

CRIME LOG

The following is compiled from police reports. Descriptions of perpetrators are included only when the description makes identification possible.

Ellicott City

Dorsey Hall Drive, 4700 block, 8:18 p.m. Dec. 9. Man approached acquaintance, demanded his debit card. Man stole card, cash.

Brookstone Court, 7800 block, Dec. 7 to 8. Air compressor stolen from open garage.

Timberknoll Lane, 9900 block, 3 to 5 p.m. Nov. 25. Two bicycles stolen from open garage.

Elkridge/Jessup

Howard Lane, 6300 block, 9:50 p.m. Dec. 10. Alarm activated at Holly Sales and Service. Cash found on ground. No signs of entry.

Dorsey Run Road, 7100 block, 1:13 p.m. Dec. 7. Blue 2002 Toyota Highlander, no tags, stolen, from Manheim Auction.

Savage/North Laurel

Pembroke Woods, 8900 block, 7:25 p.m. Dec. 14. Alarm activated. Neighbor saw two men running from residence. Front door kicked in.

North Second Street, 10000 block, 10:56 a.m. Dec. 12. MD Mobile Home Inc. entered; cash box, tools stolen. Entry possibly through open window.

Moonshine Hollow, 9000 block, 3:58 a.m. Dec. 12. Adult walking when approached by man with gun who demanded belongings. Man took victim's cellphone, cash, ran away.

Clarksville/Fulton

Auto Drive, 12400 block, 2:52 p.m. Dec. 14. Black 2015 Hyundai Sonata, no tags, stolen from Win Kelly Kia.

West County

Danmark Drive, 3200 block, 10 a.m. to 1:51 p.m. Dec. 14. Residence entered by breaking sliding glass door. Jewelry, Christmas presents stolen.

Meadow Trail Lane, 2300 block, 7:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Dec. 14. Hole punched near window latch, entry gained by unlocking window. Cash, electronics stolen.

Brantly Road, 3300 block, 8:50 to 11:30 a.m. Dec. 10. Residence entered by breaking glass in door. Jewelry, electronics, cash stolen.

If you have any further information about these crimes, call Howard County police at 410-313-2200.

AT A GLANCE

Fitness program offers all-access gym pass to seniors

New Year's fitness resolutions just got more affordable for Howard County's senior residents.

This week, officials announced a new program called Go 50+, which offers membership to all the county's fitness centers to adults 50 years and older for a flat annual fee.

"The sooner older adults assume responsibility for our own health and fitness, the better results will be as we age," said County Executive Allan Kittleman, who at 57 years old is counting himself among those the initiative aims to attract. "Committing to fitness leads to better living and health outcomes throughout the aging process, and it certainly has an impact on longevity."

For \$75 a year, Howard County's older adults can gain access to fitness facilities at all Howard County 50+ Centers as well as the North Laurel Community Center, the Roger Carter Community Center in Ellicott City and the Gary J. Arthur Community Center in Glenwood. For pool access, residents can pay \$175 annually.

The program is also open to non-residents, at a fee of \$100 a year for the fitness plan or \$225 for the fitness and pool package.

The program launches Jan. 4, but officials said they announced it this month to get the word out.

Howard officials have been studying ways to make the county more friendly to older adults as the population ages. Currently, about 10 percent of Howard County residents are 65 years or older, according to Councilman Jon Weinstein. In 25 years, the percentage will more than double, he said.

"That's a big increase, and something we're taking into account now and paying close attention to," he said.

The Ellicott City 50+ Fitness Center, where the new program was announced, officially opened in September and is the first gymnasium focused on seniors in the county. A second 50+ fitness center is planned as part of the Elkridge senior center's renovation, slated for completion at the end of 2017.

—Amanda Yeager

HCC to offer HVAC pre-apprenticeship

Howard Community College is partnering with Anne Arundel Community College and Independent Electrical Contractors, Chesapeake to offer a pre-apprenticeship program for students looking to become heating, ventilation and air condition technicians.

The 600-hour program, which consists of 10 noncredit continuing education courses, will provide students with job training in residential and commercial HVAC installation, maintenance and repair.

"Howard Community College is pleased to be working with Anne Arundel Community College to bring this high quality technical skills training program to the Howard County community," said Eddie Swain, associate vice president of continuing education and workforce development for Howard Community College. "These programs train people for jobs that are open right now and train them fast enough to be able to take advantage of the current employment opportunities." According to a press release from Howard Community College, the program was created in response to a growing demand in the mid-Maryland region for HVAC technicians. The Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation predicts that the number of HVAC professionals in the state is predicted to grow 7 percent by 2022.

Students do not need to have any experience to enroll in the pre-apprenticeship program. Classes will begin on Jan. 25 and will be held in Laurel at Independent Electrical Contractors, Chesapeake.

Both Howard and Anne Arundel community colleges will be holding open houses for the program at Independent Electrical Contractors, Chesapeake on Thursday, Dec. 17 from 5 to 7 p.m.; Thursday, Jan. 7 from 1-3 p.m.; and Tuesday, Jan. 19 from 4 to 6 p.m.

For more information, call Roxanne Farrar at Howard Community College, 443-518-4972.

—Lisa Philip

Performers sought for lakefront concert series

The Columbia Association is reaching out to musicians as the organization prepares for the summer's debut of the Lakefront Wednesdays lunchtime concert series in June.

Officials said artists can be from any music genre, including pop, rock, R&B, hip-hop, alternative, Latin, country, blues and indie; however, any submissions that contain inappropriate or explicit content will not be accepted.

To apply, musicians can post a video of a live performance on YouTube or Vimeo, and email the link to Communications@ColumbiaAssociation.org. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older.

While the deadline is Jan. 29, 2016, applicants will receive a response from the Columbia Association by March 2016. —Andrew Michaels

Foose posts open letter to county Delegation

In an open letter to the Howard County Delegation, county schools Superintendent Renee Foose outlined changes made to the school system website following allegations at a town hall a week ago that the school system lacks transparency and responsiveness.

"We appreciated the comments and participation of many members of the community as well as state and county representatives who were in attendance," Foose wrote in the letter.

More than two dozen parents at the town hall, which was attended also by several elected officials, alleged that the Howard County school system does not communicate openly with or respond to residents. Several called for a change in school system leadership.

In response to the testimony heard at the public forum, Foose states in her letter, the school system added the following to its website: a new "Contact Us" link, a new web form for citizens to submit Maryland Public Information Act requests and a "featured link" to its online database of vendor payments. To individual schools' websites, central of-