



County Executive Bob Cassilly eNewsletter

July 2023

The Harford County Farm Fair is going back to its roots this year featuring local food, 4-H exhibits, animals, tractors, games, and entertainment for the whole family. The 36<sup>th</sup> annual fair will run from Saturday, July 22 - Saturday, July 29 with on-site parking at the Equestrian Center in Bel Air. [Visit their website](#) for details and stop by our county government tent to say hello and learn about our programs and services.

**Bob Cassilly**

Harford County Executive

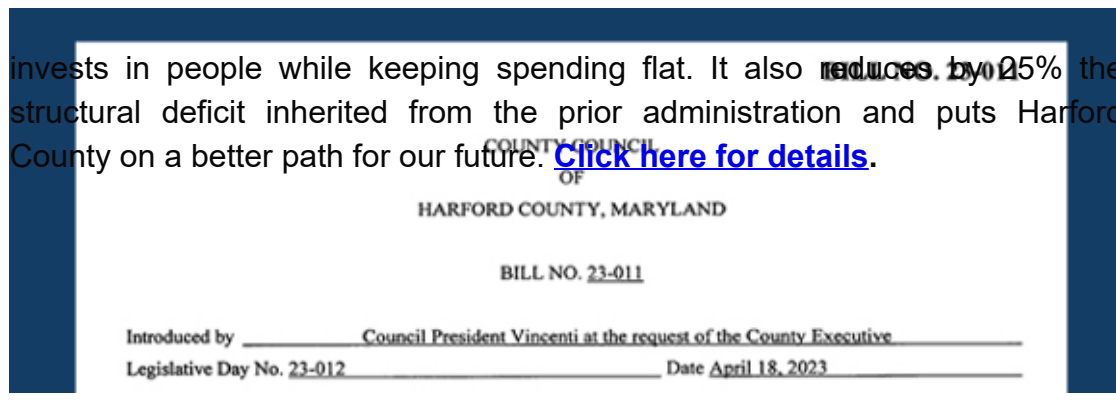
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410-638-3350

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invests in people while keeping spending flat. It also reduces by 25% the structural deficit inherited from the prior administration and puts Harford County on a better path for our future. [Click here for details.](#)



## Fighting urban sprawl

I'm very disappointed that a majority of the County Council failed to support my effort to fight urban sprawl in Harford County. The citizens have made it very clear that they do not want more high-density housing dropped into low-density areas like Fallston, Benson, Forest Hill, and Hickory, where we lack the infrastructure to support these projects. To stop this, my administration submitted to the [County Council Bill 23-011](#), but the bill was defeated.

As a result, more than 188 acres of B-3 land, which was intended for small businesses to support the local community, is at risk of being developed as high-density residential. Moreover, all B-3 properties countywide are now at risk of being developed that way.

I appreciate Council members Giangiordano, Reilly, and Bennett, who supported the legislation, and I look forward to an opportunity for the rest of the Council to reconsider this matter when they return from their summer break in September.



## FY24 budget passes

My first budget as county executive, which was passed on June 13 by the County Council, meets our needs without raising taxes. Overall, the budget invests in people while keeping spending flat. It also reduces by 25% the structural deficit inherited from the prior administration and puts Harford County on a better path for our future. [Click here for details.](#)



## Veterans corner

You can learn how to help save a veteran's life. Just as people trained in CPR save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to Question, Persuade, and Refer someone to help. My administration is offering free QPR classes taught by our trained and certified staff of veterans in the Harford County Department of Community Services. Training can occur at locations such as veterans service organization halls or at a Harford County government location. Learn more by emailing [odcp@harfordcountymd.gov](mailto:odcp@harfordcountymd.gov) or calling 410-638-3333.



## Celebrating Parks & Rec July 21

July is National Parks & Recreation Month and we're celebrating with [a day of family fun](#) from 2 - 6 p.m. on Friday, July 21 at Flying Point Park in Edgewood. Join our Department of Parks & Recreation and rec councils for this community event. Activities will include a flag football game, an obstacle course bounce house and two water slides. Watch gymnastics demonstrations by ACPR, a jumping rope exhibition by the Hoppin' Hawks, a robotics demonstration and take a lesson in disc golf. There will also be public safety activities, preschooler programs, seeding and planting, and fishing on the Bush River.





## Homegrown Harford 2023

Homegrown Harford, our annual magazine highlighting people and places in Harford's agricultural community, is now available online and in print. The theme of our fifth edition is science and technology in modern agriculture. Stories include how drones are used in farming, innovations in biomanufacturing, and the science of hydroponic farming. The [online version](#) is on our website, and free copies will be available at the Harford County Farm Fair, all Harford County Public Library locations and upon request by contacting our Office of Economic Development at 410-638-3059 or [oad@harfordcountymd.gov](mailto:oad@harfordcountymd.gov).



## Tourism grants awarded to local nonprofits

My administration has awarded nearly \$645,000 in FY 2024 tourism grants to 15 nonprofits aimed at creating more extended or weekend-long events. Funded through the county's six percent hotel tax, we refocused the grants this year to align with the original intent of the tax and promote events and activities that draw more people to stay overnight here. An overnight visitor spends an average of \$1,200 per visit, whereas a day-tripper only spends about \$98 per visit, according to the Maryland Office of Tourism.

[Click here for a list of grant recipients.](#)



## Picture yourself in Harford Streams Summer Adventure

Join our award-winning program to raise support for protecting our local waterways. Watch the video for details and [learn more here](#).

## Want more?

Get more updates, photos & event information from Harford County Government:

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