



The **FREEDOM INFORMER**

www.freedomareacitizens.org

November 2005

A Publication of FACC / Freedom Area Citizens' Council

26 AND 32 ABANDONED BUILDINGS TORN DOWN

At long last, the abandoned buildings that have stood for over a decade, vacant and without any active commercial enterprise, have been torn down. These buildings over the course of years have been allowed to deteriorate and have stood as an ugly greeting to those driving into our community. All that changed by November 2, when the Korner Karry Out Building was torn down by its owner, albeit with considerable pressure from the County.

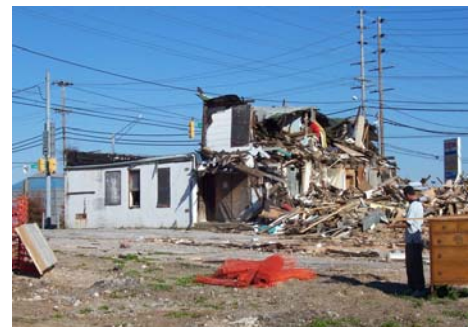
to change the ordinance. Previously, the ordinance classified an abandoned building eligible for a County demolition order only if the building was structurally unsafe, that is only if the building were in imminent danger of falling down. Due to FACC's persistence, the ordinance was changed to broaden its coverage to buildings that presented other dangers, such as fire hazards. As a result, the County had the ammunition with which to demand that the property owners take down these eyesores that they had abandoned for over a decade and left simply to deteriorate.



FACC, we are proud to say, led the fight. FACC has once again succeeded in achieving one of its most important goals for the community. It was not easy.

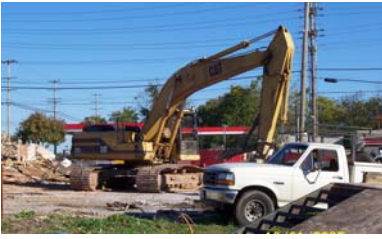
If it sounds like FACC deserves a pat on the back, you are absolutely right! FACC has its critics, to be certain. Why has FACC stayed around despite seemingly endless and unfair attacks by the "usual suspects"? Two reasons come to mind. First, FACC's focus has and will always be on the betterment of the community. Second, FACC achieves results!

The fight to have the buildings either restored or torn down took several years. It also took the involvement, at the urging of FACC, of the State and County governments. In the end, it was the County's recently strengthened abandoned buildings ordinance that enabled the County to put pressure on the owners to come forward and do the right thing; take down the structures. It was FACC that suggested and put pressure on the County



Much hard work went into achieving this success. Many in our membership have

**Don't miss
the next
FACC
Meeting
at the
Eldersburg
Branch
Library at
7:30 pm on
Thursday
Nov. 17th**



been fighting this battle for literally years. Many thanks go to them. Many thanks go to our Commissioners and the County staff. Thanks go to Delegate Krebs as well, without whose support this result would not have been possible.

We have included in this edition photographs of the demolition. Those of you waiting for this moment should enjoy them. We now look forward to a day when the corner of 26 and 32 can be in a sense reborn. November 2005 was a good start. ☒

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FORUM

Please join the Freedom Area Citizens' Council when we host a forum on economic development at 7:30 pm in the Eldersburg library on Thursday, Nov. 17th. Invited guests and speakers will include: Lawrence Twele, Carroll County Director of Economic Development, Mayor Jonathan Herman of Sykesville and representatives from the Maryland State Department of Planning and Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. In addition, elected state representatives Del. Sue Krebs and Sen. Alan Kittleman will be on hand as will Carroll County Chief of Staff, Steve Powell and Director of Planning Steve Horn.

The primary topic will be the comprehensive planning process for the Springfield Hospital complex as it slowly begins its transition into becoming the premier economic development destination in Carroll County. For about 10 years, the Town of Sykesville has been incubating development plans for this complex and with the opening earlier this year of the new Maryland State Police Training Facility, the Warfield business complex and groundbreaking on the new

Route 32 interchange together with the road re-alignment, long-range plans for Warfield and the Springfield Hospital complex are finally starting to take shape.

Attendees will discuss the steps in the comprehensive planning process and inform the public about the complicated nature of turning unused and surplus state property into vital commercial office and industrial capacity for Carroll County. Planners hope that as the complex is re-developed over the course of the next 10 years, it will become one of the regions largest employment engines, creating well over a 1,000 new jobs and attracting both large and small employers.

While many may think of Eldersburg and Sykesville as sleepy bedroom communities with little in the way of business appeal, this is soon going to change. Make the time to tour the grounds of the Springfield Hospital complex to soak-in the potential of this premier economic development site. This historically significant and architecturally beautiful complex will one day offer a wonderful blend of commercial, industrial and retail office space in a park-like setting conveniently located in Sykesville, just a few miles north of interstate 70 and a two minute drive from Eldersburg. ☒

The Freedom Informer

*Published by the
Freedom Area Citizens' Council
P.O. Box 142
Sykesville, MD 21784*

EDITOR:
Nicole Musgrave-Burdette

PRODUCTION:
Deborah Dugan

TECHNICAL/DISTRIBUTION:
Dan Bicking

E-MAIL:
editor@freedomareacitizens.org

Visit our Website
www.freedomareacitizens.org

FACC TO HOLD 50/50 RAFFLE



FACC will be holding a 50/50 raffle. The drawing will be January 19, 2006 at our regularly scheduled meeting. Tickets go on sale immediately and can be purchased for \$1 a ticket, or \$5 for 6 tickets by contacting Tom McCarron at tmccarron@semmes.com or 410-549-3809, or by contacting any Board member of the FACC.