

MEMORANDUM

TO: City Council

FROM: David J. Deutsch
City Manager

SUBJECT: ***Status Report***

DATE: January 12, 2012

Status Report

1. Kenhill Speed Camera Sites
The attached map shows the location for the new speed cameras on Kenhill Drive.
2. Small Business Development Center to Provide Counseling in Bowie
The Capital Region Office of the Maryland Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network will provide weekly business counseling at Bowie City Hall every Wednesday starting January 18, 2012. Counseling is by appointment only. Appointments may be made by calling the counselor, Christian Olsen, at 301-209-2132.

This new initiative by the City's Economic Development office builds on the successful counseling sessions offered, by appointment only at City Hall each Tuesday, by the Procurement Technical Assistance Program (PTAP), also part of the Maryland SBDC Network.

Since 1988, the Maryland Small Business Development Center (MDSBDC) Network has provided advice, counseling, and support to entrepreneurs and small to mid-size businesses across the State. The Network, a partnership between the U.S. Small Business Administration and the University of Maryland College Park, links private enterprise, government, higher education and local economic development organizations to provide management, training and technical assistance to Maryland's small businesses. As part of a national SBDC Network, the MDSBDC has rapid access to a number of information resources to deliver assistance that strengthens businesses, thereby contributing to the growth of local, state and national economies. Further details about Capital Region SBDC programs and assistance can be found at <http://www.capitalregionsbdc.umd.edu/>.

3. Board of Education Meeting

The Board of Education met on Thursday, January 5th. Among the items discussed were the FY 2013 Budget and proposed boundary changes.

The Superintendent is proposing a major change in how schools are managed. Starting this year, schools will have more control over portions of their budgets. School Based Budgeting (SBB) is intended to allow schools to structure their programs and resources to meet the needs of their students, rather than following a "one size fits all" approach dictated by the school system. Four Bowie schools were involved in a pilot of SBB last school year.

The Superintendent's boundary change proposal was discussed in great detail but no vote was taken. The vote will take place at a Board meeting on Wednesday, January 18th. Parents from Yorktown, Rockledge and Heather Hills Elementary Schools testified at the meeting regarding the proposal.

The effects of the changes on schools in Bowie are summarized below:

Heather Hills ES

Heather Hills would be converted to a TAG only school. Under this proposal, 55 neighborhood students not in the TAG program would move from Heather Hills to Kenilworth ES to make room for other TAG students at Heather Hills and rising 6th graders at Heather Hills would be assigned to Kenmoor MS (TAG students) and to Benjamin Tasker MS (non TAG students).

Kenilworth ES

Kenilworth students (75) from Long Ridge and Princeton Square would be shifted from Kenilworth to Tulip Grove, increasing the population at Tulip Grove and making room for the Heather Hills comprehensive students at Kenilworth.

Tulip Grove ES

Enrollment at Tulip Grove would increase by approximately 75 students (from 74% to 92% of capacity) with the shifting of the Long Ridge and Princeton Square students into Tulip Grove.

Rockledge ES

Students living in Saddlebrook West, Patuxent Riding, Kimberwick and along Jericho Park Road would move from Rockledge to Yorktown. The current utilization rate at Rockledge is 113%. After the move the school would be at 91% of its capacity.

Yorktown ES

This school has been in danger of being closed because of severe under enrollment (it is currently at 54% of capacity). The shift of 99 Rockledge students would bring the utilization rate at Yorktown to 76% of capacity.

4. Economic Development Committee (EDC)

The EDC held their regular monthly meeting Wednesday. A new category was added for this year's Business Recognition Awards program: Green Business of the Year. The criteria for that award are:

Green Business of the Year – This award is for a company that has one or more Bowie locations who has demonstrated their commitment to environmentally sustainable practices such as energy and water savings, recycling, renewable energy, reduced chemicals or packaging, or employee carpooling/telework.

Full details on this year's awards program, to be held on Friday, May 11, 2012, will be released later this month.

The EDC also heard a briefing from Mr. John Allender, Vice Chairman of the City's Environmental Advisory Committee, about the Sustainable Maryland Certification process. The EDC discussed the business aspects of environmental activities of the City.

The next regular meeting of the EDC will be Wednesday, February 8.

5. Tour of Melford Property

On Tuesday, January 10th a bus tour of the Melford property for City officials was given by St. John Properties. The Bowie Advisory Planning Board (BAPB) requested this informational tour of the site at their meeting on the Melford Comprehensive Signage Plan last July. Two (2) members of the BAPB attended, along with Mayor Pro Tem Diane Polangin. Three (3) residents, including Ms. Susan Pearl, Ms. Beth Lingg and Mr. John Lally, as well as St. John land use attorney Robert Antonetti, also attended. Mr. Sean Doordan, Leasing Vice-President, and Mr. Andrew Roud, Development Manager, of St. John Properties provided an overview of the property and led the bus tour. The tour included a visit to the Melford historic home, a review of St. John's existing buildings, and an orientation to the other properties in the park.

6. Tall Oaks Request for Speed Humps

The City's Neighborhood Traffic Management Program includes a requirement for a public informational meeting prior to installation of speed humps, so residents can receive information on the ramifications of humps and on other traffic calming options that are available to them. Public Works Director Jim Henrikson attended the Tall Oaks HOA meeting on January 5th. There were 15 residents, six Board members and the property manager, John Sheehy, in attendance.

Jim provided a presentation of the options available and indicated that, if the HOA wants humps extended the entire length of Pin Oak Parkway, 60% of the residents on Pin Oak Parkway, Peachtree Lane and Peartree Drive need to sign the petition. That is because it is anticipated that the two side streets would see an increase in cut-through traffic if there are speed humps over the entire 6,000-foot length of Pin Oak Parkway. In 2008, the residents in favor of humps weren't able to achieve any

level close to 60% on those streets. At Thursday's meeting, one resident of Peachtree Lane said that the installation of the two existing humps on Pin Oak Parkway has appeared to him to have increased cut-through traffic on Peachtree Lane.

Corporal Henderson, Officer Wall, and BVFD Deputy Chief (Co. 816) Pete Mellits spoke to the public safety issues regarding speed humps. Corporal Henderson indicated the recent pedestrian accident involving a young girl was not speed related. The residents at the meeting were divided on their support for speed humps. There was interest among the residents for another Speed Awareness Day and another installation of a pole mounted speed sign. There was also some interest in installing a traffic circle on Pin Oak Parkway at Peachtree Lane. Blank petition forms were handed out. At this point, staff is waiting to hear from the HOA Board on these issues and to see if they get the required minimum percentage of signatures.

DJD/asf

Attachment

Kenhill Speed Camera Sites

