

## Cordova

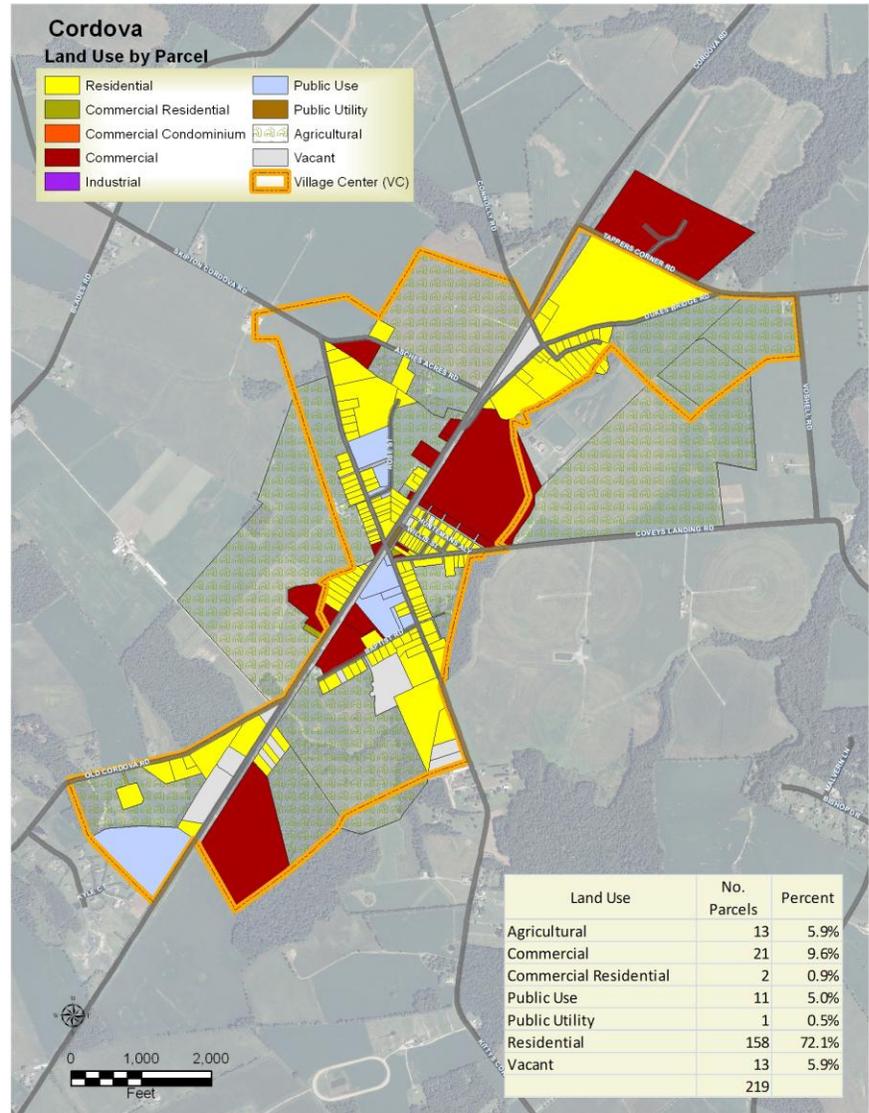
Cordova is located at the crossroads of Cordova Road and Kitty's Corner Road in the Chapel District of Talbot County.

Cordova was formed in the 1800's as a farming community adjacent to the railroad line that at that time was utilized to ship farm products to markets out of the area. Several businesses were started to support the farmers and their families, all of which are now gone, although some of the buildings remain. The village was home to a large number of German settlers that arrived in the late 1800's

Most of Cordova is in an area that was known as Huntmans Addition and consists of homes built in the early 1900's. They are mostly 1,300 to 1,500 sq. ft, 2 story frame homes of the "plain" style, and are well maintained.

As Cordova expanded, it did so on existing roads. The residential development pattern features a variety of building styles, becoming more modern the farther they are from the village center.

The majority of Cordova consists of small lot residences with a few small "25 acres or less" farmed areas in the village



zoning district. Most homes are owner occupied by long time residents, their children and their grandchildren. The area is still inhabited by roughly 75% of the original residents or their descendants. Cordova has always been home to a mix of ages and ethnicities.

Over the years, Cordova was home to a dairy, auto repair shops, furniture store - with theatre/dance hall above, general store, food store, tomato cannery, motorcycle shop, feed mill, and gas station.

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Cordova currently has two major businesses, Allen Harim Foods, a poultry processing facility, and Nagel Supply, a grain processing/storage facility. The village is also the location of Shortall Building Supplies and the Packing House - which rents spaces to a variety of businesses including a cabinet maker, a welding shop, an environmental service company and a sign business. There are also several cottage businesses as well. As the current businesses in



Cordova employ few residents, most residents commute to work elsewhere.

Cordova has no active civic organization, other than the Volunteer Fire Co. The village does not have a public use building, and the fire company serves a variety of community functions.

There once were 3 churches in the village, of which one remains. There also was a school that taught grades 1 thru 12.

Today, the village has an excellent elementary school, good sports fields, a small park, and a nice playground.

When discussing the village of Cordova, the locals include all of the Chapel District. They identify with the village and the area around it, where they receive their mail and know their community.

Most residents who attended Village meeting and the County informational meetings want Cordova to stay “the way it is”; a village where everybody knows and respects everybody.

### **The Future of Cordova: How can we keep our village the way it is?**

As a small village in an area of the county where affordable housing is the norm and not the exception, we can expect that at some future date, the small farm properties will be developed. Those properties are fronted by

residences and would not lend themselves to businesses, or would create traffic problems on SR309.

Infill development on the available sites should be considered. The character of the existing homes vary so much that attempting to conform to one architectural style would serve no purpose.

Businesses should also be of a type that would respect the character of area and not cause noise, odors, dust etc., The two major businesses (Allen Harim and Nagel) are of such size and intensity that they would be better suited in an industrial setting.

For example, Allen’s starts its workday at 3 to 4 am, with trucks arriving and departing with loads, loud back up alarms and odors. Nagel’s business is



also high traffic, raising dust from their parking lot, debris from grain cleaning and odors from outside storage of corn. Neither business is owned by residents from the vicinity.

When queried, most residents want Cordova to stay the way it is, which means:

1. Everybody knows their neighbor, and the people on the other side of town;
2. Business are small, quiet, necessary, and don't disturb the serenity of their lifestyle;
3. Things are kept clean and maintained, streets don't have 5 ft potholes as we currently have;
4. We have an active Post Office;
5. We have an active Volunteer Fire/Rescue Co;
6. Sports facilities for our youth are top notch and taken care of;
7. We have a police presence besides speed traps;
8. We have a real "voice" in the County Council.

Residents would like to see better services from the county, especially from the Roads Department.

The Village of Cordova has a town park where the Immanuel Lutheran

Church(Rose St) once stood, which is never used. Another park which is used, including a ball field, tennis court and fitness track, was constructed at the site of the "old School".

To the northeast in Chapel District is the new Lewistown Rd Park, which has not been developed for public use. At one time the hill toward Norwich Creek was an awesome sledding hill. It would be great to utilize that again.

The unused railroad line from Easton to Queen Anne, which runs through Cordova, is owned by the State of Maryland. It should be considered for conversion to a bike/hike trail.

Bike tours regularly traverse Cordova and Chapel District. Cordova Road has no shoulders, presenting a safety issue. Roadway improvements should be a priority.

Cordova and the entire Chapel District is a hidden gem in Talbot County. The beauty, history, and cultural diversity of the area should be protected. Residents do not want to become hosts to an industrial park or business center.

