



A Permanent Place of Gratitude and Reflection

From Howard County Executive Calvin Ball <ballbulletin@howardcountymd.gov>

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County Executive Ball Presents: The Ball Bulletin

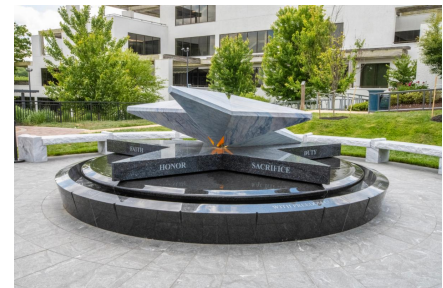


May 18, 2026

Dear Friends,

The Howard County Veterans and Military Families Monument is officially open to the public!

This monument now stands as a permanent place of recognition for our 20,000 veterans, our military families, the more than 1,000 HCPSS students with a parent on active duty, and to every military hero in our community, including heroes like my father, whose service helped shape my own understanding of duty and sacrifice.



Designed by artist Larry Kirkland, the monument is rich with meaning. The base star represents the community that supports military members and their families during deployment. The blue star honors service members and military families. The hollow gold star embedded within it reflects the grief and lasting impact left behind when a service member is lost in the line of duty. The reflecting pond and bench invite quiet contemplation, while engraved words about service, freedom, and democracy remind us of the values our veterans help protect.

The story of this monument is an arduous one. The Howard County Veterans Foundation was founded in 2016 with the goal of creating it. The Foundation officially reached its \$2.75 million fundraising goal in late 2024, and we proudly contributed more than \$1.5 million toward the design, construction, and maintenance of the monument. That support built on years of advocacy, planning milestones, the opening of Vivian C. "Millie" Bailey Park in 2020, the unveiling of the monument's design, and finally the groundbreaking that launched construction.

It took talented artists, the dedicated leadership of Bob Gillette, Wanda L. Riddle, and the entire Howard County Veterans Foundation, coordination through our own Office of Veterans and Military Families, land donated through the partnership of

Howard Hughes, support from the Columbia Association, and the commitment of donors and veterans' organizations.

Now that the monument is open, we can look back with gratitude at all it took to get here. Thank you to every person who gave their heart to this effort. Because of you, Howard County now has a place to honor our veterans, our military families, and the values they defended.

Sincerely,



Community Updates

Harnessing the Power of the Sun at Miller Branch Library

Summer is near. The sun is shining and we have to take advantage of it. That's why we're excited to share Howard County's national leadership in energy-independent solar-friendly policies and practices. That national recognition is on full display at Miller Branch Library, which features 72 solar panels as part of its LEED Silver strategy. LEED is the most widely recognized green building rating system in the world, and it offers a framework for healthy, efficient, and cost-effective green buildings that provide economic, environmental and social benefits.

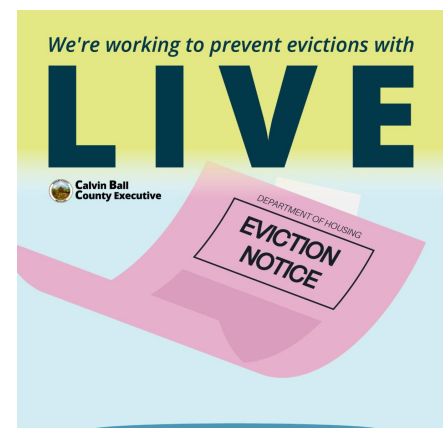
Along with passive solar design, efficient HVAC and lighting, water conservation, and a green roof, this project shows how solar energy supports everyday community spaces. Learn more about Howard County's many solar projects at the [Live Green Howard website](#).



Live. Laugh. Love.

Just three months ago, we launched the LIVE, or Landlord Accountability, Investment in Quality, Victim Protection, and Eviction Prevention Initiative. One piece of the LIVE puzzle is strengthening protections for renters facing eviction. The other piece? A focus on improving the quality and safety of rental housing.

Since 2019, Howard County's Department of Inspections, Licensing, and Permits (DILP) has



issued more than 2,500 rental housing violations annually, with 93 percent identified through proactive inspections.

LIVE will evaluate the benefits of adding more inspectors to our DILP team. This will strengthen enforcement and further ensure rental housing meets safety and habitability standards for our residents.

Learn more about DILP and LIVE in this [News Release on the Howard County government website](#).



Your Partners in Roadway Safety

Calvin Ball
County Executive

See trash piling up? Take a moment to report it to the SHA so we can keep our shared communities safe and clean.

Link to report
<https://bit.ly/422qHJH>

Litter Removal

Help us protect our roads and communities! While our county crews manage local cleanups, the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) is responsible for litter removal along major state roads like US1, US29, US40, MD32, MD100, or MD216. If you see trash piling up on these routes, take a moment to report it to SHA at [Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration Customer Service page](#).

A Fine Weekend of Wine and Horse Races

We joined partners and community leaders at Symphony Woods to kick off the 32nd Wine in the Woods and the 151st Preakness Stakes.

This reception was a wonderful opportunity to connect with leaders from across our county and region, and to recognize the partnerships that help make Howard County such a vibrant place to live, work, visit, play, and thrive for all. Thank you to HCEDA, Visit Howard County, Amanda Hof, Jennifer Jones, and our sponsors Fulton Bank and Tower Federal Credit Union for helping make the evening possible.



Both Wine in the Woods and Preakness were a complete success!



Welcome, Withum!

Congratulations to Withum on opening their doors in Howard County!

Withum is a leading professional services firm providing critical advisory, tax, accounting, cybersecurity, and technology consulting services to clients across a wide range of industries. Their

investment in Howard County, including 80 jobs and \$5 million in capital investment, reflects the strength of our business community and the many advantages of growing here in order to connect with the Baltimore–Washington

corridor.

Thank you to the Withum leadership team for your vision and for choosing to expand in Columbia. We are proud to have you here and look forward to the economic growth your presence will continue to bring to Howard County.

You Don't Need to Struggle Alone

Struggling with your mental health sometimes doesn't make you weak, it makes you human. Call 988 to connect with someone who understands. This Mental Health Awareness Month, and every month, you deserve support, healing, and peace.



Recovery Takes a Village

For more than 22 years, Howard County's Recovery Court has helped transform lives by addressing the root causes of substance misuse through accountability, treatment, and support. Research has shown that programs like this are associated with lower rates of recidivism and relapse than traditional criminal courts, and Howard County has seen firsthand what is possible when recovery is met with structure and compassion.

This year's commencement ceremony truly reflected that sentiment. This ceremony was also especially meaningful because it marked Judge Wayne A. Brooks' final Recovery Court commencement. Judge Brooks has served this program and our community with distinction, and his dedication to helping people find a second chance has left a lasting impact on countless lives.

Congratulations to every graduate on this extraordinary achievement. Thank you to Judge Brooks, Judge Sayers, the entire Recovery Court team, treatment providers, peer recovery specialists, family members, and everyone who helps make this work possible.

Market Pulse Pitch Competition Gives Emerging Companies Time to Shine

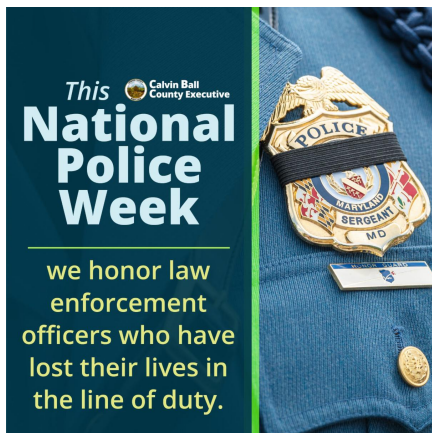
We had another exciting Market Pulse Pitch competition at the Maryland Innovation Center. This year's finalists brought forward innovative solutions spanning AI, diagnostics, imaging, wound care, and clinical workflow support.



Congratulations to our winners, 1st Place: Aidar Health, 2nd Place: Aingens, and 3rd Place: Dasion. We are excited to see where your innovations go next!

During the event, we also announced the launch of HoCo HIVE, the Howard County Healthcare Innovation Venture and Entrepreneurship Program. This new partnership between the Howard County Economic Development Authority, Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center, and the County Executive's Office will help startups and growth-stage companies test and validate real-world med tech solutions in clinical settings.

Thank you to Jennifer Jones, Dr. Shafeeq Ahmed, our emcee Tien Wong, and our outstanding judges Alex Cameron, Elena Sterlin, Kimberly Brown, and Kelly Schulz for sharing your expertise and supporting this important work. And thank you to all of the innovators and entrepreneurs helping shape the future of healthcare right here in Howard County.



We Will Always Remember

During National Police Week, every detail of remembrance matters. From the beginning of May through the end of the week, Howard County police officers wear a badge shroud, a black band placed across the badge on their uniform.

This simple but powerful symbol honors law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty. It is also worn when a current member of HCPD dies, when a law enforcement officer in Maryland is killed in the line of duty, and during police funerals. During National Police Week, this tradition serves as a visible reminder that we remember those who gave everything in service to others.

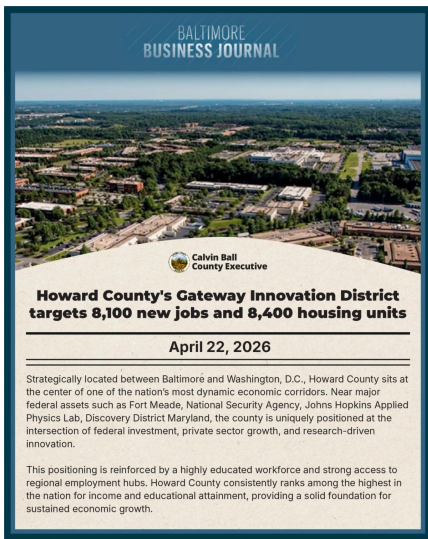
Behavioral Health Unit Reduces ER Wait Times

This National Hospital Week, we are highlighting how Howard County and Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center continue working together to meet the growing need for behavioral health services in our community.

After I became your County Executive, with a \$2 million contribution from Howard County, HCMC expanded its Behavioral Health Unit, adding 19 beds for a new total of 24. Since opening in December 2024, the unit has served more than 500 behavioral health patients and helped reduce hospital stays by approximately 2 hours per patient. National Hospital Week is an opportunity to recognize the hospital partnerships that are improving care, expanding access, and making a meaningful difference in people's lives.



Cyber Capital of the World



Howard County's Gateway Innovation District is the future of the region's economy.

Located near I-95 and Route 175, the district is designed to attract and retain high-growth companies in technology, cybersecurity, and research-driven industries, which helps Howard County hold an important role as The Cyber Capital of the World.

At full buildout, the Gateway Innovation District is projected to bring up to 8,100 new jobs, up to 1.8 million square feet of office and innovation/flex space, and 312,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space, and more.

As regional leaders, we're building on Howard County's strategic location between Baltimore and Washington D.C., our highly educated workforce, and the strong talent pipeline supported by our education partners. We are also continuing to build momentum through projects like Tradepoint at Savage Crossing, a \$100 million investment expected to create approximately 500 new supply chain and logistics jobs.

Read the full story at [Baltimore Business Journal](#).

Never Forget Their Sacrifice

As we observe National Police Week, we are reminded that remembrance can be practiced in many ways. Each May, ahead of the Howard County Police Department's Memorial Ceremony, our officers take part in a solemn memorial ride led by the department's motorcycle unit and a 1957 HCPD patrol car.

The procession travels to each site where our fallen heroes lost their lives, beginning in Elkridge, moving through Howard County, and ending in Ellicott City. It is a powerful tradition that ensures the eight law enforcement officers who made the ultimate sacrifice in Howard County are never forgotten.

Making Housing More Affordable

We joined Heritage Housing Partners for their annual Legacy Award Breakfast.

Congratulations to this year's honorees, including Housing Affordability Coalition Coordinator Jackie Eng and Council Vice Chair Christiana Rigby, whose advocacy and leadership have helped advance affordable and accessible housing in Howard County.



We'd also like to recognize the extraordinary service of Jen Broderick and Grace Morris, two leaders whose work has made a lasting impact on families in our community. Thank you to Heritage Housing Partners, the HHPC board and staff, the honorees, sponsors, and every advocate and partner who continues to help move

this work forward.

During the Award Breakfast, I was honored to receive the inaugural Legend Award from Heritage Housing Partners. During the last eight years, we have made substantial progress on affordable housing in Howard County. From developing the County's Housing Opportunities Master Plan in 2021 and establishing the Housing Opportunities Trust Fund in 2022 to advancing the preservation and creation of hundreds of new affordable units across Howard County, we have worked to ensure that all our neighbors have an affordable place to call home. While there is still more work to do, I know that together, we can continue working on proven solutions to promote affordable and accessible housing for Howard County families.



Helping Hospital Patients Save Time with a Discharge Suite

This National Hospital Week, we want to recognize the important work of the Maryland Hospital Association and its partnership with local jurisdictions and hospital systems like Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center.

Working together, we helped establish a new Discharge Suite at HCMC to support patients following a hospital stay. Over an 18-month period, the suite served more than 8,900 patients and

saved an estimated 147,000 inpatient minutes, helping reduce delays and free up hospital capacity for others in need of care. During National Hospital Week, we are grateful for partners like MHA who help hospitals improve care and deliver better outcomes for patients.

An English Language Development Team of Excellence

In our diverse community, it is critical that our students who rely on home, native, and/or dominant languages other than English receive the resources and support they need to learn, grow, and thrive. Based on innovation, collaboration, and engagement, our 2026 English Language Development team excels for their students and provides insightful guidance on their academic journey's.

Please join me in congratulating Susan Starr as our Elementary English Language Development Teacher of the Year, Sarah Lynch as our Secondary English Language Development Teacher of the Year, and Samantha Filipiak as our English Language Development Administrator of the year!



Teachers of the Year



Howard County has an exceptional school system, in large part, due to our educators. Please, join me in congratulating our Howard County Public School System 2026 Teachers of the Year! Since joining the school system in 2012, Samantha Mathis at West Friendship Elementary School has dedicated her expertise to supporting student success and building skills inside and outside the classroom. At Lake Elkhorn Middle School, Kacy Valentine spent her career as a leader and advocate who fosters confidence, inclusion, and achievement among all our students and her peers.

It is no surprise that both of these incredible educators have been recognized as our 2026 Teachers of the Year.

Congratulations!

The Best Ship in the Universe

Allons-y! The #HoCoTARDIS has found a new home on New Earth.



That tiny blue structure first seen in Old Ellicott City's Tiber Park really is bigger on the inside. It's a traveling Little Free Library filled with thousands of stories that transverse time and designed to spark curiosity and bring people together through reading. As it continues its journey across Howard County, the Ship will help readers of all ages discover stories that inspire imagination, leisure, and connection.

Principal of the Year

Please join me in congratulating Cradlerock Elementary's very own Dan Notari for being named Howard County Public School System 2026 Principal of the year! As an educator and administrator for more than 20 years, Principal Notari has distinguished himself as a dedicated advocate and leader for our students, families, and school staff. Dan's the man, and he demonstrates this by inspiring learning, critical thinking, and enthusiasm among all our educators and future leaders.



Congratulations!



More than Just Coffee

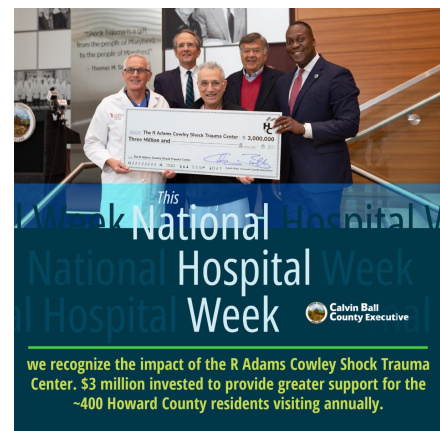
There's a new specialty coffee shop in town! It was a pleasure to join Kashif and Majid to officially cut the ribbon and welcome Cube Coffee to Ellicott City. Cube Coffee sources ethically grown beans for their signature blends and offers a variety of espresso drinks, single-origin brews, and Adani chai. Congratulations, and we wish you success in

the years ahead!

Learn more about Cube Coffee at www.thecubecoffee.com.

A World-Class Institution's Extraordinary Impact

This National Hospital Week, we're proud to recognize the extraordinary impact of the R Adams Cowley Shock Trauma Center. R Adams Cowley is Maryland's designated trauma hospital for the most severely injured and critically ill patients. Each year, this shock trauma center cares for nearly 400 Howard County residents, and we are incredibly fortunate to have this world-class institution nearby. That is why we invested more than \$3 million during my time as your County Executive and worked with our state and regional partners to help Shock Trauma expand its role in our community and provide greater post-discharge support for patients.



National Hospital Week is a reminder of how vital institutions like the Shock Trauma Center are to help save lives and support families in Howard County and across Maryland.



LIVE

We're working prevent eviction with LIVE. Launched at the beginning of this year, LIVE is the Landlord Accountability, Investment in Quality, Victim Protection, and Eviction Prevention Initiative.

Through LIVE, Howard County is doubling funding for eviction prevention services, increasing support from \$150,000 to \$300,000 in the upcoming FY2027 budget.

These funds will help residents stay in their homes through rental assistance, case management, and support from community partners like the Community Action Council of Howard County.

Check out our [“Howard County Executive Calvin Ball Establishes New LIVE Initiative Aimed at Supporting Tenants and Promoting Housing Stability” news release online](#) to learn more about this transformative program.

Supporting Behavioral Health

This past National Hospital Week, we also highlighted the critical role hospitals play in supporting the behavioral health of our residents. That's why, during my time as your County Executive, we supported the construction of Sheppard Pratt's new hospital in Elkridge, which opened in 2021. This facility reflects the latest advances in patient safety and effective psychiatric care. We also invested \$2.25 million toward the construction of a new 16-bed residential crisis facility on the Elkridge campus that is expected to open later this year. During National Hospital Week, we recognize how important these investments are to expanding access to care and strengthening our behavioral health system.



Roadway Improvements in Elkridge

Since 2019, we have made meaningful progress to improve transportation safety and connectivity in Elkridge.

From a new crosswalk on Montgomery Road in front of Rockburn Elementary School, to speed humps and rumble strips on Furnace Avenue, to new sidewalks along Montgomery Road from Rowanberry Drive to Timberlee Road, these projects are helping make travel safer for pedestrians, bicyclists, students, and drivers alike. We have also completed important upgrades including crosswalk markings, signage, and curb ramp improvements at Old Washington Road and Augustine Avenue, a crosswalk and refuge island west of Steepridge Drive, and a pedestrian crosswalk and signal across U.S. 1 at Rowanberry Drive.

These impactful improvements reflect our continued commitment to safer streets, stronger connections, and a more accessible Elkridge for all. Watch the video to explore the updates below.



**212 Permits.
Same-Day Approval.
100% Online.**



Solar Express is transforming how Howard County goes green. We've streamlined the process so you can get your residential solar project moving in a single day. Join the hundreds of residents leading the way to a sustainable future.



Same-Day Approval

As part of Howard County's mission to promote clean renewable energy, we launched the Solar Express Permit in November 2025. Since launching Solar Express, Howard County has processed a whopping 212 residential rooftop solar permits. We also have reduced the average residential solar permitting time, so all applicants receive same-day permitting!

This new permitting option allows residents and contractors to apply, upload documents, and pay online 24/7/365. To learn more, contact the Department of Inspections, Licenses, and Permits at 410-313-2455 or permits@howardcountymd.gov.

Maryland State Board of Elections Reminds Marylanders of Voter Registration Options

As the 2026 primary election approaches, the Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) is reminding residents there are three ways to register to vote in this year's elections. You can either:

- Register online by visiting [SBE's Voter Services "Voter Registration and Mail-in Ballot Request" website](#). Please note, the preliminary deadline to register or update voter registration is Tuesday, June 2nd.
- Register by mail by sending in the printable "Maryland Registration Form" .pdf ([English version](#) or [Spanish version](#)) found online to SBE's Howard County Board of Elections office at 9770 Patuxent Woods Drive, Suite 200, Columbia MD 21045 by no later than June 2nd. Please note, mailed registrations must be postmarked by this date. Alternatively, residents can drop it off at their local board of elections office.
- Register in-person during Early Voting from Thursday, June 11th to Thursday, June 18th, or on Primary Election Day, Tuesday, June 23rd. These days, polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; voters in line by 8:00 p.m. will be able to register. A list of early voting locations will be posted on [SBE's VOTE!MD website](#). Residents looking to register in-person to vote are reminded to bring a document that proves where they live (visit [SBE's Verified. Open. Trusted. Empowering. Voter Registration website](#) for a list of acceptable documents) to their local polling place or early voting center (visit [SBE's Voter Services' "Voter Lookup" website](#) to find out where you can vote).

To learn more about Maryland's Primary Election, visit [SBE's VOTE!MD website](#) or download its free Go Vote MD app from the [Google Play store](#) or the [Apple store](#).

Government Updates

Boards and Commissions

Members Sought for Interfaith Advisory Commission

Our new Interfaith Advisory Commission (IAC) will serve as an invaluable and ongoing resource to reduce religious conflict and promote peace in our community. This commission will formally incorporate the voice, leadership, and service of the faith community into the work of Howard County Government. If you are interested in being a part of this commission and helping educate, raise awareness, and advise on best practices for the integration of traditions, bridging divides between diverse communities, encouraging dialogue, combatting extremism, and building trust, I encourage you to apply today for our IAC.

To learn how, check out our recent [“Howard County Executive Calvin Ball Seeks Members to Launch the Interfaith Advisory Commission” news release online](#). The deadline to apply next Friday, May 29th.

Members Sought for Planning and Zoning’s Boards and Commissions

Our Department of Planning and Board is looking for passionate and committed leaders to join its [Cemetery Preservation Advisory Board](#), [Design Advisory Panel](#), and [Historic Preservation Commission](#). Members contribute professional insight and strategic vision, advise on key initiatives, policies, and projects, collaborate with community partners and decision-makers, and help guide sustainable, innovative, and equitable development.

If you live in Howard County, have professional experience or training in fields such as civil engineering, planning, architecture, historic preservation, urban design, or history, and have a strong commitment to public service, this is your opportunity to make a meaningful impact. To submit your application and/or to learn more about this Panel, Commission, and Board, I encourage you to visit our [“Boards & Commissions” website](#).

Department of Community Resources and Services

Children's Mental Health Matters

Through family workshops, local resources, events, educational programs, and more, our Department of Community Resources and Services’ (DCRS) Office of Children and Families (OCF) supports Howard County families with opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive.



This May, in support of the [Mental Health Association of Maryland’s Children’s Mental Health Matters Campaign](#) – which highlights the importance of caring for every child’s mental health, OCF is hosting a virtual [“Helping Young Children Manage Anxiety” workshop](#) tomorrow, May 19th at 7:00 p.m. Geared towards parents and caregivers of young children, aged two to eight, participants will learn how to recognize signs of anxiety in young children, identify the cause of your child’s worries, and practice simple strategies to help them cope. To sign-up to participate in this FREE workshop, visit the County’s [“Helping Young Children Manage Anxiety” Active Network registration website](#).

In addition, this Thursday, May 21st from 1:00 p.m., OCF’s virtual [“Navigating Your Child’s Mental Health Journey” workshop](#) will help parents and caregivers discover the best ways to support their child’s social emotional health or how to address concerns about their child’s behaviors. Participants will learn about the

stages of mental health and the local resources and supports to help guide their understanding and steps to follow to help their child. To sign-up to participate in this FREE workshop, visit the County's "[Navigating Your Child's Mental Health Journey](#)" [Active Network registration website](#) to secure your spot.

To learn more about the latest happenings, workshops, activities, and programs for children and families being offered by OCF each month, visit its [Parent Pages Sign-Up website](#) to subscribe its latest [Parent Pages](#) newsletter. OCF's "[Parent's Guide to Howard County](#)" for 2026 is also a great resource for parents, caregivers, and others looking to learn more about and find services in our community to help children grow and thrive.

If you need individual assistance, such as finding childcare, guidance with parenting issues, mental and emotional health support, special needs resources, food access, housing, and more, contact OCF's free CARE line at 410-313-CARE (2273) to learn more about what's available.



Chalk Up Positive Vibes

To help raise awareness this Children's Mental Health Matters Month and to spread positive vibes in our neighborhoods across Howard County, DCRS' OCF is inviting community members of all ages to step outside this month and "Chalk Up Positive Vibes" by drawing a happy picture or uplifting message with chalk on your sidewalk, driveway, or parking lot. Once completed, be sure to email OCF a photo of your Chalk Up creation to children@howardcountymd.gov so DCRS can share it on its Facebook, X, and Instagram pages (@HoCoCommunity). Together, let's support our community's children's mental health and spread joy, optimism, and inspiration through the power of sidewalk chalk!

To learn more about OCF's Chalk Up program, check out its [Chalk Up Positive Vibes flier online](#).

Champion Your Health this May

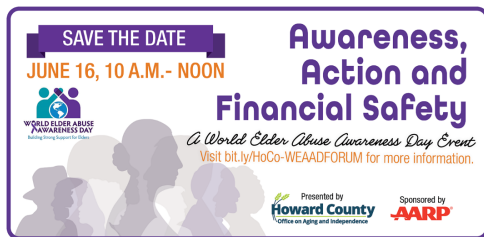


In recognition of Older Americans Month (OAM) and this year's theme, "Champion Your Health," I encourage our older residents to take advantage of all the great programs and activities our Office on Aging and Independence (OAI) offers at its [50+ centers](#) this May. From connecting with friends to exploring new hobbies and interests, enjoying a nutritious lunch through OAI's "[Let's Do Lunch](#)" program, or utilizing the fully equipped indoor fitness rooms and walking tracks (at North Laurel and Glenwood), our 50+ centers offer a ton of great opportunities to keep you active, healthy, thriving, and aging well in Howard County.

To learn more about what's available and the latest activities, be sure to check out the [May issue of OAI's The 50+ Connection monthly newsletter](#) published in the *Howard County Beacon*.

Finally, as OAM's "Champion Your Health" theme focuses on prevention, wellness, and personal responsibility as cornerstones of healthy aging, OAI urges older

adults this May, and all year long, to take an active role in their health by advocating for themselves, accessing preventive care, and making informed decisions that supports their independence.



World Elder Abuse Awareness Forum

June 15th is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD). Launched in 2006 by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and World Health Organization, WEAAD serves as a global call to action to raise awareness, promote understanding, and

prevent the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults.

In honor of WEAAD, OAI invites older adults, caregivers, and others to save the date and join them Tuesday, June 16th from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Lutheran Village at Miller's Grant at 9000 Fathers Legacy in Ellicott City, for an "Awareness, Action, and Financial Safety" community forum. During the forum, participants will learn how to:

- Spot the signs and patterns of identity theft and scams;
- Practical strategies to prevent and respond to exploitation; and
- Connect with local resources and support systems designed to protect themselves from financial abuse.

While admission is FREE, advance registration is requested as light refreshments will be provided. To sign-up to participate in this forum, visit OAI's ["WEAAD 2026: Awareness, Action and Financial Safety" Eventbrite registration website](#) today.

Department of County Administration

Memorial Day Holiday Closings

Howard County Government offices, animal shelter, 50+ centers, and Alpha Ridge Landfill, as well as [local Maryland courts in Howard County](#), will be [closed in observance of the Memorial Day holiday](#) next Monday, May 25th. As there will be no Monday curbside trash, recycling, yard trim, or food scrap collection on Memorial Day, the County's [holiday "slide" schedule](#) will be in effect for the remainder of the week.



While [county parks](#) and the Roger Carter Community Center (note, the center closes early at 5:00 p.m.) will be open on May 25th, the County's Department of Recreation & Parks' Cedar Lane and Schooley Mill Activity Rooms, Gary J. Arthur and North Laurel Community Centers, Kiwanis-Wallas Hall, Harriet Tubman Cultural Center, Robinson Nature Center, and county historic sites will be closed. Additionally, the Meadowbrook Athletic Complex will be open for planned programs only.

The Regional Transportation Agency (RTA) will operate on a "Sunday" schedule on Memorial Day; for more information on RTA, call 1-800-270-9553 or visit www.transitrt.com. All parking regulations and fees will be enforced on May 25th.

The 9-1-1 Center, Police and Fire departments remain staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For emergencies, call 9-1-1; for non-emergencies, please call 410-313-2200.

County operations will resume on Tuesday, May 26th, at regular business hours.

Office of Emergency Management



Don't Get Swept Away, Plan Ahead

Monday, June 1st marks the start of the 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season. Before the season starts, our Office of Emergency Management reminds residents that when [developing your family's emergency plan](#), be sure it includes information on how you could evacuate if needed. Your plan should include different routes and means of transportation you could take to evacuate, as well as several places you could stay in different directions so that you have options during an emergency. Also, don't forget to consider pets and people who might require extra help, such as people with disabilities or who utilize medical equipment.

To learn more about evacuation plans at the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Ready.gov "Evacuation" webpage](#).

Department of Fire and Rescue Services

Knowing the Warning Signs of a Stroke

When it comes to a stroke, every second counts. Nearly two million brain cells die each minute a stroke remains untreated. Rapid access to medical treatment can often make a difference between full recovery and permanent disability.



This Stroke Awareness Month, our Department of Fire and Rescue Services is reminding residents of the importance of [knowing the warning signs of a stroke](#) to B.E. F.A.S.T.:

- Sudden numbness or weakness in the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body.
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking, or difficulty understanding speech.
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes.
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance, or lack of coordination.
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause.

If you think someone may be having a stroke, B.E. F.A.S.T. and do the following test:

- B** – Balance: Is the person having trouble walking or experiencing dizziness?
- E** – Eye (Vision) Changes: Ask the person if they are experiencing blurred vision, double vision, or loss of sight in one or both eyes.
- F** – Face: Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?

- A** – Arms: Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one arm drift downward?
S – Speech: Ask the person to repeat a simple phrase. Is the speech slurred or strange?
T – Time: If you see any of these signs, call 9–1–1 right away.

Be sure to note the time when any symptoms first appear, as this information helps health care providers determine the best treatment. Also, do NOT drive to the hospital or let someone else drive you. Call 9–1–1 for an ambulance so that medical personnel can begin life–saving treatment on the way to the emergency room.

Office of Human Rights and Equity

AAPI Commission 250 Art Contest Deadline Extended

In celebration of America’s 250th anniversary, our Office of Human Rights and Equity's (OHRE) Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Commission is calling upon all Howard County student artists, grades kindergarten through 12th, to participate in its [250 Art Contest](#) to celebrate the pride, hard work, and creativity of our great country’s AAPI community. Open to public, private, and homeschooled students living in Howard County, artists are asked to submit an original piece of artwork that shows how AAPI individuals have helped write the story of America these last 250 years. Contest themes include: Resilience, Tradition, Belonging, and The Future.

Learn more and enter through the ["Howard County AAPI Commission 250 Art Contest Application Form" website](#). Please note, **the submission deadline is Monday, June 8th.**

Finally, first place winners at each educational level (elementary, middle, and high school) will receive a \$100 prize.



Honoring Juneteenth

In observation of Juneteenth 2026, I invite you to join OHRE and our Department of Recreation & Parks for its annual [Juneteenth Community Day & Block Party](#). Set to take place on Saturday, June 20th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at our [Harriet Tubman Cultural Center](#), this vibrant celebration honors the richness of Black culture, the power of community connection, the importance of telling our stories in our own voices, and the history and ongoing significance of Juneteenth. Featuring food, music, movement, storytelling, interactive exhibits,

community resources, and engaging workshops, this event is geared towards the whole family.

To register to attend this FREE event, visit OHRE's ["Juneteenth Community Day & Block Party" Eventbrite webpage](#). For questions and/or more information about this event, contact the office at 410–313–6430 or email ohreoutreach@howardcountymd.gov.

Let's Celebrate Caribbean American Heritage Month

June is Caribbean American Heritage Month, and, in its honor, I invite you to join OHRE for its [2026 Howard County Caribbean American Heritage Month Celebration](#) on Saturday, June 27th from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at [Color Burst Park](#) in Columbia. This family-friendly, vibrant community event celebrates the histories, cultures, traditions, and many contributions of our Caribbean Americans neighbors. Come enjoy an afternoon of live music, dance, storytelling performances, children's activities, vendors, delicious Caribbean cuisine, and more as we recognize the rich diversity of Caribbean heritage and uplift the many Caribbean nations represented throughout our community.



To register to attend this FREE event, visit OHRE's ["Caribbean American Heritage Month Celebration" Eventbrite webpage](#). For questions and/or more information about this event, contact the OHRE at 410-313-6430 or email ohreoutreach@howardcountymd.gov.

Department of Planning and Zoning



Planning Board Meeting

This Thursday, May 21st, the County's [Planning Board](#) will be hosting a hybrid meeting, in person at 3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City and virtually via WebEx, starting at 7:00 p.m., to discuss the following [agenda](#) items:

- [CSDP-26-001 Karen Mosel Technical Staff Report](#) Concept Site Development Plan – Request is to adjust the side five-foot setback to three feet for the addition of an elevator shaft as a necessary accessibility improvement.
- [SP-24-003 Timber Woods Technical Staff Report](#) Scenic road plan review – Request to review the initial plan submittal, SP-24-003 Timber Woods, in accordance with Section 16.125(c)(1) of the Subdivision and Land Development Regulations for a subdivision that abuts or adjoins a scenic road.

To register to testify, visit the County's ["Planning Board" website](#). Registration must be completed prior to 7:00 p.m. the night (May 20, 2026) before the scheduled meeting to participate. If you do not wish to testify, but would simply like to watch the meeting, visit the [Howard County Council's "Watch Us" website](#).

A five-member board, the Planning Board makes recommendations to the Zoning Board or County Council on matters related to planning and zoning and renders a final decision on selected development proposals. To learn more about the Planning Board, including upcoming meeting dates and details about procedures for testifying at a meeting, visit the County's ["Planning Board" website](#).

Police Department

Citizen's Police Academy

Applications are NOW being accepted for Howard County Police Department's (HCPD) 2026 [Citizen's Police Academy](#). Come learn more about HCPD's day-to-day operations and gain an understanding of the kind of training our police officers receive. This FREE 12-week long academy runs from July 20th to September 28th, with classes taking place once a week on Mondays from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. (and two Saturdays from 8:00 a.m. to noon) at locations throughout the county. Classes are taught by police instructors in a police academy setting.



To learn more about this program, its eligibility requirements, and/or to apply, visit HCPD's ["Get Involved" website](#). To note, registration closes Monday, June 1st.

Department of Public Works



Touch-A-Truck Day

In celebration of [National Public Works Week](#), our Department of Public Works (DPW) invites residents of all ages to join its staff for an unforgettable day at [Touch-A-Truck](#). Set to take place this Saturday, May 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to noon in The Capitoline Center parking lot at 3700 Court House Drive in Ellicott City, this free, family-friendly event will feature big trucks

and heavy equipment, games, activities, and the opportunity to meet our dedicated DPW staff who help keep Howard County running. Attendees will also have a chance to get a sneak peek of The Inn at Mt. Ida and explore historic Ellicott City while in the area. To learn more, visit DPW's ["Touch-A-Truck Day" event webpage](#).

[Bureau of Environmental Services](#)

Memorial Day Holiday Slide Schedule

QUICK REMINDER, DPW's Bureau of Environmental Services' ["holiday slide schedule"](#) will be in effect the week of Memorial Day as the Memorial Day holiday is one of the six holidays that affects the County's trash, recycling, food scrap, and yard trim curbside collection schedule. As there will be NO curbside collection on May 25th, Monday's pickup will slide to Tuesday, Tuesday to Wednesday, Wednesday to Thursday, and so forth.

To learn more, visit the Bureau's ["Holiday/Inclement Weather Trash & Recycling Schedule" website](#) or contact the Bureau at 410-313-6444 or email help@howardcountyrecycles.org for questions.

[Bureau of Highways](#)

Old Washington Road Traffic Calming Project Community Outreach Open House

DPW's Bureau of Highways' Traffic Engineering Division will hold a [second community outreach open house](#) tomorrow, May 19th from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., in the Hockley Room at [Howard County Library System's \(HCLS\) Elkridge Branch](#), to present traffic calming plans for Old Washington Road in Elkridge. The proposed project calls for the installation of speed humps, speed hump signs, overhead flashing beacon, and speed reduction markings along all of Old Washington Road.

During this open house event, DPW staff will be on hand to discuss the proposed traffic calming design, answer questions, and gather public comments. Those unable to attend the open house who would like to view the plans and/or have questions or comments about the proposed project, should visit DPW's Traffic Engineering Division's ["Traffic Calming" website](#) or email the office at traffic@howardcountymd.gov. The proposed plans will be posted after the open house on the 19th and all emails should be submitted to the division by no later than June 3, 2026.

Please keep in mind, this community outreach open house is **not an HCLS event**; do not call HCLS's Elkridge Branch if you have questions about the meeting.

[Construction Report](#)

To learn about our DPW projects currently underway, check out [DPW's website](#). Searchable by project category and street name, from this site you'll find additional project details, including news releases about the project. You can also contact DPW's Customer Service Office at 410-313-3440 or email publicworks@howardcountymd.gov for further assistance.

If you have questions or are interested in finding out about a State road (numbered roadway) project in your area, visit the Maryland State Highway Administration's (SHA) ["Project Portal" website](#).

[Maryland State Highway Administration](#)

Operation Clean Sweep Maryland

Through the Maryland State Highway Administration's (SHA) ["Operation Clean Sweep Maryland"](#), this all-hands on deck litter pickup and debris removal effort aims to keep State maintained (numbered) roadways throughout Maryland litter free. If you know of a numbered roadway in Howard County, such as I-95, I-70, US 29, MD 32, MD 100, or US 1, that needs some litter removal attention, submit a ["Service Request Form"](#) to SHA.

As for County maintained (named) roadways, to report trash on one of these roads to the County's Bureau of Highways, please submit a service request via the County's ["Tell HoCo" website](#) and mobile application.

Also, help reduce the amount of trash on our roadways by always disposing of your trash in proper receptacles when you arrive at your destination and by securing your load to prevent litter and debris from flying out of the back of your vehicle.

[Department of Recreation and Parks](#)

Community Input Sought

Every five years, our Department of Recreation & Parks updates its [Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan](#) (LPPRP). This comprehensive plan guides the department on key issues, trends, and plans for managing and enhancing its preserved public lands, facilities, and programs. It's also the first step in the County receiving Program Open Space grants, which have funded many of our largest and most popular parks, including the one-acre, inclusive 'Play-for-All' playground at Blandair Regional Park and the new, two-indoor pool addition to the North Laurel Community Center.

If you are interested in assisting Recreation & Parks' as it prepares its 2027 LPPRP, I encourage you to check out our ["Howard County Seeks Public Input as it Creates its Next Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan" news release online](#) to learn how you can get involved and share your input, including details about the department's [online "Howard County 2027 Preserve + Play Plan Community Survey"](#).

What to Do When School's Out

Parents and caregivers, don't forget! Howard County public schools are closed next Wednesday, May 27th for Eid al-Adha. If you are looking for a fun activity, like circus, archery, fishing, drama, chess, science, or art, to keep your child busy on the 27th, be sure to visit Recreation & Parks' [Active Network May 27 School's Out website](#) for a list of opportunities and/or to register online.



An Evening of Good Vibes and Voices

Calling all current and former service members and families, I invite you to double time it over to [Rockburn Branch Park - West](#) for a night of FREE music, entertainment, healing conversations, lawn games, food, and fun! Recreation & Parks' ["Good Vibes and Voices Concert and Event"](#) returns on Thursday, June 4th at 6:30 p.m. and will feature the

Kell Bell Band, other performers, and fun activities, as well as the opportunity to learn about local resources for service members, veterans, and their families.

To learn more about this event, visit www.howardcountymd.gov/goodvibes.

With Summer Almost Here, Have You Registered for Camp?

The start of summer break is just a month away and Recreation & Parks is reminding residents about all the great camp opportunities it has available to keep your kids active, engaged, and inspired this summer. From hands-on science and art exploration to LEGO robotics and engineering, nature discovery, and a wide variety of sports, check out the department's [Camp](#)



[Guide Summer 2026 online](#) for a complete list or visit its [“2026 Camps By Weeks” website](#) if you are looking for a particular week or more to fill this summer. As spots for some camps do fill up quickly, be sure to register [online](#), in-person, over-the-phone, or mail-in today.



Howard County Government | 3430 Court House Drive | Ellicott City, Maryland, MD 21043 US



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