



**GREATER FALLSTON ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
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June 25, 2009

William G. Nicodemus, Chairman  
Harford County Public Library  
Board of Trustees  
Members of the Board

**Re: Fallston Library**

Thank you for the privilege of addressing this body. By introduction, my name is Dr. Roman Ratych, President of the Greater Fallston Association.

I would like to address three issues relevant to the fate of the Fallston Library.

**Issue 1. Contribution to the Harford County Tax Base**

The GFA respects all the citizens of Harford County and their communities. According to the 2004 Master Plan, Fallston, in particular, is privileged to have the highest per capita household income in Harford County. When one multiplies the number of households in Fallston by the per capita household income, Fallston becomes the 4<sup>th</sup> highest tax revenue contributor to the County, as much as Aberdeen and Havre de Grace combined, communities already served by two library branches.

The citizens of Fallston contribute substantially to the income revenue of Harford County and deserve their fair share of adequate public facilities.

**Issue 2. Physical State of the Library and Citizen Usage**

The same reasons listed by the executive committee to justify the closure of the Fallston Library are the same reasons that could be used to justify its improvement and expansion (*i.e. poor location, inaccessibility and age*). While computer usage and walk-ins were listed as additional reasons for closure, the list did not include the fact that for FY 07 and FY 08, Fallston ranked number four in overall circulation, even more so than Edgewood, Jarrettsville, Havre de Grace, Whiteford, Joppa, Norrisville and Darlington.

The citizens of Fallston utilize their library, albeit as inadequate as it may be, and deserve their fair share of adequate public facilities

### **Issue 3. Inter-government Communication**

It is important for the left hand to know what the right hand is doing. In December of 2008, Planning and Zoning and Harford County Council designated Fallston, Joppa, Jarrettsville and Forest Hill as the receiving areas for new development. In the first round of comprehensive rezoning, P&Z granted Fallston ten (10) times more approvals for RR development than any of the other three communities.

The area of Fallston, by the decision of the County Council, is the target of even more development. This is even a greater argument that the citizens of Fallston deserve their fair share of adequate public facilities.

In closing, in these difficult economic times, we all need to tighten our belts. The sacrifice should be shared equally rather than specifically targeting one single community. Improvement and expansion should be on the table in the future for the Fallston library.

Thank you.

Roman E. Ratych, M.D.  
President, Greater Fallston Association, Inc.