



# DEB'S DISTRICT UPDATE

Deb Jung • District Four

November – December 2023

## *Greetings*

Holiday greetings! We are finally feeling some winter weather as we celebrate the many holidays of December. Whether you light candles for Hannukah, attend church and open presents on Christmas Day, or mark the seven principles of Kwanzaa, I hope you all enjoy the festivities of the month with family and friends.

I have had a fun start to December, touring schools in my district, visiting with Santa at Wilde Lake, and sharing holiday cheer with friends and family. This month, I was also elected Chair of the County Council, which begins a year of increased responsibilities leading the Council's public meetings and representing the Council at events.



This past year was dominated by the legislation involving the County's General Plan, the FY24 Budget's surprise \$144 million Library proposal, and bills that sought more government transparency and environmental measures. Though the Council is on recess in December, we are still grappling with two housing bills and a stream restoration bill, which will take time and deliberation to resolve. These bills have been tabled until the January 2024 Legislation Session.

I wish you all the best for a happy and healthy New Year!

*Deb*

# Council Updates

## November-December Legislation

The Council introduced the following bills on November 6. This is the last introduction session before the Council’s December recess.

Legislative highlights include:

**CR179 Housing Unit Allocations Chart** Changes the 10-year chart to the approved version adopted in HoCo By Design. Changes include a new category called “Activity Centers” with

600 units per year and “Affordable Housing” with 340 units per year; *County Executive Ball; Passed.*

**CR180 School Capacity Chart** A companion bill to CR179 that reintroduces the 2023 adopted capacity chart to be in compliance with the code requirement that the School Capacity Chart and the Housing Unit Allocations Chart pass concurrently; *County Executive Ball; Passed.*

## CR183 & CR184 Payment in Lieu of Taxes for Waverly Winds

Grants property tax breaks to finance the construction of the third property in the Enterprise portfolio. Waverly Winds will be redeveloped into a 123 unit high-rise apartment complex with 62% of the units at reduced rents for income-qualified individuals (less than 80% of the Area Median Income, or AMI) and 38% of the units at market rate.

This apartment complex is zoned for Swansfield Elementary, Harpers Choice Middle School and Wilde Lake High School. It borders two of the County’s highest poverty census tracts where 35.2% (Tract 6054.03) and 25.8% (Tract 6055.03) of the population has an income below 200% of the poverty level. *County Executive Ball; Passed.*

Unit Type	Current Count	Redeveloped Count
1 bedroom	6	50
2 bedroom	36	50
3 bedroom	11	14
4 bedroom	9	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>123</b>

Income Range	Count	Percent
At or below 50% AMI	43	35%
Up to 80% AMI	33	27%
Market Rate	47	38%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>100%</b>

Legislation: [click here](#).

# Council Updates

**CB41 APFO Housing Allocations** Updates the Code to reflect changes to the housing unit allocations categories adopted by HoCo By Design General Plan. *County Executive Ball; Passed as amended.*

This bill was submitted to the Council as a matter of housekeeping after the adoption of the General Plan but I identified a provision that reflected a matter of policy. This section stated that no more than 35% of the allocations from the Growth and Revitalization category could be granted in one planning area in one year. The intention was to prevent all of the 1200 units in the Growth and Revitalization category from being used in one place (ie Ellicott City, Elkridge, etc) in one year. While the Growth and Revitalization category was eliminated in HoCo By Design, I still felt that it was important for the APFO review group to consider the need for such a 35% limiter.

I considered several methods for how to retain this provision and achieve the bill's intended purpose of updating the Code to

match the General Plan. With the support of the Department of Planning and Zoning, I sponsored an amendment to reinstate the provision with the defunct Growth and Revitalization category accompanied by a directive to the APFO review group to consider this section. I appreciate my Council colleagues who supported this amendment.

**CB44 Rent Increase Cap** Sets a 10% annual increase cap on rent for apartment buildings more than 20 years old. *County Executive Ball; Tabled.*



## County Council Officers 2024

The Council elected new officers at the December Legislative Session.

- **Council**

Chair Deb Jung; Vice Chair Liz Walsh

- **Zoning Board**

Chair: Liz Walsh; Vice Chair: Dr. Opel Jones

- **Board of License Commissioner (Liquor Board)**

Chair: David Yungmann; Vice Chair: Dr. Opel Jones

- **Maryland Association of Counties, Legislative Committee**

Delegate: Christiana Rigby; Alternate: David Yungmann

# Council Updates

**CB45 Healthy Children’s Meals** Requires independent restaurants with children’s menus to provide at least two healthy meal choices meeting specific nutritional, food and drink type, and serving size requirements. These requirements do not apply to national food chains. *Councilmember Liz Walsh; Tabled*

**CB44 Right of First Refusal** Adds non-profits and private entities as having first opportunity to make an offer on apartments for sale; *County Executive Ball; Tabled*

## Council Upcoming Meetings

January 2, 7pm — Legislative Session  
January 9, 9:30am — Monthly Meeting  
January 16, 7pm — Public Hearing  
January 23, 9:30am — Work Session  
Click [here](#) for more.



**Howard County** Martin Luther King Jr Holiday Commission

**Calvin Ball**  
County Executive

**Howard County**  
Office of Human Rights & Equity

# SAVE THE DATES

HOWARD COUNTY HONORS THE LIFE & LEGACY OF  
**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

"Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in,"  
Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

**CELEBRATION | SUNDAY, JAN 14, 2024**  
**DAY OF SERVICE | MONDAY, JAN 15, 2024**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
MLK@HOWARDCOUNTY.MD.GOV  
(410) 313-6430

@HOCOOHRE

A black and white portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. smiling, wearing a suit and tie. The background is a dark, textured pattern.

Subscribe to my newsletter: click [here](#).

# County & Community Updates

## County Poet Laureate

*Deadline January 9*

Howard County's first Poet Laureate program is looking to fill this two-year position, a new venture in partnership with the Howard County Arts Council and the Howard County Poetry & Literature Society (HoCoPoLitSo). This program celebrates our unwavering commitment to the arts and provides a platform for a Poet Laureate to advocate for the importance of poetry, literature, and the arts in our vibrant community.

## Housing Opportunities Notice

*Deadline January 12*

A second round of funding from the Housing Opportunities Trust Fund has opened up to proposals to implement the actions identified in the Housing Opportunities Master Plan. Click [here](#) for more.

## Crime & Traffic Dashboard

The Police Department has launched an interactive crime and traffic reports dashboard, searchable by type of violation, zip code, and time period. Click [here](#) for more.

## Emergency Room Wait Times

Maryland hospitals rank among the worst in the nation for emergency room wait times. The average wait time is eight hours at the State's 40 hospitals, according to the Maryland Health Services Cost Review Commission. The Commission reported that Howard Coun-

ty's hospital has an average median wait time of nearly 13 hours from arrival at the Emergency Department to Inpatient admission. Our County's only hospital ranks among the top nine hospitals in the State with "very high" patient volume and the longest wait times within that category.

The hospital recently broke ground on a new County-funded Behavioral Health Unit that will provide 24 beds set to open in December 2024. This new unit will increase capacity for mental health issues by 19 beds and will have room for group and individual therapy and family visits.

## Project Elevate

Howard Community College will partner with the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services and the Howard County Public School System to reduce youth entry into the criminal justice system while promoting high school completion and providing pathways to post-secondary education through dual enrollment. Click [here](#) for more.



# Giving Season: Donation Requests

HopeWorks is low on items that help the organization serve their clients affected by domestic violence and abuse. Click [here](#) for more.

Red Cross is experiencing a critical need for blood donors of all types. Click [here](#) for more.

Leona Dorsey Day Resource Center for homeless residents requests pantry staples for their food bank, adult clothing and shoes. Click [here](#) for more.

Community Action Council (CAC) helps families in economic distress with food donations and financial assistance to prevent homelessness and pay for utility bills. Click [here](#) for more.

Bridges to Housing Stability helps families facing housing insecurity. Consider a monetary donation to support their mission. Click [here](#) for more.

Bright Minds: Howard County Public Schools Education Foundation raises funds for academic programs, grants, and scholarships for economically disadvantaged students. Click [here](#) for more.

Howard County Family Support Center and CAC are requesting financial donations for the annual Diaper Drive. Click [here](#) for more.

## Columbia Community Care, Inc. MOST NEEDED ITEMS FOR PANTRY & DISTRIBUTION SITES

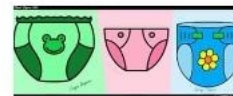
### FOOD:

- CANNED PROTEINS: TUNA, CHICKEN, HAM, VIENNA SAUSAGES, SPAM
- CANNED BEANS (NOT Green Beans), TOMATOES, CORN, AND FRUITS
- CANNED SOUPS, CHILI, STEWS, READY-TO-EAT MEALS
- RICE, DRIED BEANS
- PASTA AND PASTA SAUCES
- RAMEN, CUP-A-NOODLES, MAC & CHEESE
- PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY
- COLD AND HOT CEREALS
- JUICE BOXES AND SHELF-STABLE MILK
- GRANOLA BARS, INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED COOKIES AND SNACKS



### PERSONAL ITEMS:

- DIAPERS (SIZES 3-6), PULL-UPS (all sizes) AND BABY WIPES
- TOOTHPASTE
- LIQUID HAND SOAP
- BAR SOAP
- SHAMPOO
- DEODORANT
- DISPOSABLE RAZORS
- PERIOD PRODUCTS




*Did you know?*  
1 in 4 struggle to make ends meet.

## Lend a Helping Hand

### Most Needed Items

- ✔ Bags of Rice
- ✔ Pasta & Sauce
- ✔ Spices
- ✔ Soups
- ✔ Tuna
- ✔ Peanut Butter
- ✔ Sauces & Condiments
- ✔ Bags of Dry Beans
- ✔ Hot & Cold Cereal
- ✔ 100% Fruit Juice
- ✔ Diapers (size 4+)
- ✔ Feminine Hygiene

### Drop Off Location

 **Howard County Food Bank**  
9385 Gerwig Lane, Unit J  
Columbia, MD 21046  
Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
[www.cac-hc.org](http://www.cac-hc.org)

# District 4 School Visits

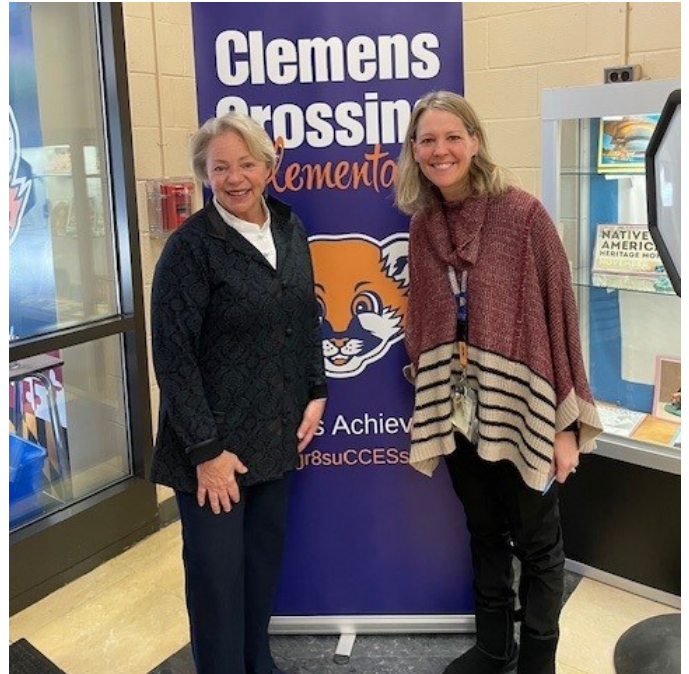
We have such hard-working and dedicated professionals teaching and nurturing the children of District 4. Thank you for showing me around your schools.



Bryant Woods Elementary School has a Harry Potter-inspired behavior incentive program that really captures the kids' imagination. In the background are the seals representing the various "houses" that the kids are assigned to. Membership in these houses is a point of pride for the students. I am pictured with Principal Danielle Shanks and the school counselor Dana Schwalenberg.



River Hill Assistant Principal Kareem Penn



Clemens Crossing Principal Michelle Leader



Wilde Lake High School's Abisola Ayoola, recently appointed as the student member of the State Board of Education.

## District 4 School Visits



This Bryant Woods teacher was nominated by the school staff to receive a certificate of appreciation.



One of my daughter's favorite Wilde Lake High School teachers: art teacher Matthew Pickett



# School Updates



## Superintendent Dr. Martirano Retirement

It is with a heavy heart that I share that Dr. Martirano is retiring. I have been so impressed by his leadership of HCPSS through challenging times and I have enjoyed working with him through the budget process. Click [here](#) for his retirement announcement to the HCPSS community.

Bill Barnes has been selected as the Acting Superintendent starting January 10 while a national search for a new Superintendent is conducted.

## Budget Calendar

HCPSS is beginning the process of developing the FY25 Operating Budget. Click [here](#).

## Nominations Open!

HCPSS Principal and Teacher of the Year awards

Click [here](#) for more



## Students Ride Free

Howard County Students are now able to ride RTA public transit for free through access from their devices. Click here for more.

## Homework Help

Howard County Library System connects families to Brainfuse, an online tutoring system. This interactive service helps students from kindergarten through 12th grade by immediately connecting them to a qualified tutor in a specific subject, such as math, reading, science, social studies, writing and English/language arts. Click [here](#) for more.

## Apply for JROTC

*Deadline January 5*

Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) programs are offered at Atholton (Army), Howard (Army) and Oakland Mills (Air Force) high schools. Each JROTC program provides an introduction to career opportunities in the U.S. Armed Forces and teaches principles of leadership, discipline, and civic responsibility.

Students interested in JROTC may apply for participation regardless of their assigned school. Click [here](#) for more.

# Upcoming Events

## New Year's Eve Bash

December 31, 9pm

Click [here](#) for more

The Collective Offshore on the Lakefront will feature live music, premium bar, and hor d'oeuvres for sending off the old year.

## Holiday Lights

Want to share your holiday light displays with County residents? Register your dancing Santas, prancing reindeers, and other holiday cheer on the County's Holiday Lights map; click [here](#) for more.

## Merriweather Symphony of Lights

now until January 1

Click [here](#) for more.

Walk-through or drive-through the County's annual celebration of light displays in Symphony Woods. The New Year's Eve extravaganza includes a fireworks show.

## Columbia Orchestra 2023 Season

Click [here](#) for more.

- Give the Drummer Some Jazz Band Concert: January 26

## Robinson Nature Center

Click [here](#) for more.

Stay in touch with nature even in the cold months with a visit to the Robinson Nature Center. Special programming in December and January includes kids' nature walks, family campfires, and planetarium nights.

## Harriet Tubman Cultural Center

Click [here](#) for more.

The Recreation and Parks Department holds a full roster of art, dance, community choir, family braiding, music lessons, classes, and workshops.

