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# Community *notes*

## Reminder: Year End 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.

The County government will observe the New Year's holiday on Monday, January 2, 2017. Click [here](#) between December 27 and December 30 to read the news release.

## Greetings

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy Kwanzaa. The newsletter will be on holiday next week, we will come back in early January. Wishing you a happy, healthy, New Year!

## Creative Imaging Workshop Exhibit

The Bernice Kish Gallery at Slayton House, 10400 Cross Fox Lane, Columbia, Maryland, is pleased to announce a group show in the galleries for January and February 2017. The Creative Imaging Workshop will show their work in the Lobby and Bill White Room Galleries, titled "Diversity" from January 5 – February 11, 2017.



The Creative Imaging Workshop is a group of nine local photographers who have worked together for the past two years to improve their techniques and processes. This exhibit is a culmination of their work and discussions together. The group includes **James Lubitz, Thomas Fretz, Jon Meyer, Sukumar Balachandran (Suku), Richard Eskin, Sarah Herman, Karen Dillon and Charles Bowers**. They have exhibited individually and in group shows throughout the region as well as internationally.

There will be a public reception on Sunday, January 8, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. with refreshments and music. For more information call, 410-730-3987 or 301-596-4883, or check the [website](#).

## News from Howard County Recycling

For 2016, **Christmas Day** will be observed on Monday, December 26. There will be **NO COLLECTIONS on Monday, December 26**. All recycling, yard trim & trash collection will slide and be made one day later that week. The Alpha Ridge Landfill will be CLOSED on Monday, December 26.

For 2017, **New Year's Day** will be observed on Monday, January 2. There will be **NO COLLECTIONS on Monday, January 2**. All recycling, yard trim & trash collection will slide and be made one day later that week. The Alpha Ridge Landfill will be CLOSED on Monday, January 2.

For a handy chart of curbside collections, visit the [Holiday Slide Schedule site](#).



Howard County Recycles recently conducted a garbage disposal survey. Here's what they learned...

93% surveyed have a garbage disposal and 3/4 use it daily or at least 2-3 times per week, primarily for plate scrapings at the end of a meal.

### Why did they ask? What does this mean?

Food that is sent down the drain is very costly to process (removing excess nutrients) at the wastewater treatment facility. Also, the oils and grease from your food builds up and may cause blockages in your home!

There's a **better way to handle those food scraps - through composting!** They encourage folks to sign up and participate in our curbside Feed The Green Bin food scrap program. It's a user-friendly program, but there are still many residents who can participate, but haven't signed up yet. They're wondering why. Check out the [how-to videos](#) to see how EASY IT IS!

**They've made Feeding The Green Bin even easier!** Residents in the collection areas can now set out all of their food scraps for collection; **including meat, fat and dairy.**

**Help grow the program!** Visit [FeedTheGreenBin.org](http://FeedTheGreenBin.org) to sign-up (subject to area availability). Not in the collection area? You can still participate by dropping off food scraps at The Alpha Ridge Landfill or by composting in your backyard.

## Submit Your Work for Art Auction

The Silent Art Auction exhibit is part of the Howard County Arts Council's biggest fundraiser to support the arts, the Celebration of the Arts in Howard County. This high-profile exhibit shines a spotlight on Howard County's diverse and talented visual artists. Artists working in all styles and media are invited to apply, including painters, sculptors, ceramicists, fiber artists, jewelers and photographers. This exhibit is a stunning showcase for the work of both juried and invited artists.

The Arts Council is accepting applications for the juried portion of the Silent Auction. Interested artists can submit an application for consideration until January 23, 2017. Visit the [website](#) for more information.

## Upcoming Events

### 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!

### New Year's Fireworks and More

Ring in 2017 with family, friends, live music and a spectacular fireworks display over Baltimore's Inner Harbor! Baltimore's New Year's Eve Spectacular takes place Saturday, December 31, 2016 from 9:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Starting at 9:00 p.m., the crowd at the Inner Harbor Amphitheater can enjoy music and dancing. At the stroke of midnight, colorful fireworks and lights fill the sky above downtown Baltimore. Those celebrating at the Inner Harbor can also enjoy skating, open until 12:30 a.m. Regular rink admission prices apply. Visit [Baltimore Promotion & Arts](#) for all the details.



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