



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
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- Capital Projects
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Upcoming Council Meetings

Legislative Session
April 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Monthly Meeting
April 13 at 8:30 a.m.

Public Hearing
April 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Legislative Pre-file due
April 23 at 2:00 p.m.

Amendment Pre-file due
April 30 at 2:00 p.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!



Contact Information:

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Find out more at

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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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FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET CALENDAR

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

4/1 - Capital Budget Due

4/16 at 7:30p - Public Hearing - Capital Budget

4/20 - Operating Budget Due

8:30a - Work Session - Capital Budget - all departments Except HCPSS, HCC, Libraries

7:00p - County Executive's presentation of the Budget

4/24 at 8:30a - Work Session - Capital Budget, if needed

4/29 at 7:30p - Public Hearing - Operating Budget - all departments Except HCPSS, HCC, Libraries

4/30 at 8:30a - Work Session - Revenues & Fees; Funds; Operating Budget Legislative and Judicial

MAY

5/4 at 7:00p - Constant Yield Hearing

Legislative Hearing (Introduction of Budget Bills)

5/6 at 8:30a - Work Session - Operating Budget - Public Safety, Public Facilities

5/11 at 9:30a - Work Session - Community Services; General Government

1:00p - Public Hearing - General Budget

5/12 at 7:00p - Public Hearing - Education (Schools-HCPSS, College-HCC, Libraries-HCLS)

5/14 at 8:30a - Work Session - Capital and Operating Budget - Education (Schools-HCPSS, College-HCC, Libraries-HCLS)

1:00p - Work Session - pending issues

5/19 at 8:30a - Work Session - if needed, pending issues

5/20 at 11:00a - Legislative Session - Budget Legislation

You may testify in person at a Public Hearing. If you choose to speak, please sign up to [testify](#) before the hearing. Testimony is limited to three minutes for an individual or five minutes for a group. Written testimony may be emailed to the entire Council at: councilmail@howardcountymd.gov at any time during the budget process.

Select New & Substantially changed Capital Projects affecting D3 in the proposed FY2016 Capital Budget

Bridge Projects

B3863-FY2016 – DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA-OAKLAND MILLS CONNECTION IMPROVEMENTS

A project to provide a feasibility study, design and construction of enhancements to existing and potential future connections over US29. Given the redevelopment plans for Downtown Columbia and planned multimodal path linking Howard County General Hospital and Howard Community College through Downtown over US29 to Blandair Park, this project is necessary to develop an effective crossing over US29.

General County Projects

C0285-FY2016 – US1 CORRIDOR REVITALIZATION

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. Acquisition for these improvements may be needed. Funding includes developer contributions. The county will either construct the improvements or have the developers construct the improvements for the County.

C0344-FY2016 – SOUTHEAST INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

A project to plan, design and construct a series of infrastructure improvements targeted within the Southeast area of the Route 1 corridor. Projects will advance community, economic, and environmental sustainability goals. Infrastructure includes storm water management, sidewalk and biking facilities, transit and community open space.

General County Projects

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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)

Upcoming Events



Clydes of Columbia 10 K Race Sunday, April 19, 8:15 AM

Once again Clydes 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 Amhearst 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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