

March 27, 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

County Council Launches a New Sign Up System!

Citizens may now sign in on-line to testify at County Council public hearings. Once the public hearing agenda is posted, citizens may use the convenient on-line form provided on the County Council website to sign in. You may continue to sign-in in-person inside the Banneker Room beginning one-half hour before the hearing.

Click on the following link to view the new the sign up system and its instructions and procedures:

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_GiveTestimonySignup.asp

Budget- Fiscal Year 2009- We Want to Hear From You!

It's budget season! The County Council would like to hear from you on the proposed FY 2009 budget. Your participation is encouraged and valued. You may testify in person at the scheduled budget public hearings or submit written testimony to the Council during the FY2008 budget process.

Below you will find the budget calendar for FY2009, as well as a link which provides additional budget information. Hearings will be held in the Banneker Room and work sessions will be held in the Ellicott Room unless otherwise noted.

Click here for additional budget information

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

Monday March 10, 6:30pm

(Tyson Room)

Council meets with Planning Board and Board of Education

Re: recommendations and requests

Thursday, April 17, 7:30 p.m.

Public Hearing - Capital Budget

Police

Fire

Library

Recreation & Parks

Community Renewal (housing)

Agricultural Preservation

Public Works

 General County

 Sewer

 Water

 Storm Drainage

 Transportation

 Bridges

 Road Resurfacing

 Road Construction

 Sidewalk/curb

 Intersection Improvements

Tuesday, April 22, 1:00 p.m.

Work Session - Capital Budget

(all departments except Board of Education, Libraries, Community College)

Thursday, April 22, 5:00 p.m.

County Executives Presentation of the Budget

Thursday, April 22, 5:30 p.m.

Hearing- Capital and Operating Budgets

Department Heads testimony only

(all departments except Board of Education, Libraries, Community Colleges)

Friday, April 25, 9:00 a.m.

Work Session- Capital Budget (if needed)

Tuesday, April 29, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.; continue at 7:00 p.m.

Public Hearing- Capital & Operating Budgets

Community College (4:00 p.m.)

Library

Board of Education

Wednesday, April 30, 7:00 p.m.

Public Hearing – Operating Budget

(all departments except Board of Education, Libraries,
Community Colleges)

Monday, May 5, 7:00 p.m.

Constant Yield Hearing

Tuesday, May 6, 9:00 a.m.

Work Session – Operating Budget Legislative

Legislative and Judicial

Public Safety (Police, Fire)

Public Facilities

Friday, May 9, 9:00 a.m.

Work Session - Capital and Operating Budget

Budgets

Board of Education

Friday, May 9, 11:00 p.m.

Work Session- Capital and Operating Budgets

Library

Tuesday, May 13, 1:00 p.m.

Work Session

Community Services, Funds/Revenues

Wednesday, May 14, 3:00 p.m.

Work Session (if needed)
Pending issues

Friday, May 16, 9:00 a.m.

Work Session (*if needed*)
Education

Tuesday May 20, 1:00 p.m.

Work Session (if needed)
Pending Issues

Thursday May 22, 11:00 a.m.

Legislative Session
Adopt Budget

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.

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, April 23, 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

Pardon Our Dust!

You may have seen or may see some road work in your neighborhood. Howard County Department of Public Works will be conducting the following construction projects. Additional information is provided below describing the details of such projects.

Snowden River Parkway Lane Extension to Begin

A County construction project at the **8200 block of southbound** Snowden River Parkway and Maryland Route 108 in Ellicott City, at the left turn into the restaurant and service park, is scheduled to begin on or about Monday, March 31. The project will extend the median left turn lane into the service area. Weather permitting the project should be completed in late May 2008.

The existing left lane will be closed during work hours, **9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Flagging operations will be in place to direct traffic as needed, and signs will be posted to advise motorists of the construction.

For questions or concerns about **Capital Project J-4211**, contact Lisa Brightwell, Public Works Customer Service, at **410-313-3440** or by e-mail to publicworks@howardcountymd.gov

Dobbin Road Lane Addition to Begin

A County construction project is currently under way at the intersection of Dobbin Road and McGaw Road in Columbia. The project will include construction of a right turn lane from northbound McGaw Road onto eastbound Dobbin Road. Weather permitting the project should be completed by June 2008.

The existing right lane on northbound Dobbin Road will be closed during work hours, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Flagging operations will be in place to direct traffic as needed, and signs will be posted to advise motorists of the construction.

For questions or concerns about **Capital Project J-4211**, contact Lisa Brightwell, Public Works Customer Service, at **410-313-3440** or by e-mail to publicworks@howardcountymd.gov

“Come Home to Howard County” Housing Fair - April 5!

Howard County’s Department of Housing & Community Development will host the “Come Home to Howard County” Housing Fair on **Saturday, April 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Long Reach High School, 6101 Old Dobbin Lane in Columbia.** The event is FREE and open to the public.

The Fair targets individuals and families who currently live in the county or those who live outside the county and are looking for more information on the diverse and affordable home ownership and rental opportunities available in Howard County. There will be real estate

professionals, mortgage lenders, housing specialists, educational workshops, hands-on seminars, and give-a-ways and county personnel to answer questions or explain more about the programs and services that make Howard County such a great place to “come home to.”

The Housing Fair will also be the site of four housing lottery drawings beginning at **1:30 p.m.** in the **school’s atrium**. Three of the drawings will offer an opportunity to purchase a home in Howard County at a substantially reduced price, while the fourth drawing will provide an opportunity to rent a home at a reduced rent. Contestants must be present to win.

All entries in the lottery drawings must pre-qualify by submitting an application form available at www.comehometohowardcounty.org or by calling Howard County Housing at **410-313-6318**. Factors considered for eligibility include: income, assets and household size. Attendees have up until noon on the day of the event to submit their application.

For information about the Housing Fair, visit www.comehometohowardcounty.org or call **(410) 313-6318**.

Howard County’s 1st “GreenFest” – April 5th!

Howard County Government will sponsor the County’s first-ever GreenFest on **Saturday, April 5 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the **Glenwood Community Center, 2400 Route 97 in Cooksville**. This free event offers something for all ages and features exhibits, demonstrations, activities and practical tips for easy ways to “green” your home, workplace and lifestyle.

Sixty vendors will have information on topics such as green buildings, green consumer products, leaving a green footprint, and the benefits of hybrid vehicles. Also, local environmental clubs and organizations will have information on environmental awareness. The first 150 people who attend the event will receive free canvas shopping bags from My Organic Market (MOM’s).

Activities will include a bird walk, a binocular building workshop for children, a wildlife hike, a dragonfly and frog watch, and a live animal display by “Reptiles Alive.” There will also be a stormwater exhibit, watershed puzzle and other environmentally focused children’s activities to teach kids about the environment and nature.

Take a tour of the green Community Center on-site or sign-up to tour the Elkridge recycling facility at a later date. Visitors will also be able to register for a free home energy audit. GreenFest will serve as a drop-off location for used cell phones, eyeglasses and binoculars to donate to the needy. And back by popular demand---the free shredding event: residents are encouraged to drop off paper documents and data storage devices (DVDs, CDs, floppy disks, tapes, etc.) for destruction and recycling.

Howard Transit will provide FREE shuttle bus service from The Mall in Columbia (upper parking lot near Sears Service Center) at 9 a.m. and 10:20 a.m. only. The return buses will depart the Glenwood Community Center at 11:40 a.m. and 1:10 p.m. only. The ride takes approximately 30 minutes on the bus, so be green, save gas and take the bus!

For more information and a schedule of events, visit the county’s website at www.howardcountymd.gov and **click on GreenFest**, e-mail help@howardcountyrecycles.org or call (410) 313-6444.

National County Government Week, April 5 – 12! - Howard County Celebrates with Activities that Focus on “Protecting our Children”

County Executive Ken Ulman has announced plans to celebrate National County Government Week (NCGW) **April 5-12** with activities that highlight many of the county-sponsored programs and services that protect and enhance the safety, health and welfare of our children.

Howard County will kickoff NCGW on **Saturday, April 5** with GreenFest at the Glenwood Community Center, a Discovery Fair at

the East Columbia Branch of Howard County Library and a Child Safety Seat Check at Fire Station 5 in Clarksville (appointments are required – call 410-313-6090). Howard County’s Department of Fire & Rescue Services will conduct two Community Emergency Response Training programs during the week that will focus on the actions to take and supplies to have on hand to keep children and families safe should a disaster strike.

There will also be an open house at the County’s Child Advocacy Center that will include information about the “Blue Ribbon for Kids” Campaign to raise awareness about children who are victims of abuse and neglect. The Center was opened in 1991 as a place where young victims could be interviewed and examined in a safe, friendly environment.

A complete list of events is available on the Howard County web site: www.howardcountymd.gov.

Public Engagement in Land Use Task Force to Hold an Open Forum- April 10th!

The Public Engagement in Land Use (PELU) will hold an Open Forum **on April 10th at 7:00PM in the Banneker Room** of the **George Howard Building**. Comments on Draft Recommendations will be taken by the PELU Task force.

To view the PELU Task Force Blog, click the following link <http://howardcountypelu.blogspot.com/>

Questions and Comments may be sent to **Theodore Wimberly** at twimberly@howardcountymd.gov or by phone at **410-313-3121**

Council Member Calvin Ball Launches His Second Annual Financial Literacy Summit - April 19, 2008!

The importance of financial literacy can enhance a person’s knowledge about the available products and services available to assist in achieving financial freedom. In today’s complex economy, it

isn't too often that consumers are aware of the vast array of financial services available to suit their needs and circumstances. That is why I am launching my second annual Financial Literacy Summit on **April 19, 2008 at Howard Community College's Café on the Quad.**

This spring, County Executive Ken Ulman will once again declare April Financial Literacy Month in Howard County. With that, it is my goal to have another Financial Literacy Summit. This year's event will be somewhat different. I envision it as time for the public to engage with a panel of five individuals who represent some of our strongest entities in moving financial literacy forward in Howard County.

On **Saturday, April 19, 2008**, tables and booths that address financial literacy issues will be set up from **11:00 to 12:30. From 12:45 to 1:30**, a panel of our financial education leaders will provide a wealth of information for our citizens to become better equipped with the knowledge and skills to evaluate and identify those options that best suit their needs. Please spread the word to your friends and neighbors about this informative and innovative event!

Rouse Company Foundation Student Services Hall, Café on the Quad / Howard Community College, 10901 Little Patuxent Parkway • Columbia, Maryland 21044 / 11:00 AM / Contact: Melania Pender, 410-313-3105

Oakland Mills Gears Up For its Annual Village Elections!

The following candidates for Oakland Mills Board and Columbia Council Representative are as follows:

Oakland Mills Board of Directors candidates (seven open seats):

Mary Kate Murray, WH Kriz Krizmanich, Abby Hendrix, Karen Gray, Marcia White, Jim Alvey, Michael McKenna

The following candidates are running for the Oakland Mills Columbia Council Representative (one open seat):

Phil Engelke
Alex Hekimian

A Candidates' Forum will be held at The Other Barn on **Tues. April 8 at 8:00 p.m.**

ELECTION DAY is **Saturday, April 26**, polls are open from 8:30a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The Columbia Bank will sponsor **FREE** hot dogs, sodas and balloons. The Columbia Bank continues to be a wonderful neighbor. Manager Tim Kelly, personally continues to active member of the ROPE committee, Stakeholder's committee, 40th Birthday Planning Committee and assists our community at every opportunity. Please stop in, meet Tim and give a huge thanks to him and the Columbia Bank!

Goodwill Truck will be in the lot near The Other Barn on Election Day. Many thanks to Howard County Dept. of Planning & Zoning (Samantha Stone and Lindsay Leiterman) for organizing this. Donating goods is the environmentally friendly way of "cleaning house" and, it's tax deductible.

In addition, The League of Woman Voters will hold a **voter registration drive** at The Other Barn.

Check Out Career Academies Summer Camps at HCPSS!

The HCPSS Career and Technology Education Office (CTE) is offering many exciting weeklong opportunities for middle and high school students. The Career Academies Summer Camps will be held from **June 16-20, 2008 for middle school students and June 23-27, 2008 for high school students** at the Applications and Research Laboratory on Route 108 in Ellicott City.

The Career Academies Summer Camps are geared toward students who are interested in learning more about careers in science, technology, engineering, culinary science and business. Students will have an opportunity to participate in activities to help them understand how these career areas relate to their own interests.

Students will explore career areas offered through the Career Academies high school program, including Biotechnology and Health Services, Multimedia Arts, Automotive Technology, Architecture, Construction Technology, Engineering, Business and Entrepreneurship, and Culinary Sciences. Howard County Public School System teachers will staff the camp.

Enrollment is limited on a first come, first served basis. Students will receive a camp T-shirt and a Certificate of Participation. There is a registration fee of \$75.00 for each camp and students must provide their own transportation. The **registration deadline is May 15, 2008.**

Registration forms will be available **after Feb. 27** at your middle or high school, and on hcpss.org/cte and in the CTE office in mid-February.

For more information contact **Sally Long**, Career and Technology Education Office, **410-313-6629**

Sign Up For the “Greenovation”: Using Natural Light!

The Green Building Institute is offering a course on Using Natural Light- Daylight Tube Installation Demo Workshop . The following benefits of using natural light will be addressed:

- Free natural lighting (non-electric)
- Quality of light helps reduce Seasonal Affecterdness Disorder (SAD)
- No condensation or leaks
- Easy to install
- Better insulation than traditional skylights
- No major structural changes, drywall, finishing, or repainting required

Date: Saturday, **April 5, 2008**

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

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

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

Columbia Ice Rink Event for Middle School Students- March 30th!

FREE admission for all Howard County Middle School students,
Sunday, March 30, 1:15 – 2:15, Columbia Ice Rink

Event sponsored by the Columbia Association Middle School
Advisory Committee. **Call 410-715-5523 by March 26** to register or
for more information.

Senate Repeals Homestead Credit Application

The Maryland Senate overwhelmingly approved repeal of the
required application for the Homestead Property Tax Credit
passed just last year after confused homeowners complained loudly
about the new requirement.

The original bill was designed to ferret out rental property owners
who falsely claimed that they lived in the residence so they could
claim the homestead exemption, which lowers taxes by putting a cap
on assessment increases. All homeowners were required to fill out
applications that were sent to them when their properties were
reassessed.

Sponsored by Democratic Majority Leader Edward Kasemeyer,
the repeal was opposed by county governments who hoped to
capture \$10 million in property taxes that were being avoided on
rental properties. The repeal passed in 41 to 4 vote.

The House must now act on the bill. A hearing on the House
version of the same bill was held last month.

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

Make a Difference...Volunteers Needed at Stevens Forest Elementary School

Stevens Forest Elementary School is seeking volunteers to work with our wonderful students during our after school homework program. Interested persons would assist children in grades 1st - 5th in the areas of mathematics, reading, and spelling. Volunteers may work with an individual child or a small group of children. **Help is needed Mondays, Tuesdays and/or Wednesdays from 3:30 - 4:00 pm**. Please contact **Mrs. Merry Martin at (410) 313-6900** if you are interested in supporting our terrific students

Assistance for Seniors to Get Out and About! - CA's Senior Shuttle for Cultural Events

The Columbia Association's Senior Advisory Committee sponsors a **FREE** curb-to-curb evening and weekend transportation shuttle to cultural events throughout Howard County for groups of 4 or more seniors ages 60 and over. For complete details call CA at **410-715-3087**

