



Councilman Mike Ertel 6th District Newsletter

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

Greetings!

It's hard to believe I have almost completed my first full year in office as the 6th District County Councilman. It's been an honor to serve during what's been a year of learning, listening, and lots of hard work to make the 6th District safer, cleaner and the best it can be. I am proud of what we've been able to accomplish this past year, especially some of the legislation we've passed in 2023, getting almost 250 street trees planted in our district, and seeing long-neglected roads getting repaved. Please read below to learn more about we've been doing lately and other news we want to share. And remember that if we can be of any assistance, please give our office a call at 410-887-3388 or email us at council6@baltimorecountymd.gov. We want to hear from you.

Wishing you Happy Holidays!

Mike

Harford Park Clean Up



On November 12, I joined a terrific group of dedicated and hardworking Harford Park community residents, along with their president, Cathy Thompson, and board member Dave Duvall, for a very successful Harford Park Stream Clean Up event. We removed over 2000 lbs. of trash and debris from the area! Thanks to all who took part, including my field director, Garth Dales, Delegates Carl Jackson and Harry Bhandari, and Democratic Central Committee member Shannon Sheetz.

New County Skatepark

I attended a groundbreaking for the Hazelwood Skate Park on October 19 in Rosedale. This will be the county's first newly built concrete bowl skatepark in nearly 50 years. Situated on 10.5 acres of undeveloped county-owned land, this modern skate facility is designed for everyone from skateboarders, to those who bike, roller skate and ride scooters. Expected completion will be Fall 2024, and a significant part of the skatepark site will remain wooded, ensuring the preservation of natural green space within the densely populated community. For more information about the Hazelwood Skate Park project, contact the Department of Recreation and Parks at recparks@baltimorecountymd.gov



Historic East Towson News

In early November, the County Council unanimously voted to pass **Resolution 33-23: MDE – Historic East Towson – Environmental Impact of Herring Run Headwaters**. I was proud to be the lead sponsor of this resolution calling for the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) to study the potential negative impacts of further development in the historically African American community of East Towson, which is also where the headwaters of the Herring Run watershed are located. This MDE study was necessitated by the proposed apartment complex known as “Red Maple Place,” which would be built in the only remaining, forested greenspace in Historic East Towson, and on top of the spring that starts the Herring Run. MDE must now study issues related to years of flooding on Pennsylvania Avenue, in East Towson, and further downstream in other communities. That flooding has already caused extensive damage that required Baltimore County to spend almost \$1.5 million to buy and demolish 5 homes.

Bring Your Own Bag Act

On November 1, 2023, the new Bring Your Own Bag Act went into effect, meaning single-use plastic bags are no longer permitted at most retail locations in Baltimore County. Paper or reusable bags will be available for a 5-cent fee, or shoppers can bring their own bags. (There are exceptions for “Mom and Pop” stores, restaurants, pharmacies, and several other types of businesses.) I was proud to co-sponsor this bill that I believe will go a long way to reducing the number of plastic bags littering our communities and waterways, not to mention reducing bags at the Baltimore County Eastern Sanitary Landfill, which could reach capacity in 2027. For more information about the law, please visit <http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/byobag>, or contact Baltimore County Code Enforcement at paienforce@baltimorecountymd.gov or 410-887-3351.



Intern Spotlight: Aneme Ikpe

In September, we welcomed Aneme Ikpe, our newest 6th District intern. A current Towson University junior, majoring in sociology, Aneme was raised in Rosedale, where she attended Red House Run Elementary and Golden Ring Middle, before moving on to Towson High School for the Law and Public Policy program. After college, Aneme hopes to pursue a career in public service and public policy. She's been a great addition to our team, and we're thrilled to have her help!



Upcoming Events of Interest

Maryland Aviation Museum - Holiday Plane & Train Garden: Open Saturday, November 23, 2023 @ 11:30am, then on Wednesdays, Saturdays, Sundays, 11am-4pm, and December 26, 28 and 29, 2023, 11am-4pm. Lockheed Martin Building-E, 2323 Eastern Avenue, Middle River, MD 21220. Free admission. More information: www.mdairmuseum.org

Shops at Kenilworth - Holiday Train Garden Display: Now through Sunday, January 7, 2024 from 8am-5pm. The Shops at Kenilworth, 800 Kenilworth Drive, Towson, MD 21204 (Lower level). More information: <https://www.overleasonline.org/events/holiday-tree-lighting/>

Baltimore County Christmas Tree Lighting: Friday, December 1, 2023, from 6-7:30pm on Allegheny Avenue, Towson, MD 21204 in Olympic Park. More information: <https://www.towsonchamber.com/events/winterfest/>

Fire and Ice Cookie Crawl & Window Decorating: December 8, 2023 from 6-9pm. View holiday ice sculptures and decorated store windows in downtown Towson, MD 21204 at these locations:
Barley's Backyard - 408 York Rd.
The Point - 523 York Rd.
Nacho Mama's - 2 W. Pennsylvania Ave.
Charles Village Pub & Patio - 19 W. Pennsylvania Ave.
More information: <https://www.towsonchamber.com/events/fire-ice-family-night-and-window-decoration-judging-2/>

Overlea-Fullerton Christmas Tree Lighting: Saturday, December 9, 2023 @ 7pm. (Rain date: December 10). Overlea-Fullerton Community Center, 7209 Belair Road, Baltimore, MD 21206. More information: [Holiday Tree Lighting - Overlea Community Association \(overleasonline.org\)](http://overleasonline.org)

Fire Museum of Maryland Train Garden: Open Sunday, November 26, from 10am-4pm and December 3, 10, 17, 27-30, 2023. 1301-R York Road, Lutherville, MD 21093. More information: <https://www.firemuseummd.org/train-garden>

Need help? Want to join our email contact list?

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