



Howard County Happenings with Allan H. Kittleman

September 2018

We must act now on Ellicott City flooding

Over the course of 250 years, the people of Ellicott City have expected the rivers running through town to bend to their will. But that approach has never been successful. The rivers have flooded the town over and over. We've lost far too many people to catastrophic flooding over the town's history, including four since July 2016.

We know now that it's not a matter of whether another flood will occur, but a matter of when. James Lee, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Sterling, Va. said at a County hearing recently that "the old town portion of Ellicott City is the location most at risk for life-threatening weather in our entire forecast area."

We do not have the luxury of further studies, delaying action and waiting to correct this problem. The plan that Councilmember Jon Weinstein and I put forth is about taking decisive action and making dramatic changes.

Our five-year plan for Ellicott City is based on the results of a detailed and unprecedented hydrologic and hydraulic analysis of the entire Tiber-Hudson watershed. In this analysis, experts analyzed multiple options. The plan we put forward offers the greatest impact by requiring three upstream stormwater retention facilities and removing structures that impede the flow of flood water, including 10 buildings on lower Main Street.

Three bills now before the County Council would empower the County to transfer funds to move the plan forward. Our presentation to the County Council that described the plan can be found [here](#) and a list of frequently asked questions can be found [here](#).

Delaying this plan will increase the chance of future flooding. We must act quickly. We cannot afford to wait and risk future injuries or loss of life.

Money Magazine celebrates Ellicott City

Despite the challenges of two devastating floods in 22 months on Main Street, we learned earlier this week that



The Preakness Balloon Festival is held annually in Ellicott City.

[Money Magazine](#) has ranked Ellicott City as the 4th best place to live in America! It also was selected as the best place to live in Maryland. As we certainly know, Ellicott City has a lot to offer.

The magazine touted Ellicott City's schools, its great socioeconomic and racial diversity and amenities such as parks, community centers, farmers markets and much more. This is a great testament to the residents, businesses and property owners throughout Ellicott City!

Join us for the Community Resources Campus open house

We've worked diligently to get the Howard County Community Resources Campus (CRC) open. Now it's time to invite the public in for a look.

This Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m., we are offering public tours of our two recently occupied buildings on the [Campus](#) in Columbia. These buildings, at 9820 and 9830 Patuxent Woods Drive, are the new offices of our Department of Community Resources and Services, Department of Housing and Community Development, Office of Human Rights and the Community Action Council.

During the open house, these agencies will offer demonstrations and refreshments. We will hold a brief presentation about the campus at 3 p.m., followed by a Moderate Income Housing Unit (MIHU) Lottery drawing.

We established the CRC to reinvent the way human services are delivered in Howard County. When completed, the campus will be a central location where residents can access nonprofit organizations and county and state agencies offering human services in an easier and more effective manner.

The NonProfit Collaborative, located in the heart of the campus, opened in April 2017 and currently houses 16 nonprofit agencies. The campus is on an RTA bus route to provide better access for all residents.

Please join us for the festivities on Thursday and meet some of the wonderful staff members who work so hard on behalf of our residents.



The Howard County Community Resources Campus will host an open house on Thursday September 20.

Making the planning and zoning process easier to understand

Throughout my administration, we have worked to make government more open, transparent and responsive. In particular, I pledged to make our planning and zoning process easier to understand and more accessible to everyone.

This was the impetus for creating the PlanHoward Academy. This highly successful course helps residents learn how decisions are made and teaches them how they can participate in the process.

We are expanding the PlanHoward Academy [website](#) to include more information and easy-to-use tutorials. Our latest, The Basics of Planning and Zoning, explains the process and the roles of the County Executive, the County Council and the Department of Planning and Zoning.



County provides funding to continue Elkridge small area plan effort

Members of the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) and I hosted a community meeting in May to discuss a proposed small area plan for Main Street in Elkridge. We want to thank all who attended the meeting and provided input. The results can be found on the project's [webpage](#).

At that meeting we discussed the county's efforts to gain state funding for the project. Unfortunately, state officials did not approve that funding. However, I have identified local funds that we can use to continue this important project.

We are working with DPZ to engage a consultant to design the small area plan. In the next few weeks, we will announce the results of that process and schedule a community meeting to review it. Stay tuned.

Calendar

- September 20 [Howard County Community Resources Campus Open House](#) - 2 p.m.
- September 23 [Robinson Nature Center Anniversary Open House](#) - Noon - 5 p.m.
- September 29 [Howard County Accessible Transportation Forum](#) - 10 a.m. to Noon, East Columbia Library
- October 3 [Elkridge Community Safety Day](#), Elkridge 50+ Center - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- October 8 [Columbus Day](#) – offices closed
- October 16 [Celebration of Sports](#), Turf Valley Resort - 5 to 9 p.m.
- October 19 [20th 50+ Expo at Wilde Lake High School](#) - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A schedule of various public Events & Meetings can also be found [online](#).