



September 2023 Newsletter

Councilman Mike Ertel

6th District

400 Washington Avenue, Towson, MD 21204

410-887-3388

Council6@baltimorecountymd.gov



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

Greetings!

I hope you had a safe and happy summer. We stayed busy in the 6th District and now with schools open again, and fall almost here, there's a lot to talk about. Please read below to learn more about what's been happening in our district and what's coming our way. We love hearing from our constituents and want to know how we can help make District 6 the best it can be. If we can be of any assistance, please call our office at 410-887-3388 or email us at council6@baltimorecountymd.gov.

Mike

Meet Garth Dales - 6th District Field Director



I am proud to introduce one of our staff members, Garth Dales, our 6th District field director. Last year, Garth retired after 33 years as a Baltimore County firefighter, serving his last 12-13 years in Hillendale's Station 11. But his retirement was short-lived, because Garth joined our District 6 team last December and since then, he's been doing almost daily litter patrols in the streets and alleys all across our district. He returns abandoned shopping carts to the store where they belong, picks up abandoned furniture and junk left on curbsides, and then takes it to the dump, so that we can all enjoy a district that hopefully looks better, smells better, and is a cleaner place to live all around. He has helped constituents with overgrown shrubs and trees that are too big to tackle, and the list goes on. Garth is invaluable to our team, and most of all to communities all over District 6. If you see Garth out and about in the district, please say hello! In his "spare time" you will find him out on a boat in the waters off of the beautiful Eastern Baltimore County shoreline. We are lucky to have him, and he makes our district better every day!

CZMP – 2024 Rezoning Process

The 2024 Comprehensive Zoning Map Process (CZMP) for Baltimore County, which happens every four years, started this year on September 1, and will run until September 2024. Every Baltimore County property has a zoning designation that determines the uses that are permitted on the property (e.g., residential, business, manufacturing, etc.) and the maximum density permitted (e.g. 5.5 residential units per acre). Any Baltimore County citizen may request a zoning change on their own or any other property. The Planning Department also recommends zoning changes. At the end of the CZMP season, the County Council decides on each zoning request whether to retain the existing zoning or to enact the requested or recommended zoning change. Zoning change requests are now open to the public and available through October 13, 2023. For more information, visit: <https://comprehensive-zoning-map-process-bc-gis.hub.arcgis.com/> or contact the Department of Planning at 410-887-3480.

Eastern Baltimore County Landfill Future Plans

The Baltimore County landfill on Allender Road is our main landfill for residential trash. At its current configuration, the landfill's lifespan could end between 2027-2030, and the county does not have another location set aside for a new landfill. Other large counties ship their trash to commercial municipal mega dumps in Virginia and North Carolina. Baltimore City incinerates its trash and the ash goes to a landfill. Baltimore County will need to develop a long-term solution, but we cannot wait until 2027 to address this issue. In the meantime, expanded recycling, and recycling of food and yard waste could slightly prolong the lifespan of our county landfill. This landfill timeline is another reason that our newly enacted Bring Your Own Bag Bill (which goes into effect November 1st), may be beneficial, as it will hopefully reduce waste in our landfill, especially if it cuts bag use by one-third, as it has in other jurisdictions with similar regulations.

Projects and Updates for the 6th District

DPW to Install Safety Crosswalks by End of 2023:

- Fullerton Elementary School: Raised crosswalk @ Linhigh Ave.
- Glenmar Elementary School: Raised crosswalk @ Lowe Rd.
- Golden Ring Middle School: Raised crosswalk @ Kenwood Ave.
- Shady Spring Elementary School: Raised crosswalk @ Goldenwood Rd.
- Stoneleigh Elementary School: Raised crosswalk @ Copeleigh Rd.
- Towson High School: Raised crosswalk @ Aigburth Rd.
- Raised crosswalk @ Southerly Rd.

Fall Tree Plantings in Holland Hill:

The Baltimore County Street Tree Replacement program will plant young trees of 10-12 feet on a number of streets in the Holland Hill community. Trees will be installed with stakes, mulch, bark protectors and mower guards (and water bags if needed). The county will be letting the neighborhood know about plantings by putting door hangers on residences, and placing flags at the location of each planting. For questions of more information, please call 410-887-1369 or visit:

<https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/5b03bdb42dfd4c4a9349c13db1044922>

BGE Gas Meter Upgrade Options:

Reminder that homeowners WILL be able to choose whether or not they wish to have their BGE gas meters installed inside their home, OR on the home's exterior. This policy stems from the recent decision by the Maryland Public Service Commission.

National Night Out



August 1st marked the 40th year of National Night Out (NNO), the annual community-building event promoting police-community partnerships. My staff and I visited numerous neighborhoods from one end of the district to the other, spending time with residents, police officers, and firefighters. Pictured above at the Campus Hills NNO celebration is my Chief of Staff, Anne Marie Humphries, who is joined by Barbara Lewis and Wesley Wood, leaders of the Towson Police Community Relations Council.

Parkville Fair



Delegate Carl Jackson and I enjoyed the Parkville Fair on September 9th and afterwards helped empty trash cans, and take down tables, chairs and tents. A big thank you to Lynn Richardson and her great team of volunteers for putting on the fair!

Save Native Bees – We Need Them!

Did you know that of the 100 crop species that provide 90% of human nutrition, over 70% require bee pollination to produce. **Native bees are the primary pollinator of most of our food crops** and are critical to producing food for humans and wildlife. But native bees are rapidly declining due to pesticides, loss of habitat, and decreasing numbers of native plants. **What can you do?** Avoid using pesticides in your garden and **choose native plants. Need ideas?** For plant suggestions, please visit:

<https://www.allianceforthebay.org/native-plant-center>



Upcoming Events

[26th Annual Baltimore County African American Cultural Festival](#) - Saturday, September 16 from 10am-8pm. Patriot Plaza, 400 Washington Ave., Towson, MD 21204. More information: <https://aaculturalfestival.com/>

[Uptown Roar](#) - Friday, September 22 from 6:30-9:30pm. Pennsylvania Ave., Towson, MD 21204. The Towson Chamber of Commerce and Towson University will host a pep rally with live music, food, and more. Bring lounge chairs due to limited seating.

[Holt Park and Center for the Arts Enhancement Project Input Meeting](#) - Wednesday, September 27 @ 6:30pm. Elmwood Elementary School Gym. 531 Dale Ave. Baltimore, MD 21206. For more information, email: recparcs@baltimorecountymd.gov or call 410-887-3871.

[BCPS Magnet Expo](#) - Saturday, September 30 from 10am-1pm. Delta Hotel, 245 Shawan Rd. Hunt Valley, MD 21031. Featuring 32 schools with magnet programs, ESOL and Special Education representatives. For more information, email magnet@bcps.org or call 443-809-4127.

[Baltimore County Public Safety Day](#) - Saturday, September 30 from 10am-2pm @ Martin State Airport; 2333 Eastern Blvd. Middle River, MD 21220. Baltimore County Police and Fire Departments present this event featuring public safety displays, demonstrations, community resource information, and more. There will be food and drinks available and a car show on-site (\$20 admission for car show). More information: <https://www.baltimorecountypcrc.org/events>

[Overlea Farmers' Market](#) – Saturdays, October 14 and 28 from 8:30am-12:30pm. Natural History Society parking lot, 6908 Belair Road, Baltimore, MD 21206. Enjoy local produce, plants, flowers, baked goods, art, food, and more.

[Towson Farmers' Market](#) - Thursdays, through November 16 from 10:30am–2:30pm. Allegheny Ave. between Washington Ave. and the Towson Circle, Towson 21204. Featuring organic, locally grown foods and hand-crafted products.

[Baltimore County Veterans Day Wayside Cross Memorial](#) - Saturday, November 11 @ 11am. Starts at the Wayside Cross, located at the intersection of York Rd. and Shealey Ave. Towson, MD 21204, then followed by a walk to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the Courthouse.

[Baltimore County Veteran's Day Celebration and Resource Event](#) – Sunday, November 12 from 10am-5pm. Towson University Union; 281 University Ave. Towson, MD 21204. For more information, email veteransaffairs@baltimorecountymd.gov