#### District 6 Newsletter - March 2023



## **County Councilman Mike Ertel**

400 Washington Avenue
Towson, MD 21204
410-887-3388
council6@baltimorecountymd.gov

Proudly serving Hillendale, Loch Raven Village, Middle River, Overlea, Parkville, Rosedale, and Towson

I am excited and honored to represent the citizens of the 6th District on the County Council. We are some of the oldest neighborhoods in Baltimore County with a diverse and vibrant population. Our neighborhoods need a lot of attention, and I'm already working on multiple improvements.

I'm concentrating on three priorities:

- Enhanced Public Safety and Quality of Life
  - Reducing crime in the District
  - Dealing with police officer vacancies and tougher recruiting environment
- Education Improvements
  - Better K-12 academic outcomes and more skills training
  - Reducing bad behavior in our schools
  - Replacing aging school buildings
- Environment
  - Increasing our tree canopy
  - Cleaning up along commercial corridors and neighborhoods
  - Protecting our dwindling greenspace

Please feel free to reach out to my office – my staff and I want to hear your opinions, ideas, concerns, and constructive criticism.

Thank you,

Mike

### **Our Town Hall Wrap-Up**

The 6<sup>th</sup> District Budget Town Hall took place March 1st at Towson High School with County Executive Johnny Olszewski. We had around 300 people in attendance and almost 60 residents asked questions and brought up their concerns and priorities. Topics included:

- 1. Crime in Towson
- 2. Belair Road Streetscape Issues
- 3. Environmental Concerns
- 4. School Overcrowding
- 5. Homelessness
- 6. Natural History Society Museum Programs

It was very helpful to hear everyone's input and ideas. If you were unable to attend the meeting, you can watch a recording of it by visiting the Baltimore County YouTube channel at this link: <u>Townhall Recordings</u>. If you have questions about the Town Hall or you have concerns that you weren't able to address at the Town Hall, please call my office at 410-887-3388 or email me at <u>council6@baltimorecountymd.gov</u>

### **Councilman Ertel Co-Sponsors Plastic Bag Bill**



Last month I attended a bill signing ceremony for this groundbreaking legislation whose main goal is to help reduce the 330 million plastic grocery bags used annually in Baltimore County. Ultimately this will lead to a cleaner environment for all of us, both on land and in our waterways, and will tremendously benefit our children, grandchildren, and generations to come.

## **Community Clean-Ups**

Another Saturday, another 6<sup>th</sup> District Neighborhood Clean-Up. (*Pictured right was Holland Hills.*) Many thanks to Delegate Carl Jackson for partnering with me and these enthusiastic community members!

Other clean-up project sites in our district have included litter patrols, returning grocery carts to their proper place at retailers, and graffiti cleanup in Rosedale, Harford Park, Hazelwood, Fullerton, Towson, and more. Let us know how we can help in your neighborhood. Call 410-887-3388 or email

council6@baltimorecountymd.gov





(*Pictured left*) I recently had the privilege of joining Councilman David Marks and Delegate Cathi Forbes at an Eagle Scout ceremony honoring Casey Timlen and Bliadd Wilt, from Towson United Methodist Troop 102.

# Tree Plantings Coming to Parkville!

Baltimore County's Street Tree Replacement Program named Parkville as one of six areas in the county that will get plantings this year to re-establish street tree canopies that have been depleted over the past decades.

- Plantings will be on the county-owned strip of grass between the curb and sidewalk.
- In order to protect sidewalks from heaving due to roots every tree is planted with a root barrier that deflects roots away from sidewalks.
- Plantings will typically be 10'-12' feet when planted, in order to ensure their long term survival.
- All trees are installed with stakes and mulch, and bark protectors and mower guards (and water bags if needed).

The county's Urban Tree Department will be putting door hangers on residences and placing flags at the location of each planting.



#### Sign Up for Citizens' Police Academy – Learn More About Policing in Baltimore County

When: 9 sessions from April 5 - May 24, 2023, 6:30-9:30 p.m. and one Saturday morning class

Where: Central Baltimore County – Towson

What to Expect:

K-9, Aviation & Tactical Unit demonstrations

Use of force exercises Training academy visits

Presentations on body worn camera program, the mobile crisis unit, and more

To apply: call 410-887-8599 or visit Programs for Citizens - Baltimore County (baltimorecountymd.gov)

### **Maryland Access Point for Seniors**

Maryland Access Point (MAP) of Baltimore County serves as the entry point for obtaining information, screenings, and referrals for services and benefits for seniors, adults with disabilities, their families, caregivers and professionals. They provide:

- Informational brochures and booklets via mail
- Assistance with longterm care and home healthcare issues
- Durable medical equipment for loan to people over age 60 via Loan Closet
- Options Counseling for seniors and adults with disabilities

For more information, email <u>aginginfo@baltimorecountymd.gov</u> or visit the program website here: <u>Maryland Access Point - Baltimore County (baltimorecountymd.gov)</u>

Councilman Mike Ertel
Historic Courthouse
400 Washington Avenue, Towson, MD 21204
Phone: 410-887-3388

Email: council6@baltimorecountymd.gov

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