

October 29, 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

****Important Temporary Relocation Information****

The Howard County Council Office Has Moved!

As of October 17th the Howard County Council Office has relocated to **8930 Stanford Boulevard, Columbia, Maryland, 21045.**

Phone numbers and the mailing address will remain the same. We apologize for any inconvenience.

As of **October 6, 2008** Council public hearings, legislative sessions, and work sessions will be held at **the Board of Education, Board Room, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042.** Council monthly meetings will be held at the Ascend One Building, **8930 Stanford Blvd., Columbia, MD 21045.**

All public hearings and legislative sessions are cablecast live on Gtv, Howard County Government Cable Channel, Comcast channel 70 and are closed captioned for the hearing impaired.

Directions to 8930 Stanford Boulevard:

From Ellicott City:

Take US Route 29 South towards Columbia

Take Exit 20A – MD Route 175 East towards LAUREL
Take a RIGHT onto S. Dobbin Road
Take a LEFT onto Stanford Blvd.
Building and parking lot will be on your immediate LEFT.

From points South:

Take US 29 North towards Baltimore
Take Exit 20A – MD Route 175 East towards LAUREL
Take a RIGHT onto S. Dobbin Road
Take a LEFT onto Stanford Blvd.
Building and parking lot will be on your immediate LEFT.

For further information, please call **410-313-2001**.

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_Council_Calendar.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](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/LegislativePending.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_Boardsand Commissions.htm](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](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.

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

Mission Road Water Main Extension to Begin (NEW START DATE)

A Howard County construction project to build a water main along Mission Road in the Jessup area, originally scheduled to begin on September 8, was delayed. The new construction start date is **Monday, October 27**.

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-December.

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.

Meridian Square Update!!

The developers of Meridian Square, a development project planned for the Oakland Mills Village Center, continue to work diligently to advance to the project with specific emphasis on securing commitments for additional users in the building. At this time in addition to the Howard County transaction for the Second Floor, the developer has secured a total of +/- 15,000 square feet in commitments for the Third Floor. Also, they have secured commitments totaling +/- 4500 square feet on the Ground Floor of the building.

In combination there is currently a total of about 36,000 square feet committed, which represents about 62% of the building.

The developer continues to conduct marketing activities but also shifted its attention to negotiating the details of each of the above transactions to conclusion. Simultaneously, their contractor is in the market reconfirming their construction pricing and positioning for the project to start this winter.

Howard County Accepting Applications for Moderate Income Housing Unit Program – Deadline for Applications is October 31st!

Beginning October 1, Howard County's Department of Housing and Community Development will be taking applications for the October enrollment period for the County's moderate income housing unit (MIHU) program. The MIHU program is an inclusionary zoning program that requires developers of new housing in certain zoning districts to sell or rent some of the new dwelling units to households of moderate income. The program offers quality new homes at reduced prices, and rents to eligible families. **The application deadline is October 31, 2008.**

Three-bedroom townhome MIHUs, as well as one, two and three-bedroom apartments, are now available in Belmont Station, near Route 1 in Elkridge. In addition, the Elkridge Crossing, Village Towns and Howard Square subdivisions, also near Route 1, are offering three-bedroom townhomes and two-bedroom condominium apartments.

To buy an MIHU, individuals must first apply to the County's Department of Housing and Community Development to be placed on a waiting list. To be eligible to purchase, an applicant's household income may not exceed 80% of the Howard County median – currently \$75,408 for a family of four. Base sales prices for MIHUs range from about \$100,000 for a condominium to about \$240,000 for a single-family home. Prices vary depending on the type, size and amenities of the units.

MIHU enrollment periods for purchase opportunities are held quarterly. The next MIHU lottery is anticipated to be held in mid-November. Interested persons should visit the County website for information about the program at www.howardcountymd.gov, or call the Department of Housing & Community Development at **410-313-6318**.

Howard County Police Prepare for Safe Halloween

Howard County Police will be out in force on Halloween to help ensure a safe and fun evening. Officers will target residential neighborhoods to be visible to citizens and make sure children stay safe. They also will be looking out for vandalism, including the destruction or theft of political signs or other property.

Officers will conduct speed enforcement activities and be on the lookout for drunk or impaired drivers.

In an effort to prepare for a safe Halloween, the Howard County Police Department offers the following tips to parents and children:

- Encourage children to trick-or-treat before dark. After dark, an adult chaperone should carry a flashlight and choose well-lighted streets.
- Wear costumes that are short, snug and flame retardant. Flowing sleeves, capes and skirts can cause children to trip and can catch fire if they brush against candle flames. Also be sure to wear light colors or reflective tape.
- Avoid masks that can obstruct vision. Use face paint instead or make sure mask eye holes are wide enough.
- Discourage the use of fake knives, guns and swords, as they may result in aggressive behavior. If these types of props are used, be sure they are made of flexible materials such as foam or rubber.
- Stay in groups while trick-or-treating and make sure young children always are accompanied by adults.
- Teach children that they should NEVER go into a stranger's home or car.

- Eat dinner before trick-or-treating to prevent the urge to eat treats before they have been inspected by parents. Never eat treats that have been opened.
- Leave porch or other outside lights on to make clear that trick-or-treaters are welcome.

The police department wishes everyone a safe and happy Halloween!

Howard County Board of Elections Open Saturday, November 1st, 2008!

The Howard County Board of Elections will be open to the public on **November 1, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**; the office is usually closed on Saturdays. Voters will be able to apply for, or vote an absentee ballot, check their registration or find out where their polling place is located. Please note that voter registration closed on October 14, 2008. For more information on voting in Howard County, please visit the Board's website at www.howardcountymd.gov/BOE or call them at **410-313-5820**

Howard County Invites Community to Personal Preparedness Public Safety Expo! – November 1st!

Howard County's Department of Fire & Rescue Services will kick off the County's "Community Readiness Week" with a Personal Preparedness Public Safety Expo on **Saturday, November 1 from 9 am to 4 pm** at the **James N. Robey Public Safety Training Center, 2200 Scott Wheeler Drive in Marriottsville.**

The Expo features demonstrations, exhibits, hands-on activities and giveaways to help the community learn how to be better prepared in times of disaster. There will be information for pet owners on how to prepare for an emergency evacuation and instructions on preparing a home emergency kit. Parents can watch their children dial 9-1-1 on a simulated system and see if they can answer simple questions posed

by a 9-1-1 operator. There will also be a weather alert giveaway while supplies last. There will be demonstrations by the Police Department's SWAT and Canine teams.

Representatives from the Community Emergency Response Network (CERN) will be on hand with information on opportunities available to those who wish to serve as community volunteers during emergencies. There will also be a display of emergency vehicles including the Command Vehicle, Police helicopter, and tours of the James N. Robey Public Safety Training Center.

Also on hand: the Departments of Health, Public Works, Corrections, Citizen Services and the Bureaus of Animal Control and Communications (9-1-1). Meet members of organizations that support and help manage disasters: Howard County's Civil Air Patrol, RACES, CERN, Maryland National Guard, the Volunteer Center Serving Howard County, along with representatives of FEMA and MEMA. For more information about the Expo, call **410-313-2036**.

The event is free and open to the public. **“Community Readiness Week,”** runs from **November 1 to 7** and focuses on the importance of both individual and family preparedness. For a list of scheduled events that will be held throughout the week please click the following link http://www.co.ho.md.us/News/News_20081014.htm

HCPSS Announcement! – Participate in the Attendance Area Adjustment Process

If redistricting is planned, the attendance areas adjustment process for Howard County Public Schools begins in the spring with the appointment of the Attendance Area Committee (AAC) by the Superintendent. The committee reviews and comments on the attendance area plans. The Committee also reviews and comments on the current capital budget and Capital Improvement Plan in conjunction with anticipated redistricting. The Committee's input is taken into consideration when developing the Superintendent's Attendance Area Adjustment Recommendation.

Each spring, the Board of Education receives a Feasibility Study from the Office of School Planning, which includes the annual student enrollment projections along with scenarios that provide a comprehensive look at suggested capital additions, renovations, and any attendance area adjustments that are anticipated within the next ten years. The Feasibility Report is a planning document and the scenarios are presented for planning purposes only. They are not recommendations.

The attendance area adjustment process will begin in late spring 2009 when the Attendance Area Committee is formed and begins to meet. Plans will be presented to the community at two public meetings in September and the Superintendent's recommended plan will be presented to the Board in October. The Board will approve any attendance area adjustments before Thanksgiving in 2009, effective for the school year that begins in August 2010.

To review the Feasibility Study and any future documents associated with the Attendance Area Adjustment process, visit <http://www.hcpss.org/boundarylines/>

New Howard County Recycling Bins to be Distributed!

Many of you have received new wheeled recycling carts or bins from the County at no charge. Door hangers with information about the new program and recycling bins have been distributed by the Department of Public Works. For additional information you may visit the Bureau of Environmental Services website at http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DPW/Environmental_Homepage.htm or contact the office by phone at (410) 313-6444.

Track the Delivery of Your New Bin!

For an interactive map that details information about the delivery of your new recycling bin please click the following link <http://gis.howardcountymd.gov/EnvironmentalServices/GMyRecycle.asp>

Questions?

Click the following link for Frequently Asked Questions

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

Or you can call the Bureau of Environmental Services Office at (410) 313-6444.

New Bins Means New Recyclable Items!!

The County's new wheeled recycling carts and bins can now be filled with additional plastic, aluminum and waxed cardboard products. This includes common household items such as plastic yogurt tubs, lawn furniture and flower pots, aluminum foil and pie plates, milk and juice cartons, and much more.

Residents can also recycle bags filled with plastic bags as long as the bag is tied shut. A postcard describing all of the new recycling options will be mailed to every Howard County residence that receives Recycling Collection Service.

Also, previously used plastic trash cans and recycling bins may now be picked up at curbside recycling. However, they may need to be labeled so the Recycling Collection Service knows to recycle the can or bin.

Participate in the “What Counts in Education” Forum! – HCPSS Budget Priorities

The Board of Education of Howard County is inviting the public to participate in the What Counts in Education Community Forum. The forum is sponsored by the Maryland Association of Boards of Education and the Board of Education of Howard County and is open to all interested community members.

The purpose of the forum is to discuss and recommend future priorities for the Howard County Public School System's Operating Budget as well as identify budget recommendations for the next 1-5 years.

The forum will be held on, **Tuesday, November 11, 2008 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.** at the **Homewood Center** (behind the Department of Education), **10914 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042.**

To confirm your attendance, please email **Florence Jackson** at florence_jackson@hcpss.org or call **410-313-5638** by **Monday, November 3.**

Department of Recreation & Parks Announces Deer Management Program for 2008-2009

The Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks has announced its fall/winter schedule of managed deer hunts. The hunts will be held in an effort to help maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population in our parks where deer browsing has been shown to reduce biodiversity.

Since the program began in 1998, there has been an observable improvement in habitat quality and vegetation abundance in many of the parks where managed hunting has taken place. As a result, the amount of hunting in Alpha Ridge Park, David Force Park, High Ridge Park and the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area has been reduced to a level needed to manage deer abundance and protect natural resources. The County has reduced the number of managed hunting days by two. This year's managed hunts will include a combination of bow and shotgun hunting. **Hunting hours are from dawn until 12 noon**, and each park will be closed for all other uses during this time. The hunting schedule is as follows:

Alpha Ridge Park:

Bow & Shotgun November 17

Blandair Park:

Bow Hunting November 5, 19; December 3, 17; January 29

David Force Park:

Bow & Shotgun

October 30; November 13; December 18;
January 15; February 5

High Ridge Park:

Bow & Shotgun

December 4

NEW!! FREESTYLE – Teen Drop In Center in Jessup!

Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks is opening Freestyle, a new teen drop-in center at **Ridgley's Run Community Center, 8400 Mission Road, Jessup, MD** conveniently located a ½ mile off of Washington Boulevard.

Freestyle is a new teen drop-in program where teens can come hang out together. Freestyle is a program designed for teens by teens. Freestyle provides a safe haven for teens entering 7th-12th grades to get away from it all. The center offers a choice of hanging out with friends, playing basketball and video games, listening to music, having a snack at the Snack Shop and other activities. The center will be open from 6:00PM to 9:30PM on

October 30th: Halloween Party w/Costume Contest

November 13th: Fall Dance w/Live DJ

December 4th: Holiday Party!

The cost: \$5. Registration is not required. For more details **contact** Danielle Bassett at 410-313-1693 or dbassett@howardcountymd.gov

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!

Howard County Commission for Women Seeking Hall of Fame Nominations

The Howard County Commission for Women is calling for nominations to honor outstanding women for induction into the 2009 Women's Hall of Fame. The 13th annual Hall of Fame will induct up to five contemporary women and one historical woman who have achieved distinction in their work, made lasting contributions to the community and improved the quality of life for others. Each nominee must be either a native of Howard County or a resident for at least 10 consecutive years. The inductees will be honored at a public ceremony on **Thursday, March 12, 2009**, during Women's History Month.

Nominations are due by **Wednesday, November 12**. Forms are available on-line and may be downloaded by accessing the Department of Citizen Services homepage at: www.howardcountymd.gov/CitizenServices/. They are also available at county library branches, by e-mailing the Women's Commission at women@howardcountymd.gov or by calling the Department of **Citizen Services at (410) 313-6400**.

Women's Hall of Fame Committee at **6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 300, Columbia, MD 21046** or e-mailed to women@howardcountymd.gov . It must contain the completed nomination form, three letters of recommendation, a typed biographical account limited to two, single-sided 8 ½ x 11" white pages and a black and white 5" x 7" head/shoulder photograph of the nominee.

The Commission for Women was created in 1980 to promote the social, economic, and political equality of women. The Hall of Fame was created to leave a historical legacy of the accomplishments of Howard County women for future generations.

Child Development Centers Openings!

The Public Schools Employees' Child Development Program provides care for children ages 6 weeks through 5 years. On a space-available basis, children from the larger community may enroll in the program. The program currently has openings at Oakland Mills High School. For more information, call 410-888-9040 or visit <http://www.psecdp.com>

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.

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. Call **410-884-7433** for more information.

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**.

Blandair Regional Park News!

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board unanimously voted to adopt the proposed 2008 Blandair Master Plan. The consultant will now move towards the design phase of this project. The Master Plan is scheduled for submittal to the Department of Planning and Zoning in February 2009. To view the full project schedule please click the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP/RAP_BlandairRegPark.htm

Thank you to the Blandair Advisory Committee for all of their hard work and dedication, especially those members who represented the residents and communities in council district 2.

To view the proposed plan click the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP/RAPDocs/2008_Blandair_Master_Plan.pdf

You are encouraged to participate in the planning process of Blandair. To submit comments, questions or concerns via email you may contact rdelerme@howardcountymd.gov . Written comments may be submitted to

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

