



# Howard County Happenings with Allan H. Kittleman

September 2017

## Special day arrives for Harriet Tubman School

For those of us who have been fighting for years to preserve the Harriet Tubman School, Saturday was a day we've long awaited. For the first time, we were able to celebrate Harriet Tubman Day at the Harriet Tubman School.

It was an emotional day that was long overdue. About 500 attended the event in Columbia where we saw the school's refurbished clock and the desk that belonged to Elhart Flurry, the school's principal. I was deeply touched to receive an honorary Harriet Tubman School Diploma from my good friend, the Rev. Douglas Sands, on behalf of the Harriet Tubman Foundation.

As we move forward with the transformation of the Harriet Tubman School, it is my sincere hope that it will stand as a reminder that we are so much more alike than we are different. I hope you will join me in celebrating all that this school will teach our community in the years ahead.



We celebrated our first Harriet Tubman Day at the school on Saturday.



ReadyRosie videos such as the one above show ways parents can prepare their students for school.

## A high-tech answer for school readiness

For all parents and guardians looking for fun (and educational) activities to do with your children, we've just launched an innovative school readiness program called ReadyRosie.

We're offering this high-tech learning tool free to all county families as part of my Achieve 24/7 initiative. The program provides instructional videos through text messages and emails to help parents work with their children on skills needed prior to kindergarten.

ReadyRosie offers two-minute videos that can turn everyday activities into learning opportunities. When walking to the bus stop, count the steps along the way. Standing in line at the grocery store? Identify colors on the products you see.

If you are a parent, guardian or caregiver in Howard County, you can register for ReadyRosie [here](#). It is our hope that families throughout the county will sign up and take advantage of this great learning tool. And check out my personalized ReadyRosie video above.

## Help for Florida

When a devastating flood hit Ellicott City last year, many jurisdictions from across the state and the nation came to our aid. Now, it's time to return the favor.

Last week, following Hurricane Irma, the county's Department of Recreation and Parks sent a 12-member crew, seven trucks, and supporting equipment to the Miami area to help with cleanup efforts. This past weekend, the county's Department of Fire and Rescue Services deployed three members to Florida as part of a Critical Incident Stress Management team. This team will provide stress management support to first responders and shelter staff who have worked long hours in stressful conditions.

Additionally, our Office of Emergency Management deployed two members as part of a statewide team to assist basecamp operations, and one team member to the Florida State Emergency Operations Center to support volunteer and donations management. I want to thank them for representing all of us in Howard County and for helping to get Florida back on its feet.

Finally, with over two months left in hurricane season, we must be prepared here in Howard County in the event that a serious storm hits. Preparedness guides and tips can be found [here](#). Additionally, it's not too late to participate in the Office of Emergency Management's September Preparedness Bootcamp. To find the details and preparedness tips, visit the OEM Facebook page.



County crews do their part in the Florida cleanup effort.

## Lessons on planning and zoning

To the average person, the planning and zoning process can be confusing. But it doesn't have to be that way. That's why I've established the PlanHoward Academy, a series of classes where residents can take part in hands-on experiences where they can get a better understanding of land development in Howard County.

With the PlanHoward Academy, residents will get the chance to learn about the development process, become better informed about the county's planning efforts and build relationships with members of the county's planning staff.

Each Academy class will run for four sessions and accommodate 25 people. The first class that gets underway next week is full due to an overwhelming interest from the community. But our Department of Planning and Zoning has committed to a winter session as well.

In the meantime, I encourage you to stay engaged in the planning process by clicking [here](#).

## Health Care Town Hall

While our elected officials discuss health care on the national level, I thought it would be appropriate to have a conversation here in Howard County. This is why I am joining with Steve Snelgrove, president of Howard County General Hospital, to host a Health Care Town Hall on Tuesday, Sept. 26 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the North Laurel Community Center, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road in North Laurel.

Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. A brief presentation, followed by a question and answer session, will start promptly at 7 p.m. For those who can't attend, we will have a video of the town hall on the county's website later in the week.

## Free dental checkup

A free dental health clinic will be held on Saturday, Oct. 7 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the North Laurel Community Center, 9411 Whiskey Bottom Road in North Laurel. Part of a Howard County Wellness Care Initiative, the clinic offers free extractions, cleanings, fillings and other dental needs.

You must pre-register to get an appointment as space is limited. Registration must be done in person at the Howard County MultiService Center, 9900 Washington Boulevard, Suite I in Laurel. Bring a government-issued photo ID to register. Those under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

The clinic is presented in partnership with the county Office of Community Partnerships and Hope for Tomorrow, a nonprofit traveling dental clinic.

## Calendar

**Sept. 23 [HoCo Walks](#)** 9 a.m. North Laurel Park

**Sept. 26 [County Executive Town Hall on Health Care](#)**  
7 p.m. North Laurel Community Center

**Oct. 5 [Commission on Disability Issues Annual Awards](#)**  
7 p.m. Roger Carter Community Center

**Oct. 7 [Fire Prevention Expo 2017](#)**  
12 Noon The Mall in Columbia

**Oct. 9 [Columbus Day](#)** - County offices closed

**Oct. 17 [15th Annual Celebration of Sports](#)**  
5 p.m. Turf Valley Resort

**Oct. 20 [50+ Expo](#)** 9 a.m. Wilde Lake High School