



# Howard County Happenings with Allan H. Kittleman

August 2018

## Take advantage of tax credits

Do you qualify for a tax credit?

Since I became county executive, my administration has worked to make county government more efficient and effective. We've brought financial responsibility and accountability to the budgeting process.

By doing so, we've been able to put money back in the pockets of many residents through a series of tax credits aimed at helping seniors, retired military, public safety officers and others to remain in their homes. The deadline to apply for these credits is quickly approaching, so now is the time to act.

The application deadline for these tax credits is Saturday, September 1: The county's [Aging in Place Tax Credit](#); the [Senior Tax Credit](#); [Public Safety Officer Property Tax Credit](#); [Maryland Homeowner's Property Tax Credit](#), [Tax Deferral Program](#); and the [Trash, Bay and Watershed Protection Fee Hardship Tax Credit](#).

Other credits are available but have different deadlines. For tax credit information, go [here](#). You can use the credit eligibility calculator to see what credits can benefit you and download tax credit applications.

## County building on partnership with hospital



HCGH President Steve Snelgrove and myself at the Aug. 6 groundbreaking.

The county's strong partnership with Howard County General Hospital was never more apparent than last week when I joined Howard County General Hospital President Steve Snelgrove, hospital leaders and other elected officials to break ground on a \$45 million, 48,000-square-foot expansion.

This new, two-story addition next to the existing emergency room is designed to improve emergency and behavioral health care. To help the hospital meet its needs, the county has pledged \$5 million over five years, starting with \$500,000 in this year's capital budget. This amounts to about one-third of the amount the hospital is raising from outside sources.

This is the latest example of how Howard County Government is partnering with HCGH to support our residents. For the third consecutive year, we will provide \$312,500 for emergency room improvements, for a total of \$1.25 million after next year's fourth and final installment. And for the first time, the county is providing \$389,000 in operating assistance for Howard County General as well.

I am very proud of the partnership the county has with our only hospital.

## County hires energy manager

The county is taking another environmentally friendly step forward next week when Leah Miller, our first Energy Manager, comes on board.

Leah, who will work in our Office of Community Sustainability, will analyze the county's energy efficiency programs and policies and develop internal and public energy savings initiatives. It's a positive step forward in making our county more sustainable. Better management and control of our energy consumption is good for taxpayers, especially considering that Howard County Government has nearly 200 buildings with 2.5 million square feet of space.

The creation of the Energy Manager position was one of the key recommendations of the Energy Task Force I appointed in 2016. Having a staff person coordinate policies across agencies allows for further implementation of the task force's suggestions to increase energy efficiency, sustainability and cost savings.



Leah Miller is Howard County's first Energy Manager.



Hamilton Street in Ellicott City reopened last week.

## Ellicott City continues to rebound

We're making progress in recovering from the May 27 Ellicott City flood.

On Friday, we reopened Hamilton Street, which suffered significant damage in the flood. This allowed the county to reopen access to Lot D from Main Street, making all parking there available.

The work on Ellicott Mills Drive will take longer due to the extent of the damage. Crews are working diligently to design and fortify the Hudson branch channel under the road and then replace the roadway itself. The goal is to open the street before Thanksgiving.

I greatly appreciate everyone's patience while this work is being done.

## Helping students achieve

The Achieve 24/7 initiative works to remove barriers to success and increase access to opportunities for children and youth in Howard County. Programming has focused on improving outcomes in early childhood education, child mental health, summer food access, support for children at risk and other critical areas.

We have just completed our first year of implementation. Under this initiative we have distributed more than 1,300 snack packs to children and youth to ensure that they have access to healthy food over the weekends in the summer. In addition, we have made Ready Rosie, an educational video program, available to all residents free of charge to support school readiness for children.

This summer, in partnership with HCPSS, we launched the first math and enrichment camp for 90 Oakland Mills Middle School students, offering math instruction and afternoon enrichment opportunities Monday through Friday. The participating students also received breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack while enrolled in the program.

Achieve 24/7 also expanded the Weekend Warrior SnackPack program this summer to four sites across Howard County (Laurel Woods Elementary, Oakland Mills Middle School, Harpers Choice Middle School and the East Columbia Library). And in the coming weeks, we will be partnering again with HCPSS and the Oakland Mills schools community to support the back-to-school celebration in four neighborhoods across the village.



Students showed off their computer skills at a summer enrichment camp at Oakland Mills Middle School earlier this summer.

## Calendar

Aug. 18 [Rockburn Open Car Show](#) 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Rockburn Park

Sept. 3 [Labor Day](#) - Offices closed

Sept. 4 Howard County Public School System  
First day of classes

Sept. 8 Fall Flea Market 9 a.m. - Noon  
Gary J. Arthur Community Center

Sept. 9 [Police Pace](#) 8 a.m. Centennial Park

Sept. 11 [Remembrance Ceremony](#) 8:46 a.m.  
Centennial Park

A schedule of various public Events & Meetings can also be found [online](#).