



County Councilman Mike Ertel 6th District Newsletter

March 2024

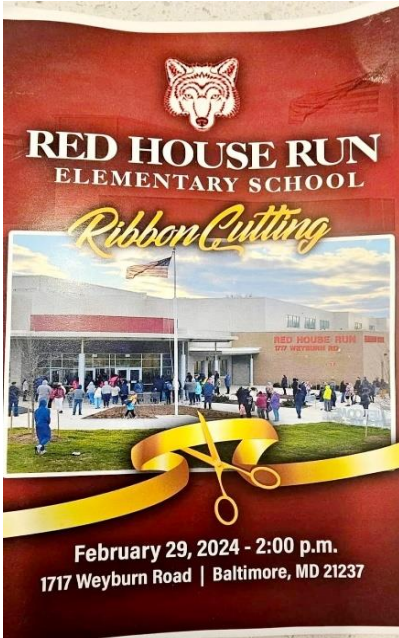


Contact Us:
Historic Courthouse
400 Washington Avenue
Towson, MD 21204
(410) 887-3388

council6@baltimorecountymd.gov

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

Red House Run Elementary School Opens



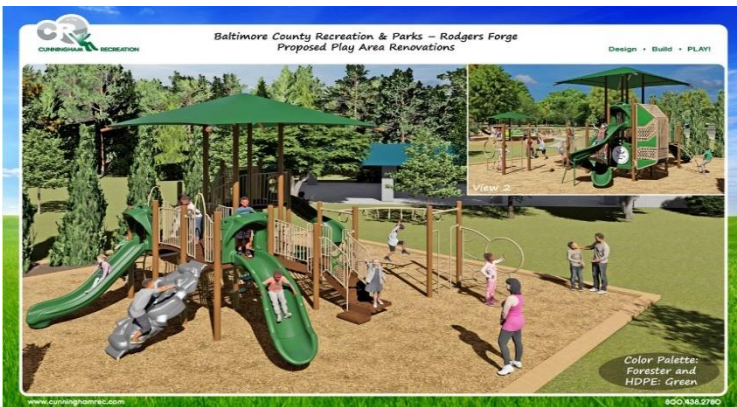
What a great day we had attending the official opening of Red House Run Elementary School in Rosedale last month! This beautiful new facility will be an amazing addition to the community. I was very happy to be there to celebrate with the terrific students, faculty, and staff at Red House Run.

Playground Updates!

So excited to have new playgrounds at Double Rock Park, Fullerton Park, Overlook Park and the Rodgers Forge Tot Lot! Coming this summer will be Glendale Park and Ridgeleigh Park, and Linover Park's playground is currently in design.



Double Rock Park Playground



Baltimore County Recreation & Parks – Rodgers Forge
Proposed Play Area Renovations

Design • Build • PLAY!

Color Palette:
Forester and
HDPE: Green
800.486.2760

Baltimore County Council Structure Update

Time is winding down on a key study that could change how Baltimore County citizens are represented on the Baltimore County Council. Currently there are 7 Baltimore County councilmembers, representing 7 districts. This is the same number the county has had since 1955, when the county population was around 350,000 residents. Today the county population sits at approximately 844,000 residents – the third largest population in Maryland – yet the county has never increased council representation, despite the population growing increasingly diverse among residents and in communities that didn't exist 25-30 years ago.

In October 2023, a Baltimore County Council Structure Workgroup of 11 citizen members was established to discuss, debate, and hold public hearings to study three options:

- Keep the Baltimore County Council at 7 Districts, but make council positions full-time.
- Increase the number to 9 Council Districts.
- Increase the number to 11 Council Districts.

The committee has not been tasked with redistricting or deciding where added districts might go. Redistricting and district locations would be addressed in a separate process based on census and voter data.

This change would come with a cost increase, as there would be a \$400,000 cost for each new County Council seat. This includes salaries and benefits for new councilmembers and members of their staff.

Additional seats could only be added if the current Baltimore County Council passes legislation that would put this issue on the ballot for voters to consider in an upcoming election. If that referendum passes, the “new” districts would be created based on voter population, and redistricting would occur.

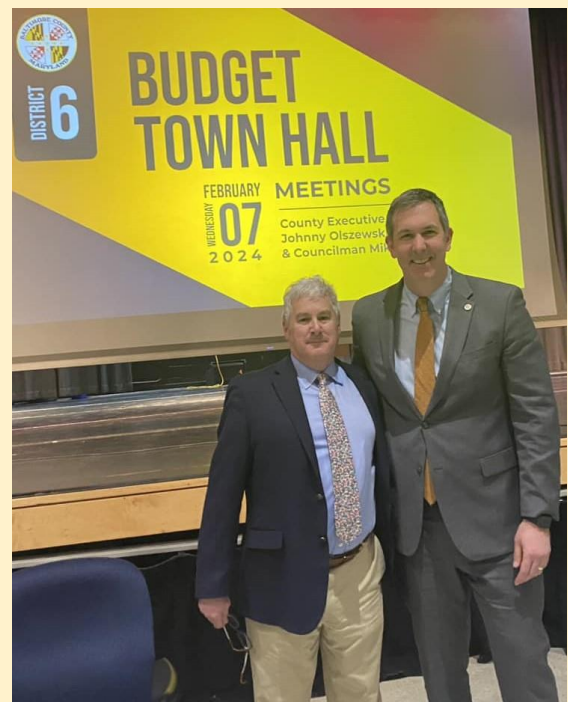
Please feel free to contact my office with your thoughts and opinions. Council6@baltimorecountymd.gov or 410-887-3388.

Meet Nara Khakural – 6th District Citizen of the Year

This month I was on hand to honor Nara Khakural as a 6th District Citizen of the Year. Nara, the owner of Coffee Talk Café in Towson, just celebrated their 8th Anniversary in business. His volunteer work is extensive, and here are just a few of his many contributions: helping fund the Historic East Towson sign, volunteering for food drives, joining community trash clean-ups, running a YMCA blood drive, and providing lunches to our local law enforcement officers in Precinct 6.



District 6 Budget Town Hall 2024



Thank you to Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski for another successful Budget Town Hall. Watch a recording here: [You Tube](#)

Holland Hill Clean Up

Early March rains didn't stop us from a successful Holland Hill Neighborhood Clean Up! A special thanks to Delegate Carl Jackson, Delegate Nick Allen, Rachel Keatts, Derrick Jordan, Kevin Turner, Joshua Harris, Rob McMahan, and of course, our District 6 Field Director, Garth Dales!



Upcoming Events of Interest

Holt Park Garden Club Workshops: Saturdays, 10am-12pm. (*Rain Dates-Sundays 10am-12pm*) @ Holt Park and Center for the Arts; 34 Elmont Ave. Baltimore, MD 21206.

March 30 - "Build Your Own Rain Barrel." (\$30)

April 6 - "All Hands on Deck." (Free)

April 13 - "Vertical Gardening with Pallets." (\$12)

April 27 - "Vegetable Trellises." (Free)

More information: <https://recandparks.baltimorecountymd.gov/MD/Baltimore-co-md/catalog>

Founders' Day – Natural History Society of Maryland: Friday, April 5, 2024; 6:30-8pm; 6908 Belair Rd. Baltimore, MD 21206. Celebrating 95 years. More information: <https://www.marylandnature.org/>

Friends of the Towson Library Book Sale: 320 York Rd., Towson, MD 21204 (1st Floor). Gently Used Books ... All Subjects and Ages. Wednesday, April 10; 12-7pm; Thursday, April 11; 12-7pm; Friday, April 12; 9am-4pm; Saturday, April 13; 10am-2pm. \$5/foot. More information: <https://towsonfriends.org/>

Impact TU Day: Saturday, April 20, 2024; 11am-1pm. Towson University students join community members for clean ups around Towson and surrounding neighborhoods. The Towson Chamber of Commerce will have a dumpster and do pick-ups. More information: <https://www.towson.edu/civic-engagement/documents/impact-tu-faq.pdf> or email: civicengagement@towson.edu

Towson Gardens Day: Thursday, May 2, 2024; 10am-3pm, Pennsylvania and Washington Avenues, Towson, MD 21204. Plants/flowers, craft vendors, food trucks & live music. More information: [Towson Gardens Day](#)

55th Annual Towsontown Spring Festival: Saturday, May 4, 2024; 10am-8pm & Sunday May 5, 2024; 1-6pm. Vendors, live music, food, crafts and more. Chesapeake, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Baltimore Avenues, Towson, 21204. More information: <https://www.towsontownfestival.com>

Fullerton Vocal Club Presents: Make a Difference. Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 6:30 pm @ Fullerton Elementary School, 440 Fullerton Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21236.

Overlea Farmers Market: Every other Saturday, starting June 8, 2024; 8:30am-12:30pm, 6908 Belair Rd. Baltimore, MD 21206. More information: <https://www.facebook.com/OverleaFarmersMarket>

Need help with an issue or concern? We are here to help.

Email: council6@baltimorecountymd.gov

Phone: 410-887-3388

400 Washington Avenue

Towson, MD 21204

www.baltimorecountymd.gov/county council