



Howard County Happenings with Allan H. Kittleman

May 2017

A Message from the County Executive

Dear friends,

It's been two years since we embarked on an intensive, community-driven process to help shape the future of the Long Reach Village Center. Last week, I joined members of the community to unveil a plan to rebuild the center, one of Columbia's oldest.

What we saw that day is a game-changer for Long Reach.

The proposal, put forth by Orchard Development, is the culmination of a process that started with five well-attended community meetings where hundreds of ideas were discussed and ended with a seven-member committee that evaluated four development plans submitted to the county.

This reimagined village center includes a village green bordering Tamar Drive, envisioned as a focal point for community events and operated by the Columbia Association. It also includes a daycare center, medical office space, retail space, a dog park, a "food incubator" for local vendors and chefs and a three-story, hydroponic vertical garden that will provide fresh produce to the community year-round.

Fifty-two for-sale townhomes, 132 units of market-rate, multi-family housing and 120 housing units for seniors will complete the plan, helping to ensure a thriving, vibrant village center.

The proposal will be reviewed by the Planning Board May 18 and then move on to the County Council. Orchard expects to move the first businesses and property owners in by early 2020.

It's an exciting time for Long Reach. And for Howard County.



Final budget hearing May 12

It's not too late to comment on the county's FY 2018 capital and operating budgets.

The County Council will hold its final public hearing on both budgets on Friday, May 12 at 1 p.m. in the Bancker Room at the George Howard Building, 3430 Court House Drive in Ellicott City.

The Council is scheduled to adopt the budgets at a public session on Wednesday, May 24 at 9 a.m., also in the Bancker Room.

HCAA meeting May 17 - UPDATED

I look forward to speaking at the Howard County Citizens' Association (HCCA) meeting on Wednesday, May 17 at 7 p.m. at the Hawthorne Center in the Village of Hickory Ridge, 6175 Sunny Spring.

Joining me that evening will be Michael J. Martriano, the recently named acting superintendent of Howard County Public Schools.

I'm sorry to say that seats for this event have all been reserved. I look forward to meeting with members of HCCA. For those who were not able to get a seat, my portion of the meeting will be recorded and made available online and on social media following the event.

Volunteers keep the county moving



Celebrating the Volunteer of the Year Awards were: Council ViceChairperson Jon Weinstein, Dr. Adam Feldman, Rees Draminski, George and Janice Vanisko, TJ Swiney, Julie Casey, Donna Kruzic, Nancy Schieken and County Executive Allan H. Kittleman.

Other honorees were:

Youth Volunteer of the Year: Rees Draminski, a junior at Mount Hebron High School, for his work with TeCanal, a nonprofit organization that promotes STEM education to low-income neighborhoods in Baltimore.

Nonprofit Volunteer Organization of the Year: Metanoia Church for its efforts following the flood in Historic Ellicott City.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Julie Casey for her more than 25 years with the Howard County Volunteer Firefighters Association.

Lifetime Achievement Award: TJ Swiney for 44 years of service to the Elkridge Volunteer Fire Department.

Dynamic Duo Award: George and Janice "Jan" Vanisko for their willing to help others in need, particularly at Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Our Daily Bread, Little Sisters of the Poor, St. Louis Church and FISH.

Our volunteers are the backbone of our great county and many of the services we offer wouldn't be possible without the work and dedication of these individuals.

That's why it was such an honor to join the County Council and Volunteer Center Serving Howard County last month in recognizing the extraordinary individuals and organizations who generously give their time and talent to help improve the lives of others.

Our volunteers of the year are Donna Kruzic and Nancy Schieken who work with Howard County Recreation & Parks' "No Boundaries" program, a drama course for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Both have volunteered for the program for 10 years.

Raise a glass to Wine in the Woods

This is Wine in the Woods' 25th year, so join us and celebrate the charm and character of an event that has aged to perfection! Wine in the Woods is now the largest wine festival in Maryland and was voted Best Festival in Howard County for many years.

We're expecting 27 wineries, 18 food vendors, 30 artisans and crafters and 12 live band performances over the two-day event in Symphony Woods in Columbia.

Sample a variety of Maryland's finest wines from a souvenir glass; purchase food from high quality, distinctive restaurants and caterers; sharpen your palate by attending wine education seminars; purchase exceptional works of art and specialty crafts; and revel in continuous live entertainment.

Please ask about our designated driver program if you plan to sample wines. Remember, the target audience for this event is 21 years and over.

To purchase advanced tickets, volunteer or for more information, click [here](#).

Don't forget to download the free app for iPhone and Android to allow for notifications during the event.



All about "Wine"

Saturday, May 20 / 11am-6pm

Wine Taster: \$32 in advance; \$40 at gate

Designated Driver: \$25

Youth Ticket (3-20 yrs): \$25

Sunday, May 21 / 11am-5pm

Wine Taster: \$27 in advance; \$35 at gate

Designated Driver: \$20

Youth Ticket (3-20 yrs): \$20

Timbers of Troy reopens today

Fore! Golfers will be able to return to one of the best courses in the area today when Timbers of Troy reopens. The course has been closed since January to allow for bunker and irrigation renovations to be completed.

Though I'm not a golfer, I'm told the improvements will bring a fresh, new look, enhancing the golfing experience at the par 72 championship course which was recognized in 1996 by Golf Digest with 4 Stars in its "Places to Play" awards.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Our behavioral health integration work group will have its next meeting May 24 at 5 p.m. at the George Howard Building. These meetings are open to the public.

We created this group to look at how to integrate treatment and services in the county for mental health and substance use disorder. For the past 20 years, the county has had a split system, with mental health and substance use managed separately. The State of Maryland integrated its system in 2013 and urged all local jurisdictions to do the same.

We are looking for ways to find more cost-effective treatment of mental health and substance abuse; shared space where mental health and substance abuse professionals can work collaboratively; and address critical needs in care access, coordination and gaps in service.

This work group, comprised of representatives from the Howard County Health Department, the Mental Health Authority, the Board of Health, the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Advisory Board, the Mental Health Authority Board and various nonprofit organizations, has been meeting since March.

For more information, click [here](#).

HoCoWalks, yoga in the park for Mother's Day weekend!

If you're looking for something fun to do this Mother's Day weekend, come out to Centennial Park on Saturday, May 13 at 9 a.m. for HoCoWalks!

This month we're also offering a free yoga class at the Amphitheatre at 9 a.m. The 20-minute class, led by Jeannie DeCray, is open to all ages. We suggest you bring a yoga mat or towel.

After the class, take a mile-long walk on the trail we've mapped out or walk around the lake, a 2.4 mile loop. And while you're at the park, enjoy a healthy snack provided by the Roving Radish. Be sure to bring water in a recyclable water bottle. (Water is not provided.)

HoCoWalks visits different parks throughout the year on pre-selected Saturdays. For more click [here](#).

For more about the Roving Radish, click [here](#).

In case of inclement weather, call 410-313-4451 to check on the event status.

