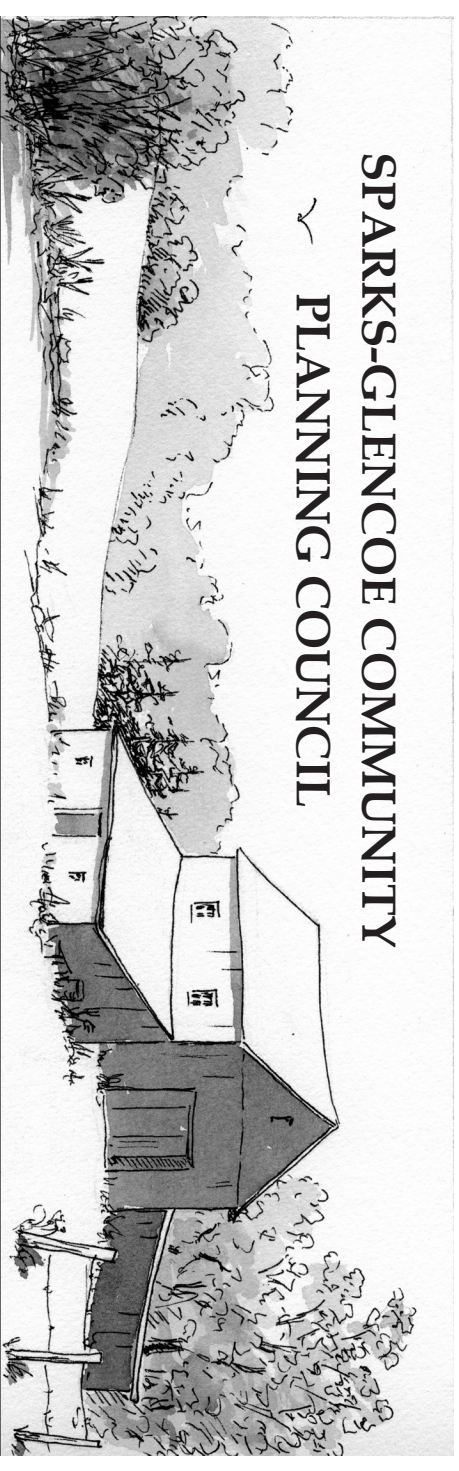
Baltimore • Hunt Valley • Lutherville
Towson • Westminster
1.866.MMP.6789
www.millersmmp.com
info@millersmmp.com

Advertising Specialties
Annual Reports
Artwork & Design
Banners • Booklets
Brochures • Business Cards
Calendars • Catalogs
Envelopes • Folders
Flyers • Full Color Printing
Invitations • Letterheads
Marketing Consulting
Menus • Newsletters
NCR Forms • Notepads
Posters • Postcards
Programs • Stationery
More By The Minute!

◆ **SPARKS CLEANERS** ◆

We proudly use the
Green Earth®
Cleaning System

10 Fila Way, #L
Sparks, MD
410-472-4934



Preserving our rural heritage

Fall 2011 Newsletter

SPARKS-GLENCOE COMMUNITY PLANNING COUNCIL

Dear Neighbor,

If you stop to think about it, northern Baltimore County is an extraordinary area - large swaths of green space, wooded areas, farm fields, and countless clear-running waterways. This condition is not just the result of natural forces; it is the result of extraordinary actions by people who have been far-sighted in making decisions about how the land should be used: County planners created the Urban/Rural demarcation line, directing most growth into more urban areas; property owners decided to grant a wonderful legacy to future generations, and put their property into permanent preservation; County leaders zoned property to minimize development; community leaders got together and forged an agreement about how the historic character of their central town should be preserved.

All of these actions run counter to the normal process of letting market forces dictate where and how development occurs. We are grateful to the forward-thinking people who have protected the wonderful area we live in, and we hope their leadership will continue to be followed.



The SGCCPC Board

November 9 meeting:

7 p.m. Sparks Elementary
All your CZMP questions answered!
Presentations by
Jessie Bialek, Baltimore County Dept. of Planning
and by Sparks-Glencoe Board Members

**The Herford Community Plan:
An Extraordinary Effort**

Who could imagine that a committee consisting of builders, environmentalists, business owners, farmers, and community association representatives could agree on anything? But agree they did, and the result is the Herford Community Plan, an agreement incorporated into Baltimore County's Master Plan in 1991.

Herford is the heart of our community and it is right in the center of Sparks-Glencoe's heart-shaped boundaries. Herford is where we go for vital services—food, fuel, medical services, auto repair, animal feed, banking, post office, pharmacy, library, high school. It serves the purpose the Plan writers intended: providing for essential needs, but not the complete range of services available in an urban area.

The challenge facing the Plan committee was to formulate "a community-based plan to provide for growth in a manner which protects and enhances the unique character of the town and is also environmentally responsible." Wendy McIver, SGCCPC's Recording Secretary, attended every Plan committee meeting, originally as an alternate, then as a regular member when one of the members moved away. Ms. McIver credits Dutch Ruppersberger, then Councilman for the Third District, with recognizing that the patrons of Herford stores, who live in the surrounding community, have an interest in the character of "their village." He invited representatives from all parts of the community to participate in the planning process.

The committee wanted to maintain the small, rural-town character of Herford as well as protect the surrounding countryside. They revisited the town's history, dating back to the mid 1700's.

(continued page 2)

Sparks, MD 21152
P.O. Box 937
PLANNING COUNCIL
SPARKS-GLENCOE COMMUNITY

#22
US POSTAGE PAID
SPARKS, MD 21152
PRSRJT STD

Extraordinary Effort *(continued from page 1)*

The buildings then -- houses and inns -- were located purposefully close to the "turnpike". Buildings were small, of a residential scale, and presented a rural main street appearance. To maintain that small scale, the planners limited the size of buildings to 8800 square feet, and the height to 30 feet. Additional guidelines state a preference for buildings facing the street, with porches, cross gable roofs, and natural exterior finishes. Appropriate signage and lighting are also described.

It was important to the Hereford planners that the character of the area not be disrupted by urban sprawl. Therefore, they defined the limits of the Commercial Rural District, including the area in which future commercial expansion would be directed. The commercial district contains 48.5 acres. It covers both sides of York Road, from south of the high school to just south of Everett Road, and both sides of Mount Carmel Road, from York Road to the I-83 ramps. Expansion of commercial uses was directed to the area north of Mt. Carmel Road, bounded on the west by I-83, and on the east, by the existing commercial center. To meet their objective of maintaining the compact nature of Hereford, the Planners stated that no commercial expansion should occur north or south on York Road, or west of I-83.

Reaching the agreements necessary to produce the Hereford Plan was not easy for the group: "The Committee struggled over the often conflicting concerns of providing for reasonable growth and economic development and maintaining the rural qualities of the town and surrounding areas." The Hereford Community Plan was the first local community plan; it was seen as the prototype for other communities, such as Jacksonville and Kingsville. Northern Baltimore County is fortunate to have had these leaders who worked together for years to adopt this plan for our central town, maintaining the historic rural character of our area while providing for the basic needs of the community.



WHEATLEY ASSOCIATES
DESIGN + REMODEL

KATHY WHEATLEY
PRESIDENT

16928 YORK ROAD
MONKTON, MD 21111
PHONE: 410-329-2500
FAX: 410-357-4777
Email: kathy@wheatleyassociates.com
www.wheatleyassociates.com

There's Life Under the River!

When the Gunpowder Riverkeeper put out a request for volunteers to survey local waterways, some of our Board members donned waders, grabbed nets, buckets and checklists, and headed out to the streams. We were participating in the Stream Waders program, which enlists volunteers to help the Department of Natural Resources complete their annual survey of streams throughout the state.

Our first stop was Bush Cabin Creek. After stirring up the gravel on the streambed, we scooped up a net full of gravel, dirt, leaves, sticks, and living creatures, and put the contents into a bucket.




Dean Mennick, Carol Stevenson, Kirsten Burger, and Martin Eisman

We admired the many invertebrates we found, but unfortunately for the critters, they wound up in a bucket of alcohol, preserving them for identification and study. We also took samples from Mingo Branch, Panther Creek and few places on the Gunpowder Falls.

The results of our sampling are not yet available, but we observed a big difference in the quantity of aquatic invertebrates among the areas, especially in the Gunpowder Falls. The number and species of aquatic invertebrates serve as an indicator of the health of the stream. Sampling the River near Monkton Road and Corbett Road found many more invertebrates than were found downstream near Sparks Road. The Sparks area had much more sediment on the streambed, which smothers the invertebrates. The areas with the most invertebrates had rocky or gravelly bottoms. Hopefully the results of this study will promote safeguards to protect the quality of our local rivers and streams.

Full Service Fly Shop



BACKWATER ANGLER

Voice 410-357-9551 • e-mail: info@backwaterangler.com
16928 York Road • Monkton, Maryland 21111
www.backwaterangler.com

Good-bye BGE Bills

Just a stone's throw from Laura and George Rew's prolific Parkton garden sits a ground-mounted solar electric system consisting of 36 panels that collect photons and use that light energy to produce electricity. The Rews, both retired from BG&E, had the system installed last October. Although the primary motivation was to save money, the prospect of lightening their carbon footprint figured prominently into their decision to buy into solar power which, despite rapid growth in recent years, accounts for less than one percent of electricity use in the United States.

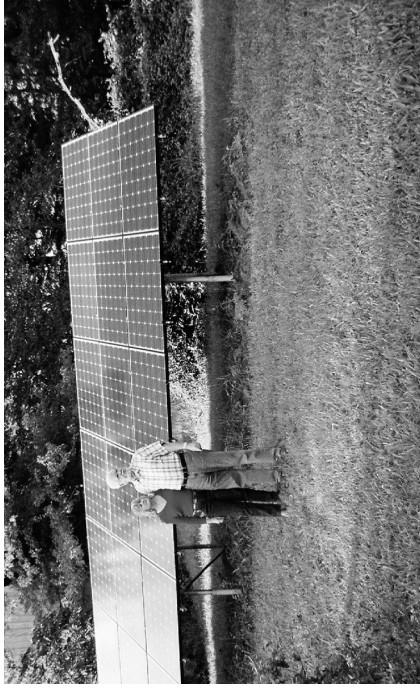
After considering various offerings from a few different solar energy companies, the Rews chose to go with a ground-mounted design. "Otherwise I would have had to have taken some of my shade trees down," says George, indicating the beloved sycamores and oaks flanking the home that the couple had built back in the 1970s. The chimney turned out to be another deciding factor, as it would have created a daily shadow on a rooftop system. Also, if it snows or the panels get dusty, Rew can easily brush them off.

"BG&E hasn't sent us a bill in quite a while," Rew adds, smiling. "Everyone's surprised at how much juice we're producing."

Are you good with computers?
Can you spare an hour or two once a month to work on our website?
Volunteers are always welcome!
Contact us at info@sgcpc.org

Here are the numbers:

The system cost \$49,199, but came with a federal tax credit, renewable energy credits, and a Maryland state grant. The Rews expect to recover their net cost of \$12,453 after 6 years. Since last October, the system has produced 9464 kilowatt hours and reduced CO2 emission by 16,088 lbs.



George Rew, SGCCPC Vice President and Laura Rew, former Board Member

Joseph L. Bishop, Agent
Nationwide Insurance
16829 York Road
P.O. Box 355
Monkton, MD 21111

Nationwide
On Your Side®

Tel: 410-329-6550
Tel: 410-357-8300
Fax: 410-329-6412
bishopj@nationwide.com

DUES ARE DUE *DUES ARE DUE*

Basic membership: ___ (\$35) Family (2 adults in the same household): ___ (\$50)

I wish to make an additional donation of: ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$200 ___ Other

Please make check out to SGCCPC and mail to: P.O. Box 937, Sparks, MD 21152

If you'd like to get more involved with our work, choose a committee that interests you: ___ zoning; ___ land preservation; ___ membership & fundraising; ___ communications; ___ web site; ___ monitoring county hearings, or let us know how you can help: ___

Name _____
Telephone (day) _____ (eve) _____
E-mail address _____
Street address _____
City, state, zip _____

We need your support to carry on our mission of protecting our rural environment. We are a tax-exempt organization, so your contribution beyond the cost of membership is tax-deductible. Please be as generous as you can! **Remember: we accept matching contributions from your employer.** Our tax ID# is 20-3888970.

Thank you for your support!