

December 7, 2007

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

Happy Holidays!

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

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

County Executive Ken Ulman holds his first Citizens' Budget Meeting for the FY2009 budget cycle on **Thursday, December 13th at 7:30 p.m.** in the Banneker Room of the George Howard Building, 3430 Courthouse Drive in Ellicott City.

The purpose of this meeting is to hear citizens' testimony on priorities for spending county revenues as he prepares the Capital and Operating Budgets. Sign-in begins at 6:30 p.m., with a first-to-sign-in, first-to-speak method. Residents can also submit on-line budget testimony by logging on the county's homepage at www.howardcountymd.gov.

Banneker Rm., Howard Bldg. / **Sign-In Begins at 6:30 pm; Meeting Starts at 7:30 pm** / Contact: County Executive's Office, (410) 313-2011

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_BoardsandCommissions.htm

Current Road Maintenance Projects in District 2

Milling/paving and crack seal contractors will continue road maintenance in Howard County on the following streets during the month of November. *Note: Some projects may have already been completed.

Crack Seal

Farewell Road
Rock Sparkle Row
Pastora Place
Ourtime Lane
Castile Court
Fallen Stone
Saddlebag Row
Cameldriver Court
Bullring Lane
Orient Lane
Latchkey Row
Owen Brown Road
Parallel Lane
Commadore Court
Nightstreet Hill

Milling/Paving:

Lincoln Drive
Pirch Way

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) 712-005**

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

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, December 12, 2007** from **7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**. This meeting will be held in **the Tyson Room of 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

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>

Surviving /Thriving in Howard County

The Association of Community Services (ACS) held a panel discussion on the aforementioned title at the OM Meeting House on November 14th. Panelist provided background information on the following issues: **health, housing, food, and transportation**. This discussion served as a springboard for further discussion and work. If you wish to attend/discuss/work on any of the four issues/sessions slated for January 2008, please contact ACS for detailed information at 410.715.9545 or via info@acshoco.org

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!

December 19, January 9, and March 18. For more information call 410-313-4700

Sign Up For the “Greenovation”: Indoor Air Quality

About what topics will I learn?

- Items that affect your indoor air quality (ex: furnishings, finishes, cleaners, air fresheners, cabinets, human activity, and others)
- The benefits of selecting Eco-friendly interior finishes and paints
- Impacts of building systems, equipment, and the entire building package on indoor air quality

Why should I take this class?

Here are just some of the many benefits of learning and incorporating green products & techniques:

- Healthier indoor air quality and safety for you and your children
- Reduced exposure to Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), exempted VOCs, and other neurological and pulmonary toxins (see below)
- Clear conscience of using socially and environmentally responsible products
- Learn about alternatives in decorating your home.

- Let your home work more as a system, synchronizing the benefits of indoor air quality, health, energy savings, and sustainability

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) are emitted as gases from certain solids or liquids. VOCs include a variety of chemicals, some of which may have short- and long-term adverse health effects. Concentrations of many VOCs are consistently higher indoors (up to ten times higher) than outdoors.

Date: Saturday, December 8, 2007

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. – Check-In
8:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.- Indoor Air Quality

Location:

Green Building Institute
@ The Enviro-Center

7761 Waterloo Road (Rte. 175)
Jessup, MD 20794

New play Area at Columbia Mall Promotes Healthy Habits!

Howard County health officials unveiled the new health-themed play area at The Mall in Columbia. Much like the kid-friendly spots at Marley Station Mall in Glen Burnie or Towson Town Center, the equipment is soft and the floor carpeted. But Howard's play area also aims to educate.

The playground, designed by Playtime, was built through a partnership between Howard County General Hospital and The Mall in Columbia.

It also fits in with the county's Healthy Howard initiative, which seeks to incorporate health habits into daily activities, said Dr. Peter Beilenson, Howard's health officer. The Healthy Howard mascot, a dog, greets children at the playground's entrance with a list of safety tips.

IF YOU GO

The playground is in the J.C. Penney Court at the Columbia mall on Little Patuxent Parkway.

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**.

Howard County Arts Council Arts Scholarship!

Are you planning to pursue a higher education in the Arts? The Howard County Arts Council's 2008 Arts Scholarship Application is now available!

Applications are available from the Arts Council or on our website at www.hocoarts.org. Applicants must be legal residents of Howard County. Applications must be postmarked or hand-delivered by **January 11, 2008**. Contact the Howard County Arts Council at **410.313.2787** or email info@hocoarts.org for more information.

NEIGHBOR RIDE- Looking for Spanish and Korean Speaking Volunteers!

Neighbor Ride, a volunteer-based supplemental transportation program, helps residents age 60 and over maintain a good quality of life by providing friendly and reliable door-to-door transportation for medical appointments, religious services, educational pursuits, recreational and social events, exercise classes, and other day-to-day activities.

* Neighbor Ride is looking for Spanish and Korean speaking volunteers to become drivers who can converse with bi-lingual riders.

For more information and to register for a volunteer orientation, contact Rosemary Noble at 410-884-RIDE, volunteer@neighborride.org or visit their website at <http://www.neighborride.org/>

CA Sponsors a 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.

Annual Holiday Food Drive - Collection dates: Dec. 3 – December 19!

The Oakland Mills Community Association is partnering with The Columbia Bank, Oakland Mills Branch for our annual Food Drive. Please drop off items at either The Other Barn or The Columbia Bank, Oakland Mills Branch.

Donations of non-perishable food items in unopened boxes or cans are greatly appreciated.

Volunteers Needed at Stevens Forest Elementary School

Volunteers are needed to help provide homework assistance for the Bobcat Bridges after school program. Bobcat Bridges runs Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. The homework portion runs from 3:30 pm- 4:00 pm. SFES has approximately 35 students participating in grades 2-5. Assistance is needed to help students with their homework assignments and distributing snacks. If you are interested in volunteering please call 410-313-6900 and ask for Mrs. Merry Martin-Bobcast Bridges Coordinator.

Meridian Square Seeks Retail & Other Services

Meridian Square (www.meridian-square.com), the first Green Office Condominium building coming to the Oakland Mills Village Center is now actively seeking tenants for the ground floor of its new building. The four-story project is scheduled to be completed by Fall 2008. The ground floor is about 12,000 square feet and is envisioned for retail and/or service uses that will front directly onto Stevens Forest Road. The potential merchandise categories at the ground floor include health and beauty, real estate, financial and legal, food service and miscellaneous community retail.

Forward your opinions/feedback to **Olusola Seriki** at OSeriki@metroventures.com or via phone at 410-385-8922.

R.O.P.E Work Group Volunteers Needed!

Robert Oliver Place Enhancement - Background information: Oakland Mills received \$100K from Howard County to work in partnership with the Howard County Dept. of Planning & Zoning to enhance the public right of way on Robert Oliver Place between the two barns and the Interfaith Center. General Meetings at The Other Barn are scheduled for the 2nd & 4th Tuesday each month; 2nd Tuesday meetings are from 10am-11am & 4th Tuesday meetings are from 6:15pm-7:15pm.

– If you are interested in participating in the work group, please contact Sandy Cederbaum at 410.730.4610 or at omca@columbiavillages.org