

Community *notes*



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Holiday Closings



Howard County Government offices, courts, animal shelter, 50+ Centers and Alpha Ridge Landfill will be closed on Monday, December 26. There will be no trash, recycling, food scrap or yard trim pick-up on Monday; the County's holiday

"slide" schedule will be in effect. County parks, Cedar Lane and Schooley Mill Activity Rooms, Kiwanis-Wallas Hall, Meadowbrook Athletic Center, Gary J. Arthur, North Laurel and Roger Carter Community Centers, and County historic sites will be open on Dec. 26.

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

The Regional Transportation Agency buses will not run on December 25 and will operate on a "Sunday" schedule on December 26. For more information on RTA, call 1-800-270-9553 or visit the [website](#).

County offices will re-open at regular business hours on Tuesday, Dec. 27.

HoCo Open 2017

Artists who live, work, or study in Howard County are invited to drop off a single piece of artwork for HoCo Open 2017. This all-hung, salon-style exhibit showcases the wealth and diversity of artistic talent in our community. Now is the time to start working on a piece to put on display for the community! Drop-off is Thursday, January 5, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. HoCo Open 2017 will be on display from Friday, January 13 to Friday, February 24. Entry forms are available on the Exhibits [page](#).

Greetings

With winter weather coming our way and the holidays just around the corner, there's no better way to celebrate than coming to Festive Friday this Friday at the Lakefront!

Holiday Gift Reminder

As you order gifts online for the holidays, please be mindful of the potential for theft when packages are left at your front door. To prevent package thefts, police encourage residents to follow these tips:

- Track shipments and try to be home when they are scheduled to arrive. If you won't be home, have the shipment delivered to your work if permitted or ask the delivery company to leave the package in a discreet location.
- Ask a neighbor to take the package inside until you get home.
- Be aware of suspicious people and vehicles. If you notice suspicious behavior, call 911 immediately. Make note of any vehicle's make, model, tag number and direction of travel.

Howard County police have been increasing their presence in shopping areas, neighborhoods and on roadways to ensure residents stay safe this holiday season. Officers have increased patrols in cars, on foot and on bicycles, both in uniform and in plainclothes to deter holiday crime. Just last week they intercepted a truck full of stolen packages and although they were able to redistribute the stolen items, it is important to stay alert of this kind of activity. If you see something suspicious, call 911.

Pizza With Santa

Harper's Choice Community Association invites you to their annual "Pizza with Santa" event on Saturday, December 17, 11:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Children and their families will be able to enjoy pizza, music, fun activities and have an opportunity to take a special picture with Old Saint Nick himself. Best of all, it's completely free!



Celebrate Hanukkah

It's a Hanukkah event for the whole family! Join the community in celebrating on Sunday, December 18, 4:00- 6:00 p.m. at the Owen Brown Community Center(6800 Cradlerock Way, Columbia).



There will be tons of fun activities, including: Hanukkah Crafts, Dreidel Games, Tasty Treats, Hanukkah Book Nook, and more! Certified kosher fare is available upon request. The event is free and open to all. To RSVP, visit Temple Isaiah's [website](#). For more information contact Rabbi Daniel Plotkin at 301-317-1101 or RabbiPlotkin@templeisaiah.org.

Lego Christmas Display

Head on down to the Antique Depot (3720 Maryland Ave, Ellicott City 21043) to see this free Lego winter wonderland, open from 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Thousands of Legos were used to complete this fantastic holiday Lego Christmas landscape. For more information, visit the Howard County tourism [website](#).



Buy-A-Brick to Celebrate Columbia

Celebrate Columbia's 50th Birthday with a special personalized brick at the Downtown Columbia Lakefront. For the first time in five years the Columbia Association is offering the buy a brick program for this special celebration. A section of the plaza at the Downtown Columbia Lakefront will be reserved for bricks placed around a large paver reading "Columbia Maryland 50."

The opportunity to purchase a brick will continue through Feb. 24, 2017. Bricks are \$100 for placement in the 50th Birthday section and \$75 for placement in other areas of the plaza. Bricks can have up to three lines of text, with 15 characters per line; spaces between words count as a character.

Bricks may be purchased [online](#) or by downloading the form and bringing it with payment to CA's Customer and Member Service Center, 6310 Hillside Court, located off Stevens Forest Road near the county vehicle emissions inspection station.

For additional information, please contact Christina Pierre at 410-423-4102 or Christina.Pierre@ColumbiaAssociation.org.

Give the Gift of Giving

Unsure of what to give someone for the holidays? Give the gift of giving this year and donate to a charity in someone else's name. There are plenty of non profit organizations in Howard County worth donating to during this holiday season.

Animal Advocates of Howard County: Donate to this non-profit organization that is dedicated to reducing the number of animals who are euthanized at local animal control facilities. They're working so that one day, no adoptable animal will be killed in local shelters. In order to work towards this goal, they rely on charitable donations, which can be given through their [website](#).

Bridges to Housing Stability: Their mission is to prevent homelessness by providing effective services and compelling advocacy that result in housing stability for Howard County households. To learn more about this important organization and all that they do, as well as to donate, click [here](#).



FIRN: their mission is to help prepare our foreign-born neighbors to be strong workers, high-achieving students and effective leaders – strengthening our community for all. They provide immigration counseling, literacy classes and interpreting and language resources. [Donate](#) now to help our fellow community members feel welcome in Howard County.

Hope Works: They provide support and advocacy for people in Howard County affected by sexual and intimate partner violence and engage the community in creating the change required for prevention. Hope Works is an incredibly important organization in our community, offering safety and resources to some of our most vulnerable community members. It is certainly a charity worth [donating](#) to.

Howard County Arts Council: Donate to the Arts Council to help them provide access to the arts for everyone in our community. In addition to donating on behalf of someone, maybe you could also take them to the Arts Council's gallery to look at the local pieces that you've helped [support](#).

Linwood Center: Linwood uses both public and private resources to help the skyrocketing number of children and adults living with autism who need their services. Make a [donation](#) today and help build an extraordinary future for children and adults living with autism.

Robinson Nature Center: Sponsor a large animal at the nature center! Caring for live animals is a big job and requires many resources. The animals at Robinson Nature Center serve as educational ambassadors, providing numerous learning opportunities for the public, helping them spread a message of awareness and conservation. Visit their [website](#) or contact the front desk at 410-313-0400 for details.



Winter Solstice Hike

There will be a Winter Solstice hike and campfire on Saturday, December 17, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum (300 Oella Ave, Catonsville). Enjoy a short hike through the winter woods followed by a campfire, hot chocolate and star gazing if the sky is clear. Fun for all ages. Admission costs \$3 for members, \$5 for nonmembers, and \$10 for family rate. Advance registration is required. Call 410-887-1081 or contact BannekerMuseum@BaltimoreCountyMD.gov for details.



ManneqART Museum

Looking for something unique and fun to do this weekend? Visit the ManneqART Museum (9010 Maier Rd, Unit 104, Laurel MD). It is simply a one of a kind experience. Each year the ManneqART Museum will have over 50 different life size artworks that have been made by artists from around the country. The most unique detail about these works of art is that they are actually wearable pieces! Each sculpture is made to be worn — but they are far from ordinary items of clothing.



Support this local non-profit organization by visiting the museum and getting an up close look at some of the coolest wearable art in the area. For more information, and a peak at what's on display, visit their [website](#).

The Human Library

This isn't your typical kind of library. It is an international initiative designed to build a positive framework for conversations that can challenge stereotypes and prejudices through dialogue. It is a place where books are real people, and readers can go through and choose to engage in that person's story through deep conversation.



The Human Library appreciates difficult questions and deep thought. It is a place of inclusivity and understanding. It is a space to explore how humans label and define each other, and how those labels may not fully represent the person inside. Based on the phrase, "don't judge a book by its cover," this international project provides a portal into other people's lives and perspectives. To learn more about this project and to decide whether or not you'd like to become a human book, visit their [website](#).

Upcoming Events

Citizens' Budget Hearing

Wednesday, December 14, 7:00 p.m.
Banneker Room in the George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive, Ellicott City
The County Executive is going to host a Citizens' Budget Hearing for the FY2018 budget cycle. If you would like to testify, you may sign up [online](#) or at the hearing starting at 6:00 p.m.

Festive Friday

Friday, December 16, 5:30 p.m.—8:30 p.m.
Columbia Lakefront

Make your way down to the Lakefront for free family entertainment featuring carolers, ice sculptures, fire dancing, Harper's Choice Middle School Choir, as well as characters from "Frozen!" There will be holiday treats for dogs and a dog costume contest at 6:30 p.m.

Zoo Lights at the National Zoo

Running until January 1, 5:00—9:00 p.m.

Smithsonian National Zoo
Visit the [National Zoo](#) and see how it has been transformed into a winter wonderland with hundreds of thousands LED lights! This family-friendly free event includes musical performances, winter treats, and plenty of opportunities to shop for the holidays!

Zoo Snooze at the Maryland Zoo

Saturday, December 17, 6:00 p.m.—Sunday, December 18, 9:30 a.m.

Baltimore Maryland Zoo

Learn more about African penguins, polar bears, African reptiles and mammals and some local nocturnal animals at a slumber party in Penguin Coast! Participants will get a tour of the Zoo from a totally different perspective. For more information on this event, visit the Maryland Zoo's [website](#).



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