



Howard County Happenings *with Allan H. Kittleman*

October 2016

A Message from the County Executive



As a life-long resident of Howard County, I have always known that Columbia and Howard County are among the "Best Places to Live" in America. But it was still exciting when Columbia recently got the [top spot on Money magazine's list](#), continuing a tradition of making this list for much of the last decade. This honor reflects the economic and social diversity that make our county attractive to residents, businesses and visitors.

Howard County also deserves recognition for its resilience. No where is that more evident than in Ellicott City. Main Street is now open to vehicular and pedestrian traffic and businesses are reopening.

Follow these efforts through social media, by visiting the [Recovery Resources](#) web page or sign up for my [#ECStrong newsletter](#).

I also want to offer a shout out to a special place in my life. Atholton High School, my alma mater, will celebrate its 50th Anniversary this month. I could not have accomplished as much or have the fond memories of my youth without the education, support and friendships I experienced there. Maybe I will see you at Homecoming on Oct. 22.

Battling Opioid Addiction

I joined Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford, Anne Arundel County Executive Steve Schuh, and Harford County Executive Barry Glassman on Oct. 4 at the Tri-County Opioids Addiction Summit, attended by more than 250 people. To date in 2016, there have been more than 30 overdose deaths in Howard County, 23 of which have been confirmed to involve heroin, as well as another 103 non-fatal overdoses reported.

The message was clear that this devastating epidemic requires collaborative and comprehensive strategies.

We must look for innovative ways to curb the escalating trend of overdoses and deaths. Everyone gained valuable input from the Summit and will use the insights to determine next steps. Video of the event will soon be available online.



Presentations by local and state officials and special guests offered valuable input to fight the opioid epidemic.



Rendering of Downtown Columbia

Columbia Affordable Housing and TIF legislation vote postponed

The Howard County Council on Oct. 5 decided to postpone voting on my administration's legislative package to advance [affordable housing and Tax Increment Financing \(TIF\)](#) to support redevelopment of Downtown Columbia. Discussion continued at the Council's [Work Session](#) on Oct. 11 and any legislative amendments are due Nov. 3.

If my legislation passes, the County will have a comprehensive and legal framework to guarantee that affordable housing is built Downtown. The legislation resulted from a collaborative process spanning several months and incorporates many Downtown Columbia stakeholder views. It is gathering broad support from media, business entities and others.

Resident input needed for the Transit Development Plan

Public transportation plays a vital role in the lives of our residents, taking them to and from work, doctor appointments, shopping, advanced education and so on. We are working on a [comprehensive Transit Development Plan](#) for the Central Maryland region and seek your input.

Learn more and participate in the series of public meetings in Laurel, Ellicott City, Columbia and Hanover starting October 13. You can participate in an online survey and provide comments electronically. This process will guide future service changes, improvements or expansion to make our transit system more efficient and effective.



The future of public transportation in our region is being developed now.



I honored my mother, a cancer survivor, by pinning a ribbon to the Howard County Health Department's Tree of Hope.

Help stop breast cancer this month

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and the fight against this deadly disease continues. Many families have been affected by the loss of a loved one. Through improved screening and treatment, many lives have been saved.

In [my video](#) supporting this campaign, I am happy to report that Howard County has the highest screening rates in the state. We take this opportunity to remind all residents how important regular screening is.

Main Street opens to vehicular and pedestrian traffic

After ten weeks of cleaning up and rebuilding, two-way vehicular traffic resumed on Main Street on Thursday Oct. 6 at 5 p.m. Pedestrians also can walk the full length of Main Street. We have made tremendous progress but much more needs to be done. The area remains a construction zone and access to sidewalks may be limited from time to time as business owners continue rebuilding. Parking will not be permitted on Main Street, but more than 450 parking spaces are available in county lots in the historic district. Lot "B" next to the Patapsco River remains closed.

We ask for patience from those who will be visiting Main Street in the coming weeks. Please be mindful of the rebuilding efforts, not only for your safety but out of respect for those merchants, residents and building owners who are still working to get back on their feet. The best way to show support is to patronize the businesses whose doors are already open.



Oct. 5 news conference video

Dates to Remember

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| October 15 | County Shredding event at Long Gate Park and Ride from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. |
| October 15 | Farm Academy at Breezy Willow Farm from 9 a.m. to Noon |
| October 20 | Community Action Council Holland Awards Dinner from 6 to 9 p.m. |
| October 25 | 14th Annual Celebration of Sports at Turf Valley Resort at 5 p.m. |
| October 31 | 50+ Expo at Wilde Lake High School from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. |

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