



July 2020



This coming Independence Day, let's remember what unites us all:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Wishing you a Happy 4th of July,

Barry Glassman
County Executive

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Congratulations to an exceptional Class of 2020

The Class of 2020 is an exceptional class, not only for what happened to them this year, but for what I believe theyâ€™ll make happen in years to come. They're not the first sons and daughters of Harford County to overcome adversity. Just as an earlier generation signed the Bush Declaration "at the risque of our lives and fortunes," the Class of 2020's strength comes from within and from a community that lifts them up to move us forward. Congratulations and all the best to the Class of 2020!



Talking to your kids about drugs & mental wellness

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the need to strengthen resources for mental wellness, especially among school-age children. "Harford Talks," is a yearlong campaign from our Department of Community Services, encouraging families to talk openly about mental health issues and the dangers of drugs and alcohol. Resources include age-appropriate conversation starters geared to students from pre-K through high school, and tips on answering tough questions from teens. For details, visit our [Harford Talks](#) website to help keep Harford County kids safe and drug-free.



Harford Streams Poker Run Saturday, July 18

Back by popular demand, our annual Harford Streams "poker run" will be held on Saturday, July 18 as part of Harford Streams Summer Adventure 2020. This award-winning program is open to county residents of all ages and raises awareness and support for protecting our local waterways. Poker run participants take selfies and collect playing cards from attendants at designated stream locations to earn a free T-shirt (and a dog bandana for furry friends), and be eligible for other exciting prizes. [Harford County's poker run](#) is presented in partnership with the nonprofit Visit Harford.

Parks & Recreation reopenings

We have begun a gradual, limited reopening of our indoor Parks & Recreation facilities for recreation council or P&R program activities, by appointment only. Please check with your [local P&R office](#) for details. [Pavilion rentals](#) will resume on July 1 for outdoor gatherings. Pavilions are available near you, including Bel Air, Churchville, Edgewood, Joppa, Fallston and the northern areas of Harford County. Make your reservations through the county website and remember to follow guidelines for safe gatherings.





Supporting tourism

Tourism creates jobs and fuels our local economy. My administration continues to support tourism through our competitive award program funded by the local hotel/lodging fee. This year we plan to provide \$1.55 million to [26 local nonprofits](#), like the Hosanna School Museum pictured here, for tourism-related activities. Over the past six years, my administration has awarded a total of \$9 million for nonprofits' historical, cultural, agricultural, heritage, and eco-tourism operations. As they safely reopen, please remember to visit these special places in Harford County.



NACo awards

The National Association of Counties has recognized Harford County with [two awards](#) for innovative and effective county government programs. This year we earned Achievement Awards for our Halloween costume workshop for children who use wheelchairs and the anti-drug Pledge Program for youth, which was presented in partnership with the Harford County Sheriff's Office. I would like to thank our community partners and sponsors, and our creative county employees, for bringing these outstanding programs to local families.



Summer safety

As you explore the outdoors this summer, please keep safety in mind. Each year, we get 911 calls for emergencies that could have been prevented. Our Department of Emergency Services offers these tips for your next outing: Pay attention to the weather forecast, dress accordingly and bring plenty to drink. Travel on firm, dry paths away from rocks, cliffs and water. Keep your cell phone charged, hike with a friend if possible, and if you listen to music, use one earbud so you can hear other hikers or wildlife. Have fun and stay safe.

Havre de Grace MS/HS

I've always been a proud graduate of Harford County Public Schools (Havre de Grace Class of 1980), and I'm looking forward to the completion of the new Havre de Grace Middle/High School this fall. I remember the great teachers I had at these schools and now the community will have a building to match the quality of education our schools have provided for generations. Thanks to video from HDG High School you can now [take a look inside](#).



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Email: FYI@harfordcountymd.gov

Maryland's New Center of Opportunity!