



DEB'S DISTRICT UPDATE

Deb Jung • District Four

June 2024

Greetings

School is out and summer is here! What a great month it has been with graduations, Simulated Congressional Hearings, and celebratory barbeques. The end of May and the beginning of June always keeps me busy.

As Chair of the County Council, I was invited to speak at this year's Howard Community College commencement. It was a fun experience to impart some hard-earned wisdom to new graduates; see page 11 for my remarks. That same day was Wilde Lake High School's graduation, followed the next week by Atholton, River Hill, and Reservoir High Schools.



Sprinkled between the graduations, I served as a judge at Fulton and Clemens Crossing Elementary Schools for the fifth grade Simulated Congressional Hearings, a capstone civics project in Howard County. Witnessing the effort and performance of our students, staff, and teachers is so rewarding and reinforces my appreciation for the hard work put in by all to give our students this opportunity to shine.

On a personal note, I also attended a very important graduation this year that was meaningful to me on many levels. My daughter graduated with two masters degrees, one in Public Health and the other as a Physician Assistant. I am proud of her many accomplishments just you were when your loved ones walked across the many stages in their distinguished robes. Now, on to summer fun!

Simulated Congressional Hearing
at Clemens Crossing

Deb

Council Updates

June-July

CR76 School Capacity Chart Every year the County Council approves the School Capacity Chart, which determines the school zones that are open or closed to development based on the percentage of students attending the school and the capacity of the building. The following school zones are closed to development:

Elementary: Cradlerock, Phelps Luck, Bryant Woods, Bellows Spring, Hanover Hills, Rockburn, Centennial Lane, Northfield, St. John's Lane, Atholton, Bollman Bridge, Forest Ridge, Hammond, Laurel Woods, Pointers Run

Middle: Dunloggin, Folly Quarter, Hammond, Patapsco, Patuxent Valley, and Thomas Viaduct
The percentage totals of the elementary schools in Northern region (northern Ellicott City) is at 106.2%, which triggers a special meeting between the County Council, the Board of Education, and the County Executive.

District 4 Schools:

Schools in red are closed to development

Schools	2027-28		Schools	2027-28	
Elementary	Projected enrollment	Utilization Percentage	Middle & High	Projected enrollment	Utilization Percentage
Bryant Woods	381	131.8%	Harper's Choice	522	103.2
Clemens Crossing	543	104.2%	Clarksville	667	103.7
Longfellow	473	92.4	Lime Kiln	739	102.5
Running Brook	403	89.8	Wilde Lake	631	85.3
Swansfield	516	79.4	Atholton	1453	95
Clarksville	547	100.7	Reservoir	1523	96.8
Fulton	651	88.2	River Hill	1389	93.3
Pointers Run	813	109.3	Wilde Lake	1416	99.4

Legislation Search Tool: click [here](#).

Council Updates

April-May

CB15 Auditor Pay Scale This bill changed the pay scale of the County Council Auditor from a “Q” to a “P.” This change is a classification demotion. In the Howard County Pay Plan, positions classified as “P” are Deputies, who report to Directors, and Directors, who report to the County Executive. Examples of “Q” staff include the County Solicitor, Council Administrator, and the County Executive’s Chief of Staff. Changing the Auditor’s pay scale makes the position subordinate to the County Administrator, undermines the Auditor’s independence, and creates barriers for future recruitment. I voted against this bill because it is an assault on government oversight. *Christiana Rigby, Liz Walsh, & Opel Jones; passed*

CB16 Square Footage of Accessory Structures

This Zoning Regulation Amendment (ZRA) was petitioned by Elite Facility Management, which operates a sports-training venue in Woodbine. The bill proposed to replace the 2,200 square foot cap on detached accessory structures on two acres or greater with a 5,000 square foot cap on four acres or greater. The Department of Planning and Zoning in their Technical Staff Report cited concerns that accessory structures could be larger than the primary structure — a potential conflict with other sections of the Code. It also came to the Council’s attention that the petitioner

reported that the proposed structure would be for personal use but neighbors testified at the Planning Board hearing that a business was being operated out of the facility. I voted against this bill. *Council Chair; failed*

March-April

My Legislation: CB13 Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return

Our code requires that owners of domestic animals must not allow the animals to be at-large (known as “leash laws”). Feeding and caring for a domestic animal is considered ownership. This is problematic for volunteers who care for feral cat colonies. Restricting the movement of these unsocialized animals is impossible and is a deterrent to care. I sponsored this legislation to support the wonderful volunteer work of Laurel Cats and other organizations that are reducing feral cat populations through sterilization efforts. *failed*

Upcoming Meetings

- June 18, 7pm: Public Hearing
- June 25, 9:30am: Work Session
- July 1, 7pm: Legislative Session
- July 9, 9:30am: Monthly Meeting

Click [here](#) for more.



Current legislation: [click here.](#)

New Town Zoning

In the recently adopted General Plan, Columbia's Village Centers were identified as targeted redevelopment areas for increasing housing options and affordability. The Plan initially proposed elimination of New Town Zoning entirely but I proposed a successful amendment to create a New Town Commission to review existing zoning laws and make recommendations. I am also working on a Zoning Regulation Amendment that would integrate existing New Town Zoning into the General Plan's redevelopment of Village Centers (called "Activity Centers").

Current Regulations

Currently New Town is governed by a percentage chart that balances residential, open space, and commercial designations. New development projects must adhere to these

ratios or have special carve outs, such as Downtown Columbia. Section 125.0 in the Howard County Zoning Regulations sets forth the terms of New Town Zoning.

Village Center Redevelopment

Within the New Town District, there are specific procedures for making changes to the various site plans within the District. Village Center redevelopment is divided into major and minor types and require a petition to amend by the property owner that is ultimately reviewed by the Zoning Board for approval, modification, or denial. Mixed-use redevelopments are considered commercial uses for calculating compliance with New Town's minimum and maximum percentages. The Village Center redevelopment shall not result in a net loss of open space.



Basketball Champions

It was my great honor to present Certificates of Recognition to the HCYP Varsity Select Boys Team, including the father-son coaches, for being the 2024 Joseph Jones III Memorial Classic Champions. This is the first time that a Howard County team has won this title.

New Town Zoning

If the Zoning Board approves the petition, the Decision and Order shall approve design guidelines, concept plans, specific requirements for amenity areas and building heights, bulk requirements, parking, density and permitted uses. The Zoning Board may also make modifications to the petition.

In the General Plan, Columbia's Village Centers were identified as areas to transform, strengthen, and enhance. These designations range from supporting existing character and commercial uses to redevelopment through the addition of residential units. The Plan includes the following implementing actions for activity centers:

- provide convenience retail and other local-serving amenities.
- evaluate opportunities to create missing

middle housing by using zoning overlays or floating zones, smaller lot sizes, density bonuses, tax incentives, flexible development standards such as maximum building size or lot coverage.

- include a unique mix of densities, uses, and building forms that provide diverse, accessible, and affordable housing options.
- consider housing scenarios that support for-sale units to households making 60% or less of AMI.
- evaluate potential standards for frontage design, main entrance location, and parking calculations.
- incorporate accessibility.
- include a review of school capacity.

HoCo By Design: The General Plan; click [here](#)

Dogs are the Best!

As Chair of the County Council, I recently recognized National Animal Therapy Day on April 30 and was honored to meet Debbie Taylor and her handsome coworker Teddy.

Teddy is a white Collie and works as a service animal and therapy dog, having books read to him by children at the library and visiting wounded veterans. His gentle manner and luxurious coat bring comfort and happiness to those who need a boost. Click [here](#) for more.



Bill Barnes Named Superintendent

The Howard County Board of Education (BOE) at its public meeting on May 23 announced that Acting Superintendent , William J. Barnes, will become the permanent superintendent, effective July 1. Click [here](#) for more.

James Obasiolu Elected SMOB

Congratulations to James Obasiolu, an Atholton High School junior, who was elected Student Member of the Board (SMOB) for the 2024-2025 school year. Click [here](#) for more.



Bus Transportation Registration

Registration for qualifying families for 2024-25 school year has closed. Because the majority of responses requested bus service, the Office of Student Transportation will assume that eligible students whose parents/guardians did not register them will require bus service and will include them accordingly.

Summer Job Fairs

June 24 & July 24, 12-4pm

HCPSS will host job fairs at Wilde Lake Middle School (June 24) and Burleigh Manor Middle School (July 24) to recruit teachers and staff . Click [here](#) for more.

Spirit of Soccer Awardees

Congratulations to the six HCPSS students who recently were honored with 2023 Spirit of Soccer Awards by the Maryland Association of Coaches of Soccer. The awards are given to individuals who play soccer for the Baltimore and Howard County Allied Programs and who exhibit positive sportsmanship behaviors and leadership abilities while participating in the programs. The HCPSS winners include:

- Zachary Agnant, River Hill High School
- Ramsey Jenkins, Wilde Lake High School
- Andrew Kim, Atholton High School
- Jack Pippenger, Atholton High School
- Phillip Swenson, River Hill High School
- Ross Yarrish, Wilde Lake High School

Click [here](#) for more.

Congratulations to HCPSS Students

The last day of school for students in full-day pre-K through grade 11 was June 14. Congratulations to HCPSS students and staff. Enjoy the summer.

County & Community Updates

WR Grace Air Permit

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) held a public meeting to discuss the air permit application (Docket #16-23) for a pilot plant at WR Grace. The pilot plant would include research-and-development reactors processing up to 1 kilogram (2.2 pounds) per hour of commercially available plastic feedstock.

Plastic feedstock and catalyst will be fed into a reactor that will vent vapor into a recovery system. The system will capture condensable vapor to be treated at a third-party environmental facility. Non-condensable vapor will vent to an electric flameless thermal oxidizer for control of volatile organic compounds. The thermal oxidizer vents to the atmosphere via two emissions stacks that will be constructed on the roof of Building 30. Each stack will have a diameter of less than one foot and will be located approximately 280

feet from the closest property line. The pilot plant will be built inside Building 30.

According to MDE the pilot plant's emissions of regulated pollutants will not exceed threshold levels. WR Grace has been operating a research and development facility with pilot plant equipment at the Columbia site since 1957. In 1999, the company's corporate headquarters was moved here.

Denial of a permit occurs if the applicant cannot demonstrate that the proposal meets all applicable air quality requirements under the Clean Air Act.

- Permit information: click [here](#)
- Public hearing: click [here](#)
- Public comment ends July 29.
- Send comments to shanon.heafey@maryland.gov
- Inquiries about WR Grace: community@Grace.com

Homeownership Programs

I was so excited to help announce the County's modified homeownership programs because I believe that the path to economic success begins with homeownership. The County's settlement and down payment loans will now receive a capped interest rate of 3%, significantly lower than previously offered. Several other loan programs aim to help expand homeownership in the County. Click [here](#) for more.



County & Community Updates

Alpha Ridge Landfill

I recently visited the landfill to learn about the county's waste management system, recycling efforts, and composting programs. I've visited many times as a resident but this tour reminded me of the varied and comprehensive services that are provided to the public in an effort to safely dispose of waste.

Here's a quick primer on what can be accepted through our curbside recycling program and what should be taken to the landfill.



Curbside recycling accepts

- Paper
- #5 Plastics
- Metal cans
- Glass
- Cardboard

Curbside recycling does not accept

- Disposable plates and utensils
- Plastic film and bags
- Styrofoam
- Food-stained containers
- Aluminum foil and bakeware

Click [here](#) for more.

Alpha Ridge Landfill accepts

- Aluminum foil & bakeware
- American flags
- Antifreeze, oil, paint
- Ash
- Rechargeable batteries
- Cooking oil
- Medical equipment

Upcycled accepts

- #2 Plastics

Click [here](#) for more.



County & Community Updates

Summer Food Access

Columbia has a strong network of groups supplying kids and families with extra food when monthly incomes are tight.

- **STAND**, run by Tigana Duncan, delivers food to Fall River Terrace.
- **Columbia Community Care** distributes food at Wilde Lake Interfaith Center. Click [here](#) for more.
- **LindaBen Mobile Market** sells low cost produce at Bryant Woods Elementary. Click [here](#) for more.
- **HCPSS Summer Meals Program** offers free meals to students from June 24 to August 2. District 4 locations include Swansfiled Elementary and Wilde Lake Middle School. Click [here](#) for more.
- **Howard County Food Bank** is open several days a week for basic pantry staples, fresh produce, and other essentials as available. Click [here](#) for more.



Coach Duncan and his son loaded with snacks and food supplies for the community.

- **Roving Radish** offers subsidized meal kits sourced from local farms. Click [here](#) for more.

Education and Sharing Day

April was a busy month for Certificates of Recognition to community groups and events. I presented a certificate to members of the Chabad of Ellicott City in honor of Education and Sharing Day, recognizing the importance of education as the cornerstone of humanity.



County & Community Updates

Howard County's New Flag

Deadline June 30

Submit your design for a new County flag.

Click [here](#) for more.

Faulkner Ridge Update

Faulkner Ridge received renovation funding in the County's FY24 Budget through a grant from the State. The building will be renovated to accommodate the first standalone Regional Early Childhood Center (RECC) for Prekindergarten classes. The project is currently in the site development phase of design. The Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) will review the design options and present these to the Board of Education at their August meeting.

Summer Plans

Howard County offers a variety of activities to develop academic and job skills this summer.

- Youth Engagement Programs (YEP) offer free to low-cost mentoring, gaming, and sports activities. Click [here](#) for more.
- Workforce Development connects job seekers to jobs, job training, and career advice; click [here](#).

Roving Radish Mobile Market

Local produce and products are now available at the following weekly locations in District 4: Monday, 5-7pm, Swansfield Elementary; Saturday, 9-11pm, Hickory Ridge Place.

Click [here](#) for more.

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Festival

On May 11, the County hosted a celebration of Americans with Asian and Pacific Island heritage. This diaspora hails from nearly half the globe and hundreds of cultural traditions and ethnicities. I am a big fan of this annual event, which strengthens our multicultural community and builds important bonds of friendship.



Keeping up with Deb: HCC Commencement



HCC Commencement Remarks: I shared these remarks at HCC’s commencement ceremony this year. I hope it captures the unfettered optimism that many young people experience upon completion of their degrees.

“Graduation marks both a beginning and an end. While you are celebrating your past accomplishments that lead to your degree, you are also deciding upon a course for your future. If you haven’t already heard the question, you know it’s coming: So, what are your upcoming plans?”

I had always planned on attending law school when I finished college but those plans were derailed by my mediocre test scores. Plan B, I would go back to Severna Park where my parents lived and find a job on Capitol Hill. After all I had graduated with a political science degree, which according to my youthful calculations was all that I needed to make a difference in the world of politics. Unfortunately, I deliberately never learned to type because I didn’t want to be hired as a secretary which was one of a handful of jobs available to women at that time. I quickly discovered that every Capitol Hill job in those days required a typing test to get in the door, especially if you were a woman.

I never got a job on Capitol Hill. But that didn’t sidetrack me from my ambitions to make a difference. Life and career paths are never straight lines. They zig and they zag as opportunities close and open. I worked with a civic education program for students. I did eventually make it to law school. I supported non-profits through legal advice and training. I made a home and raised a family right here in Columbia. And when most people decide to retire, I ran for County Council. It is impossible to plot all the points in life.

I, too, faced that question about future plans when I graduated. Plan A and Plan B were not looking very promising, but I eventually came up with a response that was a wild and wonderful fantasy. I confidently told anyone who asked that I was going to sail around the world. Unfortunately, I knew nothing about sailing, so that left kitchen duties as a possible job on a ship’s crew. But I had never learned to cook, another protest against the sexism of the times. You might see a pattern here.

When everything is possible but nothing is obvious, I encourage you to embrace the impossibilities as possibilities. You might not know where you want to go right now or exactly how to get there but if you stay open, you’ll find opportunities that you never knew existed. Let life sail you through as many adventures as you can find.

So how do you answer that question about what you will do next? You could respond with a wild and wonderful fantasy, a concrete plan, or keep it simple, admit that you don’t really know. But whatever you do, be open to the many wonderful opportunities that life will bring you. Congratulations, graduates.”

Keeping up with Deb: HCPSS Commencements



Upcoming Events

Juneteenth Block Party

June 19, starts at 2pm

Click [here](#) for more

Part of Lakefront Live, this high energy block party will feature DuPont Brass. County officials will be kicking off the event.

Fourth of July Fireworks

Click [here](#) for more.

July 4, 5pm-10pm

Fireworks start after 9pm

Annual fireworks celebration, sponsored by the County, at the Lakefront. Food trucks and live music precedes the fireworks.

Summer Yoga

July 3, 11, 17 & 24, 6.15-7.45pm

Hickory Ridge Hawthorn Center All skills are welcome to this free program.

Chrysalis Summer Events

Click [here](#) for more

Columbia Orchestra—June 23

Fourth of July U.S. Navy Concert Band—July 4

Columbia Association's Teen & Middle School Advisory Committee

2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 3:15pm,

The Barn, 5853 Robert Oliver Place

This committee of young people meets to discuss how CA can meet the needs of Columbia's teens. The committee is looking for new members. Click [here](#) for more.

Hooked on Fishing

July 11, 9am-11.30am

Wilde Lake Park

Click [here](#) for more.

Kids ages eight to 15 can learn how to fish through this free program.



Upcoming Events

COLUMBIA
VILLAGE CENTERS

MANAGED BY AN AFFILIATE OF
KIMCO
REALTY

Summer Event Series

2024 Calendar

**Dorsey's
Search**

**River
Hill**

**Wild
Lake**

**Harpers
Choice**

**Kings
Contrivance**

**Hickory
Ridge**

MOVIE NIGHT (WEDNESDAYS, ALL MOVIES BEGIN AT DUSK*)

*Around 8:30-45pm in early summer and 8-9:15pm in late summer

JULY 17TH
Frozen

JULY 24TH
Encanto

JULY 24TH
Cars

JULY 24TH
Coco

JULY 10TH
Madagascar

JULY 10TH
Moana

CONCERTS (THURSDAYS, 6-8 PM)

JUNE 6TH
David Bach
Consort
Jazz

JUNE 6TH
Deni Starr
Band
Classic Rock

JUNE 13TH
I&I Riddim
Reggae

JUNE 13TH
The McBooze
Brothers
Jazz

JUNE 20TH
Damon Foreman
& Blue Funk
Jazz, Funk &
Blues

JUNE 20TH
Four Quarters
Band
R&B/Soul

**SATURDAY
JUNE 15TH
1-3PM**
Meet, Greet &
Eat Festival

JUNE 27TH
Bluetrain
Bluegrass

JULY 11TH
The McBooze
Brothers
Jazz

JULY 11TH
Patty Reese
Band
Roots Rock

JULY 18TH
Starvation
Army Band
Dixieland Jazz

JULY 18TH
Gary & the
Groove
Goodtime
Rock & Roll

JUNE 27TH
Patsy's Honky
Tonk & Twang
Classic
Country

JULY 25TH
Rachel Hall
Band
Blues, Soul &
Rock

AUGUST 1ST
Deni Star
Band
Classic Rock

AUGUST 6TH
CASIO Steel
Drum Band
Calypso/
Reggae

AUGUST 7TH
David Bach
Consort
Jazz

AUGUST 8TH
Patsy's Honky
Tonk & Twang
Classic
Country

JULY 25TH
The Rockits
Classic Rock

AUGUST 15TH
Different Sisters
Variety, Rock,
Country

AUGUST 22ND
CASIO Steel
Drum Band
Calypso/
Reggae

AUGUST 22ND
I&I Riddim
Reggae

AUGUST 29TH
Gary & the
Groove
Goodtime
Rock & Roll

AUGUST 29TH
The Rockits
Classic Rock

AUGUST 15TH
Bluetrain
Bluegrass

**SEPTEMBER
5TH**
Starvation Army
Band
Dixieland Jazz

**SEPTEMBER
12TH**
Bluetrain
Bluegrass

**SEPTEMBER
12TH**
Four Quarters
Band
R&B/Soul