July 31

Some more minor changes to the map. The search is still there (in fact it is expanded) but it is hidden when the map first loads to save on map real estate. Just click the little triangle at the bottom of the map to open the search function. It is now possible to search for parcels or roads. To search for parcels, click where it says “Search Parcels” at the bottom of the accordion pane (it’s possible not to see it down there).

July 29

I made a couple of minor changes to the map based on a suggestion by Chad.

From now on the map starts with zoning turned off but it (and a few other layers) can be turned on by clicking on the “Additional Layers” Title pane on the right-hand side.

Next time I save the service, I will try and offset the label points on addresses so they aren’t so hard to read and I will add labels to the Zip Codes Layer.

July 29, 2014 – 1st beta release

               I’m pleased to announce the release of PZ Map version 1 beta. It currently only works behind the firewall but that may change.

<http://gis.garrettcounty.org/arcgis/pz_map.html>

               I’m hoping you will check it out and try to use it to answer questions on the phone or to do various things that you would otherwise do with ArcMap. What I recommend is that you leave ArcMap running (as you normally would) but see if you can work with this web-based application when you have the time to explore with it. Perhaps make some notes to share with me about things you can’t do with it but would like to. A Feature I’m currently working on is a search by Parcel or Tax Account ID. I’ve also worked with measurement widgets that could be used to estimate area and/or distance. I will need to balance having added functionality with making something that doesn’t take too long to load so other functionality may arrive in the form of a newer different map service.

               Identify

               When the page loads (it may take a minute or two), you’ll see a map of the county and the zoning layer around the lake and several of the critical facilities points. When you zoom in (you can use the mouse wheel or the control in the upper left of the map), you will start to see the address points, parcels, and street centerlines. Any of the features in the map can be clicked to identify. The “info dialog” that comes up when you click on a feature has a little arrow at the top that you can use to toggle through the other layers underneath what you clicked. For example if you click an address point, you can also get the information about the parcel and (if present) the zoning underneath.

Other clickable layers (besides critical facilities, zoning, streets, addresses, and parcels) include:

Gas Wells

Wind Turbines

Cell Towers

               Selections

               Another thing you can do is to select a group of address points or parcels and select by rectangle or by drawing a polygon (depending on the options you choose in the bar in the upper left). First choose Rectangle or Polygon and Address Points or Parcels using the radio buttons, then click the “Select Points/Polys” button to activate the tool. Then left click and drag the mouse (while holding the mouse down) to create the rectangle or polygon around a set of features. The selection shows up on the right hand side of the page (above the switch basemap widget).

               Search Roads

               For now the only good way to navigate to an area (unless you know right where to zoom to) is to search by a road name. To do this type the name in the “Road Name:” control at the bottom of the page. I put Rock Lodge Rd in as an example but you don’t need to type RD. Try putting something in like “Glendale” or even just “Oak”. You have to press the button (i.e. you can’t just hit enter like some websites). Of course if you are less specific (like with Oak), you may need to scroll through more Roads (You’ll get “Oakland Sang Run Rd”, “Oakland Dr”, as well as “Oak St” and a few others). Wait a minute for it to return the results but you should get a table of roads and you can sort by any of the columns by clicking the column heading. Then click the row you want and the map will zoom to that location. I’m hoping that having the address range field will help get to precisely where you need to be because the zoom takes you to that specific range.

               Switch Basemap

               Try switching the basemap by clicking the “Switch Basemap” button. The Imagery basemap has very up to date (2014) imagery and there are several great basemaps to choose from including Open Street Map, the USGS Topographic maps, etc. I also added the 2011 imagery that we have been using in ArcMap since the State of Maryland’s iMap project created a map service made from that.

               Tips

               If the map doesn’t seem to respond, try moving the map around. You can pan by clicking and dragging the map (with the left mouse button held down). If it is still unresponsive, reload the page and sometimes that will kick it into gear. The search feature can take a long time if there are many roads that match (like the “Oak” search) so sometimes being more specific is better.

               Anyway, give it a whirl, and let me know what I should focus on to make it better.

J.B.