



Howard County Happenings *with Allan H. Kittleman*

November 2016

A Message from the County Executive



On Tuesday, Americans have the chance to help shape the course of our country for the next four years by voting on Election Day. Often, less than half of registered voters will take advantage of the opportunity to make their choices known.

I'm hoping that this year, we will see an unprecedented level of participation. Voting is not only a citizen's right, but also an important civic duty. Regardless of your political beliefs, every registered voter should find a way to visit the polls on Tuesday, if they haven't already cast their ballots during early voting this year.

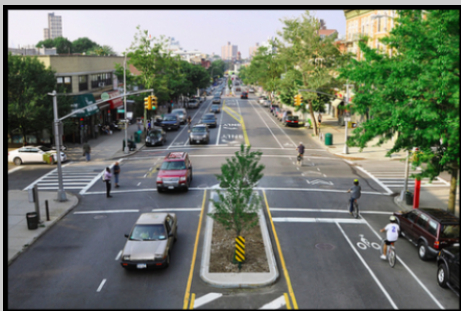
In addition to the presidential election, there are important U.S. Senate and House races on the ballot, as well as local Board of Education positions to fill. Howard County voters also have important referendum questions to decide about public campaign financing and changes to the local budget process.

On Nov. 8, please find time in your day to vote. The polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Find your polling place at <https://voterservices.elections.state.md.us/PollingPlaceSearch>.

New Tax Credits Proposed to Support Aging in Place

I have prefiled legislation to expand the ability of seniors and retired military to stay in their homes through [tax credits](#). My proposal expands the existing senior tax credit to nearly 15,000 residents by lowering the age of eligibility from 70 to 65.

It further provides a 20 percent tax credit on eligible properties for residents who have been in their homes for at least 40 years. The proposal will be discussed by the County Council at its public hearing on Nov. 21 and could be voted on as early as Dec. 5.



Complete Streets Coming to HoCo

Learn about progress on the draft "[Complete Streets Policy](#)" for Howard County at an upcoming public [stakeholder meeting on Nov. 29](#). This initiative helps us plan, design and operate streets that function well for everyone, including drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

An implementation team has worked diligently since April to review best practices from around the country and select the aspects that work best for us. This effort has resulted in a comprehensive draft policy and will provide recommendations to update existing procedures and design manuals. Complete Streets are important to support transportation options, economic success, sustainability and public health in Howard County.

Annual Veterans Day Parade Continuing in Ellicott City

Veteran's Day is next week! Join me and the Howard County Veterans and Military Families Commission for the [annual Veteran's Day Parade](#) in Ellicott City on Saturday, Nov. 12. The parade begins at 11:00 a.m. at St Peter's Church, will head down Frederick Road towards the Historic District and end in Lot F. Stick around after the parade ends for games and activities.



DCRS Director Steve Bullock started Nov. 1

Meet the New DCRS Director

This week, Steven A. Bullock joined us as the new [Director of the Department of Community Resources and Services](#). Steve comes to Howard County with nearly 20 years experience in human services and emergency management.

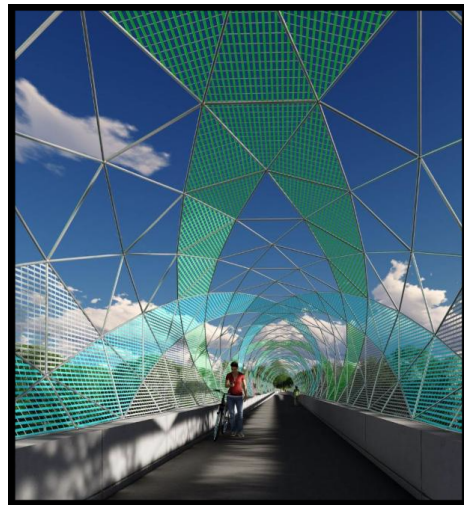
In that time, Steve has developed innovative support systems and worked collaboratively with community and faith-based organizations. I am confident in his leadership to coordinate services and address the needs of various generations, cultures and abilities.

Concepts for U.S. 29 Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge Introduced

Options for improving the design and safety of the [pedestrian bridge over U.S. 29](#) were presented at a public meeting on Nov. 2. The county is seeking community input until Nov. 14 to help select the best concepts and design ideas for the engineering and design phase. Email comments to David Cookson in the Office of Transportation at dcookson@howardcountymd.gov

All concepts being considered include new COLUMBIA lettering on the bridge, improved lighting and security, as well as cleaning.

Improvements will be made with a \$500,000 investment from the Howard Hughes Corporation and \$100,000 from the county. We hope to have the improvements complete in 2017 for the 50th birthday of Columbia.



Potential bridge design

Dates to Remember

November 5	HoCo Walks at Meadowbrook Park at 9 a.m.
November 11	Veterans Day - Offices closed
November 15	Oakland Mills Feasibility Study Public Meeting at Oakland Mills Middle School from 7 to 9 p.m.
November 16	Town Hall at North Laurel Community Center at 7:00 p.m.
November 24 and 25	Thanksgiving Holiday - Offices closed
November 26	Shop Small Saturday in Ellicott City starting at 10 a.m.

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