

# The Calvin Ball Bulletin

District Two

November 2011 Edition

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## Welcome!

Fall has officially arrived! And while the temperature drops and the leaves change their color, I wanted to take a moment and share with you our October Edition highlighting informational programs, services and area events happening throughout our District Two community and Howard County.

Know of any great community events? Please share them with my office so that I may review them for inclusion in this newsletter!

For your convenience, I have included at the end of this edition opportunities on how you can get involved in our community through volunteering or participation on County Boards.

Please feel free to share this Bulletin with friends, neighbors, and community organizations. If you don't already receive this bulletin directly and would like to subscribe, email me at [cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov) and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

## Horizon Grants Information Sessions!

The Horizon Foundation is holding two Grants information Sessions on **November 8, 2011** and will include discussions of Horizon's new streamlined grant application and guidelines, online process, grant cycles and evaluation expectations. Nonprofit representatives are invited to register for the 9-11am or 3-5pm session. Both will be held at **HCC, Gateway Campus, Room #3, 6751 Gateway Drive** in Columbia.

Reservations are limited to up to two representatives from each nonprofit and will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. To register, visit [www.thehorizonfoundation.org](http://www.thehorizonfoundation.org) or call 410-715-0311.

## BOE Work Session II on 2012 School Redistricting!

The Howard County Board of Education will hold Public Work Session II on the 2012 School Year Attendance Area Adjustments at 7:30pm on **Thursday, November 10, 2011**. It will take place in the Board Room at the Department of Education, 10910 Route 108 in Ellicott City.

To access current Area Attendance maps or the Area Attendance Adjustment Process, visit [www.hcpss.org/boundarylines/](http://www.hcpss.org/boundarylines/).

## Marshalee Drive Improvements Have Arrived!

After much hard work and collaboration with my office and our County agencies, I'm pleased to announce a construction project to improve safety and traffic operations at the intersection of Marshalee Dr at Avalon in ElkrIDGE. Work should begin the week of Nov 14 and will include a traffic signal, pedestrian crosswalks, push buttons and pedestrian signals. Weather permitting, this project should be completed by late Jan 2012.

## PlanHoward... Our County. Our Plan!

What's your Plan for Howard in 2030? The latest update of the General Plan will provide a framework for enhancing our economy, environment and quality of life and is aimed at aligning policies and actions with the challenges and opportunities of the time. Now we need your help to shape a shared vision for Howard County's future!

Mark your calendars for the General Plan Task Force Fall Schedule. Listed below are the upcoming meeting dates:

- **Wednesday, November 9, 2011 7-9pm**, North Laurel Community Center, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road in Laurel
- **Wednesday, December 14, 2011 7-9pm**, Gary J. Arthur Community Center, 2400 Route 97 in Cooksville.

For more information, visit <http://www.planhoward.org/>.

A Citizen Task Force has been created to provide advice on this 20 year plan. The County's Planning Board held a series of meetings including work sessions and public meetings and the draft Guidelines were submitted to the County Council on Tuesday, July 5 for consideration and adoption. For more details, visit <http://planhoward.org/>.

## Veteran's Day Closing!

On **Friday, November 11, 2011** Howard County Government offices, courts and animal shelter will be closed in observance of Veterans' Day. Regular trash and recycling services will still be in effect and the landfill will remain open. The North Laurel Community Center, Gary J. Arthur Community Center, Roger Carter Recreation Center and the Meadowbrook Athletic Complex will also be open, while the James H. and Anne E. Robinson Nature Center and Kiwanis-Wallas Recreation Center will be closed. Senior Centers will all be closed.

Howard Transit and Connect-A-Ride will be operating on a regular weekday schedule. To obtain a complete holiday schedule, call **1-800-270-9553**. 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.

## Wonder Walk: Native American Heritage!

Who were the first people to live on the rolling hills where the Conservancy now lies? What were their lives and culture like? How did they make their living off the land? What did they eat and how did they cook? What did they wear? Learn all this and more on **Saturday, November 12, 2011** beginning at **10am** at the Howard County Conservancy. Conservancy educator, Ann Strozyk, takes you on a wonderful morning of discovery of the county's early roots.

This **FREE** event will be held rain or shine. For more info, visit [www.hcconservancy.org](http://www.hcconservancy.org).

## Holiday Vendor Fair!

Jump-start your holiday shopping at the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday Vendor Fair on **Saturday, November 12, 2011** from **10am-1pm**. You're sure to find unique gifts and home décor at this event. This event is **FREE** for shoppers and will be held at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood, 2400 Route 97 in Cooksville.. For more info, call **410-313-4840**.

## Ellicott City Historic Walking Tour!

Join us for this interactive tour on **Saturday, November 12, 2011** from **2pm-3pm** for a lively one-hour walking tour along Main Street. Learn the 5Rs (Railroad, River, Road, Rock and Rebuild) of Ellicott City and about the 20 historic sites, including the raging Patapsco River, the first national road, the town's hidden cobblestone alley, B&O Railroad Museum, the gigantic rock cliffs alongside the sidewalks and the mysterious marker near the Railroad bridge. Discover the abundance of antique stores, restaurants and specialty shops as you walk along the bustling historic district. **FREE** to PHG members and for all others there will be a fee per person. To register, visit [www.howardcountymd.gov/HCT/HCT\\_HistoricWalkTours.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/HCT/HCT_HistoricWalkTours.htm).

## Adult/Child/Infant CPR/AED Certifications!

Take advantage of this opportunity to earn a two-year American Heart Association completion card. This event will be held on **Monday, November 14** and **November 30** from **5:30-9pm** at the HCGH Wellness Center at the Medical Pavilion at Howard County, 10710 Charter Drive, Suite 100 in Columbia. **NOTE:** This is not a health care provider course.

For more info, call **410-740-7601** or visit [www.hcgh.org](http://www.hcgh.org).

## 2011 Entrepreneur EXPO: Harnessing the Power of Innovation in MD!

On **Monday, November 14, 2011 from 7:30am-6pm**, the Columbia-based Maryland Technology Development Corp (TEDCP) will partner with key organizations and stakeholders to lead the creation of the first statewide Entrepreneur Expo, "Harnessing the Power of Innovation in Maryland." This full-day event will be held at the BWI Airport Marriott in Linthicum, 1743 West Nursery Road, and will provide informational and educational tracks and a platform for entrepreneurs to share ideas and cultivate important relationships and connections. It will also feature conference programming, including the curation of activities by BETASCAPE, whose mission is to explore the intersection of art and technology.

Most excitingly for entrepreneurs, it will feature an Entrepreneurial Launch Pad session where companies can pitch their products and services for potential investment. Pitches will be lightening fast and the audience will vote for the most valuable pitch. The three companies receiving the most votes will win a cash prize. Interested participants will be able to apply for participation in the Entrepreneurial Launch Pad session during the expo.

For more information, visit [www.innovatemd.com](http://www.innovatemd.com).

### Developing Tween and Teen Resiliency

Come out for a night of wellness! Oakland Mills Middle School is hosting a "Developing Tween and Teen Resiliency" session on **Monday, November 14, 2011 from 6:30pm-8:30pm** at **Oakland Mills Middle School** to engage with parents and students on various topics including: teen mental health, cyberbullying prevention, gang awareness for parents, navigating facebook, supporting your child's learning at home and developing resiliency.

There will be activities for children 6-13 years old and refreshments will be provided. For more info, call **410-313-6937**.

### Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Essay Contest!

The Howard County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission invites middle and high school students who are residents of Howard County to participate in the 2011 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Essay Contest. This year's theme is "Renewing the Dream". There will be a first, second, and third place winners at both middle and high school levels and winners will be recognized and awarded cash prizes at the Commission's annual Commemorative Birthday Celebration Program to be held on Sunday, January 15, 2012. The deadline for essays to be submitted to the Commission is **Tuesday, November 15, 2011**. For more info, call **Gwen Hackney** at **410-313-6467** or email [MHackney@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:MHackney@howardcountymd.gov).

### MLK Jr. Holiday Commission Seeks Nominees for "Living the Dream" Award!

The Howard County Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission is now accepting nominations for the its annual "Living the Dream" Award. This award recognizes an outstanding individual or organization (community, civic or religious) that has promoted the teachings and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through community involvement in Howard County. To be eligible, nominees must: be either a resident of Howard County or an organization located in the County; have demonstrated the life, work, teachings or legacy of Dr. King; promoted community involvement among all ethnic groups regardless of social, economic or religious background; and be committed to non-violence and humanitarian services.

Nominations must be received by **5pm** on **Tuesday, November 15**. For more info, contact Gwen Hackney in the Office of Human Rights at **410-313-6467** or email [mhackney@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:mhackney@howardcountymd.gov).

#### Thank you for your patience!

A project to replace a failing water main along Meadowridge Rd from US1 to 1,000ft north of Old Stockbridge Dr in Elkridge has begun. Construction will take place **weekdays 8am-4pm** and should be completed by early **March 2012**, weather permitting. For questions or concerns on **Capital Project W-8249**, call **Lisa Brightwell** at **410-313-3440**.

### Great American Smoke Out!

Interested in quitting smoking? Stop by the HCGH Lobby on **Thursday, November 17, 2011 from 11am-2pm** for resources to help you quit. This event is **FREE** and registration is not required. For more info, call **410-740-7601** or visit [www.hcgh.org](http://www.hcgh.org).

## MDOT and CSX to Host Public Workshops on Intermodal Facility!!

CSX Corporation and its affiliates (CSX) and the Maryland Department of Transportation will host a second round of public workshops in November to provide updates regarding the development of the Baltimore-Washington Rail Intermodal Facility project. These workshops will provide the public an opportunity to review and comment on the preliminary results of the work done to date. The following is a list of workshops scheduled to be held in each of the three counties where the candidate sites are located: Howard, Anne Arundel and Prince George's County.

**Tuesday, November 15, 7:30-9:30pm**

Jessup Elementary School, 2900 Elementary School Ln, Jessup, MD

**Thursday, November 17, 7-9pm**

Elkridge Landing Middle School, 7085 Montgomery Rd, Elkridge, MD

**Monday, November 21, 7-9pm**

Beltsville Academy, 4300 Wicomico Avenue, Beltsville, MD

For more information, contact **Robert Sullivan** (CSX) at 1-877-835-5279 or **Jack Cahalan** (MDOT) at 410-865-1025.

## 2012 Student International Exchange Program Informational Sessions!

The Columbia Association will offer information sessions this fall for parents and teens about the summer 2012 Sister Cities High School Student International Exchange Program on the following dates: **Tuesday, November 15; Wednesday, December 7; and Thursday December 15** from 7-8pm at **CA Headquarters, 10221 Wincopin Circle** in Columbia. Laura Smit, program manager, will speak and answer questions about the month-long July program.

Registration fee is \$650 for Columbia residents and \$790 for non-Columbia residents. Applicants must be high school students residing in Howard County and must have completed high school level two of French or Spanish by the end of the current academic year or have the equivalent language fluency. Applications are due **February 17, 2012**. For more info, call **Laura Smit** at 410-715-3162 or email [International@ColumbiaAssociation.com](mailto:International@ColumbiaAssociation.com).

### SPOTLIGHT ON HOWARD COUNTY!

I'd like to take a brief moment and acknowledge some organizations in Howard County whom recently I've had the privilege to present with an Honorary Resolution from the Howard County Council.

**African Art Museum**, on its Grand Opening in Maple Lawn and continued commitment to Howard County.

**Volunteer Center**, in celebration of its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary serving Howard County.

**HCAR** celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**Day of the Girl** to honor their commitment in promoting positive self-esteem among young girls.

## Collision Avoidance Training for Teens!

The Howard County Police Department promotes traffic safety and is now offering Collision Avoidance Training (CAT) which provides our youth the opportunity to develop safe driving habits. This is an advanced defensive driving and vehicle control program designed for licensed teenage drivers (16-19yrs). The objective is to enhance awareness and prepare teens to handle hazards that occur during in normal driving conditions.

The two day program (12 hours) will be offered: **November 18-19** and **December 9-10**. The cost is \$95. For questions, please call **410-313-3758**.

## "Yes, You Can Be a Candidate for School Board"!

Are you interested in being a running for a position on the School Board? If so, you are invited to a panel discussion on **Saturday, November 19** from **9am-11am** in the **C. Vernon Gray Room** at the George Howard Building. After the presentation, there will be a brief discussion of required forms, important dates and fees. This presentation is **FREE** and open to the public. It will be helpful for all candidates, campaign managers and treasurers.

For questions, call **Betsy Grater** at **410-730-0142**.

## Coat Drive!

Help support those in need this winter season. The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is hosting a Coat Drive on **Saturday, November 19** from **9am-12pm** at the **Roslyn Rise Community Center, 10339 Twin Rivers Road** in Columbia. For more info, email [candygirl925@yahoo.com](mailto:candygirl925@yahoo.com).

## Symphony of Lights Drive Through!

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual Symphony of Lights has finally arrived and will run from **Monday, November 21, 2011** through **January 1, 2012**. Cars, vans and busses can take a 20-30 minute drive-through of a display of more than 70 larger-than-life, light creations illuminated by a fantasy of color, design and animation. This holiday tradition is delightful for all ages!

It will be open 7 days a week from **6-10pm** including holidays except **CLOSED December 31** for the Midnight at 7 event. For more details, visit [www.hcgh.org/drivethrough](http://www.hcgh.org/drivethrough) to learn more!

## Happy Thanksgiving!

In observance of the Thanksgiving holiday, the Howard County government offices will be closed beginning **Thursday, November 24** through **Friday, November 25**. Offices will re-open on **Monday, November 28, 2011**. Trash and recycling services will operate on a slide schedule. For more information, visit [www.howardcountymd.gov/holidayschedule.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/holidayschedule.htm).

## Fight Against Hunger!

On **Sunday, November 27**, the Howard County NAACP "Youth Council will sponsor a Fight Against Hunger. Enjoy a **FREE** afternoon dinner which will be served to those in need. This event will be held from **4-6pm** at **Ridgleys Run Community Center, 8400 Mission Road in Jessup, MD**.

Donations are being accepted! For more information, contact **Thelma Lucas** at **410-381-3398** or **Bessie Bordenave** at **443-280-1935**.

## Project Prom Dress!

Clean out your closet and support a great cause! The American Red Cross Howard County District needs your gently worn prom dresses to help disaster victims. The collected garments will be sold as part of the Second Annual Project: Prom Dress, a unique boutique experience in February when the dresses will be sold to the public at a fraction of their original cost.

All proceeds from the sale will benefit the American Red Cross disaster relief fund. Dress drop-off locations and times have been announced at the following Howard County Library locations: **Sunday, November 27, 2011** from **1-5pm** at the Central Branch, 10375 Little Patuxent Parkway; **Sunday December 4, 2011** from **1-5pm** at East Columbia Branch, 6600 Cradlerock Way. For more info, call **410-624-2035** or email [projectpromdresshoward@gmail.com](mailto:projectpromdresshoward@gmail.com).

## CA's Women's Only Swim Time!

The Columbia Association has begun offering a Women's Only Swim Time pilot program as part of the ongoing commitment to increasing access to the aquatics facilities and programs. The program will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from **12:30-2pm** at the **Columbia Swim Centers Program Pool, 10400 Cross Fox Lane, Columbia**. This pool is a shallow water pool warmed to 80-82 degrees. During this time, the pool will be guarded by female lifeguards and the windows will be covered.

The program will be **FREE** to CA members. Resident non-members (with CA resident card) will pay \$16 per visit and general admission is \$25. Non-members are welcome to a free trial of two admissions. For more info on CA's aquatics facilities and programs, visit [ColumbiaPools.org](http://ColumbiaPools.org). For details on this initiative, contact **John Herdson** at **410-381-1096** or email [John.Herdson@ColumbiaAssociation.com](mailto:John.Herdson@ColumbiaAssociation.com).

## Recreation & Parks Announce Deer Management Program for 2011-2012!

Howard County's Department of Recreation & Parks has announced its fall/winter schedule of managed deer hunts. These hunts are held in an effort to help maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population in our parks where deer browsing has been shown to reduce biodiversity. The hunting schedule is as follows but can also be accessed online at [www.howardcountymd.gov/deermanagement.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/deermanagement.htm)

Alpha Ridge Park	
Bow & Shotgun	<b>January 12; February 6</b>
Blandair Park	
Bow Hunting	<b>February 14; February 23</b>
David Force Park	
Bow & Shotgun	<b>November 17; January 19; February 8</b>
High Ridge Park	
Shotgun Hunting	<b>January 30</b>
Middle Patuxent Environmental Area	
Bow & Shotgun	<b>November 11; January 17; February 7; February 15; February 27</b>
Schooley Mill Park	
Shotgun Hunting	<b>November 10; January 10; January 26</b>

## Arts Council Open House & Holiday Sale!

The Arts Council will host its annual Open House & Holiday Sale on **Friday, December 2, 2011** from **5:30-8:30pm**. Local artists and groups will sell unique, affordable art and handcrafted items including paintings, photography, wearables, prints, ceramics, jewelry, greeting cards, and sculpture. Refreshments will be provided. HCAC resident artists will also have their studios open to the public.

The event will be held at the **Howard County Arts Council, 8510 High Ridge Rd, Ellicott City**. For more details, call **410-313-2787**.

## Holiday Mart Returns!

Not sure what you get for that special someone during the holiday season? Come out and celebrate this popular annual craft event on **Saturday, December 3, 2011** featuring unique and unusual juried works presented by over 140 craftspersons. All ages are welcome to attend; cost is \$3 for ages 6-12 and \$4 for ages 13 and older. The event will be held at the **Gary J. Arthur Community Center at Glenwood, 2400 Route 97** in Cooksville from **10am-5pm**.

For more information, contact **Mary Ellen Baker** at **410-313-4632**, **Linda Bell** at **410-313-4622** or email [LRBell@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:LRBell@howardcountymd.gov).

## FY13 Citizens' Budget Hearing!

On **Wednesday, December 7, 2011** at **7pm**, The County Executive will host the 1<sup>st</sup> FY13 Citizens' Budget Hearing. Beginning November 18, citizens can sign-up online to speak at the hearing. Citizens who do not wish to sign-up online will still be able to sign-up in person on the night of the public hearing beginning at 6:30pm. Speakers must sign up individually and one person may not sign-up for several testifiers. The event will be held in the **Banneker Room** at the George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City. For more details, contact the Budget Office at **410-313-2077**.

## Oakland Mills Holiday Cookie Swap!

Come join the fun at The Other Barn for a festive holiday time! Bring 5 dozen cookies to share, bring 5 dozen cookies home to eat. This event will be held on **Sunday, December 11 3-5pm** at **The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place** in Columbia. For more details, call **410-730-4610**.

## Free Home Repairs For Qualifying Individuals!

Rebuilding Together Howard County is now accepting applications for its **FREE** Home Repairs Program. This program provides assistance to low-income homeowners, the elderly, disabled or those who simply do not have the funds necessary to maintain their home. To qualify, you must own and reside in your Howard County home. A brief, two page application must be completed to be considered and the application deadline is **Saturday, December 31, 2011**.

Applications available online at [www.rebuildingtogetherHC.org](http://www.rebuildingtogetherHC.org) or call **410-381-3338** to have an application mailed to you.

## Howard County Preschool and Child Care Information Fair!

This annual fair provides parents, guardians, grandparents and child care personnel with a "one stop shop" for information on child care and pre-school programs, as well as the opportunity to talk face-to-face with teachers and program directors. Representatives from community service organizations that provide programs and services to Howard County's young children will be on hand to furnish information to parents. This event will be held on **Saturday, January 21, 2012** in the **Ten Oaks Ballroom, 5000 Signal Bell Lane** in Clarksville. No time has yet been announced.

For more information, call the Office of Children's Services at **410-313-1940** or email **Debbie Yare** at [DYare@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:DYare@howardcountymd.gov).

## Going Green... Master Gardner Programs Available!

Master Garden Programs will now be featured at The Other Barn. They are FREE, informative and fun!

- **Wednesday, February 15, 7pm** – Composting

For a complete description, visit [www.oaklandmills.org](http://www.oaklandmills.org).

## Save the Date... Evening in the Stacks!

Join us at Evening in the Stacks, the Howard County Library's annual gala fundraiser. The event will be held on Wednesday, **February 25, 2011** from **7-11pm** at the **Howard County Library Miller Branch**. The event features a silent auction, fine food and drink and a literary spotlight. Tickets are \$100 each and may be purchased at the door.

## Women's Hall of Fame Now Accepting Nominations!

The Howard County Commission for Women will celebrate Women's History month in March 2012 by inducting up to five outstanding women into its Women's Hall of Fame at an evening ceremony on **Thursday, March 8, 2012**. You're invited to take this opportunity to nominate those women you feel have made significant contributions to Howard County, the State of Maryland or the nation through their profession and/or community service. These are women who are visible models of achievement for tomorrow's female leaders.

Nominations must be received by **Friday, November 18, 2011**. Nomination forms can be downloaded at [www.howardcountymd.gov/whofnominationform.pdf](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/whofnominationform.pdf) or available through the Department of Citizen Services by emailing [women@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:women@howardcountymd.gov) or calling **410-313-6400**.

## Save the Date... Money Matters Fair!

Kick-off Financial Education month with a fun-filled line-up of activities and classes to learn smart ways to stretch your money! This fair will be held on **Saturday, March 31, 2012** from **10am-1pm** at the Each Columbia Branch Library, 6600 Cradlerock Way in Columbia. The fair includes hands-on activities, information and resources for personal finance, financial aid for college, free credit reports and tax advice. For more details, call **410-313-3105**.

## Columbia Home Tour Seeks Distinct Homes to Showcase!

The Columbia Home Tour is now seeking distinct Columbia homes to showcase at the third annual event to be held on **Sunday, June 3, 2012** from **11am-5pm**. Homeowners will be asked to open their doors to allow participants to embark upon a self-guided tour. Homes of any size or style with diverse architecture or unique characteristics are sought. Nominations including self-nominations are welcome!

For more information, contact **Carol Hobelmann** at **410-730-3987** or email [wlevents@columbiavillages.org](mailto:wlevents@columbiavillages.org).

## Share Your Opinion on the 2012-2013 HCPSS Calendar!

The HPSS Calendar Committee is currently developing a calendar proposal for the 2012-2013 school year. Your input is very important in the process, especially when changes are under consideration. Take a brief moment to share your thoughts by answering a few questions on the survey. Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PR2B2ST>.

## U.S. Route 1 Sidewalk Construction!

A Howard County construction project (Capital Project C-0285) will install a sidewalk along U.S. Route 1 in Elkridge and will include installation of a new sidewalk, pedestrian ramps, accessible pedestrian signals and roadway striping in two locations: southbound U.S. Rt 1 from Ducketts Ln to Troy Hill Drive and at the intersection of northbound U.S. Rt 1 and Meadowridge Road. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed by **late November**, weather permitting.

Temporary lane shifts and closures can be expected during construction hours, weekdays from 9am-4pm. Flagging operations will be in place to direct traffic as needed and signs will be posted to advise motorists of the construction. For questions or concerns, call **Lisa Brightwell** at **410-313-3440** or email [publicworks@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:publicworks@howardcountymd.gov).

## FREE Home Energy Audit Program!

Howard County's new **FREE** Home Energy Audit Program will provide free comprehensive audits to 1,500 households, an estimated savings of approximately of \$250-\$500 to households. The audit is the first step in identifying how much energy a home consumes and evaluate what measures can make the home more energy efficient while saving money on their energy bills and is funded through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) Program.

Applications are available online at <http://livegreenhoward.com/energy-climate/home-energy-audit/> and selections will be made via lottery weekly over the course of the next six months. If selected, you will have 48 hours from notification to participate must agree to provide a 12-month history of their energy usage, be present at the time of the audit and complete a survey six months after the audit to record the efficiency measures implemented.

For questions, email [energyaudit@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:energyaudit@howardcountymd.gov).

## Calling All Youth... Voices for Change Youth Coalition Seeks Your Help!

Are you interested in making positive change in your community by working on issues important to you? Would you like to get to know other students from high schools around the county? Would you like to be a part of the team of students and adults that organize the annual Youth Summit? Then Voices for Change Youth Coalition is for you!

General Student Membership is limited to Howard County high school students (public, private and/or home school) and Howard County 8<sup>th</sup> grade students (public, private and/or home school). Students must be in good standing with their respective school to be eligible. Active membership is defined as participating in at least 60% of the total meetings throughout the year.

Meetings are twice a month on alternating Tuesdays from 5-7pm and dinner is provided. Meetings are held at HC Recreation & Parks located at 7120 Oakland Mills Road in Columbia. For more details, check out the website at [www.HCYouth.org](http://www.HCYouth.org) or contact **Meg Mekelburg** at [MMekelburg7@verizon.net](mailto:MMekelburg7@verizon.net).

## Please Excuse Our Dust!

Street sweepers are expected to service the following areas in the next five to seven business days, weather permitting:

African Hill, Afternoon, Babylon Crest, Basket Ring, Battler, Bendix, Blue Coat, Bright Hawk, Brinton, Bucket Post, Caboose, Camelback, Canvasback, Canvasback, Catfeet, Coonhunt, Corn Silk, Creekbed, Criss Cross, Crowflock, Dalton, Dartmouth, Delphinium, Diamond Back, Dower, Dower, Dry Well, East Leisure, Edgar, Etta, Farm Pond, Gales, Gatsby Green, Good Lion, Grapewine, Hayledge, Herbert, High Wind, Honeysalt, Hound Hill, Humble Bee, Indian Camp, Jacobs Ladder, Jamina Downs, Kilimanjaro, Leisure, Lightning View, Log Chain, Long Look, Macomber, Maera, Marsh Hawk, Matador, May Day, Mellen, Mellenbrook, Merryrest, Middle, Mirror Light, Moongong, Morningbird, Nethersone, New Leaf, North Penfield, Offshore Green, Old Columbia, Old Deep, Old Line, Orchard Green, Osprey, Pamplona, Parkvale, Patriot, Penfield, Pepple, Pepple, Pinecone, Pursuit, Pushcart, Raccoon, Racegate Run, Reader, Rhodora, River Meadows, Riverark, Robert Oliver, Rosinante Run, Santiago, Sargossa, Scarecrow, Seawind, Shadowfall Terrace, Sleeping Dog, Slipper, Snow Shoe, Soaring Hill, Sohap, South Leisure, Spindrift, Spring Valley, Stevens Forest, Sybert, The Bowl, Thunder Hill, Timesweep, Torrent, Twin Knolls, Two Hills, Upwoods, Wandering, Weatherside Run, West Penfield, Westhill, Whiteacre, Wild Bees, Winding, Wintercorn, Winterfield, Wolf River, Woodstove.

## Give the Gift of Independence!

Neighbor Ridge 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.

## 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.

## Support Our Local Farmers Markets!

It's that time of year again when we can count on fresh vegetables and fruits from around Howard County. Help support our local farmers by visiting any one of the local farmers markets: East Columbia Library (Hours: **Thursdays 2-6pm**), Howard County General Hospital (Hours: **Fridays 2-6pm**), Glenwood Library (Hours: **Saturdays 9am-12:30pm**) and the Oakland Mills Village Center (Hours: **Sundays 9am-12:30pm**).

## You Asked For It... We Responded. Bulk Trash Pick-Up Returns!

Bulk Trash Item pick-up has resumed but items must be scheduled by calling 410-313-6444 or visiting [www.HowardCountyBulkPickup.org](http://www.HowardCountyBulkPickup.org). These items typically do not fit in trash cans and could include mattresses, chairs, sofas, dressers, tables, etc. Bulk METAL Item pick-up began starting **October 1, 2011** and must be scheduled in advance by calling 410-313-6444. Items must be placed at the curb by 6am (no earlier than 6pm the night before). Please do not block mailboxes or fire hydrants. **NOTE:** It is illegal for anyone except Howard County's contractors to pickup scrap metal at the curb (Howard County Code 18.610)

## 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.

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

FINALLY! Something to Do in Howard County [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52321251379](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=52321251379)

Youth Howard County [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=47846991445&v=info&ref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=47846991445&v=info&ref=ts)

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

## 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 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.

## "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 at [www.commuterconnections.org](http://www.commuterconnections.org) or call 1-800-745-RIDE (7433).

## Looking for a Job? Use Maryland's Workforce Exchange!

Job seekers in Maryland can now search more than 80,000 presently open and active jobs across Maryland, indicating that while Maryland comes through this national recession, our State's employers ARE hiring! For more info or to apply, visit <https://mwejobs.maryland.gov/>

## 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.

**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>

## Mentors & Tutors Wanted!

A-OK (Assisting Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring Program needs adult volunteers to work in Howard County schools, grades K-8, and after-school programs. A-OK works with several schools including Oakland Mills MS, Phelps Luck, Stevens Forest and Talbott Springs ES. For more info, call Chaya Kaplan 410-730-6030 or email [aokmentor@gmail.com](mailto:aokmentor@gmail.com)

## BRAC Corner!

Are you a business owner interested in becoming a contractor or already a Defense Contractor looking for additional information? The BRAC Business Initiative (BBI) is inviting businesses interested in accessing government contracting opportunities and becoming a qualified prime or sub-contractor to register with the BBI's new Match-Up Database. A number of defense contractors and government agencies are already using the Match-Up Database to determine which BBI businesses may possess the capabilities they require. Many companies registered in the Database have already been selected to meet with large prime contractors to partner and increase business.

The database is FREE of charge and open to all local companies interested in generating more business within the defense community. The Match-Up Database can be found at <http://www.selfvetting.com/events/BBI/APL/> and registering in the database automatically makes a company a member of the BBI.

The next BBI Meeting will be held on **December 7, 2011** from **7:30-10am** at The Other Barn in Columbia. There will be a special guest and a major defense contractor who will focus on Small and Minority Business Opportunities. This event is FREE and open to the public. Reservations are NOT required.

For any questions on the BBI or our monthly update meetings, call **Raj Kudchadkar** at 410-313-6376 or email [rkudchadkar@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:rkudchadkar@howardcountymd.gov).

## 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)
- Looking for personal safety tips? Visit [www.co.ho.md.us/police/pd\\_personalsafety.htm](http://www.co.ho.md.us/police/pd_personalsafety.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
- **Interested in HCPD Recruitment?** Call 410-313-4273.

In addition, the Columbia Association (CA) and the Howard County Police Department (HCPD) have joined forces to enhance the safety of our residents in Columbia and Howard County at large. Every month, safety tips and valuable information will be added to their newly formed website [www.howardcountysafety.org](http://www.howardcountysafety.org). I encourage residents to continuously check this site for helpful hints to protect yourself and property and potentially reduce crime through your efforts!

## 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 makeUp, 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**.

## 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, visit [www.Medicare.gov/find-a-doctor](http://www.Medicare.gov/find-a-doctor). Fill in your zipcode and any preferences you might have and instantly you will be given a list of providers in your area! For more details, call **1-800-MEDICARE**.

## Alzheimer’s Early-Stage Programs Now Available!

The Alzheimer’s Early-Stage Social Club meets Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00am-1:00pm. Pre-screening is required. To reserve your space and/or for pre-screening, call **Judy Miller** at **410-313-5441**. For more information on the Alzheimer’s association, call **1-800-272-3900** or visit [www.alz.org/maryland](http://www.alz.org/maryland).

## 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, visit <http://countyofhowardmd.us/ResidentialRecycling.htm> 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 visit <http://countyofhowardmd.us/departments.aspx?ID=815>.

## At-Large Members Needed for Community Advisory Council!

The Community Advisory Council to the Board of Education is currently seeking at-large members for the coming school year. The council sponsors educational programming for members and provides the opportunity to study and have input into curriculum, educational policy, redistricting and budget.

The committee meets at 7:30pm the third Tuesday of each month at the Department of Education, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD. At-large members serve a two-year term to begin in August 2011. For more information, please call 410-313-6682 or email [tjmallo@verizon.net](mailto:tjmallo@verizon.net).

## How and When to Use the Emergency Room!

Remember in Howard County, there are a number of affordable alternatives to the Emergency Room if you are ill (coughs, colds, ear infections, minor burns, strains/sprains), but **not** experiencing a medical emergency. These "minute clinics" are a great resource to receive medical attention on a weekend, late night, or simply when your regular physician cannot see you. Many have extended and weekend hours and do not require appointments. Most accept insurance but please call the provider/clinic for details.

For additional information or a list of providers, contact our Health Department online at <http://countyofhowardmd.us/Departments.aspx?ID=290> or call 410-313-6300.

## RECYCLE your old TV's!

The Howard County Bureau of Environmental Services would like to remind residents to recycle analog TV's rather than throw them away. Options: Alpha Ridge Landfill Resident's Convenience Area open 8am-4pm Mon-Sat and Best Buy's Customer Take-Back Program. For more info, call 410-313-6444.

## Domestic Violence Center to Expand its Sexual Assault Services

The Domestic Violence Center (DVC) is pleased to announce a collaborative effort with the Howard County Police Department and the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) to expand DVS's sexual assault services with the hire of a Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Clinician who will be based at the CAC. For more details, call 410-997-0304 or visit [www.dvcenter.org](http://www.dvcenter.org).

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

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. To view legislation under consideration by the Council, please click on the following link [http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/Legislative\\_Pending.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/Legislative_Pending.htm)

## Boards and Commissions Vacancies!

Howard County is well known for our active and informed residents which I proudly represent. Howard County Boards and Commissions bring meaning to “government of the people, by the people and for the people.” They provide a vital link between our citizens and the officials who serve them.

Persons interested in applying for a Board or Commission are invited to submit a current resume along with a cover letter highlighting interests or experience which would be beneficial to the Board or Commission to which application is being made. Letters should be addressed to: **County Executive, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043.**

As vacancies occur on the various boards or commissions, interviews are scheduled with interested parties. For current vacancies and special requirements, please call **Eileen Weber**, County Executive Office at **410-313-2013**.

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## Commissioners Wanted for HC Commission on Disability Issues!

The Howard County Commission on Disability Issues is currently accepting applications for individuals interested in serving a five-year term as a Commissioner. To be eligible for consideration, candidates must be a Howard County resident, 18 years of age or older, have an interest in disability issues and be able to attend the Commission’s meetings on the third Monday of each month from 6-8:30pm.

Applicants must submit a resume and a brief letter explaining why they want to serve on the Commission to: **Howard County Government, Department of County Administration, Attn: Susan Smith-Bauk, 3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043.** The names of approved candidates will be sent to the County Executive, who will then submit his recommendations to the County Council for confirmation.

For more information, call **Joyce Lehrer** at **410-313-6431** or email [jlehrer@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:jlehrer@howardcountymd.gov).

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## In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland and 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**.

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## 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**.

## 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**.

## How You Can Participate in Howard County Government!

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 or fax.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**. Click on the following link for the Council's calendar of meetings

[http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/CC\\_Legislative\\_CouncilCalendar.htm](http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/CC_Legislative_CouncilCalendar.htm)

Dr. Calvin Ball  
Howard County Council  
District 2  
3430 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City, MD 21043

[cball@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:cball@howardcountymd.gov)

[http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC\\_DistrictTwo.htm](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_DistrictTwo.htm)

## I Want to Hear From You!

The link below will navigate you to a list of upcoming Council meetings open to the public. If you have specific questions, please call the contact number listed for that meeting.

[http://www.co.ho.md.us/News/HCG\\_Portal\\_PublicMeetings.htm](http://www.co.ho.md.us/News/HCG_Portal_PublicMeetings.htm)

*"The life of a man consists not in seeing visions and in dreaming dreams, but in active charity and in willing service."*

**Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**