

# The Calvin Ball Bulletin

District Two

March 2014 Edition

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## Welcome!

With another storm on the horizon for Monday, I'll be posting updates when available to my FB page. "Like" me to stay informed or register for updates through [NotifyMeHoward](#). While enjoying the remainder of your weekend, I'd like to share with you upcoming events and ways to stay engaged in our community.

Know of any upcoming events you'd like to see highlighted here? Please email me the details to [cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov).

If you are not already signed up to receive this newsletter, email "subscribe" to [cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov) and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

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## March is HC DrugFree's Youth & Alcohol Abuse Awareness Month!

The Howard County Council and County Executive have proclaimed March as HC DrugFree's Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Awareness Month in Howard County! To view a copy of the proclamation, [click here](#). Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events:

**March 18 7pm at Howard HS** – Parent2Parent – hear from HC parents of teen addicted to drugs and get your questions answered

**April 26 10am-2pm** – National Drug Take Back Day at HC DrugFree's office and Wilde Lake Village Center. Call 443-325-0040 for details or email [joan@hcdrugfree.org](mailto:joan@hcdrugfree.org).

## Prenatal-Preschool Baby Expo!

Come join us on **Saturday, March 8, 2014 10am-2pm** for Columbia's Prenatal through Preschool Baby Expo. There will be informational speakers, product vendors, child safety information, health information and much more. This event will be held at Owen Brown Community Center and feature raffle prizes and giveaway bag.

For more information, please contact Meghan Pierce at [events@owenbrownvillage.org](mailto:events@owenbrownvillage.org) or 410-381-0202 or Brigitta Warren at [events@oaklandmills.org](mailto:events@oaklandmills.org) or 410-730-4610 or visit [Columbia Baby Expo](#), [Owen Brown Village](#) or [Oakland Mills Community Association](#). The Baby Expo is sponsored by the Owen Brown Community Association and the Oakland Mills Community Association.



## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off!

Join us on **Sunday, March 9, 2014 at 12:30-2:30pm** for Bridges to Housing Stability's 4th Annual "Hotter than Thou" Chili Cook-off where 16 congregations will compete. There is no admission charge and this event will be held at the **Church of the Resurrection** located at 3175 Paulskirk Drive in Ellicott City, MD. You vote by "tipping" each congregation and the congregation with the most tips brings home the "Golden Ladle."

Did you know that over 200 Howard Countians are homeless every night? Bridges helps to re-house them, and works with households on the verge of homelessness. Last year Bridges served more than 100 Howard County households. Proceeds from the chili cook-off directly benefit all of Bridges' clients. Unable to join us, but want to make a difference? Please consider **donating today**.



## Columbia Village Board Elections – Candidate Packets Now Available!

Want to get more involved in your community and make a difference? The Villages of Columbia are now accepting applications for their annual election process. See below for details on how to file in your village:

### Village of Long Reach

Nominations Open **March 1-21**. 3 Positions to be filled at the election to held **Saturday, April, 26, 2014**. Deadline to file is **Friday, March 21 at 12pm**. Elections will be held **Saturday, April 26, 2014 9:30am-12pm** For more details, click [here](#). For the nomination packet, click [here](#).

### Village of Oakland Mills

Candidate packets are currently available for pick-up. On Friday, March 7 at 4pm, nomination petitions and candidate's statements are due. \*Residents are eligible to vote if they have resided in OM since this date. Friday, April 25: deadline for receiving mail-in ballots. No business reply mail is delivered on Saturday. Saturday, April 26 8:30-5pm: Voting at The Other Barn. For more details, click [here](#).

## 2<sup>nd</sup> FY15 Citizens' Budget Hearing!

County Executive Ulman will hold his 2<sup>nd</sup> Citizens' Budget Hearing for the FY15 budget cycle on **Monday, March 10, 2014** at 7pm in the Banneker Room at the George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City.

Residents can sign up to speak [online](#) and from the same link, submit testimony; however, residents are reminded that internet testimony is considered public information and, as such, subject to the Maryland Public Information Act. If you have any questions or need additional accommodations to attend the Hearing, contact the Budget Office at 410-313-2077.

## Silas Craft Collegians Program Fundraiser!



The Howard Community College Educational Foundation and the Hunan Manor Restaurant cordially invites you to an annual gourmet Chinese buffet to benefit the Silas Craft Collegians Scholarship Endowment. This dinner buffet will be served continuously from **5-8:00pm** on **Monday, March 10, 2014** at the Hunan Manor Restaurant in Columbia. Tickets are \$45/ person and the Silas Craft Collegians Endowment receives 100% of the proceeds from the ticket sales. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 443-518-1970 or visit [www.howardcc.edu/sccathunan](http://www.howardcc.edu/sccathunan).

## Columbia Market Analysis & Economic Development Services Study Public Meeting!

Join us on Tuesday, March 25, 2014 7-9pm for the second public meeting of the "Columbia Market Analysis and Economic Development Services" study. This is the second of three public meetings. The meeting will be held at Slayton House, 10400 Cross Fox Ln in Columbia, MD. Consultants will be on hand to discuss some of the initial market findings they've uncovered for the village centers and GE-Dobbin Road-Snowden River Parkway corridors.

To register, click [here](#).

## Howard Community College's Annual Spring Job/Career Fair!



Looking for employment? Come out and interact with local employers on **Friday, March 14, 2014 10am-1pm** at Howard Community College in the Galleria. This once a semester event is open to all job seekers, community members as well as students to meet company representatives! For more details including details on companies that have registered, click [here](#). If you have any questions, call 443-518-1340 or email [jobfair@howardcco.edu](mailto:jobfair@howardcco.edu).

## Columbia's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday – Share Your Input!

As Columbia begins its preparations to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, Columbia and Howard County residents are invited to share their feedback on what they would like to see integrated into the festivities! Take a brief moment and share your comments [online](#).

### Protect Your Pipes!

Our Bureau of Utilities would like to remind residents to take proactive steps to protect your pipes and plumbing fixtures from cold weather damage.

Helpful tips:

- Any exposed pipes should be wrapped or insulated
- Leave the hot and cold water dripping to reduce probability of pipes freezing
- Seal any air leaks that may let any icy blast reach pipes
- Turn off and drain outside spigots
- If house has crawlspace, close all air vents located in the foundation
- If going on extended vacation, keep enough heat on at home to prevent pipes from freezing
- Always report loss of water to **410-313-4900**

## MLK Holiday Commission Seeks Members – Apply Today!



Looking to get more involved in our community? The Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission is now seeking members! To be eligible, you must be a HC resident, 18yrs or older or a high school freshman or sophomore, and able to attend their meetings held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm in the Gateway Bldg, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia. Terms are two years and those interested should send a resume and a brief letter of interest explaining why they want to serve on the Commission to: Howard County Government, Office of the County Executive Attn: David Lee, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043.

For more info, visit [www.howardcountymd.gov/mlkholidaycommission.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/mlkholidaycommission.htm), call 410-313-6467 or email [mfoth@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:mfoth@howardcountymd.gov). The deadline to apply is **Friday, March 21, 2014**.

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tax season has arrived! For income-eligible families, MakingChange is offering FREE tax preparation assistance to those who earn less than \$52k and to small sole proprietor businesses with claimed deductions less than \$10k. The VITA site is located at the **Multi-Service Center, 9900 Washington Boulevard in Laurel** and is open **January 29-April 13**. Visit <http://makingchangecenter.org/programs/tax-prep/> or call 410-880-5917 for more info or to make an appointment.

## Columbia Cleans Day in Long Reach!

Residents of all ages are invited out to take part in “Columbia Cleans Day” on **Saturday, March 29, 2014 9am-12pm** at Jackson Pond & the south end of Tamar Dr in Jeffers Hill. This is a great opportunity to know your know neighbors while helping clean our community. Students and groups wishing to earn community service hours are encouraged to join in on the fun. For details, call 410-730-8113 or email Sean Harbaugh at [Sean.Harbaugh@columbiaassociation.org](mailto:Sean.Harbaugh@columbiaassociation.org).

## County Initiates Stream ReLeaf Program!

Howard County residents that live within 75 feet of a stream can now apply online to receive free trees and shrubs through Howard County’s Department of Recreation & Parks Stream ReLeaf program. This program is aimed at improving the water quality and wildlife habitat by creating and enhancing stream buffers – protective strips of trees, shrubs and other vegetation along the stream.

To qualify, homeowners must be able to plant the vegetation on their property within the 75 feet of a stream. Homeowners are responsible for the planting and caring of the trees and shrubs, including, but not limited to, watering and protecting them from wildlife. To apply or for more information, visit [www.howardcountymd.gov/StreamReleaf.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/StreamReleaf.htm) or contact **Megan Mills** at 410-313-6205 or email [MIhMills@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:MIhMills@howardcountymd.gov). The County will assess each property to determine eligibility, planting area and the maximum number of plants which may be ordered.

## Children’s Discovery Fair!

Stop by for a celebration for young children ages 3-5 years old and their families for free hand-on activities relating to school readiness including interactive games, songs, crafts and stories. Hosted on **Saturday, March 29, 2014 10am-1pm** at the **East Columbia Branch Library**, this year’s theme is **Preschool STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)**. For more information, contact the Office of Children’s Services by calling 410-313-1940 or e-mailing [children@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:children@howardcountymd.gov).

## Money Matters Fair 2014!



Kick-off Financial Education month with a fun-filled line-up of activities and hands-on activities for children and teens, exhibitors, free credit reports and tax preparation. This event is a great opportunity to learn smart ways to stretch your money and will be held on **Saturday, April 5, 2014 10am-1pm** at the East Columbia Branch Library, 6600 Cradlerock Way in Columbia.

NEW this year - Scouts can earn financial badges! Take advantage of the “Howard to Guard Against Telemarketing, Mail and Internet Scams”. **\*Registration required**. Refreshments will be available for purchase from local food trucks.

## MD Housing Rehabilitation Program for Homeowners!

Howard County Housing is now accepting applications for the Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program for Single Family (MHRP-SF). Applications will be available at the Housing's office on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the **Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive** in Columbia.

MHRP-SF is a housing rehabilitation program that preserves and improves single family properties with an emphasis on bringing eligible properties into compliance with applicable building codes and standards. It's designed to address priority home maintenance items, such as: correcting exterior or interior deficiencies; making accessibility modifications; correcting health and safety violations; improving the homes weatherization and energy conservation; and correcting lead-based paint violations. General improvements, such as small home additions, alterations and carpeting, fences and landscaping, and kitchen, bathroom and closet remodeling, may be considered for financing as well, if all priority home maintenance items are in good condition or have been previously renovated. Swimming pools and recreational facilities are considered luxury items and are not eligible for a MHRP-SF loan.

This program also provides HC Housing with the opportunity to assist eligible homeowners in securing low interest loans that cannot exceed 110% of the property's value and with an interest rate of 4.5%. Loan amounts are based upon the owner-occupants ability to repay the loan.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual GreenFest!

Back for its 7th year, this free event offers something for all ages and features exhibits, demonstrations, workshops, activities and practical tips for easy ways to "green" your home, workplace and lifestyle. GreenFest will be held on **Saturday, April 5, 2014 10am-4pm** at Howard Community College, **Burrill Galleria, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway** in Columbia. For more info, call **410-313-4374** or go [online](#).

## "Come Home to Howard County" Housing Fair!

This premier event targets and showcases everything individuals and families who currently live in or outside the County need to know about buying or renting a home in Howard County. The Fair, hosted on **Saturday, April 12, 2014 10am-2pm at Long Reach High School, 6101 Old Dobbin Ln** in Columbia, offers attendees the chance to talk one-on-one with real estate professionals, mortgage lenders and housing specialists, as well as County personnel, who will be available to answer questions about the programs and services that make Howard County such a great place to "come home to."

The Fair also feature its signature educational sessions, narrated bus tours of Howard County rental and buyer communities, and prize give-a-ways. The event is FREE and open to the public. Stay tuned to [www.howardcountyhousing.com](http://www.howardcountyhousing.com) for more information about the 2014 Housing Fair and/or contact Howard County Housing's Homeownership Division at **410-313-6318**, select option 4.

## Community Sports Hall of Fame Seeks Nominations!

Howard County's Department of Recreation & Parks is now seeking nominations for its "Community Sports Hall of Fame" which recognizes outstanding individuals who have gained prominence in or made substantial contributions to community recreational sports in Howard County. The deadline to nominate is Tuesday, **April 15, 2014**.

Coaches, managers, league officials, commissioners or even behind-the scenes contributors closely identified with community recreation sports can be nominated. Nomination forms are available [online](#) or by calling **410-313-4711**. In addition to the form, nominators must provide the Committee with an essay demonstrating the nominees community sports background.

## Homeless Gazette!

As an elected official and advocate to end homelessness, I'm thrilled to partner with the Route 1 Day Resource Center to put on the Hope for Homeless 5k. I'd like to share with you the Homeless Gazette which highlights stories and touching information from clients of the Day Center that I hope you find inspiring. I hope you will consider contributing to the Day Center and to their cause in their future. You can find the latest March 2014 edition [here](#) and view the archive editions [here](#). Here is a [list](#) of their needs if you're able to donate.

## Dedication of the Oakland Mills Little Free Library!

It's time to get excited about the dedication of the Oakland Mills Little Free Library which is a gift to the community from the Oakland Mills Board of Directors. This library is a freestanding structure that will be permanently placed in the ground and accessible to all. The library is for people to donate a book and/or take a book to read. This will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> Free Little Library in Howard County.

This special event will be held on **Saturday April 26, 2014** at approximately **1pm** at **The Other Barn** in Oakland Mills, **5851 Robert Oliver Place**. For additional details, please call **410-730-4610**.

## Wine in the Woods!

Save the Date! The ever popular 2014 Wine in the Woods has returned and will be held **Saturday, May 17, 2014 11am-6pm** and **Sunday, May 18, 2014 11am-5pm** in Symphony Woods in Columbia, MD. Tickets are \$32 in advance, \$25 for designated drivers and \$25 for youth (ages 3-20). For additional details, including program info, volunteering and ticketing, visit <http://www.wineinthewoods.com/>

## What to Know if You See Snow?

Now that winter has arrived, here are some helpful hints and reminders courtesy of our Department of Public Works:

### Getting Plowed In

Tired of getting snowed in by the snow plows? If possible, wait to shovel the end of your driveway until the plows pass. Or try clearing a "pocket" next to your driveway along the shoulder or curb – about the length of a parking space – ahead of your driveway. When the plow passes, the angle of the snow blade will naturally dump most of the load in the pocket instead of your driveway.

### Cars Parked on Public Streets

Parked cars are one of the biggest challenges of our snow crews. County residential streets are plowed one time per snowstorm. Once the county crews clear the snow off your street, they will not return to plow your street a second time. Please park your cars in driveways and off public streets so plows can clear as much snow as possible.

### Cars Parked in Cul-de-Sacs

County truck drivers cannot safely push the snow in cul-de-sacs where cars are parked. Rather than risk damaging county or private vehicles, the driver will leave and come back later after he finishes the rest of his route.

### Guard Against Flooding

Uncover and clear area around fire hydrants and storm drain inlets. If snow melts and rainwater can't flow away, it could cause street icing and basement flooding. After large snow storms, water main breaks may occur. If you see large volumes of water flowing down the street, it could be a water main break. This should be reported to the Bureau of Utilities at **410-313-4900**.

### Clearing Your Sidewalks

"It is the duty and obligation of the owner of property abutting a sidewalk in a public right-of-way to remove snow from the sidewalk within 48 hours after the snow has fallen." (Howard County Code, Section 18.402(h). If you are willing to help remove snow for seniors or physically disabled individuals in your neighborhood, please call the Office on Aging – Maryland Access Point at 410-313-5980 to volunteer for the Snow Patrol Program. Your thoughtfulness can make a big difference to someone who might otherwise be unable to cope. If you need assistance with snow removal and are 60 or older, or younger than 60 with a physical disability, and a resident of Howard County, you may register as a Snow Patrol client. New clients are put on a waiting list and are contacted only if a Snow Patrol volunteer in his/her area becomes available. To register as a client, call **410-313-5980**.

### Did It Snow On...

*"Trash" Day?* If it snows on your trash day, put your trash out for collection as usual – before 6am. If trash collection has been canceled for the day, the trash contractors will pick up trash the next work day if roads are passable.

*"Recycling" Day?* If it snows on your Recycling day, and recycling has been canceled for the day, recycled will be picked up the following week. To find out if trash or recycling collections were canceled for the day, call **410-313-SORT (7678)**.

### Please be patient...

During inclement weather, trash and recycling trucks must travel slowly and safely. Remember, the contractors have until 7pm to pick up your trash and recyclables. Questions about snow removal? Email [publicworks@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:publicworks@howardcountymd.gov).



## Calling All Youth and Teens!

Get involved and be a part of the solution. Have fun and make new friends! Columbia Association's Teen and Middle School Advisory Committee is now seeking young individuals to attend monthly meetings and help get involved in their community by planning, organizing and implementing positive programs and activities for their peers.

High School Students (Ages 13-19) and Middle School Students (Ages 11-13) are invited to call **410-992-3726** or email [CATeens@ColumbiaAssociation.org](mailto:CATeens@ColumbiaAssociation.org) to sign-up. Meetings are the third Thursday of the month 6:30-8pm at the Youth & Teen Center & The Barn in **the Village of Oakland Mills, 5853 Robert Oliver Place** in Columbia.

## Collision Avoidance Training!

The HC Police Department will be conducting Collision Avoidance Training (CAT) **March 14-15, 2014**, an advance defensive driving and vehicle control program for licensed teen driver's ages 16-20. This two day program (12 hours) is designed to provide young drivers with the knowledge and understanding of vehicle dynamics and will provide practical exercises that demonstrate how the vehicle responds in a given situation and how to regain control of the vehicle. Driving skills addressed include: evasive maneuvers, threshold/emergency braking, forward serpentine, cornering, backing, reverse serpentine and skid and off-road recovery.

Students must operate their own vehicle and successfully complete each driving skill/maneuver to receive a certificate of completion. Cost is \$95/both classes. Additional sessions: **April 25-26/May 23-24/June 20-21/July 25-26/August 22-23/September 19-20/October 17-18/November 14-15/December 5-6**. For more details, contact Ms. Carolyn Bennett at 410-313-3758.

## Avoid Healthcare Scams!

The Howard County Department of Citizen Services is warning both Medicare recipients and residents who qualify for health coverage through the new health care exchanges of misleading and sometimes illegal offers of help that are cropping up in Howard County. The Department has already received several reports of misleading and illegal conduct related to both Medicare open enrollment and enrollment for health coverage under the federal Affordable Care Act.

The Office on Aging's "Avoiding Medicare Scams and Frauds" fact sheet, available at [www.howardcountymd.gov/avoidmedicarefraud.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/avoidmedicarefraud.htm), provides info on this and other Medicare provisions designed to protect consumers from misleading sales practices. Consumers can also call the County's State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) office at 410-313-7392 to report suspicious health insurance offers and/or to receive free and unbiased help in deciding what, if any, supplemental insurance programs are right for them.

In addition, the County's Office of Consumer Affairs recently received an e-mail from an insurance agent offering to help people "obtain affordable health insurance." This e-mail, however, implied that unless consumers sign up for coverage by January 1, 2014 they will be charged a penalty. In fact, penalties will not be assessed until the end of the enrollment period on March 31, 2014. Certified navigators are prohibited from charging for their services and from offering private insurance products while helping clients enroll with an exchange.

The Office of Consumer Affairs' "Avoiding ID Theft and Fraud in the New Health Insurance Marketplace" fact sheet, available at [www.howardcountymd.gov/avoidIDtheftfraud.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/avoidIDtheftfraud.htm), provides consumers with tips on avoiding scams and dispels misconceptions people may have about obtaining coverage from the Maryland health exchanges. Consumers who receive suspicious offers of help to enroll in the exchanges can contact the Office of Consumer Affairs at 410-313-6420.

## Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth.

**4H Club:** For youth grades 3+. Meets **2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month** at The Other Barn **3:30-5pm**. Call 410-992-3726 for more info

**Art Attack:** Creative after-school enrichment program from the Columbia Art Center. Meets **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Mondays**.

Registration/Fees may apply. Call 410-992-3726.

**Columbia Teen Center** 410-992-3726

**Howard County Library** [www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22](http://www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22)

**Voices For Change** <http://hcv4c.org/> or email [MMekelburg7@verizon.net](mailto:MMekelburg7@verizon.net)

I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.

## Make a Difference in a Student's Life... A-Ok Mentors Needed!

A-OK (Assist Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc. is now recruiting adult volunteers to be mentor-tutors to HCPSS students who need extra support and encouragement to succeed. Volunteers meet with students individually or in small groups, during the school day and in after school programs. A-OK seeks dependable community members who can commit to one hour/week for one school year.

Participating elementary schools are: Atholton, Bryant Woods, Cradlerock, Deep Run, Forest Ridge, Guilford, Longfellow, Phelps Luck, Running Brook and Stevens Forest. There are also limited opportunities to meet with older students. For more info, call Chaya Kaplan at [aokmentor@gmail.com](mailto:aokmentor@gmail.com) or call 410-730-6030.

## "Your Local Career Connection" Helps in Your Search For Employment!

Howard County's Office of Workforce Development is here for you! The center is geared towards meeting the workforce and employment needs of businesses and job seekers in the 12<sup>th</sup> century labor market. They provide companies and individuals ranging from professional, technical and managerial to entry level. It offers residents a variety of tolls to aid in a job search. The full service center is equipped with computers, fax machines, telephones, internet access and copiers – all to assist you with your employment search. Customized recruitment events are held for businesses and space is available to use for interviewing. For more details, click [here](#) or call 410-290-2620. The calendar of events is [online](#).

## Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money.

**TAX CREDITS:** The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at <http://countyofhowardmd.us/Services.aspx?id=6442458618> or by calling 410-313-4076. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

Livable Home Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Senior Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1492>

Homeowners Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1558>

Homestead Tax Credit: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead.html>

Energy Conservation Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442455147>

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Amateur Sports Athletic Fields Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Community Associations Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Trash Collection Fee Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

## Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: 1-800-506-5806.

## Health Care Options For You or Your Family!



The "Door to HealthCare" provides for the consolidation of applications and application processes for the numerous health programs available for those who are under/uninsured. Individuals sit down with a counselor or work alone at a kiosk to enter personal data (including: family make-up, income, etc.) which will determine the programs for which you and/or family members are eligible. The information will quickly be transferred electronically into the proper application and the process is complete. Services provided include: MCHP, MA, PAC and the Healthy Howard Health Plan.

"The Door to HealthCare" is located to the rear of 7178 Columbia Gateway Drive in Columbia, MD. For further information, call 410-988-3737 or visit <http://www.healthyhowardmd.org/door-healthcare>.

## Medicare Patients – Looking for a Local Doctor!

The Medicare.gov site is the place to find information about Medicare. The webpage provides detailed information about the basics of Medicare, resources, preventative health care and much more. If you're looking for a local doctor who accepts Medicare, click [here](#). Fill in your zip code and any preferences you might have and you will instantly be given a list of providers in your area! For more info, call 1-800-MEDICARE.

## Give the Gift of Independence!

Neighbor Ride launched its volunteer-based transportation service in 2004 with the mission to decrease isolation and improve the quality of life for Howard County's older residents. Today, its dedicated volunteers provide an average of 1,000 trips per month for medical appointments, shopping, social outings, personal care and business, religious services, volunteer activities and other day-to-day needs.

YOU can give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a Neighbor Ride driver. Flexible and rewarding daytime, evening and weekend opportunities are available. No set schedule is required. Drivers simply choose to provide rides that are convenient to their homes, offices and daily routines. Parent volunteers are welcome and encouraged to bring their children along for a wonderful experience. Please contact Patrice Cerwonka, Colleen Konstanzer or Rosemary Noble at 410-884-RIDE (7433) or email [volunteer@neighborride.org](mailto:volunteer@neighborride.org) for more information.

## Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

- Experiencing an Emergency? Dial 9-1-1
- Want to report an incident, non-emergency? Call 410-313-2200
- Need to report drug activity? Call 410-290-3784 or email [ACunningham@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:ACunningham@howardcountymd.gov)
- Want to make an anonymous tip (e.g. child abuse, violence, gangs, gambling, school incidents, underage drinking, damage to property etc.)? Call 410-313-7867 or email [GangTips@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:GangTips@howardcountymd.gov)
- Want to report gun crimes? Call 410-313-7867 or email [CToler@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:CToler@howardcountymd.gov).
- Do you need Victim Assistance? Call 410-313-3712 or email [KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov)
- Interested in a FREE Home Security Survey? Call 410-313-4795 and leave a message to make an appointment. For more info, call the Special Operations Bureau at 410-313-3758 or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/aboutpolice.htm>
- Want to start a Neighborhood Watch? Call the Community Services Section at 410-313-4780.
- Looking to prevent Auto Theft? Helpful tips available at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=6442451452>
- Want to report an animal cruelty incidence or report unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.? Call 410-313-2780, email [animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov) or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/animalcontrol.htm>
- Are speeders in your neighborhood? Consider the SMART Program initiative. Info available at [www.co.ho.md.us/Police/pd\\_smartprogram.htm](http://www.co.ho.md.us/Police/pd_smartprogram.htm)
- Interested in a Police Ride-Along? Call 410-313-2208 for an application
- Need a HCPD Spanish line? Call 410-313-7807.
- Interested in volunteering with the HCPD? Call 410-313-2255
- Interesting in HCPD Recruitment? Call 410-313-4273.

## In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland which empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services.

Grassroots provides programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at 6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044. For more information, please call 410-531-6006 or visit their website online at [www.grassrootscrisis.org](http://www.grassrootscrisis.org). The 24-hour line is 410-531-6677 and the MD Crisis Hotline is 1-800-422-0009.

## "Guaranteed Ride Home" Comes to Howard County!

A program that gives a FREE ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. "Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register [online](#) or call 1-800-745-RIDE (7433).



## Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community which is designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at 410-313-2200.

## Alzheimer's Support Groups in Howard County!

Howard County proudly offers several Alzheimer's Support Groups at various locations throughout the County during days and times that are geared at accommodating the needs of those impacted by Alzheimer's. Pre-screening is required. For support group locations in Howard County, click [here](#). For more information on the Alzheimer's Association, call 1-800-272-3900 or visit [www.alz.org/maryland](http://www.alz.org/maryland).

## Foreign Born Information and Referral Network!

The Foreign Born Information and Referral Network, **5999 Harpers Farm Road, Suite 200-E** in Columbia needs Spanish-speaking volunteers to greet clients, answer basic questions, make appointments and support the staff. Hours are **9am-1pm or 1-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday**. Other times may be considered. For more information, call **410-992-1923 x 14**.

## Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, click [here](#) or call **410-313-6444**. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call **410-313-7678** or go [online](#).

## Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/DisplayPrimary.aspx?ID=4294969242>. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous; however, you should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email [hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov) or call **410-313-2005**.

## View the Council's Current Legislation and Calendar and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. A list of upcoming meetings can be found [online](#).

## I Want to Hear From You!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email to [Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov) or fax **410-313-3297**.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**.

Dr. Calvin Ball  
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*"Everybody can be great...because anybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and verb agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."*

*~ Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*