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 2014-01

From: Shavonne Blake
To: Blake, Shavonne
Date: 3/14/2012 5:32 AM
Subject: What's New The Capital

What's New
 From The Office of Personnel
 March 13, 2012

Top Stories The Capital:

1. Odenton, Crofton residents speak out against landfill
2. SECU, county employee credit union seek merger
3. Pair sought for shooting at homeowner

1. Odenton, Crofton residents speak out against landfill

By PAMELA WOOD, Staff Writer
 Capital Gazette Communications
 Published 03/13/12

About 50 people made their thoughts about the proposed Chesapeake Terrace rubble landfill clear: No way, no how.

"Let there be no mistake," state Sen. Ed Reilly, R-Crofton, said during a public meeting over a pair of water permits for the landfill in western Anne Arundel County. "What's going on here has no support in the community, no support in the county ... There's only a very few people who want it and would benefit from it."

The Chesapeake Terrace landfill would be in a rural area south of Odenton near the neighborhoods of Woodwardville and Wilson Town. Neighbors have fended off the landfill for more than two decades. Leon Thomas, a lifelong resident of Wilson Town, said after the meeting he has been fighting the landfill for "umpteens years."

He fears the landfill developer — Silver Spring-based Halle Cos. — doesn't care about how the landfill would affect neighbors, who will deal with traffic, dust and, as they learned last night, possible damage to their drinking water wells.

"It's going to be a mess," Thomas predicted.

The landfill has many steps to go before it can open, including securing a state landfill permit through a long and complex process.

Yesterday's meeting at the Crofton Library concerned just two permits Halle must obtain. They have to do with the groundwater and surface water construction crews will encounter when they start digging open the ground for the landfill cells.

When crews hit groundwater, they'll pump it out, collect it and send it into a floodplain. As a result, neighbors with shallow wells could see their wells dry up.

Two consultants for Halle said they'll monitor groundwater levels and, if wells are affected, the company will offer to drill new ones. They say about eight older residential wells might be harmed — newer, deeper wells won't be affected, they said.

The permits deal only with whether Halle has a right to collect and use the groundwater without unduly harming anyone else. The permits don't deal with how the water will be disposed or anything else having to do with the landfill's construction or operations.

That frustrated many at the meeting, who said they feel like no one is looking at the big picture.

Jeff Andrade, president of the Piney Orchard Community Association, said people are sick of being told by one agency that they should address their concerns to a different agency.

To make his point, he crossed his arms and pointed his fingers in opposite directions.

"We're getting this from different departments," he said, gesturing.

2. SECU, county employee credit union seek merger

By RICK HUTZELL, Maryland Gazette Editor
 Published 03/13/12

Two of the biggest credit unions in Anne Arundel County announced Tuesday morning they they plan to