

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

March 2016

Welcome!

Daylight Savings Time has arrived which means Spring is just around the corner! Yesterday you marched your clocks forward, but don't forget to check the batteries in your smoke and CO detectors. As you begin your week, this newsletter highlights ways you can remain active and involved in our Howard County community.

I will be posting updates as they are available to my social media pages and invite you to [Like Me](#) on Facebook and [Follow Me](#) on Twitter.

As always, if you have any questions or feedback on how we build a better Howard County together, I invite you to call my office at **410-313-2001** or [email](#) me.

If you'd like to register to receive my newsletter, [email me](#) with "subscribe" in the subject line. If you would like to be removed, place "unsubscribe" in the subject line.



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

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How do I...
Participate in the Budget Process?

2nd Citizens' Budget Hearing

County Executive Kittleman will hold his 2nd Citizens' Budget Hearing for the FY17 budget cycle on **Monday, March 14, 2016 at 7pm** in the Banneker Room at the **George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City**. Residents can sign up to speak [online](#) and from the same link, submit testimony; however, residents are reminded that internet testimony is considered public information and, as such, subject to the Maryland Public Information Act. Residents 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 6pm. Speakers must sign up individually, and one person may not sign-up for several testifiers. If you have any questions or need additional accommodations to attend the Hearing, contact the Budget Office at **410-313-2077**.

Got Potholes?

Have you noticed potholes in your community or within our County? As we continue to work through weather related challenges, I've heard from concerned residents regarding an increase in potholes. Often times, citizens are unsure who to contact and in my effort to partner with you and empower you to help address potholes, here are the tools you'll need to report these incidents with the appropriate agency.

First and foremost, you must note whether the road in question is a state or county road. All numbered roads are state and therefore maintained by State Highway Administration. All others are likely County roads and maintained by our Department of Public Works. However, you may live on a private road. If so and in that circumstance, maintenance falls to your HOA or homeowners living on that street. Unsure whether your road is public or private? Call **410-313-7450**.



State Highway Administration (State Roads only)

Call: 410-531-5533 or 1-800-635-5119

Howard County Department of Public Works (County Roads only—not private roads)

Call: 410-313-7450 or email highways@howardcountymd.gov

Report Online: Download Tell HoCo app (SeeClickFix) and report incidents real-time or [online](#)

Natural Hair Care Workshop

Celebrating all Curls, Kinks, Coils & Waves. Are you an experienced Naturalista? A mom with kids who have bi-racial hair? Are you transitioning to natural hair, or just wanting to learn more healthy hair techniques? If so, this class is for you! Come out on **Tuesday, March 15 7:30-9pm** to the Stonehouse in the Long Reach Village Center and learn about: Styling, Straightening, Beauty, Detangling, Manageability, Hair Care & more. This class is FREE; however, pre-registration is required. Call the Stonehouse at 410-730-8113 or email info@longreach.org for more details.

2016 Spirit of Columbia Scholarship Award—Deadline Approaching

Applications are now being accepted for the 2016 Maggie J. Brown Spirit of Columbia Scholarship Award. Up to six \$2,500 scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors from local high schools who have shown a history of providing community service to benefit Columbia residents and those in the Columbia area. The students must live on CA-assessed property or have a parent/guardian who works full-time on or owns CA-assessed property. Applicants must be graduating in May/June 2016 from an accredited public, private or parochial high school and have a minimum "C" cumulative GPA (2.0).

Applications are available online and must be received by **March 15, 2016**. For more information, call 410-715-3161 or email SpiritofColumbia@ColumbiaAssociation.org.

Fundraiser/Restaurant Nights—Support our Schools



Take the guesswork out of lunch or dinner and support a great cause—our schools! Below are upcoming restaurant nights:

Howard HS	April 5 11am-10pm	Tino's Italian Bistro, Centre Park Dr (Dine-in/Carry-out) No flier Req'd
Oakland Mills HS	March 15 4-10pm	Three Brothers Italian Restaurant (20% sales, dine/carry out)
Jeffers Hill ES	March 15 All Day	Barnes & Noble Reading Night (Book Fair Fundraiser) No Flier req'd. Mention JHES w/ purchase. Even at Café.
Phelps Luck ES	March 15 11am-8pm	Roma's Pizza, Phelps Luck Dr (30% donated to PTA) Mention you're with PLES.

Leadership U 2016 Accepting Applications



Calling all students - Leadership U is open to high school sophomores (or equivalents who are home-schooled) who live in Howard County. Students may attend public or private school, or be home-schooled. Students must have a desire to learn about their community and a willingness to volunteer. LU is a great way to meet new people from different schools who share similar interests in knowing more about their community, and who want to make a positive impact.

Tuition is \$875; however [financial assistance](#) is available. Application deadline is **March 17, 2016**. For more details, go [online](#).

HCPSS Countywide Military Information Night

All HCPSS students grades 7-12 interested in collegiate and U.S. military programs and their parents are invited to a countywide military information session on Thursday, **March 17, 2016 6-9pm** at **River Hill High School, 12101 Clarksville Pike** in Clarksville. Attendees will hear from representatives from the five military academies; college ROTC programs; JROTC programs at Atholton, Howard and Oakland Mills high schools; and military enlistment recruiters. Representatives from local congressional offices and the U.S. military academies also will provide information about academy nomination and application processes.

For more information, contact **Philip Vangeli** at 410-313-7400 or email pvangeli@hcpss.org.

1st Public Star Party

The Howard Astronomical League (HAL) will hold its 1st Public Star Part of 2016 on **Saturday, March 19, 2016 7:15-11pm** at the HAL Observatory at Alpha Ridge Park in Marriottsville. Come enjoy the night sky through telescopes set up by HAL members as well as live images on a big screen as seen through the observatory's Watson Telescope. This event is FREE and open to the public. For more details, go [online](#).

HC DrugFree FilmFest Contest

HC DrugFree is looking for film-savvy teens to enter the HC DrugFree Category in the 2016 HoCo FilmFest. The winning film will be used as a public service announcement throughout Howard County. Entries must focus on prescription pain medication (opioid) misuse, which often leads to heroin use. Feel free to call HC DrugFree's office at **443-325-0040** if you have any questions. To view the 2016 guidelines, go [online](#). The deadline to enter is **March 19, 2016** and the HoCo FilmFest will be held on Friday, **April 8, 2016 at 7pm** at the Charles E. Miller Library in Ellicott City.

Long Reach Watershed Committee

The Village of Long Reach is creating a resident advisory committee to enhance watershed awareness and to educate residents about opportunities to use best management practices in our community. The committee will meet quarterly and sponsor events for residents to develop a community understanding of the dynamics of storm water runoff, what homeowners can do to slow the flow, and more.

Interested in joining this committee? Email a statement of intent and a resume to Rita at info@longreach.org or call **410-730-8113** for more information.

HC DrugFree FilmFest Contest

Join us for A Taste of Soul on **Saturday, March 19, 2016 3-6pm** at **Ridgely's Run Community Center, 8400 Mission Rd in Jessup**. Enjoy history, exhibits, dance, poetry, reading, singing, musical performances and more! Sample a Taste of Soul food including: friend chicken & fish, collard & mustard greens, green beans, potato salad, cornbread & biscuits, chitterlings & sweet potatoes, pound cake, peach cobbler, sweet potato pie & sweet tea. Your \$5 donation (payable at the door) will help us continue our Fight Against Hunger events in Howard County. For more information, go [online](#).



HCPD Collision Avoidance Training

The HC Police Department will be conducting Collision Avoidance Training (CAT) classes **March-December**. This is an advance defensive driving and vehicle control program for licensed teen driver's ages 16-20. This one day program (8.5 hours) is designed to provide young drivers with the knowledge and understanding of vehicle dynamics and will provide practical exercises that demonstrate how the vehicle responds in a given situation and how to regain control of the vehicle. Driving skills addressed include: evasive maneuvers, emergency braking, cornering, backing, skid recovery, steering, acceleration and more.

Students must operate their own vehicle and successfully complete each driving skill/maneuver to receive a certificate of completion. Space is limited. Cost is \$95. Generous program support and scholarships are provided by the Howard County Police Foundation, Erie Insurance and the Browning Reagle Insurance Agency. Sessions are: **March 19; April 16; May 21; June 25; July 23; August 20; September 17; October 15; November 19; and December 20**. For more details, contact Ms. Jessica Beram at **410-313-3758** or email JBeram@howardcountymd.gov.

Community Sports Hall of Fame Nominees Sought

The Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks is seeking nominations for its 2016 "Community Sports Hall of Fame". Nominate an outstanding individual today who has gained prominence in or made substantial contributions to community recreational sports in Howard County. Deadline for nominations is **Friday, April 15, 2016**. Coaches, managers, league officials, commissioners or even behind-the-scenes contributors closely identified with community recreation sports can be nominated. Nominees must be either residents of Howard County or made their community sports contributions primarily in Howard County. Nomination forms are available [online](#) or by calling **410-313-4711**.

Transition Symposium 2016

The annual HCPSS Transition Symposium for students 16 and older who have disabilities and their families will be held **Saturday, March 19 8am-4:30pm** at **Cedar Lane School, 11630 Scaggsville Rd** in Fulton. Join us for a day to gain the knowledge, skills and resources needed for a successful transition to post high school employment, education, and independent living. Six workshops will be held by various transition professionals for parents of students with disabilities, and five additional workshops will be held for transitioning youth.

Workshops for youth include: Voting rights, self-advocacy, personal safety meal preparation and planning for the future. Registration is require and include breakfast and lunch. Cost is **\$25 /person** by March 11. After March 11, cost is **\$35/person**. Youth Registration is FREE. For more information or to request accommodations for participation in this event, contact Jade Whitely by **March 11, 2016** at **410-290-2466** or email jade.whitely@howard-autism.org.

Food Distribution Saturday

The Oakland Mills community and other organizations are partnering to collect food for distribution the 3rd Saturday of each month. Volunteers are needed to help set up our food distribution and assist residents with their food selections. We need volunteers between **9-11:15am** at the **Forest Ridge Apartments Community Room, 5890 Stevens Forest Road**. Come out **March 19, 2016!** Volunteers are needed for set-up, clean-up, and distribution of food and to welcome residents. Anyone interested in signing up for this month, or subsequent months, click [here](#).

Savage Mill's Easter Egg Hunt



The Hunt is on! Savage Mill is hosting its annual Easter Egg Hunt on **Sunday, March 20 at 11am**. There will be activities for the whole family happening all day. The Easter Egg Hunt begins at **11am** with the arrival of the Easter Bunny—Don't forget to bring your cameras! Registration will be held in the Atrium area (where New Weave and Old Weave Bldgs adjoin), where you will receive a basket and event details. The cost is just **\$10** and 100% of proceeds benefit Make-A-Wish® Mid-Atlantic. For more details, click [here](#).

World Language Cafe



Columbia Association's World Languages Café began in early 2013 as a way to provide great evenings of conversations and culture in more than a dozen different languages. The café will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at the 50+ Center at East Columbia Library, 6600 Cradlerock Way in Owen Brown. Upcoming sessions are **7-9pm** on: **March 22, April 26, May 24 and June 28**.

Languages include: American Sign Language, Arabic, Chinese, Dutch, English, Farsi, French, German, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Turkish. Language tables are hosted by native speakers will facilitate conversations. Most people who attend already have some fluency in the language and can put sentences together; these gatherings are not grammar or vocabulary classes. For more information, email International@ColumbiaAssociation.org or call **410-715-3162**.

CA's 2016 Sister Cities Exchange Program

Next summer, experience a different culture and travel abroad! The Sister Cities Summer High School Exchange Program offers a once-in-a lifetime international opportunity for Howard County high school students studying Spanish or French where teens can experience what it's like to be a teen in one of Columbia's sister cities in Europe—Tres Cantos, Spain, and Cergy-Pontoise, France. Participants spend approximately two weeks of cultural and linguistic immersion during the month of July in one of those cities.

The deadline to apply is **March 21, 2016**. The program fee is **\$700/Columbia residents** and **\$850/non-Columbia residents**, excluding airline tickets which can range \$1,200-\$1,500/participant. Applicants must have also completed level three of French or Spanish by the end of the current academic year. (or have the equivalent language fluency). There are excellent scholarships available for Columbia residents who qualify. For an application or more information, contact **Laura Smit** at **410-715-3162** or email

Good Friday—Offices Closed



All County Government offices and animal shelter will be closed on **Friday, March 25, 2016** in observance of the Good Friday holiday. Regular trash and recycling collection is in effect and the landfill will be open. The State of Maryland's local Circuit and District Courts will be open. All parking regulations and fees will be in effect and parking meters must be coins.

As always, Police, Fire, and the 9-1-1 Call Center remain open 7 days/week, 24 hrs/day. For emergencies, dial 9-1-1; for non-emergency police matters, call 410-313-2200.

Ms. Biz Mornings

Ms. Biz Mornings is a new, FREE networking group for women in business that meets on the 1st Tuesday morning of every month (8:30-10am) at a different local business location in the Columbia/Howard County area. The 2016 schedule has just been announced and is listed below. Check online as locations are subject to change. To contact one of the coordinators, call Lisa Stearns at 410-381-5777 or email Lisa@LisaStearns.com or Monique W-Jones at WashingtonsKarateDojo@hotmail.com. Tickets are available [online](#).

Late arrivals always warmly welcomed! Bring a door prize if you'd like! LOOK FOR BLUE AND YELLOW MS BIZ SIGNS

April 5	WKD Karate 4 Girls 9385 Gerwig Ln Columbia
May 3	Horse Spirit Arts Gallery - 8090 Main Street downtown EC
June 7	Sub Zero Wolf by Fretz 9204 Berger Rd Columbia
July 5	Gold Event Parties - Red Branch Rd. Columbia, MD
August 2	Life Dance Loft - 11200 Scaggsville Rd. #125 Laurel
September 6	Spiritual Spectra - Jen Garcia - 10440 Shaker Dr #103 Columbia
October 4	Perspectives Art & Design 8191 Main St., Ellicott City, MD 21043
November 1	Sacred Healing Hands 11155 Stratfield Ct. Marriottsville
December 6	Kelsey's Kloset 11200 Scaggsville Rd Laurel/Fulton



Choose Civility Poster and Video Contest



Students are invited to design a poster illustrating the theme of social responsibility. Use your imagination, creativity and artistic talent to show others why it's important to be a good digital citizen. Start by asking yourself: What does it mean to be a good digital citizen? Why is it important? How do you respect yourself and others, decide what to share, and choose which photos to post? What does it mean to think twice, post once? What's your digital footprint? Visit [Common Sense Media](#) or talk to your technology teacher or medial specialist for some ideas, then design a poster or create a video!

Groups or individual students in K-12 who live or attend school in Howard County are invited to submit entries. Entries are accepted through **March 25, 2016**. There will be awards for the top winners. For details, go [online](#) or call 410-730-0075 or email monica.herber@columbiaassociation.org

3rd Annual Kids' Fest

Have a blast with the Department of Recreation & Parks at the 3rd annual Kids' Fest on **Saturday, March 26, 2016 11am-2pm** at **Meadowbrook Park, 5001 Meadowbrook Lane in Ellicott City**. Geared towards kids ages 2-12, this year's event will feature sports instruction, games, activities, arts and crafts, food and more. Cost is **\$5/participant**. Pre-registration is encouraged but not required. For more information and/or to pre-register, contact **Brian Wyman** at 410-313-4705 or email bwyman@howardcountymd.gov.

Egg Hunt at Clark's Elioak

Children in different age groups (ages 1-3 and 4-6) will have a chance to hunt for eggs throughout the day on both **Saturday, March 26, 2016** and **Sunday, March 27, 2016 10am-5pm**. *Please bring your own Easter baskets and we'll provide the fun! Admission charge of **\$6/person** for the farm applies, but there is no extra charge for the egg hunt. The petting farm and the rides will also be open on Easter Monday.

READY Program Applications Available

The READY Program (Restoring the Environment And Developing Youth) is accepting job applications for our 2016 Summer Crew Member and Summer Crew Leader positions. All applications are due by **March 31, 2016**. You must be ages 16-26 to apply for the Crew Member position, and 18-26 to apply for the Crew Leader position. Summer crews work together to build and maintain rain gardens and other important stormwater projects that protect the Chesapeake Bay and restore the natural local environment, while developing your own skills and leadership. To apply online, click [here](#).



Cherrybration Kick-Off

We are pleased to invite you to Blossoms of Hope's Cherrybration Kick-Off event on **March 31, 2016 5:30-7:30pm** in the Lobby of the **Medical Pavilion at Howard County, 10710 Charter Drive in Columbia**. Guests will have the opportunity to tour the Claudia Mayer/Tina Broccolino Cancer Resource Center at Howard County General Hospital and network with other Blossoms of Hope supporters. Delicious food and drink samples from some of the participating Pink Plates restaurants will be available. Admission is FREE but we do ask that you [register](#) in advance.

Pink Plates



Howard County Tourism & Promotion and Blossoms of Hope are teaming up this blossoming season and collaborating with restaurants across Howard County to raise funds in support of The Claudia Mayer/Tina Broccolino Cancer Resource Center at Howard County General Hospital. During the month of April (**April 1-30, 2016**), diners are invited to participating community conscious restaurants and choose from the PINK PLATE SPECIAL. Proceeds are donated to help those who are affected by cancer. For more information, go [online](#).

THES PTA Grant Fund: Spring 2016

Calling all THES Parents, Students, and Staff: Do you have a great idea you would like to see at Thunder Hill Elementary School? Get creative, figure out the details, fill out a short grant application by Monday, April 4, 2016 and you may be able to see your idea become a reality! Grant requests should seek to provide opportunities for THES students and their families, including but not limited to: educational, social, recreational, and community-building opportunities. Creative or "out-of-the-box" proposals are welcome. Applications will be accepted from any THES parent or staff member. Students applying for funds must have a parent or staff as a sponsor of their application.

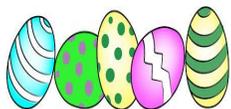
The deadline for submission is **April 4, 2016**. The application is available [online](#). Once complete, they can be submitted online [here](#). If you have questions, email treminw@gmail.com.

Veterans Resource Fair

The Howard County Veterans and Military Families Commission will host a Veterans Resource Fair on **Tuesday, April 5, 2016 5-8pm** at the **Miller Branch Library, 9421 Frederick Rd** in Ellicott City. While geared towards veterans living in Howard County, all veterans (active, guard, reserve) are invited to attend. Admission is free.

The fair will offer attendees the opportunity to talk face-to-face with more than 35 businesses, organizations and nonprofits dedicated to providing services, support and jobs to veterans. For more information, contact **Lisa Terry** at **410-313-0821**.

Searching for Spring Egg Hunt



Join us on **Saturday, April 9, 2016 10-11:30am** at **Columbia Sportspark** for a fun-filled day including an egg hunt, crafts and balloons, and entertainment with Turner, Dean of Magic. This event is co-sponsored by the Villages of Columbia and geared towards children 2-8. Tickets are available at The Other Barn.

Children's Discovery Fair

A celebration for young children ages 3-5 years old and their families. This free event will be held on **Saturday, April 9, 2016 10am-1pm** at the **East Columbia Branch Library, 6600 Cradlerock Way** in Columbia and includes hands-on activities relating to school readiness. There will be interactive games, songs, crafts, and stories. Go [online](#) for more details or contact the Office of Children's Services at **410-313-1940** or email children@howardcountymd.gov.

"Come Home to Howard County" Housing Fair

Hosted by Howard County Housing, this premier annual event targets and showcases everything individuals and families who currently live in or outside the County need to know about buying or renting a home in Howard County. The Fair is scheduled for **Saturday, April 9, 2016 10am-3pm** at **Howard High School, 8700 Old Annapolis Rd** in Ellicott City. Admission is FREE and open to the public. Attendees have the chance to talk one-on-one with 60 real estate professionals, mortgage lenders and housing specialists about the programs and services that make Howard County such a great place to "come home to." The Fair will also feature educational sessions, free credit reports and consultations, guided bus tours of rental and homeowner communities in Howard County, and prize drawings throughout the day. For more information about the Housing Fair, go [online](#).



Belmont Manor & Historic Park Open House

This unique site is not open daily for public tours, so this is your chance to see what everyone is talking about when it comes to Belmont Manor & Historic Park. Folks of all ages are invited out on **Sunday, April 10, 2016 1-5pm** to **Belmont Manor & Historic Park, 6555 Belmont Woods Road in Elkridge** to come spend time exploring the pristine setting of one of Howard County's most beautiful historic sites. Nestled within a 68-acre natural setting, you are transported back to the 18th century as you come upon the stucco-covered Manor and its lush gardens, historic outbuildings, cemetery, aqua garden, carriage, house, and original barn. Enjoy a walk through the manor house, stroll through the grounds and stop to enjoy a picnic on the front lawn. For more details, call **410-313-0200**.

Eastern Europe & Russia Culture Fest

The "Eastern Europe and Russia Culture Fest" will be held on **Saturday, April 10, 2016 1:30-4:30pm** at **Miller Branch Library, 9421 Frederick Rd in Ellicott City**. This free family event, individuals, bands, organizations and dance groups participate in an afternoon of music, performances and educational displays to show the Howard County what makes their country and culture unique. For more information, contact Laura Smit at **410-715-3162** or email International@ColumbiaAssociation.org.

SJBC 5k

SJBC is teaming up with Howard County's Journey to Better Health to sponsor its very first 5k Run/Walk event! The race will be held on **Saturday, April 16, 2016 8:30am-12pm**. It will begin and end in the parking lot of **St. John Baptist Church, 9055 Tamar Drive in Columbia**. Race fee includes race shirt, running number, timed race and refreshments. Registration deadline is Friday, **April 1, 2016**. Registration fees are: \$25 ages 18-54; \$15 ages 5-17; and \$20 ages 55+

Funds raised from this event will be split between Girls on the Run, Howard County Chapter and the SJBC Youth Enhancement Fund. For more information, contact **Bob Hilson** at **443-691-5579**. To register, go [online](#).

Howard County GreenFest

Howard County's annual **GreenFest** returns! Join us for a FREE family event celebrating Earth Month on **Saturday, April 16, 2016 10am-4pm** at **Howard Community College's Burrill Galleria, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway** in Columbia. This year's theme is "Buy Local, Eat Local, Be Local," and over 80 displays will provide easy steps we can take to promote environmental responsibility. Lunch will be available for purchase. Paper shredding will be offered at GreenFest in Parking Lot F 10am-2pm or until the trucks are full. Click [here](#) to learn about what you should and shouldn't shred.



Attendees can enjoy: grand prize raffle (\$100 gift certificates to local farms), local green businesses and information on sustainable products, native plant sale, children's nature play space, rain barrel workshop including 50 free barrels to giveaway, free compost bin giveaway, workshops and speakers, local farmers selling food, plants and CSA membership and NEW this year — Geocaching. For more information, contact **Alan Wilcom** at **410-313-6433** or email awilcom@howardcountymd.gov.

8th Annual WomenFest



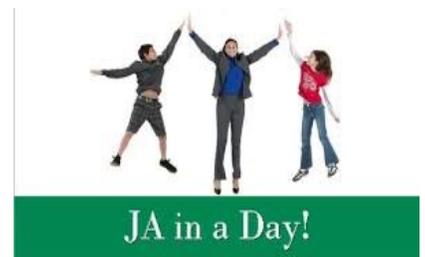
Howard County's Department of Citizen Services will host its 8th annual WomenFest on **Saturday, April 30, 2016 10am-3pm** at the **Gary J. Arthur Community Center in Glenwood, 2400 Route 97** in Cooksville. Admission and parking are free. New this year, the signature event will feature Core Camp, a series of free 45 minute fitness classes including Yoga, Pilates and Yogalates. Free health screenings will also be offered and a series of interactive workshops and engaging seminars will focus on topics including painting on canvas, sexual health, digestive and sleep issues, decluttering, and how to add more balance, meaning and mindfulness to your life. Line dancing and cooking demos will round out the day's activities. Vendor and exhibitor applications and full event details are available [online](#). For more details, call **410-313-5957** or email cbarkley@howardcountymd.gov.

Long Reach Flea Market

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to sell your treasures and find new ones! Come out on **Saturday, April 30, 2016 8am-12pm** to the Long Reach Village Center and find great deals for gifts for loved ones or treat yourself. Are you a vendor looking to set-up a space? The cost is only **\$20**. For details, call **410-730-8113** or stop by the Stonehouse.

JA in a Day

Junior Achievement offers a unique in-classroom event called JA in a Day that encompasses important elements of community and economy, financial literacy and entrepreneurship. Talbott Springs Elementary School is all set to participate in this program school-wide on March 18th. However, **Bellow Springs Elementary School** is going to be experiencing JA in a Day on **May 6th** and are **in need of volunteers**.



Help students discern between needs and wants, understand expenses and banking, and why businesses and jobs are important to our community. Training and support will be provided to all volunteers. Please consider volunteering for this important day so that our Howard County elementary students will be better equipped to make sound financial decisions in the future. Please email your name, contact phone number, and the name of your business or organization if you are interested. Your email can be sent to hnaseem@jama.org. We would like every classroom at Bellow Springs Elementary School to have the best experience on this day and this requires volunteer participation. This is a great opportunity to engage in the classroom in a very meaningful way!

Downtown Columbia Eats App

We're serving up a different way of dining which makes going out to dinner an extra treat in Downtown Columbia. [Downtown Columbia Eats!](#) is a loyalty program for participating restaurants and eateries in Downtown Columbia including Petit Louis Bistro, Union Jack's, Seasons 52, Whole Foods, and the Nordstrom Café. The app is powered by Loyaltap and is available to download for FREE via the Apple Store and Google Play. Download today and begin saving.



World Food Passport



The World Food Passport program celebrates the wide range of restaurants, cuisine, and culture available in Howard County. After eating at a participating restaurant, diners can request one stamp in their passport. Once passport holders have one stamp in each of the six categories, they can enter a drawing to win a \$25 gift certificate. Drawings will be held on **March 31, 2016**. For more information, [go online](#). Or contact Laura Smit at 410-715-3162 or International@ColumbiaAssociation.org.

Breathe Deep Columbia 5k

Join supporters in a 5k/walk to end lung cancer. On **Saturday, April 23, 2016**, the LUNgevity Foundation's will host Breathe Deep Columbia 5k at the Lakefront. Register online [here](#) or call **312-407-6100**. Check-in/Registration begins at 8:30am. There will be a brief program & warm up at **9:30am**. The walk begins at **10am**. This family-friendly event is held rain or shine. Proceeds from the event will benefit LUNgevity and will fund research to achieve its goal to increase lung cancer survivorship. For more information or to volunteer, email Columbia@LUNgevity.org.



Medication Disposal Boxes

Did you know you can dispose of your unwanted medication any day of the year at one of our three permanent drop off locations? They're open daily year round! The Howard County Police Department and HC DrugFree have provided the community with three permanent medication disposal boxes in an effort to assist residents in disposing of unwanted or expired prescription and over-the-counter medications safely and anonymously. Boxes are maintained by the police and located at the Northern District Station (3410 Court House Drive in Ellicott City), Southern District Station (11226 Scaggsville Road in Laurel) and Gary Arthur Community Center (2400 Route 97 in Cooksville). District boxes are available 24 hours/day, 7 days/week. The box at the Gary Arthur Community Center is available when the center is open to the public: Monday-Saturday 7am-pm; Sunday 9am-6pm and closed on holidays.

"Guaranteed Ride Home"



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 MD Department of Transportation. To be eligible to participate in the "Guaranteed Ride Home" program, commuters must register [online](#) or call **1-800-745-RIDE (7433)**.

[FREE HCPD & HC DrugFree Magnets](#)

HC DrugFree is proud to partner with the Howard County Police Department and the Howard County Health Department to keep important phone numbers on your refrigerator or file cabinet. Email admin@hcdrugfree.org or call 443-325-0040 to request your magnet today! [Click here](#) to read the magnet.

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

- **4H Program:** For Ages 8-18; Clover 4-H for youth ages 5-7. Meetings held across County. To find a club, click [here](#) or call 410-313-1906.
- **Art Attack:** Creative after-school enrichment at **Columbia Art Center**. Meets **1st & 2nd Mondays**. Registration/fees may apply. Call 410-992-3726.
- **Youth & Teen Center (YTC):** A Multi-purpose place for teens to socialize & participate in recreational & educational programs. 410-992-3726
- **CA's Teen and Middle School Advisory Committee :** Meets **3rd Thursdays, 6:30-8pm**, The Youth & Teen Center, **The Other Barn**. Call 410-992-3726 or email CATeens@ColumbiaAssociation.org for more info.
- **Howard County Library .** Many [classes and events](#) for youth of all ages.
 - **Homework Club.** Come after school for a snack while working on homework in a relaxed setting. M-Th 3-4pm (school days only). Ages 11-17. No registration required. East Columbia Branch location.
 - **Math Lab.** Struggling with Math? Bring your problems in and get help including all levels of math up to calculus. No problems? Don't worry, there are various math games and puzzles you can solve that require logic and critical thinking. Registration is required. Ages 11-18. Register [online](#) or call 410-313-0760.
- **Voices For Change:** Email **Meg Mekelburg** for more info MMekelburg7@verizon.net

Recreation & Parks Deer Management Program for 2015-2016

Howard County's Department of Recreation & Parks announced its schedule of managed deer hunts for **2015-2016**. 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](#). For more details, call 410-313-1675.

- Carrs Mill and Zirn Property (Sharpshooting) **March 15 and 17**

Feed The Green Bin Program

According to a recent Howard County study, almost 30% of what we send to the landfill could be composted and turned into a valuable product! Interested households in certain areas (who receive County yard trim collection) can participate in Feed The Green Bin program. This new program collects the same types of material you have always set at the curb, the difference is a separate container!

Participants receive a special food scrap/yard trim cart that is emptied weekly. If you're in the collection area and want another green cart, here's the [form](#) to purchase additional carts. Please remember that the green carts are to be used for food scraps and yard trim **ONLY**. To sign-up, click [here](#).



Financial Assistance Corner

While we continue to move towards an economic recovery, many residents are faced with the reality of living on either a limited of fixed income. Others are looking for ways to take advantage of tax credits so they can free up funds they can use for often the basics in life including housing, utilities, and food for their children and themselves. They may use that capital to invest in their future, or their children's future education. No matter the reason, the County offers several tax credits for you to take advantage of for varying circumstances. Please check below or visit our [Department of Finance's](#) website for a more complete list.

TAX CREDITS: For your convenience, below are several tax credits many residents have benefited from. Please share this information with your friends, family and neighbors so we can educate our community together about the tax credits that may be available to them, if they qualify.

Livable Home Tax Credit

Senior Tax Credit

Homeowners Tax Credit

Homestead Tax Credit

Energy Conservation Credit

Daycare Provider Tax Credit

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker

Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit

Trash Collection Fee Credit

Free Financial Coaching!

MyBudgetCoach was launched by MakingChange in partnership with [Maryland CASH Campaign](#) and helps working families & individuals improve their ability to budget and make well-informed financial decisions. Understanding the importance of budgeting is generally recognized as the first step in successful financial planning. Participants meet with a trained volunteer coach once a month for 12 monthly sessions. Budgeting techniques, financial management and goal attainment strategies are included. Participants and coaches use on-line tools to track progress in real-time.

If interested in participating, please contact the MyBudgetCoach Relationship Manager, **Leslie Petak**, at petakl@makingchangecenter.org. MakingChange provides group seminars and personal coaching to teach people to manage their money and change their lives. Its programs are offered in schools, human service agencies and businesses. For more information, visit www.makingchangecenter.org.

In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency that empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter & outreach services. They provide programs & services including 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 & Day Resource Center.

The Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at **6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044**. For more information, please call **410-531-6006** or visit the Grassroots website [online](#) at The 24-hour line is **410-531-6677** and the MD Crisis Hotline is **1-800-422-0009**.



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
- 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
- Want to report gun crimes? Call 410-313-7867 or email CToler@howardcountymd.gov.
- Do you need Victim Assistance? Call 410-313-3712 or email KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov
- Interested in a FREE Home Security Survey? Call 410-313-4795 and leave a message to make an appointment.
- Looking to prevent Auto Theft? Helpful tips are available [online](#).
- Want to report an animal cruelty incidence or report unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.? Call 410-313-2780, email animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/animalcontrol.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 Interesting in HCPD Recruitment? Call 410-313-4273.
- Want to start a Neighborhood Watch Program? Contact your [local community resources officer](#).

Give the Gift of Independence

YOU can give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a Neighbor Ride driver. Flexible and rewarding daytime, as well as evening and weekend opportunities are available. No set schedule is required. Drivers may simply choose to provide rides that are convenient to their homes, offices, and

daily routines. Parent volunteers are welcome and we encourage you to bring your children along for a wonderful experience.



For more information, contact Patrice Cerwonka, Colleen Konstanzer, or Rosemary Noble at 410-884-RIDE (7433) or email volunteer@neighborride.org.

Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents +62

The HC 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.

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, click [here](#) 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-to-date information, call 410-313-7678 or go [online](#).

Howard County Support Groups

In Howard County, we are blessed to have a large network of ongoing support groups available to residents. Most, if not all are co-sponsored by Howard County General Hospital (HCGH) and that information is provided below. Please note that support group information is subject to change. Before attending a meeting, verify information and location by calling the contact information listed. For more details, meeting locations or information on additional support groups, go [online](#).

Adult Type 1 Diabetes Support Group

301-490-0029

Alcoholics Anonymous

410-663-1922

Al-Anon (Families & Friends of Alcoholics)

410-832-7094

Alateen (Teenagers w/ alcoholic friend or family member)

1-888-4AL-ANON

Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Groups (Pre-screening req'd)

410-313-9744

Bariatric Support Group

410-550-0409

Bereavement Support Group (Families & families who lost loved ones at HCGH)

410-740-7898

Better Breathing Club (In conjunction w/ ALA)

443-718-3000 (Carol Zemanick)

Breast Cancer Support Group (Registration req'd)

410-740-5858

Breastfeeding Support Group (Wed 12:30-2:30pm)

410-740-7830

Caregiver's Support Group

410-740-5858

Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance of HoCo

443-995-8351

Gilchrist Hospice Care, Howard County

410-730-5072

HC Diabetes Education & Support Group

443-718-3007

Living with Cancer

410-740-5858

Lupus Mid-Atlantic

410-363-3560

Narcotics Anonymous

1-800-317-3222

Men's Prostate Group

202-253-1025

Parkinson Support Group

301-490-7288

Pulmonary Support Group

443-718-3000

Rising Hope Support Group (Parents who lost a baby)

410-740-7845

Stroke Support Group

410-884-4641

Trigeminal Support Group

410-465-0415

We Thrive (Cancer Support)

410-740-5858

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 our website](#). 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, please email hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov or call 410-313-2005.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."
~ Margaret Mead

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Howard County, MD