



Howard County Happenings *with Allan H. Kittleman*

September 2016

A Message from the County Executive



The summer is always a favorite time of year because it brings the Howard County Fair, summer camps (one of which received a surprise visit from Baltimore Ravens Joe Flacco), and family vacations and cookouts.

This year, however, we faced heartbreaking loss as our historic Ellicott City was devastated by flooding on July 30. Since then, we have tackled the monumental task of cleaning debris left behind, shoring up buildings, repairing infrastructure and beginning the long-term recovery that will make Ellicott City stronger than before. This will take time, resources and commitment from many in our community and our staff.

I know we are up to the challenge. To learn about these efforts, follow social media, visit the [Recovery Resources](#) web page or sign up for my [#ECStrong newsletter](#).

As we moved into September, thoughts turned to the new school year for our students and teachers. I wish them good luck as we begin the 2016-2017 school year. I am well on my way to making the rounds this year, visiting more than a dozen schools in the first two weeks. I hope to see first-hand many of the innovative and exciting things that our students are doing.

Battling Opioid Addiction

Too often we see and hear about the tragedy and pain that addiction inflicts on our community. We have seen increasing numbers of people impacted by the scourge of opioid addiction, including our friends, neighbors and family members. To look at ways to address this epidemic, Howard County has joined with Anne Arundel and Harford Counties to hold a Tri-County Opioids Addiction Summit on **Tuesday, Oct. 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the Ten Oaks Ballroom. Interested treatment professionals, caregivers, and medical and law enforcement personnel can register [here](#) to attend this free event.



Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford (right), leader of Maryland's Heroin and Opioid Emergency Task Force, and Keith Mills (left), sportscaster, who publicly faced his own battle with addiction, will speak.



Discussion continues at the Sept. 22 public hearing about Downtown Columbia

Understanding Downtown Columbia TIF legislation

My administration submitted eight bills in July to advance [affordable housing and Tax Increment Financing \(TIF\)](#) for the redevelopment of Downtown Columbia. The Howard County Council will hold another public hearing on **Thursday, Sept. 22 at 6 p.m.** to discuss this proposal.

If my legislation passes, the County will have a comprehensive and legal framework to guarantee that affordable housing is built Downtown while minimizing financial risks to the county and residents. The legislation resulted from a collaborative process spanning several months and incorporates many Downtown Columbia stakeholder views.

Oakland Mills Feasibility Study

Bolan Smart Associates, the project consultant firm hired in partnership with the Columbia Association (CA) in the spring, is preparing to present important findings and the land use planning implications for the Oakland Mills Village in early November. Bolan Smart recently completed stakeholder meetings and will continue to work into the fall performing targeted research into the financial feasibility of redevelopment opportunities. As part of evaluating economic and market opportunities, the study also will consider Weis Markets' plan to purchase the Food Lion grocery store in the center.



Stay tuned for details of presentations in November.



More than 800 people participated in the 25th Annual Police Pace to support education and scholarships.

Patriotic Police Pace on 9/11

I always remember the important job and the sacrifices that our first responders make to keep us safe. But on a day like this past 9/11 where we marked 15 years since that tragedy, we all make a special effort to stop and say thank you. The many displays of patriotism were heartwarming at both the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony ([watch the video](#)) and the Annual Police Pace that followed from Centennial Park. We should remember to appreciate these community heroes all 365 days of the year.

Main Street begins to open for business

Ellicott City makes progress every day. Each week brings a little more normalcy back to Main Street. As of Monday, Sept. 12, another section of Main Street between Court Avenue and Forrest Street opened to pedestrian and vehicular traffic. This allows more businesses to reopen or continue rebuilding. Every step forward, every shrinking of the "no-access" perimeter, is welcome progress. In addition, another 15 parking spaces will be available on Lot "F," which is located at the top of Main Street near Ellicott Mills Drive, making 80 percent of that lot open to the public. Business owners and residents will continue work on their properties from Sept. 17 to 19 as Main Street prepares to **open to pedestrian traffic at 5 p.m. on Sept. 20**. I encourage our community members outside of Main Street to support our recovery efforts.



I helped some of the first customers of the Wine Bin load their cars as they supported our local businesses.

Dates to Remember

- September 14** EC Recovery Town Hall at Veterans Elementary School beginning at 7 p.m.
- September 17** [Bicentennial Celebration of Savage Mill](#) from Noon to 4 p.m.
- October 1** [HoCo Walks](#) at Wilde Lake Park with Police Chief Gary Gardner and Park "Bark" Rangers

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