

June 25, 2009

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 **Board of Education, Board Room, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**. 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

Spotlight on District 2 Community Members!

The following honorees were recognized for their notable achievements and received an honorary resolution from the Howard County Council:

Henry Dagenais, was awarded the 2009 Volunteer of the Year award for his dedication and outstanding commitment to Long Reach community. Mr. Dagenais served as Chair of the Long Reach Village Board and as the Long Reach Representative on the Columbia Association Board of Directors.

Victor Bailey, was also awarded the 2009 Volunteer of the Year Award by the Village of Long Reach. Mr. Bailey has worked tirelessly for the Long Reach community and served on the Long Reach Village Board for 12 years. He is known for his proactive attitude and commitment to the Long Reach community.

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.

Milling:

Kilimanjaro Road side streets

Good Lion Road

Pamplona Road

Maera Court

Paving

African Hill Court
Afternoon Lane
Good Lion Road
Pamplona Road
Indian Camp
Matador Lane
Macomber Lane
Kilimanjaro side streets
Torrent Row
Battler Court
Reader Lane
Merryrest Court

Concrete Work:

Kilimanjaro Road: Removing concrete curb and gutter, forming and pouring, weather permitting. On-street parking along Kilimanjaro and its side streets is prohibited between the hours of **7 a.m. and 5 p.m.** Milling and paving will follow. Residents with concerns may contact **John Shindlecker at 443-797-3715 or Ed Riddle at 410-868-8340.**

Reader Lane, Merryrest Lane: Removing concrete curb and gutter, forming and pouring, weather permitting. On-street parking along Kilimanjaro and its side streets is prohibited between the hours of **7 a.m. and 5 p.m.** Milling and paving will follow. Residents with concerns may contact **John Shindlecker at 443-797-3715 or Ed Riddle at 410-868-8340.**

Dobbin Road/Dobbin Center Way Intersection

Traffic pattern changes will be completed at the Dobbin Rd / Dobbin Center Way intersection. The **center lane** of the **southbound Dobbin Rd** approach will be changed from a **'left turn only lane'** to a **'shared thru / left turn' lane.** This means, **two lanes (instead of one)** will allow motorists to drive southbound on Dobbin Rd.

Planning Board Public Work Session TONIGHT for ZRA 113!

The normal Planning Board alternate Thursdays schedule has been modified to address the Downtown General Plan Amendment – ZRA 113, as well as other cases. For detailed meeting information, please refer to the Planning Board Agenda. **The Board's role is advisory to the County Council (Rules of Procedure—Section 1.108).**

Meeting Schedule

Thursday, June 25, 7:00 PM

Public Work Session- **ZRA 113**-General Plan Amendment-Downtown
Columbia

Ellicott 2 Room

County Offices, 8930 Stanford Boulevard, Columbia

Comments or testimony may be mailed or e-mailed to planningboard@howardcountymd.gov up to the day prior to the scheduled public meeting.

Special needs requests should be submitted 3 working days prior to the meeting. For more information, contact **Bob Lalush at (410) 313-2350.**

County Executive Ulman to Hold Public Forum

Howard County Executive Ken Ulman invites residents to join him for his third annual public forum on **July 8th at 7pm, in the Cafeteria of Mt. Hebron High School (9440 Route 99, Ellicott City, MD)**. Residents will have an opportunity to ask the County Executive questions, make comments or offer suggestions on any topic they choose. Executive Ulman will be joined by County department heads for this important public dialogue.

Residents who wish to speak may sign-up **beginning at 6 p.m.** and limit their questions or comments to two minutes.

4th of July Festivities at the Columbia Downtown Lakefront!

Howard County's annual July 4th Festival and fireworks display will be held **on Saturday, July 4 from 5 to 10 p.m.** at the Downtown Columbia Lakefront. Fireworks will begin at **9:30 p.m.**

The Festival will kickoff at **5 p.m.** with children's entertainment featuring The Kinderman, Blue Sky Puppet Theater and stilt man, Wes Holly. Kids can also participate in carnival games and crafts, all with a "Stars & Stripes" theme. **Beginning at 6 p.m.,** a second stage will host performances by Damon Foreman & Blue Funk and the Deanna Bogart Band.

To view the entire schedule for July 4th festivities go to the Howard County Government website at www.howardcountymd.gov, or call **Ella Carter** at the Department of Recreation & Parks, **410-313-1671**.

Secure Your Garages, Homes, and Cars!

Howard County Police are reminding citizens to keep their homes secure now that summer is officially here.

During the warm spring and summer months, police receive an increased number of reports of burglaries from open and unlocked garages and sheds. Residents frequently leave garage doors open while doing yard work or spending time outdoors. Burglars use this opportunity to steal property from the garage and gain access to the interior of the home.

To ensure the safety and security of your home, police offer the following tips:

- Always keep all doors, including the garage door, closed and locked. Ensure that the door leading from the garage to the interior of the home is also locked.
- Always lock your vehicles, and remove valuable property. A garage door opener in an unlocked car is like a key to your home.

- Report suspicious people or activity by calling 911. It is always helpful if you note the make, model, and tag number if any suspicious vehicles in your neighborhood

July is Recreation and Parks Month!!

July is “Recreation and Parks Month” in Howard County! The month will kick off with a Sunset Serenade Concert featuring Grupo Latin Continental on Wednesday, **July 1, at 7 p.m.** July 1 is also the start of the National Recreation & Park Association’s kick off for summer programming – a time to encourage people to visit parks and get more involved in outdoor leisure and recreational activities.

During the month of July, Howard County’s Department of Recreation & Parks will join the celebration with a full month of activities including the County’s 4th of July Festival, the Wednesday’s Sunset Serenades and the ever-popular Travelin’ Bands series (July 10 in Savage Park and July 24 at Patapsco Female Institute). You can also have fun outside while you collect data for scientific research by joining the County’s Annual Butterfly Count on July 18 or the 4th Annual Dragonfly Count on July 25.

For a complete list of events and activities taking place during July, check out the website http://www.co.ho.md.us/RAP/RAP_HomePage.htm or call **410-313-4700**.

Howard County Police Plans to Build Positive Relationships This Summer!

With the help of a \$39,000 anti-gang grant from the U.S. Attorney's Office, the police department has invested in a trailer stocked with pingpong tables, sports equipment, video games and board games that they plan to use to engage county youth. HCPD is hoping area teens will take some time to get to know them, perhaps over a game of pingpong.

Throughout the summer, officers plan to take the trailer to areas where teens gather in order to provide recreational activities and in hopes of forming bonds between teens and police.

Between **June 29 and Aug. 21**, the trailer will rotate locations: **Mondays** at the East Columbia Branch Library, **Tuesdays** at Savage Park, **Wednesdays** at Wilde Lake Middle School, **Thursdays** at Centennial Park North and **Fridays** at Harper's Choice Middle School. **The program will not operate July 13-17 and July 27-31.**

Public Input Needed for Cooperation & Efficiency in Government Work Group!

Howard County Executive Ken Ulman and the Howard County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Sydney Cousin have formed a Cooperation & Efficiency in Government Work Group to explore and evaluate opportunities for improved efficiency with the goal of avoiding duplication of effort, improving delivery of service and identifying cost-saving measures to save tax dollars. The Work Group is looking for public input and would like to hear your suggestions.

To submit your suggestions, log on to

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/PortalServices/CH_FeedbackBOE_HCG.asp

Howard County Finance Will Collect Recordation Tax as of October 1st!

As of October 1, 2009, the Howard County Director of Finance will be the collector of the Recordation Tax imposed on all documents recorded in the Howard County Land Records pursuant to the Howard County Code Section 11.101. Transfer taxes (Maryland and Howard County) and recording fees will continue to be collected by the Clerk of the Court.

County collection of Recordation Tax will be combined with the services currently provided by the Lien Desk and will be conducted at the **Department of Finance Recordation Tax Office at 8930 Stanford Blvd, Columbia, Maryland 21045**

This change will require a change to both the routing of documents and to the payees of checks submitted to record your documents. Please click the following link for a flowchart explaining the new routing

<http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOFDocs/RecordationFlowchart.pdf>

To receive any future updates to these procedures please contact the Recordation Tax Office at **410-313-2389** or via email at recordation@howardcountymd.gov to remain on our contact list.

In anticipation of this change, the Department of Finance would like to remind you of the following procedures which can found at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/RecordationTax.htm>

Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community, designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation, and to encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors. For more information please contact the Howard County Police Department at **410-313-2200**.

Need Help With The Digital Transition?

As you may know, the digital transition occurred on June 12th. This means that anyone who is not connected to cable or satellite for television must either purchase a digital television or a converter box in order to receive the digital television signal.

The FCC has set up a terrific multi-language call center staffed with thousands of people to handle calls with all aspects of the digital transition. The telephone number is 1-888-CALL-FCC. The FCC is also partnering with AmeriCorps to help arrange free in-home assistance for converter box hookups. AmeriCorps will only help those who have already purchased a converter box. Residents can schedule AmeriCorps through the FCC call center.

In the Greater Baltimore region, Apollo Industries is also offering free in-home assistance for converter box hookups. Again, residents must have purchased a converter box before they can schedule Apollo. Apollo can be reached at **1-800-504-5677**.

On the web, the official information site for the digital transition is www.dtv2009.gov.

For trouble with antennas, residents may also call the FCC number above or visit www.antennaweb.org online for assistance. AntennaWeb serves to locate the best antenna for residents based on geographical maps and signal strengths.

Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents age 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**.

Dr. Calvin Ball
Council Member, District 2
http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/Dist2_Bio.htm
410-313-2001

"I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the community, and as long as I live it is my privilege to do for it whatever I can." George Bernard Shaw