

Ad snafu returns Gambrills tax district to council

By ERIN COX, Staff Writer

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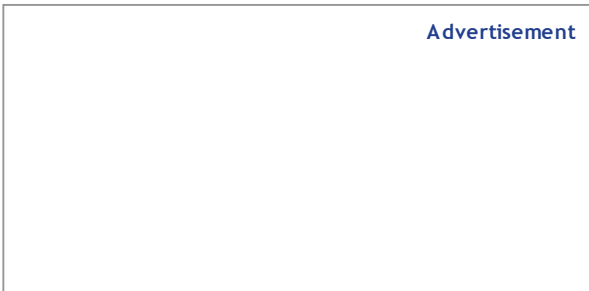
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A controversial west county taxing district will have to go through the approval process again because of an advertising snafu.



The \$16 million tax deal to help the Village South at Waugh Chapel get off the ground is set to be repealed by the County Council only a few short weeks after politicians approved it.

Two bills and a resolution introduced Monday night would eliminate the tax district and then launch another series of public hearings to approve it again.

Trouble arose last week when county officials discovered the hearing for the tax-increment financing district had not been advertised in a newspaper, as required by the Maryland Constitution.

"Someone asked us for a copy of the ad, and when we went to look for it, we couldn't find it," County Administrator Judy Holmes said.

Developer Brian Gibbons of Greenberg Gibbons has said financing for the 1 million-square-foot residential and shopping complex in Gambrills had been difficult to procure and hinged on approval of the tax district.

Residents in the area and representatives from some unions had opposed the financing district, which gives a tax break to the developer to help pay for the roads and other infrastructure costs for the complex.

County officials backed the deal because Anne Arundel will receive more tax revenue than if the property remains undeveloped. At least five other deals, commonly called TIFs, are already approved in the county.