

January 24, 2008

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

A bulletin to keep you and your neighbors informed of current news and happenings in our community. If you do not get this bulletin directly, feel free to email me at cball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be sure to get you on the list.

For more District 2 News go to our website at:
www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_DistrictTwo.htm

We Want To Hear From You!

The link below will navigate you to a list of meetings open to the public. If you have specific questions please call the contact number listed for that meeting.

http://www.co.ho.md.us/News/HCG_Portal_PublicMeetings.htm

How Can You Participate in Howard County Government?

This is your chance to stay informed and involved! Your comments are welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email or fax. All legislative public hearings will take place in the Banneker Room of the George Howard Building. Click the following link for the Council's calendar of meetings

http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/CC_Legislative_CouncilCalendar.htm

View the Council's Current Legislation and Stay Informed

The County Council is responsible for adopting the laws of the County. The legislative process generally follows a monthly cycle. To

view legislation under consideration by the Council, please click on the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/Legislative_Pending.htm

Boards and Commissions Vacancies

Persons interested in applying for a Board or Commission are invited to view the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/PortalServices/HC_BoardsandCommissions.htm

Who's Digging in Your Community?

Many of our constituents have brought to our attention issues concerning utility contractors digging in their community. Many of these contractors are sub-contractors of major utility companies. To determine the name of the contractor and the utility company they are representing, please go to www.missutility.net. This website is very informative and frequently updated with up-to-the-minute information on each and every project involving excavation around utilities.

For additional information, please call Miss Utility at **(410) 712-0056**

Report an Illegal Sign

You can help us by reporting Illegal Signs with a new online form. The form is available at the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DILP/Permits/Permits_signs_Illegal.asp.

Please be sure to describe the location of the illegal sign in the free-form textual area at the bottom of the form.

For further information on the County's sign code, the sign permit application process, sign sizes, fees and for other answers to frequently asked questions, visit the Department of Inspections, Licenses & Permits page on the County's website

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DILP/DILP_HomePage.htm or call DILP at 410-313-1830.

Track County Snow Plows!

The County snow plan covers more than 1,000 miles of roads. At the beginning of the winter season, 13,000 tons of salt stands ready to be dispersed by a fleet of more than 100 snow vehicles all equipped with automated vehicle-locating devices, allowing the Bureau AND YOU to track real time progress during a storm and see which Howard County roads have been serviced and how. To find out how, click the following link <http://snow2.co.ho.md.us/Index.asp>

Progress maps are updated every **15 minutes** during a storm. You may also call **410-313-2900** for updated, general information concerning the Bureau's maintenance efforts.

Click here for more snow tips

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DPW/DPW_SnowRemoval.htm

Public Engagement in Land Use (PELU) Task Force Has Been Formed!

The Public Engagement in Land Use (PELU) Task Force has been formed and will be working from **January through May 2008**. I am grateful to the following individuals who will be serving on the Task Force as my nominees from District Two:

James Howard, II, **Long Reach**,
William Lewis, **Oakland Mills**, and
Howard Weinstein, **Elkridge**

The meetings are open to the public and the next two meetings will be held on **January 24th and January 29th from 4pm to 6pm** in the **Ellicott Room of the George Howard Building**.

The Public Engagement in Land Use Task Force (PELU) now has a blog which everyone can access with a Google account:

<http://howardcountypelu.blogspot.com/> It is read-only except for Task Force members.

The PELU task force is to submit a draft report/recommendations **May 5, 2008**. For more information please visit www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/CC_PELU.htm

Howard County General Assembly Delegation Public Hearing- February 7th!

Lawmakers will hold public hearing **February 7th** . Residents will have a chance to give Howard County's General Assembly delegation their take on statewide issues at a public hearing slated for **February 7th** .

During the next 10 weeks, state lawmakers are expected to take up issues ranging from mortgage foreclosures, speed cameras to the environment. During the hearing, citizens will have the opportunity to testify to local legislators for three minutes on any state issue.

Lawmakers will also accept written testimony. They request that the testimony be no longer than one page and that the speaker provide 15 copies. The hearing is scheduled to begin **at 7:30 p.m.** at the **George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive, in Ellicott City.**

BRAC- Get Involved!

The Howard County BRAC Task Force has now moved to into phase II of its work. Phase II will focus on the impact of overall Fort Meade growth on 6 specific areas in Howard County. They are: Work Force Development, Transportation, Education, Infrastructure, Work Force Housing and Health and Human Services. Residents and business persons of Howard County are invited to participate in the work of the Task Force during this phase. If you are interested, please contact the Executive Director of the HC BRAC Office at kmenser@howardcountymd.gov

The next Howard County BRAC Task Force Meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 27, 2008** from **7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**. This meeting will be held in the **George Howard Building**. These meetings will start with a 15 minute update, given by Executive Director Kent Menser, on BRAC actions related to Howard County.

The remainder of the time will be devoted to discussion of ideas, concerns and recommendations raised by the attendees. For any questions on meetings, call Kent Menser at 410-313-6521.

For more information on BRAC please visit
http://www.co.ho.md.us/HCG_ExecutiveBRAC.htm

Attention Oakland Mills Residents!- Interested in Running for an Oakland Mills Board or Columbia Council Rep. Seat?

On **Tuesday, February 12th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** The Oakland Mills Board will hold an information session for those who are considering running for an Oakland Mills Board or Columbia Council Representative seat. Coffee and conversation with the OM Board, an information session for those who are considering running for an Oakland Mills Board or Columbia Council Representative seat.

For additional information please visit
<http://oaklandmills.columbiavillages.org/>

Applicants Sought for 2008-2009 Student Member of the Board of Education Position

Students enrolled in Grades 10 and 11 in the Howard County Public School System are invited to apply for the **2008-2009** Student Member of the Board of Education position. The deadline for applying is **Friday, February 15th, 2008.**

Applicants are required to meet the school system's academic eligibility requirements and must participate in a countywide election organized by the Howard County Association of Student Councils. All interested students should see their school principal or contact Mr. **Roger Plunkett at 410-313-6610.**

Downtown Columbia: A Community Vision

DPZ has completed its draft of the Columbia Downtown framework document. During the month of October, the County held a series of meetings and workshops to provide additional information and to ask for public input.

Please review the framework document available at the following link below

<http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DPZ/Community/downtowncolumbia.htm>

Gifted and Talented Parent Rep. Needed!

The Howard County Parent Academy is a place where ideas that affect the county's GT program are discussed, planned and implemented. Each school has a parent (or two) that serves as the GT Parent representative for the school. We still need someone to serve for Oakland Mills. If you would like to be a part of the Parent Academy as our representative, please contact Vincent James at 410-313-6949 or Debbie Blum at the Faulkner Ridge office at 410-313-1536.

Managed Deer Hunts at Blandair Park!

Next Date: March 18. For more information call 410-313-4700

Sign Up For the “Greenovation”: How to be Green!

Introductory Seminars on the following: (Each introductory module will last approximately 1.25 hours with breaks and lunch provided)

- I. Efficient and healthy buildings
- II. Solar hot water for your home
- III. Rainwater collection for garden use
- IV. Solar electric for your home

Date: Saturday, January 26, 2008

Time: 8:30 a.m.-9:15 a.m. EnviroCenter Tour & Check-in, **9:15 a.m.**
- 4:15 p.m. Seminars (with lunch)

Location: Green Building Institute@ The Enviro-Center, 7761
Waterloo Road (Rte. 175), Jessup, MD 20794

For additional information please visit
<http://www.greenbuildinginstitute.org/>

HC DrugFree Programs- January 30th and 31st!

On January 30th and 31st parents and teens are invited to attend the HC DrugFree presentation on **Senior Week in Ocean City**.

Wednesday, January 30 (snow date Feb. 6), 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Howard High School, PARENTS & TEENS

Thursday, January 31 (snow date Feb. 7), 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
River Hill High School, PARENTS & TEENS

Speakers:

Sgt. Howard Caplan, Ocean City Police;
Joshua Wasilewski, Beach Patrol Crew Chief;
Stephen Bounds, parent; Donna Thewes, parent

FIRN Citizenship Test Prep Class- CLASSES Start February 7, 2008!

Did You Know that the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service will implement the new citizenship exam in October of 2008?

FIRN is offering N-400 Application Assistance and small group tutorials for the current exam . Don't be caught unprepared- come into FIRN now, or call us for an Eligibility Pre-screening Checklist and Appointment.

CLASSES Start February 7, 2008 – registration limited to the first 20 people

Instruction will be offered in the current test format as well as in-depth discussion on U.S. History and Government
Starting June 2008, instruction will be offered for the NEW test. For more information, please call, **410-992-1923** or **301-498-7509**

Spirit of Columbia Scholarship

The Columbia Association is accepting applications for the Spirit of Columbia Scholarship. Up to six \$2500 scholarships will be awarded to graduating high school seniors. Applications are available at local high schools, Columbia's community centers and the Columbia Association headquarters or available for download at www.columbiaassociation.org in the Teens and Tots section. Applicants must submit the completed application by **March 1**. For more information, please call **410.715-3175**.

Camp Expo to Be Held at Kahler Hall – February 10th!

Find the ideal summer program for your child(ren). Attend the free Camp Expo to be held on **Sun. February 10th from 2:30 – 5:00 p.m.** at Kahler Hall. Representatives from a variety of day and overnight, local and regional camps will attend. Families with children are welcome; kids' activities will be offered. No strollers please.

Co-sponsored by Harpers Choice Community Association and KidsStreet News. **For information call 410-730-0770.**

Women's Giving Circle Offers STEM Careers Expo for Girls- February 10th!

The Women's Giving Circle of Howard County, with support from The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory and Math Engineering Science Achievement, is holding a free introduction to careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) for

middle and high school girls on **Sunday, Feb. 10, 3-5 p.m.**, at the **Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory**

Reservations are suggested. Contact:
womensgivingcircle@comcast.net, or call **301-854-1107**

Teen Role Models Sought for Model Competition on February 23!

The Columbia Association (CA) Teen Advisory Committee and Inside Out Model and Talent Agency are sponsoring a Teen Role Model Competition on **February 23rd from 7 to 9pm at Claret Hall**. The contest is open to all high school students, both male and female. Teens will compete in evening wear and high fashion modeling, and answer questions pertinent to teen issues today. Participants will be judged on their ability to be a role model for children.

Winners will be crowned Mr. and Miss Howard County and will be asked to speak at middle schools and other various functions throughout the year. First-prize winners will also receive \$600 worth of model and talent classes at Inside Out Model and Talent Agency. Second-prize winners will receive a \$350 photo shoot and third-prize winners will receive a \$100 gift certificate towards classes at Inside Out Model and Talent Agency. **Interested teens** can register by filling out an application form from www.camonthly.org or by calling **410-715-5523** or **410-772-5959** by **February 2**. **There is no entry fee.**

The event will also feature a live teen band, Jah Sprout, and refreshments. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Please **call 410-715-5523** for tickets. **Claret Hall is located in the River Hill Village Center at 6020 Daybreak Circle in Clarksville.**

Friends of Education Award Nominations Encouraged!

Howard County is a community that values education and as a result, many Howard County community members, businesses and

organizations donate their time and talents in support of public education. To recognize and show appreciation to those who have made exemplary contributions, the Howard County Board of Education has established the Friends of Education Award.

The award recognizes individuals, businesses, or organizations for innovative or unique contribution that directly supports the school system's mission of excellence in teaching and learning, supports student achievement, and is significant in scope. Any member of the Howard County community or any group, organization, or business located in or serving Howard County may be nominated for the Friends of Education Award by any Howard County resident or members of a group, organization, association, or business located in or serving Howard County.

Completed nominations should be returned to the Administrative Secretary to the Board of Education at the Howard County Department of Education, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, 21042, by **February 29, 2008**. Nominees and recipients will be notified by **March 25** and awards will be presented by the Board of Education on **April 24, 2008**.

Nomination forms for the Friends of Education Award are available by contacting the Administrative Secretary to the Board of Education at **410-313-7346**. Forms are also available on the school system website at www.hcpss.org under "forms."

Neighbor Ride is need of Volunteers!

There is an immediate need for volunteers at Neighbor Ride, a volunteer-based supplemental transportation program for Howard County seniors ages 60 and over. Daytime, evening and weekend drivers are needed. Ride Coordinators to accept and assign rides are needed **Monday through Friday for 3-4 hours**. The next driver orientations are scheduled at the Neighbor Ride office, 8808 Centre Park Dr., Columbia, MD 21045. Please call **410-884-7433** or contact **volunteer@neighborride.org**

County Executive Ulman Seeks Citizens to Serve on Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission

Howard County Executive Ken Ulman invites county residents to apply for membership on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Commission. The Commission's primary responsibility is to plan the county's annual tribute to the late civil rights leader.

There are several openings for community members on the Commission, which also lends assistance to local government and private organizations that are planning tributes to Dr. King.

Individuals appointed to the Commission by the County Executive serve a two year term and meet on the first Wednesday of each month. **To apply**, please send a letter of interest and resume to **Jessica Feldmark**, Assistant to the County Executive, **3430 Courthouse Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043**.

Beyond The Desk...“The Artistic Expressions of Reggie Smith”

An Art Exhibition & Reception- FREE to The Public
Saturday, February 23, 2008
1:00 PM – 3:30PM

Oakland Mills Interfaith Center
- Meeting House -5885 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD 21045

The artist, Reggie Smith is best known throughout Oakland Mills as the Community Center Assistant who welcomes you and patiently & respectfully tends to your requests for service at The Other Barn

Important!! New State Application Process for Homestead Tax Credit

The Homestead Tax Credits are provided by both the State and County to limit the annual increase in taxable assessment on owner-

occupied residential property. County Assessment increases are limited to 5% per year and State Assessment increases are limited to 10% per year.

What is this new application process?

As of **January 1, 2008**, the State will be implementing a new APPLICATION PROCESS for these credits. The implementation will be over a period extending to **December 31, 2012**. You will not have to apply for this credit every year.

When do I have to apply?

If your property is scheduled for reassessment in January 2008, your assessment packet will include an application for the Homestead Tax Credit. In order to continue to receive this credit, your application must be returned to the State by April 1, 2008.

If your property is scheduled for reassessment in January 2009, your assessment packet will include an application for the Homestead Tax Credit. In order to continue to receive this credit, your application must be returned to the State by April 1, 2009.

If your property is scheduled for reassessment in January 2010, your assessment packet will include an application for the Homestead Tax Credit. In order to continue to receive this credit, your application must be returned to the State by April 1, 2010.

Click here for further instructions on how to apply

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOF_RealPropertyTaxInformation.htm#anch130397