



Howard County Happenings *with Allan H. Kittleman*

December 2016

A Message from the County Executive



December calls for celebration, family togetherness and good will towards others. It is one of my favorite times of the year because we are reminded of the goodness around us and the people and values that are important.

Regardless of religious or cultural beliefs, I hope you take time this season to reconnect with family, neighbors and friends and reach out to help those in need. Amidst recent racial tensions, I ask all of us to focus on what we have in common and participate in conversations through the #OneHoward initiative. I believe in the strength of our diverse heritage and that through caring and understanding, we can

bridge our differences.

In this season, we reflect on loved ones who are no longer with us. In Howard County, we are saddened by the recent loss of Tom Carbo, our long-time county housing official, colleague and community leader. Tom was a passionate advocate and champion who worked tirelessly to create and expand affordable housing programs in Howard County. We will miss his vision and leadership. Please keep Tom's family and friends in your thoughts this holiday season.

May we all have peace and happiness in the coming year. I look forward to seeing you in 2017.

Join the #OneHoward Campaign

As a young boy, my father taught me to respect people from all walks of life. The majority of us live by this guiding principle every day and value diversity, inclusion and tolerance.

But no place is without challenges. Lately, we've seen an increase in acts of racism and bigotry, something that runs counter to the Howard County I know and love. Young people have posted hateful and racist comments on social media, people have been openly and aggressively challenged for their political beliefs, and recently someone painted a swastika on a playground in Columbia.

Howard County is better than this. But race and cultural discussions are often hard to have. Most of us don't know where to start. So, I felt it was time to begin a conversation. The #OneHoward campaign is designed to promote the community's commitment to the values of diversity and inclusiveness and to encourage a positive dialogue and respectful behavior. We kicked off the campaign Dec. 3 when about 300 people packed the Bain 50+ Center to share their concerns and hopes for our County.



**CELEBRATING DIVERSITY
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY**



It was uplifting to see the passion in the crowd because it shows that Howard County residents will not sit idly by and let these acts continue. I believe if we share our values openly, others, in particular our youth, will see that we are compassionate and accepting. We are in the process of putting together a steering committee of members of the community and my administration to oversee the direction of #OneHoward. For the next steps of the #OneHoward initiative, follow us on [Facebook](#).



Preparing for Inclement Weather

It's that time again - snow will soon be in the forecast. To plan for possible closures, road conditions and clean up efforts, here are three things you can do.

First - Follow county closing announcements on our website, social media channels and local TV and radio news stations. This includes updates about [trash and](#)

[recycling services](#).

Second - Know before you go. Learn how to check the status of county events, activities or facilities before you risk driving in poor conditions. Many offices and facilities share information online or have inclement weather lines, including [Recreation and Parks](#) and [50+ Centers](#).

Third - If emergency operations are necessary, the County may open its resident information line at 410-313-2900 to answer questions and will post updates online and via social media.

Remember the county also will beta launch a new cutting-edge snow plow tracker in mid-December so stay tuned for more information as it is available.

Non-Profit Center taking shape for 2017 opening

Nearly a dozen tenants covering a range of support services from housing to mental health to employment will be joining the county's [new non-profit center](#) when it opens in March 2017. The Center, located at 9770 Patuxent Woods Drive in Columbia, will improve the accessibility and coordination of assistance efforts from a common location, as well as allowing agencies to efficiently share space and cooperatively use client, staff and building resources.



Long Reach named sustainable community

A new sustainable community designation for the [Village of Long Reach](#) will boost revitalization efforts. The Maryland Sustainable Communities program through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development opens eligibility for state

programs and resources, such as neighborhood BusinessWorks, Community Legacy and the Strategic Demolition Fund.

The program emphasizes public and private investments that support community growth, revitalization and reinvestment in older communities. This includes fostering a healthy local economy, green infrastructure, mix of land uses, sustainable housing, walkability and recreational opportunities.

In addition, the County continues its efforts to renovate and redevelop county-owned property in the village. An RFP seeking proposals from developers will be issued soon.

Dates to Remember

December 10	Ellicott City Community Engagement Meeting at 9:30 a.m.
December 14	County Executive's 1st Citizens Budget Hearing at 7 p.m.
December 26	Christmas holiday - offices closed
	Kwanzaa begins
December 28	Chanukah Candle Lighting Celebration at 5:30 p.m.

Visit EllicottCityHolidays.com for information about December holiday events in Historic Ellicott City and support the recovery efforts.

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