



# DEB'S DISTRICT UPDATE

Deb Jung • District Four

## *Greetings*

February is Black History Month and Howard County is fortunate to have many resources available to our residents to celebrate and learn about the many contributions of African Americans to the County. See page 16 of my newsletter for links to these resources.

On a more personal note, one of my roommates in college during my year abroad was Charles Randolph Wright. Charles and I earned enough credits in our London-based Syracuse University program to graduate as the first students with drama degrees from Duke University. Charles pursued his love of theatre and went to New York where he has produced, directed, and written numerous plays focused on black history makers and the lives of African Americans. Click [here](#) for more Charles.



I have seen two of Charles' plays at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., and I plan to see his upcoming *American Prophet: Frederick Douglass In His Own Words*, which will be making its world premier at the Arena from July 15 through August 28. I don't normally make individual plugs like this, but I am proud of my friend, his body of work, and his promotion of Black artists in the performing arts, so I am choosing to celebrate Charles this month. Click [here](#) for more about the play.

There is also a lot to report on the legislative front since we had two months of legislation in February, as well as state legislation to follow and support. Please take a minute to read about our BWI legislation; Senator Lam and Delegate Hill have introduced important bills to address airplane noise. I also want to thank my intern Lily Shangloo who has provided helpful summaries of the State Delegation's discussions and final actions on local bills. I am grateful for her assistance.

*Deb*

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# BWI Noise

## BWI NOISE COMMISSION BILL

**Bill Name:** Maryland Aviation Infrastructure Impacts Commission

**Senate Bill Number:** [SB658](#), Sponsored by Senators Lam, Elfreth, Guzzone, Hester, and Reilly

**House Bill Number:** [HB1103](#), Sponsored by Delegates Ebersole, Feldmark, Terrasa, and Hill



SB658 and HB1103 will establish a Commission to study the public health and environmental impacts of commercial aviation on individuals residing in communities surrounding Baltimore-Washington International (BWI) Thurgood Marshall Airport and other commercial airports. The Commission will make recommendations to the General Assembly based on their studies.

The Commission will be made up of a majority of people from communities impacted by BWI aircraft noise. It will augment the efforts of the BWI Roundtable, which has been working with the Maryland and Federal Aviation Administrations (MAA & FAA) to mitigate the impacts of navigation technology (NextGen) that directs commercial planes over a narrow corridor of residential neighborhoods.

**Submit Testimony:** Written testimony can be submitted [here](#). Create an account, click

"Witness Signup," and select the bill's assigned times. Click [here](#) for an online tutorial.

Submission times:

- **SB658:** March 8, 4 p.m. to March 9, 10 a.m.
- **HB 1103:** March 8, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**In person Testimony:**

Register for "Oral Testi-

mony" online [here](#). Testimony times:

- **Senate:** in person only, March 9, 1 p.m., Finance Committee, Room 3, East Miller Senate Building, 11 Bladen St., Annapolis
- **House:** virtual only, March 10, 1 p.m.

## SUBMIT EMAILS

Contact members of the respective Committees prior to the hearing dates and ask for their support.

- **SB658** is being heard by the Finance Committee (Chair Senator Delores Kelley and Vice Chair Senator Brian Feldman). Click [here](#) for more.
- **HB1103** is before the Appropriations Committee (Chair Delegate Maggie McIntosh and Vice Chair Delegate Mark Chang). Click [here](#) for more.
- **Howard County Delegation:** Email our local Delegation (many of whom are sponsors) a note of support and encouragement as the bills move through the assigned Committees. Click [here](#) for the Delegations' contact information.

# BWI Noise

## BWI ROUNDTABLE: A SHORT HISTORY

The DC Metroplex BWI Community Roundtable was created by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and began meetings in March 2017. The Charter of the Roundtable specifies that the purpose of the organization is to work towards reverting the BWI flight paths to pre-NextGen configuration.

For the first three years, the Roundtable

worked diligently towards this goal. For half that time, the FAA collaborated with the Roundtable until the State of Maryland and Howard County filed lawsuits against the FAA regarding NextGen's impacts on residents.

The Roundtable continued with its work towards modifications of the flight patterns and procedures with support from the Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) and an aviation consultancy firm. The Roundtable submitted its requested modifications, including adjusting flight altitudes, to the FAA in November 2019. The FAA finally took no action in spring 2021 and will be presenting a response to the Roundtable's requested modifications at an upcoming meeting.

As a member of the Roundtable, I worked with other members, namely Mary Reese and Jesse Chancellor, in 2019 to lobby the General Assembly for legislative assistance.

Subsequently, Senator Lam and Delegate Hill sponsored successful legislation (SB184-2020 & HB310-2020) for a health study of BWI's noise impacts on affected communities. The funding for the study was facilitated thanks to efforts by Senator Guzzone. Dr. Zafar Zafari from the University of Maryland has been begun his research and anticipates completion

by late spring 2022.

In 2020, the Roundtable's legislative committee co-chairs, Deb Jung and Mary Reese,

testified before the joint Transportation Budget committee, and successfully lobbied for language in the budget that required the MAA to provide technical expertise to support the Roundtable's continued efforts to address flight patterns and procedures at BWI and to document those efforts and the impacts of the expanded cargo area on residential communities.

While the MAA is a good partner with the Roundtable, it is primarily tasked with pursuing the economic growth of the airport. The Roundtable believes that a group focused on assessing community impacts and providing legislative and policy guidance to lawmakers is needed at this point. SB658 and HB1103 currently in the General Assembly will provide expertise and advice on how to balance economic growth with quality of life for the BWI airport and the affected communities.



# Council Updates

## CITIZEN ELECTION FUND BALLOT INITIATIVE & PUBLIC SUPPORT

In November 2016, Howard County voters approved a ballot initiative that changed the County Charter to allow for public financing of local campaigns. In 2017, CB30 set up the Citizens Election Fund



(CEF), a system by which candidates could qualify for public campaign funds, designed to remove funding from corporations, LLCs, PACs and unions. Testifying in favor of that bill were:

- Columbia Democratic Club
- Fair Elections Howard
- Get Money Out
- Common Cause
- Progressive Maryland
- Democracy Initiative
- League of Women Voters
- Howard County Citizens Association
- Deb Jung
- Christiana Rigby

The upcoming 2022 gubernatorial election will be the first election in Howard County that candidates can participate in the CEF.

CB6, introduced by David Yungmann, corrects a technical issue in the County's Code dealing with CB30 and the implementation of the Citizens Election Fund (CEF). The Code defined a contested election, a requirement for public funds eligibility, to be disbursed on the first Tuesday in August preceding the election. This

date is one day after the State filing deadline for independents and third-party candidates running in the general election. This date has no applicability to primary elections, which occur on June 28 thus it was clear that the date referred only to the General Election.

## WITHHOLDING FUNDS

I chose to use the CEF and the State Board of Elections certified my eligibility to receive matching funds as a CEF candidate on January 4th. On January 7th, I learned that the administration had denied my CEF funding until the Code was corrected through legislation. With this denial the legislative fix proposed in CB6 introduced a handicap to a CEF primary candidate because it would not be effective until 60 days after passage or Mid-April, halfway through the primary.

## EMERGENCY LEGISLATION

After overwhelming public testimony in support of an immediate fix, all five Council Members supported a second bill, CB11, an emergency bill that corrected the technical issue. The bill was introduced on January 26. The public hearing was February 7, immediately followed by a special Legislative Session for final action. The emergency bill passed unanimously.

# Council Updates

## JANUARY & FEBRUARY LEGISLATION

The Council returned from our December recess with a Legislative session on January 4 that included a veto override vote. Our February voting session was a marathon evening that started with an emergency session to correct the Citizens Election Fund.

## COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S VETO

### CB78 Expanded Tree Protections

On January 4, the Council voted on overriding the County Executive's veto of CB78 that expanded the trees qualifying for protection.

Councilmember Walsh's bill extended protections to trees from 30 inches to 24 inches in diameter, a difference of 6 inches. I stayed true to my initial vote and to hundreds of passionate emails from residents in favor of the override, there were not enough votes to support it. Councilmembers Jones and Rigby who initially voted for CB78 voted against the override. *Veto Override Failed*

## MY LEGISLATION

### CB9 APFO WAIVER PROCESS

I learned during the APFO waiver for Roslyn Rise (CR144 & 145-2021) that the process designed for allowing affordable housing projects to be exempted from APFO wait times was lacking in proper notification to HCPSS. The growth controls of APFO provide advance notice to HCPSS to pursue capacity strategies,

including the multi-year redistricting process. My bill will resolve this lack of notice and information by requiring affordable housing developers to consult with HCPSS prior to the application of State tax credits about anticipated student impacts from the project. My bill also requires more detailed information to accompany the annual school capacity chart to help Councilmembers understand which developments are in-process and how those projects are impacting student enrollment projections.

I have had many meaningful conversations with stakeholders (including the Housing Commission, Enterprise, and HCPSS) and am currently working on an amendment that will incorporate their feedback into a workable solution for all. *Tabled*

## COUNCILMEMBERS' LEGISLATION

**CB6 CEF Disbursement Correction**, David Yungmann; Removes the date for disbursing funds to accommodate CEF-qualifying candidates running in contested primary and general elections. *Withdrawn and replaced by CB11, an emergency bill*

**CB87/ZRA 198 Age-Restricted Housing Size & Density Limits** Dunteachin Estates HOA. Limits the size and number of units for 55-plus developments. *Died on the Table.*

Council Legislation: Click [here](#).

# Council Updates

## **CB88 Historic Structures Repair Requirements**

Liz Walsh. Prohibits the willful failure to maintain historic structures. *Passed*

## **CB10 Employee Recall Requirement for COVID Layoffs**

Liz Walsh; Requires hotel, events, and commercial building employers closed during COVID to give former employees the right of first refusal for positions once the business reopens. *Passed as Amended*

## **COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S LEGISLATION**

### **CB1 Pay Plan of County Child Care Providers**

This bill increases the hourly wage for part-time and contingent employees, mainly child-care workers with the Department of Recreation & Parks, due to CB82-2020's increase in the minimum wage and the competitiveness of the labor market. *Passed as Amended*

### **CB83 Police Accountability Board**

County Executive. Defines membership criteria and duties of the citizen board reviewing the Body Worn Camera program. I worked closely with a citizen group dedicated to ensuring a transparent process. I have introduced several amendments and amendments-to-amendments to aid the Board in their State-mandated mission. *Passed as Amended*,

### **CR17 Complete Streets Design Manual Adoption**

Codifies the Complete Streets policy into County design manuals. *Passed as Amended*

## **COMPENSATION REVIEW COMMISSION**

The citizen Commission reviewed Councilmembers' and the County Executive's responsibilities and duties and submitted the following increases in pay starting next term through the final year in that term:

### **CB3 Compensation Increase for the County Council**

Increase to \$83,256 in the final year of the term. *Passed*

### **CB4 Compensation Increase for the County Executive**

Increase to \$238,504 in the final year of the term. *Passed*

### **CR140-143 SOLAR PILOTS**

County Executive. These four resolutions extend Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for solar electricity generation on agricultural preserve land.

I have filed amendments on each of these resolutions that would adjust the tax abatement percentage to incentivize a public benefit.

*Tabled.*



County Council Legislative Sessions and Meetings are livestreamed [here](#).

# My Legislative Year in Review

During the 2021 Legislative Year, I worked on process improvements to make our local government operate with more transparency and integrity, supported environmental measures to protect our natural areas, and encouraged seniors to stay in their homes through an expanded tax credit.

## ENVIRONMENT

- Voted for the updated Forest Conservation Manual (CR12)
- Sponsored data collection requirements to determine the effectiveness of the Forest Conservation Act. Reports are due to the Council on a three-year basis. (CR42)
- Supported a look-back provision for protected trees (CB89, sponsored by David Yungmann)
- Voted for all of Councilmember Liz Walsh's tree bills, including CR56, CB57, and CB66 that sought to strengthen forest conservation efforts.
- Voted to override the County Executive's veto of CB78, which would protect trees that are just six inches smaller in diameter than current law.

## AGING IN PLACE

- Expanded the qualifications for the County's Aging-in-Place tax credit for seniors who have lived in the same residence for 35 years (CB23).

## GOOD GOVERNANCE

- Co-sponsored a bill enabling the Hearing Examiner to act as the fact finder in Zoning Board Cases. This would remove the influence of special interest from major land-use cases (CB77)
- Sponsored the removal of the exemption for sole source contracts to pay their employees less than Howard County's Living Wage (CB76).

## UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS

February 28, 1pm — Legislative Work Session

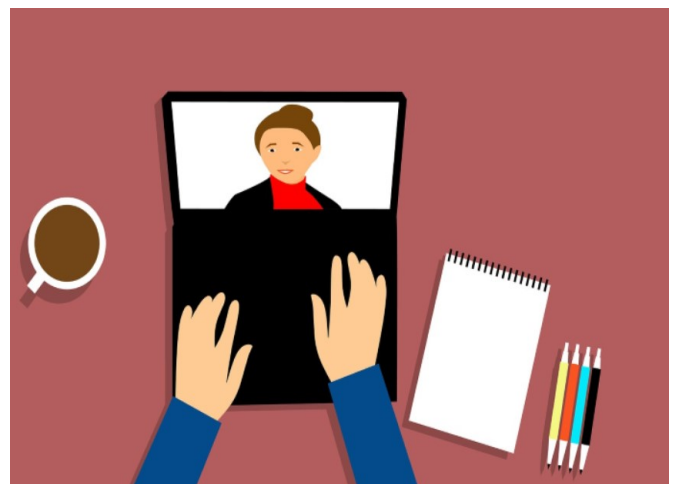
March 7, 7pm — Legislative Session

March 9, 1pm — Monthly Meeting

March 14, 9:30am — Joint Meeting w/BOE

March 21, 7pm — Legislative Public Hearing

March 28, 1pm — Legislative Work Session



# Zoning Board Updates

CB77-2021 is now in effect and Zoning Board cases will be initially heard by the Hearing Examiner except under certain circumstances. 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.

Current Zoning Board Cases include the following.

**Withdrawn:** The petitioner requested withdrawal of ZB 1125M, Olde Scaggsville, LLC.: Request to change 0.469 acres on the north side of Route 216 west of Route 29 from Rural Residential Mixed Use (RR-MXD-3) to Business (B-1).

## **Unscheduled Docket:**

- The petitioner requested placement on the unscheduled docket of ZB 1124M, A.R. Levering, LLC.: Request to change 0.4 acres at 5481 Levering Avenue, Elkridge, from Residential Environmental Development (R-ED) to Heavy Manufacturing (M-2).
- ZB1126M, Howard County Department of Public Works: Request to change 6.19 acres at the Circuit Courthouse in Ellicott City from Historic Office (HO) to Historic Commercial (HC). The historic jail was recently removed from the petition by the petitioner.
- ZB 1127M G&R Maple Lawn, Inc.: Request to amend preliminary development plan at 11788 Scaggsville Road, Fulton, in an MXD for 109.6 acres to an additional 473 dwelling units (125 SFD, 148 SFA, 200 Apartments); change the land use designation from single family detached to single family detached and other residential; and to increase the permitted residential density from 2.2 dwelling units per gross acre to 3.0 dwelling units per gross acre.

**Zoning Board Cases & Materials: Click [Here](#).**

# General Assembly



The Howard County Delegation has held the following votes on local bills. Once approved, the bills will be voted on by the entire General Assembly. All proposed bond legislation passed the delegation.

## LOCAL BILLS

### **Housing Opportunities Trust Fund (HoCo 5-22)**

Non-lapsing fund dedicated to increasing affordable housing options. I testified against this bill because my interpretation is that it violates the County's home rule rights. At this hearing, Delegate Feldmark reported that she consulted with the Attorney General's office, who did not have concerns over home rule violations, and she believes that only the State has the authority to set up a non-lapsing fund; *Approved/passed*.

**Alcoholic Beverages – Consumption Only Shopping Mall Plaza License and Special Event Permit (HoCo 13-22)** Filed at the request of the Columbia Mall and would extend outdoor dining at the Mall; *Approved/passed*.

**Circuit Court for Howard County – Judges Sitting as Orphans' Court (HoCo 6-22)** Eliminates Orphans' Court judges and assign those cases to the Circuit Court judges. This practice would align Howard County with Harford and Montgomery Counties. It is anticipated to increase the Circuit Court judges' workload by 1%. If approved, it will be a constitutional amendment requiring a public vote in November; *No vote taken*.

**Due Process Proceedings for Children with Disabilities – Burden of Proof (HoCo 2-22)** Requires the school system to provide evidence that they are following the IEP if the parent files a due process claim. The local Board of Education (BOE) supports this bill. The teacher's union does not oppose this bill; *Approved/passed*.

**Alternative Instruction Model Policy (HoCo 9-22)** Requested by the BOE and allows Howard County to use alternative non-classroom based instruction that will count towards the State's 180-school day requirement. An amendment was added to remove paper packets and to limit the length of time alternative instruction could be used. Another amendment added stakeholders who can negotiate the terms of an alternative instruction model; *Passed/approved*.

## General Assembly

**Credit for Seniors to Offset Property Tax Rate Increase (HoCo 10-22)** Authorizes the County to provide a tax credit for property tax increases for those who have resided in the county for at least 30 years, have a combined income below \$75,000, and are at least 65 years old;  
*Passed/Approved*

**Disposable Bag Fees – Exemption (HoCo 12-22:)** Requires products purchased with SNAP or WIC cards to be exempt from the five-cent bag fee, file at the request of Councilmember Rigby; *No vote taken.*

**Alcoholic Beverages – Limitation on Issuance and Renewal of Class A Licenses (HoCo 11-22)** Prevents concentration of Class A liquor stores in a small area. An amendment simplifies the geographic area to a one-mile radius and takes out applicability to the process of renewing a license if two Class A liquor stores are already within a one-mile radius of each other;  
*No vote taken.*

## HoCo By Design: General Plan

In January, the HoCo By Design contacted residents' about the program's next steps. Survey responses have been summarized into the [Engagement Summary](#).

The planning themes have been redefined as the following:

- Life Outdoors
- Quality by Design
- County in Motion
- Supporting Economic Prosperity
- Dynamic Neighborhoods

In March, there are plans to release the first planning theme draft with a round of public meetings to discuss policies and gather feedback. Click [here](#) for more.



# BUDGET FY2023

## SPENDING AFFORDABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Spending Affordability Advisory Committee (SAAC) for fiscal year 2023 has begun its review of County's borrowing capacity, debt projections, and budget priorities. The SAAC meets once a week between now and February. Meetings can be livestreamed [here](#).

## COUNTY BUDGET HEARING

March 14, 6pm

Share concerns and provide input on priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. The budget hearing will be held virtually and can be watched live from the County Council's website; click [here](#). Sign-up to testify online starting on February 28; click [here](#).

## HCPSS BUDGET REQUEST

The largest portion of the County's budget goes to education. The Superintendent's operating budget is requesting \$1.07 billion for FY2023. This request represents a \$112.5 million (11.7%) increase over last year. The largest expenditure in the proposed budget is \$34.3 million to meet Kirwan salary and position requirements and \$26.8 million in technology, including new and replacement devices. After approval of the budget by the BOE, the County Executive will review this request in his forthcoming budget.

## STATE BUDGET FY2023

The Governor presented preliminary information about his FY2023 State Budget at a press conference on January 19. Click [here](#) for more.

A long-term structurally balanced budget is being projected for the first time in 25 years. There is a record \$3.6 billion reserve in the rainy-day fund. There will be \$4.6 billion dollars in tax relief for lower-income seniors, earned-income tax credit expansions for working families, and benefits supports for underserved populations. Funding for K-12 education includes \$8.15 billion in total with \$144.1 million to expand full day pre-K (three- and four-year olds) and \$1 billion in school construction funding.



# WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A BOOSTER?

*Marylanders ages 12-17 are eligible for the Pfizer booster only. Marylanders 18 and older may choose which vaccine they want for a booster, even if it is different from the original vaccine received.*

What did you get?	When can you get a booster?	Who is eligible for a booster?
<b>Pfizer</b>	5 months after 2nd dose	12 years and older
<b>Moderna</b>	5 months after 2nd dose	18 years and older
<b>Johnson &amp; Johnson</b>	2 months after single dose	18 years and older



## MASK MANDATE LIFTED

On February 1, the indoor mask mandate was lifted as COVID-19 metrics have significantly declined.

The County's positivity rate is 8.47% and testing capacity has increased.

# School Updates

## COVID-19 HEALTH PROTOCOLS

HCPSS recently adjusted its COVID-19 mitigation protocols. Click [here](#) for more.

- **Quarantine:** Five days for students who test positive and show symptoms regardless of vaccination status.
- **Contact Tracing:** All positive cases are reported to the Howard County Health Department and the principal of each school is required to notify the community.
- **Masking:** 200,000 KN95 masks were ordered and will be distributed to students and staff. Although KN95 masks are recommended, they are not mandated and cloth or disposable masks are still allowed.
- **Extracurriculars:** In-person meetings for after-school activities will cease if a certain number of participants test positive. Click [here](#) for more information.

## FREE BIKES

HCPSS collaborated with Free Bikes 4 Kidz to distribute free bikes for students in need. This year, 1,100 bikes were donated.

Click [here](#) for more.

## HCPSS EMPLOYEE BONUSES

All HCPSS full-time employees will receive a \$1,800 bonus this school year. Part-time employees will receive a prorated amount. The bonuses will be funded in part by Howard County, using \$8 million in American Rescue Plan funds, and the Board of Education, using \$8.1 million of its Federal COVID-19 relief funds.

## HCPSS DONATIONS REPORT

At every BOE meeting, a donations report, itemizing monetary awards by school, is presented for a vote. Here's a snapshot of donations for District 4 schools approved by the BOE on January 13:

- Swansfield ES: Anne Huter, instructional materials, \$500.
- Atholton HS: AHS Drama Boosters, Drama program, \$816.49.
- Reservoir HS: Steven Hirschfeld, improvement to the baseball field, \$900.
- River Hill HS: Rochester Institute of Technology, Project Lead the Way, \$620. Stephanie McClellan, jerseys for the baseball team, \$3,165. RHHS Boosters, support for athletics, \$10,782.34.



**BOE NEWS: [CLICK HERE.](#)**

# County Updates

## AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING

The County has begun incrementally allotting American Rescue Plan. Click [here](#) for more.

Funds have been distributed to the following:

- **Hospital:** \$2 million for staffing shortages
- **Health Department:** \$400,000 for continued health and safety needs
- **County Employees:** \$12 million in hazard, straight time, and overtime pay for County public safety workers, front-line staff and health department employees.
- **HCPSS:** \$8 million to educators for bonus pay, and \$2 million to school bus drivers for retention and signing bonuses.

## BUILD BACK BETTER

Howard County's Economic Development Authority (EDA) has been named a finalist by the U.S. Economic Development Administration in its \$1 billion Build Back Better Regional Challenge. The EDA will receive a \$500,000 grant to expand its Maryland Cyber Workforce Solutions program designed to recruit more than 19,000 job opportunities in the field of cybersecurity. Click [here](#) for more.

## CONSTRUCTION PROJECT: BILLINGSGATE ROW

An exposed public sewer at a stream crossing near 10907 Billingsgate Row and an exposed manhole behind 12143 Gray Star Way are undergoing repairs starting January 19. Both the sewer and the manhole will be covered and protected using stone.



Weather permitting, the project is expected to be completed by late Feb-

ruary. A portion of the pedestrian pathway from Gray Star Way toward the manhole site will be closed for the duration of the project.

## BOARD APPLICATIONS REQUESTED

Members of the public are invited to apply for the following board vacancies:

- Recreation & Parks Advisory Board, Student Member: deadline March 18; click [here](#) for more.

## CONGRATULATIONS, ANDY PROTIGAL

This year's Emergency Management Volunteer of the Year is Andy Protigal, who served over 215 volunteer hours in 2021 for the County's COAD and COVID-19 response efforts. Andy was a dependable volunteer at vaccination sites, totaling up to over 40 clinics served. He also served as the COAD Disaster Preparedness Work Group Co-Chair.



*February 26, 10am to 2pm*

*North Laurel Community Center*

The Department of Community Resources & Services will host its annual Child Care Fair, providing caretakers and child-care personnel with information on child care, pre-school and summer programs. Click [here](#) for more.

# County Updates

## FREE HOME MODIFICATIONS

Low-income Howard County homeowners who are having trouble getting around their home can receive free home modifications from Rebuilding Together Howard County. This non-profit service provider can install grab bars, railings, ramps, chair glides and bathroom modifications to allow homeowners to have increased mobility and independence. Click [here](#) for more.



## REMEMBERING DR. MARY ELLEN DUNCAN



Howard Community College announced on February 10 that its beloved president emeritus Dr. Mary Ellen Duncan passed away. During Dr. Duncan's tenure, the college completed a \$14 million campaign,

expanded campus buildings and facilities, doubled the student body, and received state and national recognition.

## GUN VIOLENCE IN DISTRICT 4

I have been deeply troubled by the two recent incidents of gun violence in District 4. One of the victims was Zavian Hagins, only 21 years old. My heart goes out to his family; he was much too young to leave you. The second incident occurred at the Wilde Lake Village Center and injured three people, including a child. I'm thankful that they survived their injuries but I know that the psychological trauma will stay with them.

We don't have many details about why guns are appearing in our community like this. But I'm certain that we all feel uneasy now of each other or public spaces. I don't know if those involved in this violence are listening but I hope you are and I hope that you realize that guns don't give you the power you think you need.

I implore the community to share whatever they know about the two shootings in District 4 with the Police. The Police are asking for information in both cases You can contact the Police anonymously at 410-313-STOP.



# Community Updates

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

**Joan Driessen:** The Executive Director of the Association of Community Services (ACS), Joan Driessen, has announced her retirement. During her tenure, she advocated for the organization's membership and connected members and community leaders. Other accomplishments include the creation of the NonProfit Collaborative Center and advocating for racial equity and affordable housing.



**Cindy Parr:** The Executive Director of The Arc of Howard County, Cindy Parr, has announced her resignation. She joined The Arc of Howard County as Executive Director in July of 2015 and has helped usher in a new strategic plan, built new strategic partnerships, and helped improve and stabilize operations and organizational processes.



## KINDNESS PANTRY

The HCPSS has partnered with The Kindness Pantry to support teachers and students by providing an inventory of school supplies to schools. Click [here](#) for ways to support District 4 schools.

## 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's Burrill Galleria.

## VILLAGE NEWS

[Harper's Choice](#)

[Hickory Ridge](#)

[River Hill](#)

[Town Center](#)

[Wilde Lake](#)



**energy**  
assistance



**Community Action Council**  
of Howard County

# Keeping up with Deb



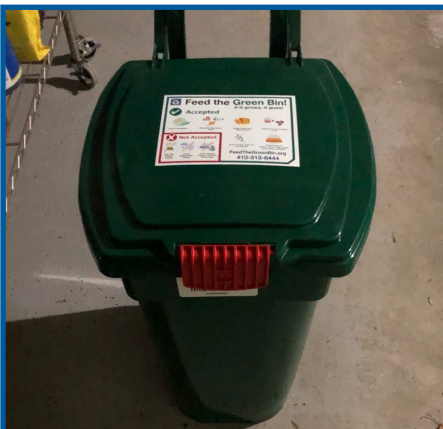
MACo Winter Conference.



My daughter Alyssa's artwork featured at the Bernice Kish Gallery in Wilde Lake.

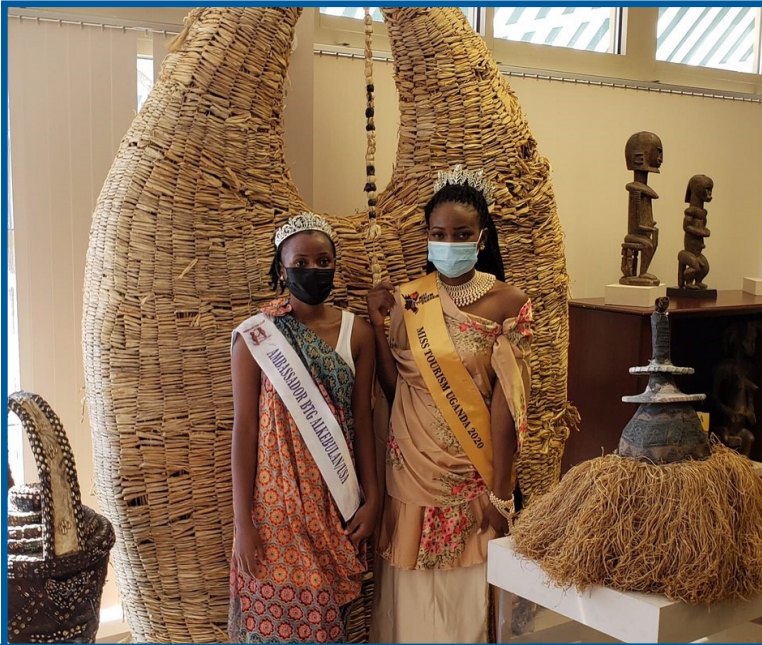


Groundbreaking ceremony for Locust United Methodist Church.



My Green Bin arrived! Thanks to DPW for expanding the home-composting program to my neighborhood.

# Keeping up with Deb



I thoroughly enjoyed visiting the African Art Museum of Maryland to welcome the Delegation from Uganda. Thank you to Doris Ligon for organizing this wonderful day.

## Upcoming Events



### AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

February is African American History Month and there are many ways to educate, celebrate, and reflect on this important aspect of our national story. Visit HoCo is spotlighting historic and cultural sites in Old Ellicott City and Columbia. Columbia Association is hosting virtual lectures and activities. And the Howard County Library System has an extensive reading list for book and movie lovers.

Click below for more:

[Visit HoCo](#)

[Columbia Association](#)

[Howard County Library System](#)

### BALTIMORE WATERCOLOR ASSOCIATE MEMBER EXHIBIT

February 10-March 12

Monday-Friday, 9am-4.30pm

Bernice Kish Gallery, Slayton House

The Baltimore Watercolor Society is one of the country's oldest watercolor organizations. This exhibit features pieces by its associate members and includes juried awards.



### NEW ORLEANS MARDI GRAS CONCERT

February 25, 7.30pm

St. Louis Church

The U.S. Army Blues Swamp Romp presents a free concert of music from the Crescent City and Louisiana Bayou, performing Dixieland, Boogaloo, Stevie Wonder and more. Click [here](#) for more.



## Upcoming Events

# Hocus Pocus!

Masquerade Ball!

*24<sup>th</sup> Annual Chocolate Ball and  
60<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration for the Arc of Howard County  
Saturday, April 2nd, 2022  
Turf Valley Resort 7 PM-Midnight*