

March 4, 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, March 26, 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

Oakland Mills Gears Up For its Annual Village Elections!

Candidate Packets are available at the Other Barn for those interested in running for office. Nomination Petitions must be returned by **Friday, March 14 at 5:00 p.m.**

The Oakland Mills Community Association will hold annual Village **Elections on Saturday, April 26**. OMCA is currently seeking candidates interested in running for the seven (7) open seats on the Oakland Mills Board and one open seat as the Oakland Mills Representative to the Columbia Council (CCR). All terms are one year.

The Nomination Period ends **Friday, March 14 at 5 p.m.** Nomination petitions and candidate information packets are available at The Other Barn. (Due to the renovation, please call prior to coming to pick up a candidate packet to make sure we are open).

The Oakland Mills Election Monitor Committee is a group of dedicated volunteers who assist on village election day. Village

Election Day is **Saturday, April 26**. Serving on this committee is a great way to help Oakland Mills and requires a very short time commitment.

The committee will hold a brief meeting on **March 3 at 7:00 p.m.** at The Other Barn.

Please join us. If you are unable to attend the meeting but wish to serve on the committee and assist on election day please contact **Sandy Cederbaum, 410-730-4610** or omca@columbiavillages.org

Third FY 2009 Citizens' Budget Meeting Scheduled for Thursday, March 6

County Executive Ken Ulman is inviting citizens to share their budget priorities at his third and final citizens' budget meeting for the FY2009 budget cycle on **Thursday, March 6 at 7:30 p.m., in the Banneker Room of the George Howard Building, 3430 Courthouse Drive in Ellicott City.**

Those who wish to testify at the meeting must sign-up in person and do so individually. One person signing up multiple people to testify will not be permitted. **Sign-up will begin at 6:30 p.m.**, and testimony will be heard on a first-to-sign-up, first-to-speak basis.

For those residents who would like to present their testimony via the internet, the form is available on-line by clicking on a link on the home page of the County's web site, www.howardcountymd.gov . Citizens are reminded that testimony submitted via the internet is considered public information and, as such, is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

A **sign language interpreter** can be requested for the meeting. To do so, please call the **Department of Citizen Services, 410-313-6400** or **410-313-6401 (TTY)** at least seven working days in advance of the meeting.

National Science Foundation (NSF) Science & Technology Scholarship Program- Applications Due March 1st!

Howard Community College's National Science Foundation (NSF) Science & Technology Scholarship Program is designed to support full-time students majoring in any of the following content areas:

Bioinformatics
Biotechnology
Computer Science
Engineering
Environmental Science
Life Science
Mathematics
Physical Science

Scholarships will be awarded for up to two years beginning in Fall 2008. Scholarships vary in amount up to \$6,000 per year and can be used for tuition, fees, books, supplies, equipment and other needs. Scholarship recipients will be part of a learning community. Each will be assigned a faculty mentor and participate in a range of activities related to their major.

Please note: Students qualifying for an NSF scholarship may also apply for other financial aid and scholarships.

For eligibility criteria and to apply application please visit http://www.howardcc.edu/admissions/pay/scholarship_programs/0809/nsf.html

Join the General Growth Properties Team for an Evening with Alan Ward- March 5th!

On **Wednesday, March 5, 2008**, join Columbia General Manager Greg Hamm and the General Growth Properties team for an Evening with Alan Ward, the first in a series of four community forums featuring GGP's world-class design and planning team working on the

master plan for Columbia Town Center. Mr. Ward is an internationally recognized landscape architect and urban designer with Sasaki Associates, Inc. Some of his notable projects include Cleveland Gateway in Ohio, Addison Circle Park in Texas, Reston Town Center in Virginia, 2008 Beijing Olympics Green in China and Renaissance Place in White Plains, New York. For more information about Sasaki Associates, Inc., visit www.sasaki.com

Time:

7:00 p.m. coffee and dessert

7:30 p.m. presentation begins

Location:

The Spear Center

General Growth Properties Building

10275 Little Patuxent Parkway

Columbia, MD 21044

To RSVP please send an email to rsvp@ggp.com

March Teen Health Matters at Howard County Library!

Family Communication Night: Safe Surfing

A two-part workshop for ages 11-15 with parent. Registration begins **February 26**; please call **(410.313.7781)** or visit the branch to register for both parts of the workshop.

Part 1: Representatives from the Maryland State Police Computer Crimes Division teach how to avoid Internet predators and cyber-bullies. Free dinner included.

Date: **Thursday, March 6; 6:30 - 8:30 pm**

Place: **East Columbia Branch**
6600 Cradlerock Way
Columbia, MD 21045

2008 Youth Entrepreneur of the Year Scholarship- Sponsored by Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement of Central Maryland is pleased to announce it will be **taking applications** for the Entrepreneur of the Year Award **till March 7, 2008**. The goal is to recognize high school students who have best embraced the entrepreneurial spirit in the Central Maryland Region.

The student selected as the Entrepreneur of the Year receives an award at the Junior Achievement 2nd Annual Celebrity Golf Classic Dinner, on **September 15, 2008**. He /She will be awarded \$700 to be used as funds for business development/seed money and will also be provided the opportunity to “shadow” a minimum of one business leader in the Central Maryland Region. In addition, his or her school will receive \$300.

For additional information on how to apply, please contact **JoAnn Goldberger at 443-394-7211 x226 or jgoldberger@jakids.com**

Spirit of Columbia Scholarship

The Columbia Association is accepting applications for the Spirit of Columbia Scholarship. Ups 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 17**. For more information, please call **410.715-3175**.

Join in the Annual PTA Council- “Give the Gift of Reading” Book Drive!

The Jeffers Hill PTA is helping in a countywide effort to collect **NEW** and **GENTLY USED** children’s books for distribution to children in Howard County!

Books collected may be used in Howard County school media centers, by classroom teachers, or by students who may wish to select books to take home for their own reading enjoyment.

We accept books from all reading levels—pre-school through high school. Please send in your books between **February 19th and March 7th**. Collection boxes are located in the **Jeffers Hill Elementary School lobby**.

Teen Job Fair Planned! - March 8th!

HC DrugFree's Teen Job and Volunteer Fair, sponsored by Howard County General Hospital, will be held **from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 8 at Long Reach High School in Columbia**

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**

Join the Board of Education for Coffee & Conversation- March 12th!

The Board of Education of Howard County regularly holds Coffee & Conversation sessions at schools throughout the county. These meetings provide citizens with an opportunity to share a cup of coffee and chat informally with Board members. The meetings are held in various regions of the county but interested persons from throughout the county are invited to attend any or all of the meetings.

The next Coffee & Conversation with the Board of Education will be held **Wednesday, March 12, 2008 7:30 – 9:00 pm Media Center at Fulton Elementary School**, 11600 Scaggsville Road in Fulton, MD.

Sign Up For the “Greenovation”: Energy Efficient Lighting Options!

The Green Building Institute is offering a course on Energy Efficient Lighting Options for your home. The course will modules will be addressed:

- What are the potential impacts of implementing energy efficient lighting solutions for residential and commercial applications?
- What are the advantages/disadvantages of the different energy efficient lighting devices (fluorescent CFL, CCFL, and Light Emitting Diode (LED))

- Where and how can I introduce these cost effective lighting solutions?
- Which solutions are "not ready for prime time"?
- How do energy efficient lamps integrate into a solar photovoltaic system or daylighting system?
- Can I get a federal tax credit for implementing / updating to energy efficient lighting?
- Discussion of emerging technologies including cold cathode compact fluorescent, dimmable fluorescents and ceramic metal halide

Date: Wednesday, **March 12, 2008**

Time:

6:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Check-In

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Energy Efficient Lighting Option

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

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

Women's Giving Circle Expands its Leadership Summer Camp in 2008!

The Women's Giving Circle of Howard County has expanded its residential summer camp, Journey, to include two groups of county students: 25 girls entering eighth and ninth grades in fall 2008, and 25 girls entering 10th, 11th and 12th grades in fall 2008.

Maryland Leadership Workshops Inc. will operate the camp, as it has for the past two years. The organization has been providing leadership training programs for Maryland middle and high school students for more than 50 years. The camp will run **July 20-26 at Washington College in Chestertown**. Student delegates to the program will live in the college dorms and eat in the cafeteria. The program includes workshops on empowerment and motivation, communication skills,

decision-making, group dynamics, self-awareness, goal-setting and conflict resolution. Small and large group programs will allow the girls to get feedback on their leadership and interpersonal skills. The camp also includes swimming, athletics, team-building games and a confidence course. The cost is \$550. Financial assistance is available. Applications are available in middle and high school guidance offices and at http://www.womensgivingcircle.org/info-url4834/info-url.htm?cat_id=1592 . Completed applications must be submitted by **March 14.**

For additional information please contact Colleen Taggart-D'Agrosa, 301-854-1107

Managed Deer Hunts at Blandair Park!

Next Date: March 18. For more information call 410-313-4700

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.

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**.

Important!! New State Application Process for Homestead Tax Credit

The Homestead Tax Credits are provided by both the State and County to limit the annual increase in taxable assessment on owner-occupied residential property. County Assessment increases are limited to 5% per year and State Assessment increases are limited to 10% per year.

What is this new application process?

As of **January 1, 2008**, the State will be implementing a new **APPLICATION PROCESS** for these credits. The implementation will be over a period extending to **December 31, 2012**. You will not have to apply for this credit every year.

When do I have to apply?

If your property is scheduled for reassessment in January 2008, your assessment packet will include an application for the Homestead Tax Credit. In order to continue to receive this credit, your application must be returned to the State by **April 1, 2008**.

If your property is scheduled for reassessment in January 2009, your assessment packet will include an application for the Homestead Tax Credit. In order to continue to receive this credit, your application must be returned to the State by **April 1, 2009**.

If your property is scheduled for reassessment in January 2010, your assessment packet will include an application for the Homestead Tax Credit. In order to continue to receive this credit, your application must be returned to the State by **April 1, 2010**.

Click here for further instructions on how to apply

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DOF/DOF_RealPropertyTaxInformation.htm#anch130397