



DEB'S DISTRICT UPDATE

Deb Jung • District Four

Greetings

Women's History Month is now! I am so inspired by the many women who are being profiled in March for their professional and personal successes. I am especially encouraged by the ongoing campaign for income equality and pay equity for women.

From a legal perspective, equal pay is when women and men make the same income doing the exact same job. But I would like to highlight a related concept known as comparable worth. This is also known as pay equity and is when there is equal pay for work of equal value. In professions dominated by women, wages are often lower compared to similar professions dominated by men.

I know a little bit about this topic because I wrote a prize-winning essay on it when I was a first-year law student for the National Women's Judges Association. I researched instances of comparable worth and how to make a legal argument in support of pay equity. At the time, employment cases were limited to equal pay only. I won the contest, which included a visit to the U.S. Supreme Court and a ceremony presided over by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

This issue persists today as women leave the workforce due to the COVID health crisis because their economic contribution is as significant as their partners and can be sacrificed when at-home caretaking responsibilities increase. Leaving the workforce for a period of time puts women behind their male counterparts in achievement and earning potential. For this Women's History Month, I urge us all to champion the need for comparable worth for women.

Deb

Subscribe to my newsletter [here](#).

Council Updates

MARCH LEGISLATION

The following legislation was introduced on March 7 and will be voted on April 4.

CR29 PATUXENT COMMONS PILOT & APFO WAIVER

This 76-unit low- and moderate-income apartment development at the corner of Freetown Road and Cedar Lane will include 19 units intended for disabled persons. This legislation will grant \$1.2 million in tax breaks over 20 years to help finance the overall project, which will cost approximately \$488,000 per unit to construct.

Because the assigned elementary school of Clemens Crossing is at 108.1% capacity, the project also needs a waiver from APFO, which would require a multi-year construction wait.

On March 29, the Council held a Worksession on the legislation. In a memo from the Department of Planning and Zoning, the project is expected to yield 36 total students and an upcoming redistricting plan could provide an opportunity to reassign students at Clemens. The memo also indicated that nearby schools with available capacity includes Swansfield Elementary, which has a FARM percentage of 43.1%. The Board of Education voted at its January 27 meeting that redistricting to establish boundaries for the new High School #13 would not be a County-wide adjustment.

The Council has approved two other low-to-moderate-income apartment projects that are either currently assigned to Swansfield (Robinson Overlook) or could potentially be assigned to Swansfield (Roslyn Rise) because of overcrowding at assigned schools.

The Worksession discussion highlighted the need for coordinating school capacity scenarios with APFO waivers as I've proposed in CB9. I continue to struggle with the obvious need for affordable housing and the unacceptable byproduct of overcrowding schools or concentrating poverty at Columbia's elementary schools.

I have met with resistance from affordable housing advocates who are adamant that the selected locations for these projects outweigh any effect on the local schools. I fail to understand how building housing for low income families in low income schools deconcentrates poverty. We are a rich county in the aggregate but we have increasing pockets of poverty that are being further segregated through our housing policies and school boundary assignments. My primary ask from the stakeholders, from the housing advocates to HCPSS, is to get together and discuss real solutions to reach the goal of housing integration so that the children of the janitors and the executives also go to the same school.

Council Updates

CB16 OPIOID ABATEMENT RESERVE FUND

Creates a non-lapsing fund to receive revenue from the settlement of opioids damages litigation. County Executive

CB17 BOND SALE ELLICOTT CITY FLOOD MITIGATION EFFORTS

During the FY2022 Budget, the Council approved a loan application for \$75 million to the Environmental Protection Agency. This bill issues the sale of bonds to fund the project.

FEBRUARY LEGISLATION

The Council held its voting and introduction session on March 7.

MY LEGISLATION

CR30 SUPPORT FOR STATE BWI NOISE IMPACTS COMMISSION

This resolution expresses the Council's support for SB658 and HB1103, which creates a commission to study and recommend policies that balance BWI growth with the health and environmental impacts of airport operations on affected communities. *Passed*

CB9 APFO WAIVER PROCESS

The Council has approved a number of tax breaks for low- to -moderate-income rental housing projects in overcrowded school districts. The current process promotes housing but lacks coordination with HCPSS planning efforts. My bill will require notice and infor-

mation sharing for better planning. *Tabled*

OTHER LEGISLATION

CB7 & CB8 MODERATE INCOME HOUSING IN PLANNED GOLF COURSE COMMUNITIES

Requires Turf Valley to provide 15% of its planned units as moderate income units. Liz Walsh, *Tabled*

CB14 SPECIMEN TREE CATALOGING

Requires developers to list each tree and its species with a diameter of 24" or more. Christiana Rigby; *Passed*

CB13 PUBLIC NOTICE SIGNS REMOVAL

Posted signs must be removed 15 days after the advertised event or face a fine. County Executive; *Passed as amended*

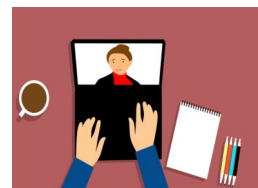
Council Legislation:
Click [here](#).

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

April 4, 7pm — Legislative Work Session

April 6, 1pm — Monthly Meeting

April 25, 1pm — Legislative Work Session



Council Updates

CB15 PLANNING BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Requires a Planning Board member from each Councilmanic district, at least one member from the Rural Residential or Rural Conservation and New Town. Liz Walsh and David Yungmann; *Passed as amended*

SAO3 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING CONTINGENCY FUND TRANSFER

\$6.56 million will be transferred to gap funding for Enterprise Homes Ranleigh Court project, Patuxent Commons, and the County's home ownership program. *Tabled*

CR140-143 SOLAR PILOTS

These resolutions extend Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for solar electricity generation on agricultural land. I shepherded these resolutions to passage with an amendment that required a public benefit to County residents. Solar producers receive a larger tax break if 50% or more of their energy is subscribed to by Howard County entities. County Executive; *Passed as amended*

ZONING BOARD UPDATES

CB77-2021 is now in effect and Zoning Board cases will be initially heard by the Hearing Examiner except under certain conditions. The Zoning Board is currently working on a revision of the Rules of Procedure to include the Hearing Examiner as a fact-finder for the board. Presentation of these updates to the public is anticipated for the Board's March meeting. Click [here](#) for more.

PRE-SUBMISSION MEETINGS

Cedar Lane Overlook: 4/19/2022, 6pm for age-restricted adult housing on 8.916 acres at 6547 Cedar Lane; sign code 1 7 22. Click [here](#) for more.

Budget is Coming
Click [here](#) for the Council's FY23 Budget Calendar.

MARYLAND COMPTROLLER **PETER FRANCHOT** ANNOUNCES A

30-DAY

GAS TAX HOLIDAY

MARCH 18

THRU APRIL 16



WWW.MARYLANDTAXES.GOV

General Assembly

BWI NOISE LEGISLATION

On March 9 and 10, I testified in support of State Senator Clarence Lam and Delegate Terri Hill's companion bills (SB 658 & HB 1103), which would create a commission to study and recommend policies that would balance growth at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall (BWI) Airport and other state airports with the safety and health impacts that airport operations have on surrounding communities. This legislation would establish a committee of community members and experts appointed by the General Assembly and the Governor. Adding to the urgency is the announcement that over \$158 million in Federal infrastructure funds have been secured to support airport growth and enhancements over the next five years.



Members of the BWI Roundtable and Anne Arundel County Executive testifying in Annapolis.



HOWARD COUNTY DELEGATION

The 2022 General Assembly convened on January 12. The Howard County Delegation has moved its recommended local bills to the larger body. The most recent Delegation meeting included a briefing by Senator Chris Van Hollen on American Rescue Plan, which was passed in March 2021. The State of Maryland received \$3.8 billion through this source. The Federal Infrastructure bill will bring \$7 billion to Maryland

over the next five years that would include transit expansion, roads, bridges, tunnels, and broadband. The U.S. Senate has been unable to pass the House version of the Build Back Better bill. The Senator is hoping that the final bill will include these key pieces: reducing the cost of prescription drugs and child care and climate-friendly investments. Howard County has been named a finalist in a grant for workforce development. Proposed funds in the Federal budget for Howard County projects include \$500,000 for a new outpatient mental health clinic at Grassroots and \$250,000 for Patuxent Commons.

Business Spotlight

Starting this month, I will be shining a spotlight on District 4's service, retail, and restaurant businesses. I'm so impressed by the passion and skill that these businesses bring to their professions and to the community.

If you would like to be featured or have a recommendation for locally owned businesses, send me an email at djung@howardcountymd.gov.

MAPLE LAWN

To kick off this new feature (**Business Spotlight**), I spent St. Patrick's Day in Maple Lawn visiting businesses that make this neighborhood's mixed-use designation a success. Thanks for sharing your time and stories with me.

Lewicky, O'Connor, Hunt & Meiser Law Firm

I met Eleanor Hunt at a recent event for the African Art Museum of Maryland. She practi-



es family and estate law and has children in Maple Lawn's public schools. During my tour of her office on Maple Lawn Boulevard, we discussed the firm's practice areas, including employment, business incorporation, and government contracting law. She's smart, funny, and an engaged resident. I look forward to seeing her at more social events.

Bra La La

So many of us short-change ourselves when it comes to the one article of clothing that is needed for our most fundamental transitions



in life, from childhood to maturity and motherhood to menopause. Mary Jordan turns a chore into an experience to find just the right fit at any age and specializes in hard-to-fit sizes, post mastectomy, and special occasions.

Hudson Coastal Raw Bar & Grill

Tricia and Brad Hudson are a dynamic couple, raising their kids right here in Howard County, building a successful neighborhood restaurant frequented by regulars, and advocating for the industry in various civic organizations.

Business Spotlight

Brad can recount the rise of fast casual restaurants where he learned the trade and Tricia brings a lot of heart through personal connections with her staff and patrons. The beachy cottage decor sets a classy but casual mood for this homegrown seafood restaurant.

Diners are welcomed with a plate of house-made cheddar muffins that combine savory and sweet into an addictive morsel. Their cocktail crushes nursed a lot of Maple Lawn residents through the lockdown. And their air filtration system brings an added level of hygiene and health security to the COVID recovery period. Hudson Coastal is worth a visit from all the corners of the County.



HoCo By Design: General Plan

In March, public meetings presented Dynamic Neighborhoods, a draft General Plan theme chapter. Dynamic Neighborhoods are places that provide an exceptional quality of life, attainable and diverse housing, and opportunities for all to thrive through access and connections to neighborhood amenities, such as community centers, parks, schools, and jobs. Click [here](#) for more.

Current Housing Type Overview

- Age restricted: 4%
- Low-density detached in the Rural West: 12%
- Low-density detached in the rest of the County: 40%
- Medium density: 22%
- High density: 22%



Diversifying Housing Types

The Dynamic Neighborhoods chapter discusses ways to build different housing types in areas where these types aren't currently allowed by the Zoning Regulations.

Zoning & Regulations Proposed Changes

- Reduce parking and lot sizes (lot width and lot area).
- Allow transfer development rights and density bonuses.
- Provide tax incentives for developers and/or land owners.
- Adjust APFO regulations to allow more housing.
- Adjust regulations to support infill development.
- Expand MIHU in areas with less housing diversity.
- Eliminate bulk regulations that may preclude certain housing types by right.
- Evaluate housing overlays in activity centers or transportation corridors.

Missing Middle Housing Types

- Duplex and multiplex homes compatible with existing neighborhoods.
 - Develop the Rural West with missing middle housing types using shared or multi-use sewerage system technologies.
 - Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), attached and detached apartments, were limited in the 1971 Zoning Regulations.
-

School Updates

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration is now underway. Every child who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2022, is required to attend kindergarten. The earlier you register your child for public kindergarten, the more advanced notice principals have to plan staffing requests. Begin your online application [here](#).

MAY 2: NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Schools will be closed for students on May 2 in recognition of Eid al-Fitr. It will be a professional day for staff. Click [here](#) for more.

INDOOR MASK MANDATE LIFTED

On February, the Howard County Board of Education voted to lift its indoor mask mandate for schools. Masks are now optional in school buildings. Click [here](#) for more.

YOUTH ART MONTH EXHIBITION

Artwork by HCPSS students are on display at the Howard County Center of the Arts from now until April 2. The theme of the exhibit is "Discarded: What's Worth Saving."

Click [here](#) for more.

POST-HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING SERIES

Virtual workshops are available to high school students across the county to help them pre-

pare for life after graduation. These workshops focus on topics such as financial aid, college applications process, apprenticeships, and the military. Click [here](#) for more.

2021 RECORD HIGH GRADUATION RATES

The HCPSS class of 2021 has achieved the highest graduation rate (94.05%) since 2011. This is higher than the Maryland graduation rate, which is 87.2%. Click [here](#) for more.

GT ORCHESTRA & BSO PERFORMANCE

On March 4, HCPSS' High School Gifted and Talented (GT) Orchestra performed with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (BSO) at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall. This combined orchestra was led by BSO's assistant conductor Jonathan Rush, performed pieces by Brahms and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, and featured solos by GT students.

CONGRATULATIONS

FRIENDS OF EDUCATION WINNER

The BOE will recognize Ying Matties, founder of Community Allies of Rainbow Youth (CARY), at the April 7 meeting for her exemplary volunteer contributions to HCPSS. The Board will also acknowledge award nominees: Amanda Wang, Okinawan Karate Dojo, and EnRich Minds.

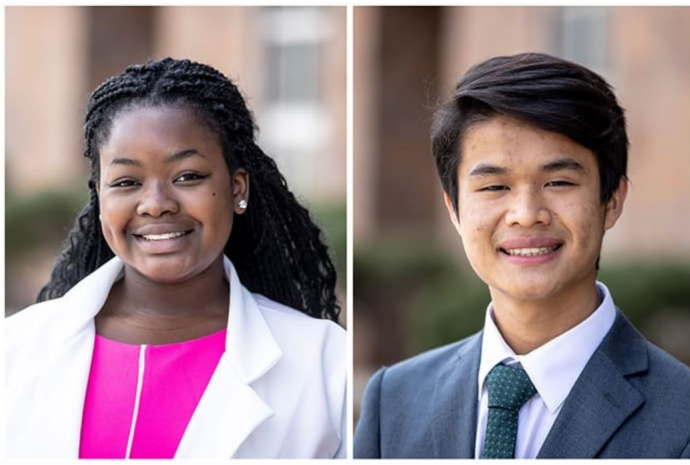


BOE NEWS: [CLICK HERE.](#)

School Updates

STUDENT MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ELECTION

Congratulations to the two Wilde Lake High School students who are running for the 2022-23 Student Member of the Board of Education. Abisola Ayoola and Oliver Song were chosen by a delegation of 138 students (six from each high school and three from each middle school) at a March 22 convention. The election will be held May 4.



REDISTRICTING FOR HS #13

New High School #13 is scheduled to open for the 2023-24 school year with 1,658 seats. The school is located near Mission Road and Washington Boulevard (Rt. 1) in Jessup, within the current Hammond High School attendance area. The communities located in the eastern part of Howard County are most likely to be impacted by this redistricting process.

On January 27, 2022, the Howard County Board of Education directed that HCPSS initiate the boundary review process outlined in Policy 6010 School Attendance Areas to establish an attendance area for New High School #13.

Changes in school attendance areas as a result of this process will take effect beginning the 2023-24 school year.

Click here for more:

[Redistricting Presentation](#)

[Online Survey](#)

[Timeline](#)

GRADUATION DATES

High School graduation ceremonies will be held at Merriweather Post Pavilion this year. The schedule of graduation ceremonies for D4 schools are as follows:

Tuesday, May 31

- 7:00 p.m. – Reservoir High School

Thursday, June 2

- 11:00 a.m. – Atholton High School
- 3:00 p.m. – Wilde Lake High School
- 7:00 p.m. – River Hill High School



BOE NEWS: [CLICK HERE.](#)

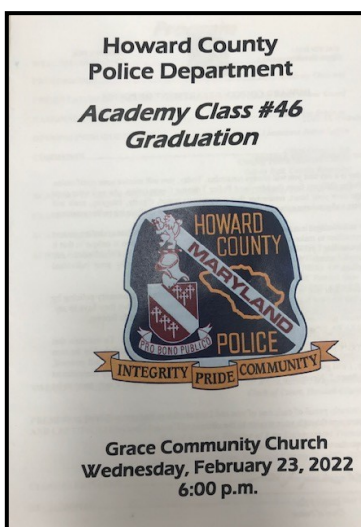
Keeping up with Deb



I was invited to meet with Dr. Daria Willis in her Conversation Corner decorated with a stunning red couch to discuss her inspiring personal story, plans for Howard Community College, and making a home in Columbia. Welcome Dr. Willis. I look forward to more couch convos.



Association of Community Services Conversation with the County Council



Howard County Police Academy Class #46 Graduation

County Updates

GREEN FEST

April 9, 10am-3pm

Vendor applications are now being accepted for Howard County's annual GreenFest to be held at Howard Community College.

20 MINUTE CLEANUP

Howard County residents are invited to participate in the Countywide Cleanup Month. Dedicate 20 minutes in April to pick up litter in your neighborhood. Show your community spirit by posting a picture of your good work to #20MinuteCleanup. Click [here](#) for more.

CELEBRATING ANNE ROBINSON

In celebration of Women's History Month, the Department of Recreation and Parks recently recognized Anne Robinson, who donated her property and funds for the Robinson Nature Center. She would have celebrated her 107th birthday on March 14. In 1957, Anne and her husband James purchased 20 acres on Cedar Lane. They were both avid nature lovers. After decades of walking the woods, Anne sold her wooded oasis to the County so that it would be shielded from development and preserved for environmental education.

FIGHT FLOODING WITH FLOODING

Good garden design, including well situated depressions of rocks and plantings, can catch and absorb water from downspouts so that it doesn't flood your yard, the neighbors' yard, the street, or the overloaded streams that



feed the Chesapeake Bay. Rain gardens are a key component in effective stormwater management on private property. This rain garden guide can help you transform a troublesome spot into a model for environmental citizenship. Click [here](#) for more.

The County will begin accepting applications on April 1 for CleanScapes, a program that improves stormwater controls on homeowner's properties. The program evaluates yards for placement and installation of rain gardens, permeable pavers, conservation landscaping, and more. Property tax breaks help offset installation costs; click [here](#) for more.

GREEN APPLE AWARDS

Deadline April 1

Nominate a teacher who goes above and beyond to educate students about environmental awareness. Click [here](#) for more.

Community Updates

BACKYARD BUFFER PROGRAM

With the spring thaw, many backyards are now soggy mud pits. And nearby streams and waterways look more and more like mini-Grand Canyons. Climate change, increased impervious surfaces in the built environment, and decades of inadequate stormwater management have taken a serious toll on the land's ability to absorb rainwater without creating points of erosion and flooding. Modern landscaping practices of mowed lawns add to the problem. Alternatives that help slow water for better absorption can be incorporated into the home garden. Every year, the State gives away native tree and shrub seedlings to help build backyard buffers that slow erosion and sediment runoff into waterways, improves water quality, and adds natural beauty. Click [here](#) for more.

NON-PROFIT SPOTLIGHT: NATIONAL FAMILY RESILIENCY CENTER

The National Family Resiliency Center (NFRC) helps families transition through the dissolution of a marriage. NFRC's skilled professionals guide parents through this painful and traumatic process in an effort to reduce the impact on children. Several free virtual programs provide children and adults tools for resiliency. Weekly support groups for adults are free and provide important social connections for processing grief and engaging with the other parent as a partner in the business of child rearing. Howard County's Circuit

VILLAGE NEWS

click for more

Wilde Lake

Harper's Choice

Hickory Ridge

River Hill

Town Center

Court mandates NFRC's parent-education seminars that provide a framework for reaching an amicable custody arrangement. Starting in the pandemic, these in-person classes were offered online so that parents can now take the course in the safety and convenience of their own homes. Click [here](#) for more.

HOWARD COUNTY ENDS LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

On March 21, the County state of emergency was lifted. County employees may now travel out of state for related business and the liberal leave policy has ended. County-owned meeting rooms and other shared spaces will revert to their fire-safety occupancy number. Click [here](#) for more.

Upcoming Events

Click [here](#) for more.

Mother Goose
On The Loose
Hatchlings

Get ready for baby



Ready to Hatch

is an interactive early literacy program for expectant parents. Learn more about your baby-to-be through songs and fun activities.

FREE book, calendar and song sheet for attendees!

Space is limited to expectant parents.

Please choose one date to attend. Registration Required.

Wednesday, April 27, 6:30-7:30 pm

The Family Institute
Howard County Office of Children and Families
9830 Patuxent Woods Drive
Columbia, MD 21046

Tuesday, June 7, 6:30-7:30 pm

The Family Institute
Howard County Office of Children and Families
9830 Patuxent Woods Drive
Columbia, MD 21046

TO SIGN UP:
Visit [howardcountymd.gov/
FamilyInstitute](http://howardcountymd.gov/FamilyInstitute)

or call 410-313-5992



Wednesday, May 18, 10-11 am

The Judy Center
Owen Brown Community Center
6800 Cradlerock Way
Columbia, MD 21045

TO SIGN UP:
Visit bit.ly/MGOL-JudyCenter

or call 410-313-1950



FUN FACTS

Reading and singing helps your baby's brain and language development.

Reciting nursery rhymes and singing songs helps your baby get ready to learn to read.

Babies exposed to books and reading grow up to become children who perform better in school.



**HOWARD COUNTY
LIBRARY SYSTEM**
Public Education for All



**Maryland
State Library**

Upcoming Events

HOLI CELEBRATION

April 23, 11am

Free

Celebrate Holi, the spring festival of color, with an Indian-style dance party and traditional throwing of colored powder.

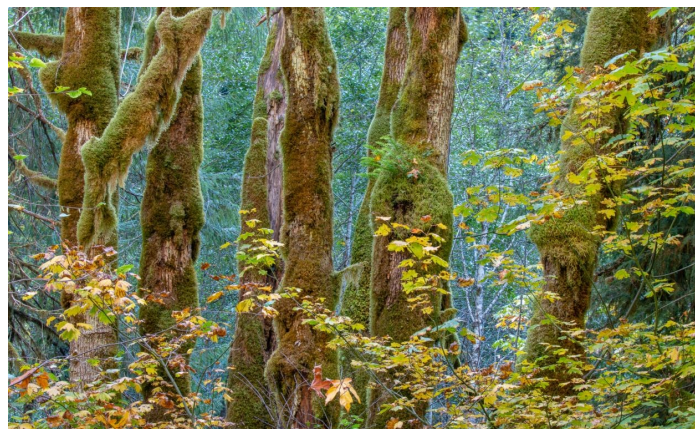


The Bernice Kish Gallery

Slayton House

April 26– June 3

The gallery will feature a solo exhibit by Emily Carter Mitchell and her nature and wildlife photography.



THE CHRYSALIS

Click [here](#) for more.

April 24, 5pm Music of Stage & Screen: Song of Hope with Maryland Winds

May 1, 11am Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Festival

COLUMBIA ORCHESTRA

Jim Rouse Theater

Click [here](#) for more.

May 21, 7.30pm Mahler's First Symphony



ROBINSON NATURE CENTER

From egg hunts to star-gazing, Robinson Nature Center has a ton of activities to celebrate spring. Click [here](#) for more.

Click [here](#) for more.

Upcoming Events

All are welcome!

JOIN US IN THE PARK FOR
**WORLD
AUTISM
ACCEPTANCE DAY**



Saturday, April 2 • 10am-2pm

Laura's Place Playground

Blandair Regional Park - North, Columbia, MD

All ages • Free

Celebrate Autism Acceptance Day! Visit with first responders, elected representatives and learn about the autism community.

Enjoy interactive play, entertainers, face painting, music, and free ice cream!