



Jen Terrasa
Council District 3

Greetings!

After a seemingly long winter I am so happy to report that Spring is on its way. As the Council prepares for Budget Season and students return from their break, there are many activities going on in and around the County. Read on to stay informed!

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Upcoming Council Meetings

Monthly Meeting

April 13 at 8:30 a.m.

Capital Budget Hearing

April 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Capital Budget Work Session

April 20 at 8:30 a.m.

County Executive's Presentation of Budget

April 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Legislative Public Hearing

April 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Capital Budget Work Session

April 24 at 8:30 a.m.

Howard County Seeks Input from Community on Pedestrian Improvements

The Howard County Office of Transportation invites the public to join them at community meetings to gather input regarding improvements to the Pedestrian Master Plan, also known as WalkHoward. The purpose of WalkHoward is to guide the development of a plan to make Howard County a more walkable and sustainable community. The plan continues efforts to build a system of ADA accessible sidewalks, pathways, bus stops and roadway crossings to make walking easy and safe.

The Office has already hosted two meetings in Columbia and Laurel. A third meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 14 from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Elkridge Landing Middle School, 7085 Montgomery Road in Elkridge.

More WalkHoward meetings are being scheduled to fit nearly everyone's circumstances, so check the site periodically for updates. Those unable to attend may also provide input online at www.walkhoward.org; which includes an interactive "crowdsourcing" map.

For more information about WalkHoward, visit www.walkhoward.org or contact the office at 410-313-3130.

Check out Jen on the web!



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FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET CALENDAR

The Council received the County Executive's Proposed Capital Budget on April 1st, and will receive the County Executive's Proposed Operating Budget on Mon, April 20th. Except as noted, Public Hearings and Legislative Sessions will be held in the Banneker Room; Work Sessions will be held in the C. Vernon Gray Room, located on the first floor of the George Howard Building, 3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043.



APRIL

- Thurs, April 16th
7:30pm: Public Hearing - Capital Budget
- Mon, April 20th
8:30am: Work Session - Capital Budget - all departments Except HCPSS, HCC, Libraries
7:00pm: County Executive's presentation of the Budget
- Fri, April 24th
8:30am: Work Session-Capital Budget, if needed
- Wed, April 29th
7:30pm: Public Hearing-Operating Budget-all departments Except HCPSS, HCC, Libraries
- Thurs, April 30th
8:30am: Work Session-Revenues & Fees; Funds; Operating Budget Legislative and Judicial

MAY

- Mon, May 4th
7:00pm: Constant Yield Hearing
7:30pm: Legislative Hearing - Introduction of Budget Bills
- Wed, May 6th
8:30am: Work Session - Operating Budget - Public Safety, Public Facilities
- Mon, May 11th
9:30am: Work Session - Community Services; General Government
1:00pm: Public Hearing - General Budget
- Tues, May 12th
7:00pm: Public Hearing - Education (Schools-HCPSS, College-HCC, Libraries-HCLS)
- Thurs, May 14th - Work Sessions — Capital and Operating Budget
8:30am: Education (Schools-HCPSS, College-HCC, Libraries-HCLS)
1:00pm: Pending issues
- Tues, May 19th
8:30am: Work Session - if needed, pending issues
- Wed, May 20th
11:00am: Legislative Session—Budget Legislation (Final Vote on Budget)

Proposed FY16 Capital Budget Projects affecting District 3

DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA-OAKLAND MILLS CONNECTION IMPROVEMENTS (B3863-FY2013)

A project to provide a feasibility study, design and construction of enhancements to existing and potential future connections over US29. (Bridge Columbia). While a little over 500,000 remains in prior appropriations, no new funding is proposed in FY16 Budget.

US1 CORRIDOR REVITALIZATION (C0285-FY2002)

A project to plan, provide and implement a series of streetscape, pedestrian, bicycle, transportation and public green space improvements on public property in the US1 Corridor. No new funds are proposed, however, approximately 4 million remains in prior appropriations.

SOUTHEAST INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS (C0344-FY2016)

A project to plan, design and construct a series of infrastructure improvements targeted within the Southeast area of the Route 1 corridor. \$150,000 is proposed for FY16.

PINE TREE/GLEN COURT STORM DRAIN SYSTEM (D1140-FY2005)

A project for the design and construction of a storm drain system along Pine Tree Road, Glen Court, and Guilford Road. \$285,000 is proposed to be added to FY16, that along with prior appropriation would be \$1.185 mil.

HIGH RIDGE DRAINAGE (D1150-FY2005)

A project to design and construct storm drain improvements in the High Ridge area including, but not limited to: Naylor Avenue, Hughes Avenue, Robinson Boulevard, Gross Avenue, Bryant Avenue, Grant Avenue, and Lyon Avenue. Adding \$100,000 for FY16 to the remaining 200,000 prior appropriations

CISSELL AVENUE-HADDAWAY PLACE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS (D1171-FY2016)

A project to acquire the necessary easements of the drainage channel that travels behind the homes of Cissell Avenue and Haddaway Place. New Project with a proposal of \$100,000 to start if off.

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HAMMOND HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION (E1024-FY2016)

A project to expand educational program spaces and renovate Hammond High School. Interior spaces will be reconfigured as needed. There is no prior appropriation and no money proposed for FY16.

DEEP RUN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RENOVATION/ADDITION (E1030-FY2014)

A project to expand educational program spaces and renovate Deep Run Elementary School. Interior spaces will be reconfigured as needed. \$1.8 mil for construction is being proposed for FY16.

PATUXENT VALLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL RENOVATION (E1033-FY2015)

A project to expand educational program spaces and renovate Patuxent Valley Middle School. Interior spaces will be reconfigured as needed. Proposal to add \$10.3 mil for FY16.

NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL #43 (E1039-FY2020)

The New Elementary School #43 will be a new facility. The Southeast region is projected to be at 121% capacity utilization in 2023. Nothing proposed this year, and no prior appropriations.

MINSTRAL WAY EXTENDED (K4157-FY2008)

A project for the extension of Minstrel Way from Snowden River Parkway to Gerwig Lane. No new funding for FY16.

SNOWDEN RIVER/ BROKEN LAND INTERSECT

A project for the design and reconstruction of the Snowden River Parkway/ Broken Land Parkway / Patuxent Wood Drive intersection including westbound MD32 ramp to northbound Broken Land Parkway

STEPHENS RD IMPROVEMENTS (J4202-FY2004)

A project for the design and reconstruction of Stephens Road from Whiskey Bottom Road to Gorman Road. No money proposed in FY16, however there is a little over \$8 mil left in prior appropriations.

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OAKLAND MILLS ROAD IMPROVMENTS (J4207-FY2009)

A project to improve Oakland Mills Road from Guilford Road northward to Carters Lane. No money proposed for FY16, with a little over \$5 mil in prior appropriations.

GUILFORD AT VOLLMERHAUSEN IMPROVEMENTS (J4214-FY2007)

A project to design and construct improvements to the intersection of Guilford Road at Vollmerhausen Road and along Guilford Road to the west towards Carroll Heights Ave. No new money proposed for FY16, with \$2.4 mil remaining in prior appropriations.

SNOWDEN RIVER PARKWAY WIDENING EAST BOUND (J4222-FY2008)

A project to design and construct a widening of Snowden River Parkway (intermediate arterial) by adding a third lane and sidewalks on the eastbound roadway from Broken Land Parkway to Oakland Mills Road. No new money proposed for FY16.

SCHOOL ROUTE PATHWAYS OR SIDEWALKS (K5035-FY1998)

This project is for the installation of sidewalks and/or pathways to provide for improved routes for school children. \$700,000 proposed for FY16.

GUILFORD RD PEDESTRIAN/BIKE IMPROVE (K5040-FY2005)

A project for the design and construction of sidewalk on one or both sides of Guilford Road between Oakland Mills Road and US1. No new money proposed for FY16.

PEDESTRIAN PLAN PROJECTS (K5061-FY2007)

A project for the ongoing evaluation, design and construction of pedestrian improvements listed in the Howard County Pedestrian Master Plan. No money proposed for FY16, \$1.5 mil remaining from prior appropriations.

NORTH LAUREL ROAD SIDEWALKS (K5063-FY2013)

A project for the design and construction of a sidewalk along the southwest side of North Laurel Rd from Linville Ave. No new money proposed for FY16.

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MISSION ROAD SIDEWALKS (K5064-FY2013)

A project to install a sidewalk along parts of mission road. No new money proposed for FY16.

BICYCLE PLAN PROJECTS (K5066-FY2014)

A project for the implementation of the comprehensive Howard County Bicycle Master Plan. \$160,000 is proposed for FY16.

RENOVATE CENTRAL & EAST COLUMBIA LIBRARY (L0016-FY2012)

A project to provide additional public service space at both the Central and East Columbia branches by renovating spaces vacated by Library administrative and technical staff as specified in Capital Project L0014. No new money proposed in FY16, and \$2.6 mil in prior appropriations.

NORTH LAUREL PARK (N3940-FY2000)

A project to acquire, design, and construct a 51-acre park and outdoor swimming pool lying north-east of North Laurel Road and Washington Avenue. No new money proposed for FY16, with approx. \$830,000 remaining in prior appropriations.

EAST COLUMBIA LIBRARY ATHLETIC FIELD AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS (N3973-FY2014)

A project to upgrade the athletic fields at East Columbia Library, located off of Cradlerock in Columbia. Upgrades will include no spill/glare ball field lighting and synthetic turf fields. No new money proposed for FY16, with prior appropriations of \$3.7 mil.

DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA PATUXENT BRANCH TRAIEXTENSION (T7107-FY2014)

A project connecting Downtown Columbia at Lake Kittamaqundi and extending to the existing Patuxent Branch Trail. This project would provide a car-free connection from Downtown Columbia to Savage. No new money proposed in FY16, with \$45,000 left in prior appropriations.

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Howard County Council

Columbia Village Board Meetings

Do You Care About:

- ✓ Future of New Town Zoning
- ✓ Columbia Market Study
- ✓ Revitalization in Columbia
- ✓ Partnerships between the County and your Village

Jon Weinstein, District 1

Calvin Ball, District 2

Jen Terrasa, District 3

Mary Kay Sigaty, District 4

Greg Fox, District 5

Please join us for a Community Conversation with Howard County Council Members.

March 11, 2015 7:00pm	Linden Hall, 4764 Dorsey Hall Drive (Dorsey’s Search Village Board)
March 11, 2015 8:15pm	Historic Oakland Manor, 5430 Vantage Point Road (Town Center Village Board)
April 6, 2015 5:30pm	Slayton House, 10400 Cross Fox Lane (Wilde Lake Village Board)
April 7, 2015 6:00pm	Kahler Hall, 5440 Old Tucker Row (Harper’s Choice Village Board)
April 14, 2015 7:00pm	Owen Brown Community Center, 6800 Cradlerock Way (Owen Brown Village Board)
April 15, 2015 7:30pm	Amherst Hall, 7251 Eden Brook Drive (Kings Contrivance Village Board)
April 22, 2015 7:30pm	Hawthorn Center, 6175 Sunny Spring (Hickory Ridge Village Board)
April 28, 2015 7:00pm	The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place (Oakland Mills Village Board)
May 11, 2015 7:00pm	Claret Hall, 6020 Daybreak Circle (River Hill Village Board)

Tips to Make Tax Time Less Taxing



- 1) **Check out your preparer.** All tax preparers, whether working individually or as part of a national tax preparation chain, must be licensed by the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation. Make sure your preparer is properly licensed by going to DLLR's web site: <http://www.dllr.state.md.us/pq/>.
- 2) **Ask about fees.** Some tax preparers do not fully disclose all their fees up front. To avoid surprises, ask for a list of all charges and potential fees before having your taxes are prepared.
- 3) **Avoid Refund Anticipation Loans.** Many tax preparers offer to provide your refund immediately in the form of a refund "loan" (sometimes also called "Refund Anticipation Check"). If you take this option, however, fees and interest on that loan will be deducted from your refund. Instead, choose to get your refund directly deposited into your bank account. The deposit is usually made in a few days, and you will get the full amount of your refund.
- 4) **File early.** Identity thieves try to steal money from the IRS by filing returns using stolen social security numbers. This also results in a lot of hassle and delayed refunds for tax payers. By filing early, you can reduce the odds of becoming a victim.
- 5) **Get help.** If you made less than \$53,000 in 2014 and need assistance with tax preparation and filing, the Howard County non-profit, Making Change, offers free tax preparation services. Visit their website at: www.makingchangecenter.org, or call 410-880-5917. You can also get assistance from the AARP Tax-Aide Program at www.aarp.org.

Howard County Warns Residents of Latest IRS Imposter Scam

The Howard County Department of Citizen Services is warning residents to be on alert for calls from Individuals who claim they represent the IRS or other government agencies. In this variation, the caller claims to be with the IRS and needs to verify your refund by confirming your refund amount, along with your bank routing and account information. To taxpayers who are expecting a refund, this may appear to be a routine administrative call. "Taxpayers who provide this information, however, will be giving a con artist access to their bank accounts," said Rebecca Bowman, Administrator of the Office of Consumer Affairs.

The Office of Consumer Affairs advises not give personal information over the telephone to a caller you don't know. The IRS will never contact you by telephone regarding your tax bill, unless you have called the agency first. Also, do not respond to any solicitation or demand for money immediately. A demand or request for payment by wire transfer or pre-paid card is a "red flag" that the call is a scam.

For more information and/or to report a potential scam, contact the Office of Consumer Affairs at 410-313-6420 or visit the Office's "Scam Alert!" website at www.howardcountymd.gov/scamalert.htm.

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Upcoming Events



Clyde's of Columbia 10 K Race Sunday, April 19, 8:15 AM

Once again Clyde's has teamed up with the Howard County Striders to bring you one of Columbia's premiere running events. Runners will enjoy the majestic scenery and rolling hills that challenge racers of all abilities. Cross the finish line and stroll down to the lakefront for the post-race party. For more information [click here](#).

Searching for Spring Egg Hunt Saturday April 11

Tickets for this free event at Columbia Sports Park will be available at Amherst House beginning Monday, March 9. Only children need a ticket. Other activities include crafts and balloons. For more information [click here](#).

Maryland Youth Advisory Council 2015-2016 Application

In 2008 the Maryland Youth Advisory Council was established through the Maryland General Assembly to ensure that Maryland Youth are given the opportunity to provide feedback and recommendations regarding public policies and programs that affect their future and to take a leadership role in creating meaningful change. By providing testimony in Annapolis and policy recommendations, council members have the opportunity to raise their voices and share their experiences with the Governor, State legislature, State agencies, and other youth. For more information [click here](#).

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Upcoming Events



Howard County's 7th Annual "WomenFest" Saturday, April 25, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Find inspiration from local experts to improve your health and fitness, fine tune your finances, and learn about self defense and relationship building. Located at the Gary J. Arthur Community Center and presented by the Department of Citizen Services, this interactive day is designed to inspire women to live more balanced, healthier, and fuller lives. Admission is free. For more information [click here](#).

Bicycle and Pedestrian Pathway Counts Multiple Times and Locations from May 23 through May 30

Columbia Association (CA) is seeking enthusiastic volunteers to help count pedestrians, bicyclists, and other users on CA's pathways in late May. Gauging pathway usage will show which areas of CA's pathway network are the most popular and/or congested. Volunteering will only take two hours of commitment, yet that brief amount of time will help improve the 94-mile pathway system that is part of what makes Columbia so special. For locations and registration form [click here](#).

Southern Howard County Civic Association

The new incorporated civic association held their first meeting Tues, April 7th, and will continue to hold their meetings the first Tues of every month. Meetings will be held at the North Laurel Community Center on Whiskey Bottom Road. The groups boundaries are south to the Montgomery and Prince George's County lines, and north to Route 32, east to the Anne Arundel County line, and west to Ten Oaks Road. For more information and how to join, contact Bibi Perrotte-Foston at 240-786-5747.

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