

August 28, 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

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.

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.

Dobbin Road Lane Addition, Capital Project J-4211

Project Manager: Buck Bohmer, 410-313-2430

Start: March 2008 **End:** (unknown; utility-related delays)

Traffic: Flagging as needed. Signs in place to advise motorists of construction.

Additional Impact: Existing right lane on northbound Dobbin Road will be closed during work hours, **9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Reason/Details: Construct right turn lane from northbound McGaw Road onto eastbound Dobbin Road.

Elkridge Water Main Improvements to Begin

A Howard County water main project to replace a corroding water main in the Elkridge area is scheduled to begin on or about **Thursday, August 21**. The project will include water main replacement at Montgomery Road and Lawyers Hill Road. During the project, Lawyers Hill Road between Montgomery Road and Summer Home Terrace will be open to local, official, emergency and school bus traffic only. General traffic will be diverted to Maryland Route 1. Weather permitting the project should be completed by mid-September.

Road closure signs and variable message boards will be posted in the area to advise motorists of the temporary detour. Additionally, a recorded message at **410-313-4604** will carry details and updates.

For questions or concerns about **Capital Project W-8257**, contact Lisa Brightwell, Public Works Customer Service, at **410-313-3440**, or by e-mail to publicworks@howardcountymd.gov

Jones Road Sewer Main Extension to Begin

A Howard County construction project along Jones Road between Mary Lane and Rose Lane in Jessup, is scheduled to begin on or about **Tuesday, September 2**. The project will consist of the installation, completion and placement of approximately 1,211 linear feet of 8-inch diameter sanitary sewer main and five sewer manholes. Weather permitting the project should be completed by **Friday, October 10**.

Most of the construction will take place on the shoulder of Jones Road. There may be slight delays during the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. during the week as a result of slow moving traffic. 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 S-6243**, contact Lisa Brightwell, Public Works Customer Service, at **410-313-3440**, or by e-mail to **publicworks@howardcountymd.gov**

Mission Road Water Main Extension to Begin

A Howard County construction project to build a water main along Mission Road in the Jessup area is scheduled to begin on or about Monday, September 8. The project will include construction of approximately 1,000 linear feet of 8-inch water main. During the project, westbound traffic on Mission Road from the intersection of Pleasant Chase Road will be periodically shifted to the eastbound lane of Mission Road. Weather permitting the project should be completed by mid-October.

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 W-8698**, contact Lisa Brightwell, Public Works Customer Service, at **410-313-3440**, or by e-mail to **publicworks@howardcountymd.gov**

State Highway Administration to Improve MD-175 Ridesharing Lot in Columbia, Howard County

To meet the demand for commuting options in Howard County, the Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration (SHA) will begin a \$170,000 project to improve the MD 175/Snowden River Parkway ridesharing lot in Columbia. As part of the resurfacing project, SHA will increase the capacity of the 210-space park-and-ride lot by adding 27 parking spaces. SHA will complete the project by the end of August, weather permitting.

To complete this work - beginning **Monday, August 18** - SHA will close the park-and-ride lot nightly between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m., Sunday through Thursday. **Vehicles parked in the lot after 8 p.m. will be towed.** Information on towed vehicles will be available at the Maryland State Police Waterloo Barrack by calling **410-799-2101**. Additional ridesharing lots in Howard County include MD 32/Broken Land Parkway and MD 100/Long Gate Parkway. Variable message signs are in place to alert motorists of the upcoming work.

SHA awarded the contract to R. F. Kline, Inc. of Frederick. Citizens who have questions about traffic operations along MD 175, or other State numbered routes in Howard County, may call **SHA's District 7 Office** at **301-624-8100** or toll free at **1-800-635-5119**. For additional ridesharing locations, log onto www.marylandroads.com

Howard County Dept. of Planning & Zoning Will Partner with Library to Present Lecture Series

Howard County's Department of Planning and Zoning will present a series of lectures in partnership with the Howard County Library. The first in the series of lectures will be presented on **Wednesday, September 3 at 7 p.m.** at the **Library's Central Branch in Columbia** by Ed McMahon, nationally recognized as an inspiring and thought provoking speaker and leading authority on topics related to sustainable development, land conservation, smart growth, and historic preservation.

McMahon holds the Charles E. Fraser Chair on Sustainable Development at the Urban Land Institute in Washington, DC. He will speak about sustainable ways to accommodate growth and improve quality of life through walkable and compact mixed-use developments.

The lecture is free, open to the public, and no registration is necessary. For more information, contact Kimberley Flowers at (410)313-4340.

Howard County Police Officers to Focus on Speed Enforcement in School Zones

As children prepare to return to school next week, Howard County Police are working to ensure that students, parents and teachers arrive safely. Through a continuing back-to-school program, officers will focus on enforcing speed, seat belt and child safety seat laws in school zones.

The **H.A.S.T.E. program (Helping Arriving Students Through Enforcement)** was implemented several years ago by the Howard County Police Department to raise awareness about traffic safety in school zones.

Targeted patrols will be in place on roadways surrounding elementary, middle and high schools for the first two weeks of the school year. Officers will be working to identify drivers who are speeding in those areas.

In addition to keeping pedestrians from harm, police will work to keep those in vehicles safe as well. As parents and high-school students drive to school, officers will check for seat belt and child safety seat use to ensure that all children, teenagers and adults are properly restrained.

Police also are reminding drivers that they are required to stop for school buses with red lights flashing. Officers in covert vehicles will follow school buses to watch for drivers who fail to stop. **The fine for this violation is \$570.**

Officers will focus not only on the roads around the schools, but will be working inside the schools as well. Police are again conducting mandatory traffic safety seminars for students applying for school parking permits, who must attend with their parents. The police department will continue to conduct traffic safety education and enforcement efforts throughout the school year.

Police to Conduct Sobriety Checkpoint

In an effort to promote awareness and reduce the number of alcohol-impaired drivers on the roads, the Howard County Police Department will conduct a sobriety checkpoint this week at an undisclosed location. Police are reminding citizens to designate a sober driver or refrain from drinking alcohol if their plans include driving.

Last year in Howard County, eight people died in alcohol-related collisions and 1,340 people were arrested and charged with driving under the influence (DUI) in Howard County. So far this year, eight people have died in alcohol-related collisions and 801 people have been arrested and charged with DUI.

Police hope that by promoting awareness about the dangers of drinking and driving, the number of drivers under the influence will decline, reducing collisions and injuries.

Please remember to drink responsibly, drive safely and always wear your seatbelt!

Long Reach Country Fair is scheduled for Sept. 6

The Long Reach Community Association will present its 29th Long Reach Country Fair from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 6 at Long Reach Village Center.

Music, homemade food, old-fashioned crafts and cool games are planned, rain or shine. Columbia Art Center will hold its ceramic sale.

Admission and parking are free.

The association will sponsor a "Kids' Clothes Swap" from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 13 in the village center parking lot. Gently used children's clothes, toys, books and furniture will be for sale. Seller's spaces are \$20. Admission is free to buyers.

Blandair Public Meeting to be Held at Oakland Mills High School!

The Blandair Advisory Committee along with Howard County Department of Parks and Recreation and their design consultants have completed their preliminary plans for Blandair Regional Park. Howard County Parks and Recreation will present the plans at a public meeting on **Thursday, September 11, 2008 at 7:00PM. It will be held at Oakland Mills High School, 9410 Kilimanjaro Road, Columbia, MD 21045 / 410.313.6945.** You may review the current master plan of the park by going to:

http://www.co.ho.md.us/rap/rap/_BlandairRegPark.htm

Blandair Regional Park is a proposed County park facility to be centrally located on a 300-acre parcel of land in Columbia. The project intends to preserve over 200 acres of forest, wetlands, meadows, and a historic farm complex, while providing active and passive recreation experiences.

In March 2008, the County Executive appointed a new citizen Advisory Committee to assist with the project. The Committee is composed of citizens whose varied backgrounds and interests will provide valuable input into the development of the design. The members also represent the interests of the surrounding communities, as well as including a student representative.

Committee Members from District 2

Robert N. Cummings - Department of Housing and Community Development, Long Reach resident

Alexander Sandy Curtis – Urban Planning, Construction – Glenmont Homeowners Assoc.

Frank Eastham - Principal, Oakland Mills High School

Roger M. Gabin – Computer scientist/systems engineer – Scout leader - Long Reach resident

Cathy Latham - Oakland Mills Village Board

Joshua Manley - Student Representative, Howard High School

Bridget R. Mugane – Attorney – former member of the Long Reach Village Board, and former president of the Hawkins Farm Community Assn. - President of Howard County Citizen’s Association

Sylvia Ramsey – State Department of Transportation – resident of Long Reach

Sarah Uphouse - Long Reach Village Manager

If you would like to submit comments you may send your written comments directed to:

Gary J. Arthur
Director
Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks
7120 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia MD 21046.

You are also welcome to contact the Department’s Capital Project and Park Planning Division at **410-313-4685** for more information or to provide comments. Please visit this website for future updates including dates for upcoming meetings.

Click here for more information on Blandair
http://www.co.ho.md.us/rap/rap_BlandairRegPark.htm

CA Encourages Resident Feedback on Watershed Concerns

Columbia residents are invited to log on to www.ColumbiaAssociation.org/Watershed to share their comments regarding natural resources and stormwater impacts in the Columbia

watershed. Residents can communicate their concerns or suggestions regarding stream water quality, protecting the tree canopy, improving biological diversity and reducing pollutants going into the Chesapeake Bay. Also, they are asked to notify the Columbia Association (CA) of any locations where they have observed flooding, erosion, runoff or debris pile up. Comments can be up to 250 words and must be submitted by **Sept. 15**.

Vendors Wanted for Howard County's CareerFest 2008!

The Howard County Office of Workforce Development is looking for vendors for its CareerFest 2008 which will be held on **Thursday, September 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Kossiakoff Center**, located at Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, 11100 Johns Hopkins Road in Laurel. The event, which attracted more than 700 job seekers last year, offers businesses a great opportunity to recruit new talent, interview potential employees and accept applications and resumes.

Due to its proximity to the Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan area and Fort Meade, Howard County has a large pool of highly-skilled professionals and experienced retirees from both the private and government sector to recruit from. Some of the businesses that have already registered for CareerFest include: Defense Information System Agency (DISA), AT&T, Fedex Ground, Eaton Aerospace, Unisys, the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Internal Revenue Service, Howard County Public School System and many others.

The Howard County Office of Workforce Development is a partner in the Columbia Workforce Center. For more information about the job fair including a list of participating businesses and registration information, contact the Columbia Workforce Center at **410 290-2600 or 410-290-2620**, or visit the website:

<http://www.dllr.state.md.us/county/howard/howjobfair.htm>

Transportation Advocates Meeting – September 25th!

Transportation Advocates will be **changing** our meeting day to the **fourth Thursday of the month beginning in September 2008**. Sometimes, we have to change it from that regular date to another because of holidays.

Our next meeting is **Thursday, September 25, 2008, at the Bain Center 5470 Ruth Keeton Way, Columbia, MD 21044**.

We have coffee and doughnuts at 7:30 a.m. with the meeting beginning promptly at **7:45 a.m. and ending no later than 9:00 a.m.** so that people can get to work.

This meeting will be a briefing on BRAC [Base Realignment and Closure] starting with a quick overview of BRAC, its timing, potential and realistic plans from Kent Menser, who heads up the County BRAC Taskforce. You'll learn BRAC's most probable impact on all aspects of transportation and transit in Howard County, any funding for local transit and increased Howard Transit connections with MTA, MARC, Amtrak.

Of particular interest will be the short-range, medium-range and long-term plans for impact of BRAC on the surrounding areas.

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. Contact Officer **Rick Cumby or Roger Hultgren**, Howard County OM Policing office at **410-313-5805**, to schedule a neighborhood watch presentation for your neighborhood.

Apply Now For a Spot in Your Police Department's Citizens' Police Academy!

The Howard County Police Department will be sponsoring a Citizens' Police Academy beginning **September 30, 2008**. This 11 week program will be held at the Public Safety Training Center in Marriottsville and run from **7:00 pm until 9:30 pm on Tuesday evenings**. The curriculum for the academy has been planned to provide you with an overview of the training which every police officer must go through in order to receive certification. The Academy will involve a combination of classroom discussions and practical exercises.

After completing the eleven week program, citizens will have a greater appreciation of the various activities and challenges facing Howard County police officers. The Academy is an informational program only. Graduates of the program will have no police powers or authority.

Participants in the program will learn about the organizational structure of the Police Department, the mission, role and values of the agency, community policing concepts, criminal procedural law, criminal investigation techniques, evidence collection procedures, traffic law enforcement, drug enforcement, community relations/crime prevention programs, youth programs and use of force issues.

Participants will engage in practical exercises including driver training, firing range activities, and a patrol ride-along opportunity.

The minimum requirements for the Citizens' Police Academy are:
18 Years of Age or Older
Resident of Howard County (exceptions made)
No Criminal Record

For more information you may contact Sue Klein at **410-313-1364** or sklein@howardcountymd.gov

Make a Difference for a Howard County Senior!

Be a Neighbor Ride volunteer driver and make a difference to a Howard County senior. Daytime, evening and weekend volunteer opportunities are available. Seniors are able to maintain their quality

of life by attending activities when transportation is available. Volunteer orientations are **September 9 at 10 am and September 24 at 6:00 pm** in the Neighbor Ride office, **8950 Route 108 Suite 115, Columbia, MD 21045**. Call **410-884-7433** to register or schedule a different time.

Columbia Association Seeks Senior Advisors

The Columbia Association (CA) is seeking residents to serve a one-year term on the Senior Advisory Committee. The goals of this committee are to advise the CA Board of Directors on the needs, interests and concerns of Columbia's senior residents and to increase the public awareness of Columbia's seniors as a distinct and active population.

Nominees must be at least 55 years of age and have demonstrated interest in the senior population. Letters of interest should be mailed to Michelle Miller, Columbia Association, 10221 Wincopin Circle, Columbia, MD 21044, faxed to **410-715-3042** or e-mailed to **Michelle.Miller@ColumbiaAssociation.com**. For more information, please call **Michelle Miller at 410-715-3170**.

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**

Empty Bowls Project Feeds Hungry

Columbia Art Center will hold Empty Bowls, a community fundraising event to help fight hunger in Howard County, on **Saturday, Oct. 4, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.** Tickets are \$20, with

proceeds being donated to Meals on Wheels and Aids Alliance of Howard County. Attendees will have the opportunity to select from more than 300 one-of-a-kind handcrafted ceramic bowls that have been made over the past year. Admission also includes dinner, studio demonstrations and live music. Guests may participate in a silent auction featuring works by 20 local artists who have contributed paintings, photographs, fiber, jewelry and ceramics; and enter raffle drawings.

Columbia Art Center donated the materials and space for the event. Local artists, community musicians, area restaurants and businesses have contributed food, supplies, materials, artwork and gifts for the event. Empty Bowls will be held at Columbia Art Center, located at 6100 Foreland Garth in Columbia. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call **410-730-0075** or e-mail Art.Staff@ColumbiaAssociation.com.

KLEENEX® tissue box tabs = FREE Scholastic books at Thunder Hill Elementary School

It really is that easy! For every 30 KLEENEX® tissue box tabs (the top tab you tear off when opening a new box of KLEENEX® tissues), the teachers and Reading Specialists at Thunder Hill Elementary School (THES) can earn 15 Scholastic books. The website for this program is: <http://www.scholastic.com/kleenex/pdfs/Kleenex-BookBoost.pdf>.

Please help the teachers and students at THES easily earn these books for their classrooms and forward this information to your family, friends and neighbors. We will start mailing in the tabs in 30 tab increments on **August 15**, and this program ends on **November 15, 2008**.

If you have KLEENEX® tissue box tabs, please drop them off at Thunder Hill Elementary School, provide them to any THES student (school starts on August 25th!), or contact Julie Brinkley, PTA President so she can arrange to pick up the tabs.

Thank you for assisting the PTA with this exciting and rewarding program!

Julie Brinkley

PTA President

410-458-8012

brinkleyfam@hotmail.com