



DEB'S DISTRICT UPDATE

Deb Jung • District Four

Greetings

We just finished our busiest time of the Council's legislative year with the final passage of the FY23 Budget on May 25. All four of the Democrats on the Council voted in favor of the final budget. Some of the budget highlights include an increase of over \$45 million to the school district for the following:

- increases for special education staff
- increases for the educator contracts negotiated by the Howard County Educators Association
- new student-support liaison positions
- supports for the mental health needs of our students
- more school nurses and nursing assistants, and
- funding for capital projects and deferred maintenance.

In addition to this much-needed funding for our schools, we were able to approve significant increases to many of our local nonprofit organizations, which should help get them back on their feet as we move into a post-COVID economy and to accommodate the County's minimum wage increase requirement.

Lots of organizations have decided to reinstate their public events and you will see evidence of that on my "Keeping Up with Deb" page. I hope you will find time to support your favorite nonprofit organization this summer, as well as enjoy all the arts, music and activities that will be offered all summer long in and around Columbia.

Deb

Subscribe to my newsletter [here](#).

FY2023 Capital & Operating Budget

The Capital & Operating Budget was introduced on May 4 and adopted with amendments on May 25. Click [here](#) for more. Here is an overview of key features:

Capital Budget

Education

- \$105.9 million in school construction projects, including
 - New High School #13
 - Hammond HS renovation/addition
 - Manor Woods ES HVAC
 - West Friendship ES well
 - Guilford Elementary ES windows and doors
 - Jeffers Hill ES boiler replacement

Transportation

- \$12.5 million in road resurfacing, including parts of Wilde Lake and Hickory Ridge
- \$8.2 million in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure

Ellicott City

- \$36.4 million For Ellicott City Safe & Sound, including flood mitigation in Ellicott City and Valley Mede, expansion of the Maryland Avenue Culvert, work on lower Main Street buildings, construction of the H4 pond and the North Tunnel.

Recreation & Parks

- \$19 million acquisition of Camp Ilchester, improvements at Blandair Park,

Howard County Maryland Proposed Capital Budget • Fiscal Year 2023



Talbott Springs Elementary School



Laura's Place - A Playground for All



Harriet Tubman Cultural Center



East Columbia 50+ Center



HCC Mathematics and Athletics Complex

improvements at Schooley Mill Park's equestrian ring.

D4 Capital Budget

- \$14.8 million Howard Community College Mathematics & Athletic Complex
- \$375,000 for the Harriet Tubman remediation and restoration.
- \$8 million Longfellow Area Water Main Improvements

Capital Budget Funding Sources

- \$75.5 million General Obligation (GO) Bonds
- \$45 million Pay As You Go funds
- \$124.5 million State funds
- \$108.2 million Other funds & sources

Council Legislation:
Click [here](#).

FY2023 Capital & Operating Budget

Operating Budget

Education

- \$686.2 million to HCPSS, an increase of \$45.3 million in County funding
- \$2.85 million increase for Howard Community College

Public Safety

- \$1.2 million increase for the body-worn camera program
- Five new positions for the Mobile Integrative Community Health initiative
- 36 new sworn firefighters & emergency medical personnel
- \$3.7 million for 24 new Police positions

Community Services

- \$12 million to local non-profits
- \$1.3 million for maternal health initiative
- \$1 million to Howard County General Hospital

Environment

- \$2 million to Howard County Conservancy to purchase preservation easements

Housing

- \$12 million to the Department of Housing & Community Development
- \$5 million to the Housing Trust Fund

Sources of Funds

General Fund

- \$117 million in mainly property and income revenues, an increase of 9.3%

Special & Other Funds

- \$152.1 million, an increase of 8.2%
- \$15.7 million School Surcharge Tax
- \$850,000 Permanent Public Improvement Fund of Downtown Columbia (CB70-2016)
- \$2.15 million MIHU Fee-In-Lieu
- \$2.88 million in TIF Downtown Columbia PAYGO \$46.6 million for operating

Debt Service on Bonds

- \$136 million, an increase of \$10.1 million
- \$2.28 million in debt service TIF District (Downtown Columbia)

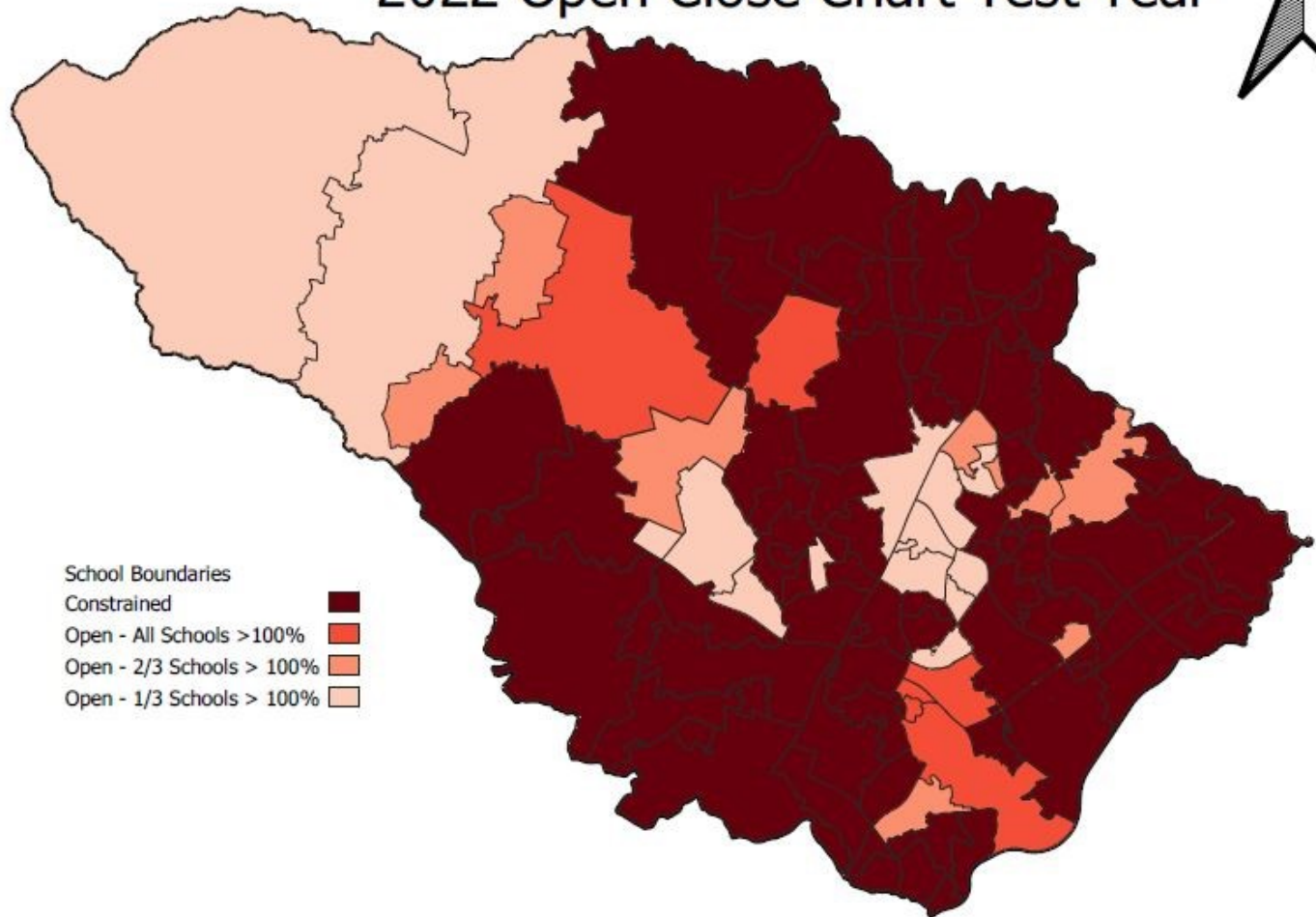
D4 Operating Funds

- New noise monitor position at Merriweather Post Pavilion
- \$30,000 Columbia Community Care
- \$75,000 Columbia Festival of the Arts
- \$30,000 Downtown Columbia Partnership
- \$850,000 Inner Arbor Trust
- \$1 million to Maryland University of Integrative Health
- \$375,000 Community Ecology Institute for property acquisition



School Capacity Chart

2022 Open Close Chart Test Year



For the June-July session, the Council has received the annual school capacity projections (CR100-2022) from HCPSS indicating which schools are open/closed to development based on utilization thresholds. There are four school tests that a new development needs to pass in order to proceed with construction.

- High School Utilization <115%
- Middle School Utilization <110%
- Elementary School Utilization <105%
- Elementary School Region Utilization <105%

If a potential development does not meet all of these requirements, it is placed on hold for up to four years before it automatically proceeds regardless of the assigned schools' utilization percentages.

In the current chart, there are 19 elementary schools, five middle schools, four high schools, and one elementary region closed to development. The closure of a region, by law, triggers a public meeting among the Council, Board of Education, and the Executive.

Council Updates

JUNE-JULY LEGISLATION

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S LEGISLATION

CB43 & CB44 Agricultural Preservation Purchase. Development easement purchase at 6940 & 6950 Haviland Mill Road, Clarksville.

CB45 Building Excise Tax for Parking Garages Square footage assessments apply to all structures, including parking facilities.

CB46 Floodplain Construction Requirements Electrical equipment and HVAC systems must be elevated at least two feet above the 100-year flood level.

CR99 Housing Unit Allocation Chart Annual adoption of the total number of units that can be built for FY2023.

CR100 School Capacity Chart See page 4

CR101 State Agricultural Preservation Sale Owner's application to sell to the State an easement for 2825 Florence Road

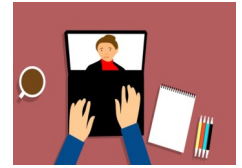
COUNCILMEMBERS' LEGISLATION

CR102 Abortion Care Clinical Training Program Requests Governor Hogan to release funds for this program. Liz Walsh

APRIL-MAY LEGISLATION

The following legislation was introduced on April 4 and voted on May 4.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS



June 15, 7pm — Zoning Board

June 21, 7pm — Legislative Public Hearing

June 27, 1pm — Legislative Work Session

July 5, 7pm — Legislative Session

July 6, 1pm — Council Monthly Meeting

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S LEGISLATION

CR42 Community Development Block Grant & Home Investment Partnership Program Annual Action Plan required for Federal entitlement grants. *Passed*

COUNCILMEMBERS' LEGISLATION

CB26 LAND RESERVATION FOR SCHOOL BUILDINGS Adds building development to the sites that the school system can request for future school facilities. Liz Walsh . *Passed.*

CB27 Age-restricted Housing as a Conditional Use in Business District. Allows senior housing in B-1 on parcels three acres or less adjacent to an existing age-restricted development. David Yungmann. *Passed as amended.*

Council Updates

MARCH-APRIL LEGISLATION

The following legislation was introduced on March 7 and 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. *Passed as Amended*

CB16 Opioid Abatement Reserve Fund

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

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. *Passed as Amended*

ZONING BOARD UPDATES

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. Click [here](#) for more.



Business Spotlight

In every newsletter, 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](#).

COLUMBIA MALL

I had the opportunity to get a personal tour of the Mall from Barb Nicklas on her last day as the Mall's General Manager. She introduced me to a few of the Mall's noteworthy independent retailers.

Edward Arthur

Our first stop was Edward Arthur, a third-generation family jeweler and one of the original Mall tenants from opening day in 1971.



They offer classic pieces along with the full range of fine jewelry maintenance services in a setting purposefully designed for engagement and professionalism.

Their diamonds have accompanied many area brides down the aisles. Round-cut diamonds in all their sparkling glory are back in style and lab grown diamonds speed up the natural process by a few billion years for a less pricey price tag.

Randy Brooks inherited the operation from his father and regaled me with jewelry lore from the birth of the tennis bracelet to the evolving trends of engagement rings. He was kind enough to let me pose with this beauty from the store's display window.

The tennis bracelet got its name from a famous Chris Evert U.S. Open match when her diamond bracelet flew off mid-game and she asked for a pause in play to search for it under the bleachers.



Business Spotlight

Custom Tailor & Cobbler of Columbia

Next stop was the Custom Tailor & Cobbler of Columbia, owned by Richard Shin who has been practicing his trade in the Mall for 28 years. His shop is a multipurpose stop for keeping delicate garments and leather goods looking ageless and flawless. He alters and repairs special occasion gowns and attire and offers dry cleaning services as well. Mr. Shin hails originally from South Korea and chose tailoring as a profession back in 1966 because it was less hot and dirty than his other career options. He raised his children in the Centennial area of Ellicott City and though they spent a lot of time in the shop as children they have pursued professional jobs with the government. Mr. Shin reported that he will need to find an apprentice to learn the trade.



Chicken + Whiskey

We wrapped up our tour at one of the Mall's most recent arrivals: Chicken + Whiskey, a fast casual restaurant inspired by Peruvian cuisine with a healthy fusion flair. Just beyond the chicken rotisserie and the breezy dining room is the sidecar whiskey bar offering an education in the latest trend in spirits. Chicken + Whiskey got its start in a little rowhouse in D.C. and then emigrated with its cool city vibe to the Mall's restaurant row. The restaurant's front man, Des Reilly regaled me with tales of the boom, busts, and near-death experiences of building a successful restaurant portfolio, including their other Mall fixture the Walrus Oyster & Ale House.



County Upates

HOCO BY DESIGN

On May 10, an input session was held on the most recent planning theme “Quality By Design”. Click [here](#) for more. During the input session, a member of the public expressed concerns about the high cost of housing and the increased costs from increased design regulations. The HoCo By Design team explained that if the design requirements are clear that it can speed up the process. Another resident was concerned that the design requirements would simply be suggestions and not rules. The team responded that some core pieces would need to be legislated and that additional changes would be achieved through Comprehensive Rezoning. Another comment requested that terms like “compatibility” should be defined.



CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE

Route 108 at Centennial Lane/Beaverbrook Road This project is 30% complete. Crews are constructing bioswales along the shoulder of the road. Excavation work is also taking place in the median of Centennial Lane. Verizon continues line relocations to new poles. Occasional single lane closures with a flagging operation will occur Monday through Friday from 9am to 3pm. This project is expected to be complete by the end of this year.

Hyla Brook Road Drainage Improvement A project to repair a failed storm drain system near 10102 and 10106 Hyla Brook Road in Wilde Lake is underway. The project is expected to be completed by early June 2022.

KIDS BOOSTERS



Children 5 - 11 should receive a booster dose at least 5 months after their primary series.

VILLAGE NEWS

Click for more

[Wilde Lake](#)

[Harper's Choice](#)

[Hickory Ridge](#)

[River Hill](#)

[Town Center](#)

School Updates

WELCOME NEW SMOB

Congratulations to Abisola Ayoola, a sophomore at Wilde Lake High School, for being elected as the 2022-2023 Student Member of the Board. Her campaign platform consisted of topics dealing with school environment, mental health and wellness, communication, and unity and inclusion.

Click [here](#) for more.



SCHOOL BUDGET APPROVED FOR FY23

On May 26, the BOE adopted its Capital and Operating Budget for the next fiscal year. The Operating budget has increased by 7.8% and the Capital budget now contains \$105.8 million. Several changes to the budget were made to fit the Blueprint for Maryland's Future requirements. Click [here](#) for more.

JUMP START AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE

As part of the JumpStart Dual Enrollment program, 21 high school students earned their associate degree before even graduating high school. The JumpStart Dual Enrollment program fosters a partnership between HCPSS and the Howard Community College to give students more educational and vocational opportunities. Click [here](#) for more.



BOE NEWS: [CLICK HERE.](#)

Keeping up with Deb



Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Festival



Howard County Watershed Report Card



Barb Nicklas' Retirement



The Arc's Chocolate Ball

Community Updates

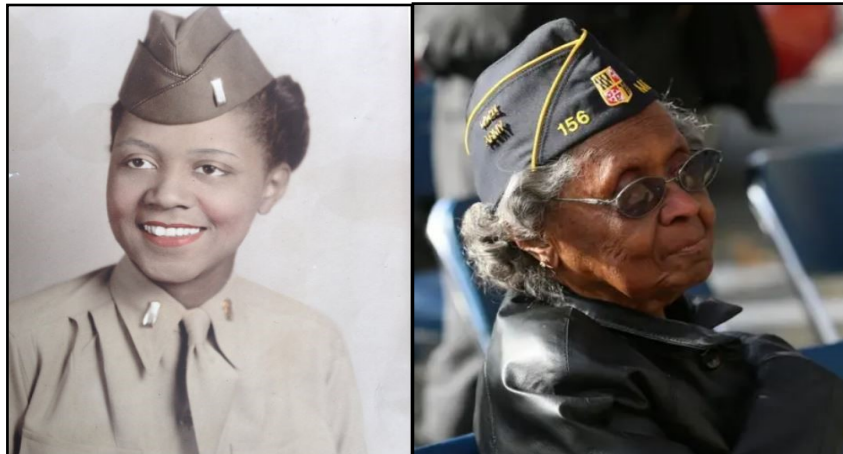
IN MEMORY OF MILLIE BAILEY

On May 1, Vivian C. “Millie” Bailey died at the accomplished age of 104 years old. She was a dedicated volunteer in Columbia, modeling a life of service and community engagement. She was a long-serving member of the Howard County General Hospital Board of Trustees

(23 years), Police Department Citizens Advisory Council (26 years), and the governor-appointed positions of Judicial Nominating Commission for Howard County and the Maryland Health Resources Planning Commission.

She organized care packages for deployed service members through a program known as “Bailey’s Bundles” that included homemade cookies from a platoon of home bakers.

Locally one of her biggest impacts was on Running Brook Elementary School, where she often raised more than \$10,000 annually for the students at the school. A children’s park overlooking Lake Kittamaqundi is named in her honor. Professionally, she broke barriers as one of the first African American officers in the Women’s Army Corps and served as a commander of the Women’s Colored Detachment.



Upcoming Events



Downtown Columbia’s festival season is here. Art, music, outdoor movies, and community fun for all ages are on the

