



February 2018



This year my [State of the County Address](#) was entitled "Back on Higher Ground" to reflect Harford County's improving financial position and how it allows us to touch lives and help our fellow citizens in need. Our new initiatives include funding toward a 24-hour crisis center for addiction and mental illness, and plans to sue opioid manufacturers and distributors.

I will also recommend funding projects for volunteer fire companies to support public safety and continue to push for our fair share of state funding for road maintenance and education. In fact, we have increased operating funding to Harford County Public Schools over the past three years by \$15 million versus just \$1 million from the state.

I was also pleased to announce a new baseball field for youth with disabilities, and welcome some new events to Harford County: the Bassmaster Elite Series fishing tournament this summer and a half-marathon across the Susquehanna River in September. Please read below for more news from my administration.

Barry Glassman
County Executive

Featured Stories:

- [AAA Bond Rating](#)
- [Green Infrastructure](#)
- [County Medic 1](#)
- [Tourism Grant Funding](#)
- [Flying Point Park](#)
- [#HarfordLovesHistory](#)
- [Black History Month](#)



CONGRATULATIONS HARFORD COUNTY!

AAA BOND RATING

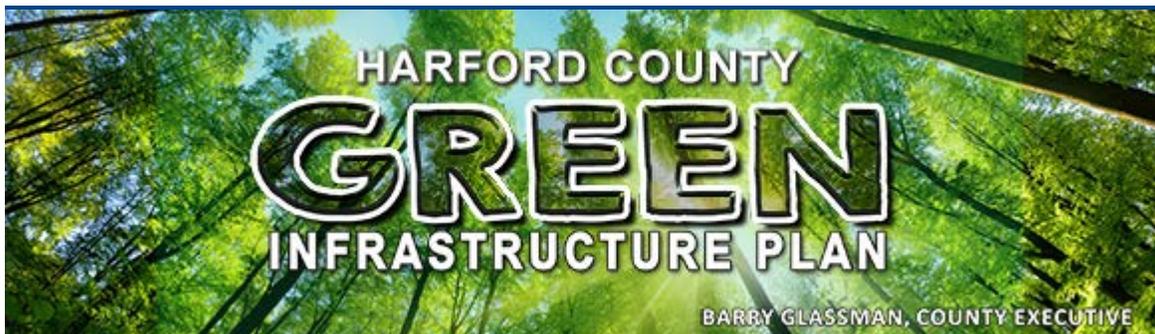
PROACTIVE MANAGEMENT & FISCAL POLICY

BARRY GLASSMAN, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

AGAIN | AGAIN | AGAIN
2016 | 2017 | 2018

AAA bond rating lowers borrowing costs

I am proud to report that Harford County has once again retained our [Triple-A bond rating](#), which lowers the cost of borrowing for taxpayer-funded projects. This highest possible rating from all three of the major bond rating agencies has been earned by only an estimated 3% of counties nationwide. Shortly after the ratings were announced, Harford County issued bonds at an interest rate of 2.64% which will help pay for road improvements, stormwater management projects, the newly modernized Youth's Benefit Elementary School in Fallston, and Havre de Grace Middle/High School.



Green infrastructure community input meeting Thursday, Feb 8

Your input is needed as my administration develops Harford County's first green infrastructure plan. Please join our Department of Planning & Zoning for a workshop this Thursday, February 8 from 5 - 8 p.m. at Harford Community College's Chesapeake Center. Green infrastructure is an interconnected network of green spaces that supports natural ecosystems, preserves water resources, improves stormwater management, and promotes healthier communities. Green infrastructure is also vital to our economy, including farming, recreation, and tourism. [Learn more here.](#)



County Medic 1

To meet the growing need for emergency medical services in Harford County, I announced one year ago that preparations would begin for two [county-owned ambulances](#) to supplement services provided by our volunteer fire companies. This January 21 at 7 a.m., County Medic 1 went into operation and answered its first call within an hour. I would like to thank my Dept. of Emergency Services, EMS Standards Advisory Board, and first responders throughout Harford County for their dedication to public safety.



Tourism grant funding applications available online

Applications are available now through April 13 for eligible nonprofits seeking funding from [Harford County for tourism-related activities](#) in fiscal year 2019. The funding supports local organizations promoting cultural and historical activities, museums, eco-tourism, and sports-tourism. Workshops for funding applicants will be held on Thursday, February 8 and Tuesday, March 6. Over the past three years, more than 30 local organizations have received more than \$4.5 million in funding through the program using revenue generated by the county's hotel/lodging fee.

Nationally televised fishing tournament coming to Flying Point Park in Edgewood

Flying Point Park in Edgewood will be in the spotlight this July as the launch point for the nationally televised Bassmaster Elite Series fishing tournament coming to Harford County. The public boat launch at this beautiful Harford County Parks & Rec facility will host about 100 anglers as they head out each day of the competition. Bassmaster fans will also be coming from far and wide for the tournament, but you can enjoy this local gem any time during regular park hours.



#Harford Loves History

This Valentine's Day, Harford County is participating in a national social media movement to show our love for Harford's historic places. Please join us to promote tourism and help raise awareness about the importance of historic preservation. Make a valentine to your favorite local historic place, or print our image above, and post it on social media using the hashtag #HarfordLovesHistory. Then tag Harford County Government and [Visit Harford](#) on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) so we can help share the love!



Black History Month: The Underground Railroad in Harford County

In the mid-1800s, Harford County was home to at least two stops on the Underground Railroad, which helped enslaved Americans in the south escape to freedom in the north. To learn more about these brave freedom seekers, please watch my video in honor of Black History Month.

Want more?

Get more updates, photos & event information. Like Harford County Government on [Facebook](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#) @HarfordCountyMD. Check out our new Instagram account: [Harford_County_Government_](#)



Email: FYI@harfordcountymd.gov

Maryland's New Center of Opportunity!