

County Executive Bob Cassilly eNewsletter

March 2024

March is Women's History Month, and my administration will be highlighting stories of local women who made history.

Please help us share these [inspiring stories on our Facebook page](#) and see below for the latest news from my administration.

Bob Cassilly

Harford County Executive

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Featured Stories

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Location for new school saves taxpayers \$50M

My administration has reached an agreement to buy land near Bel Air for a combination elementary school and the new home of Harford Academy, which serves students with severe disabilities.

The 45-acre site on N. Fountain Green Road on MD 543 was to become Carsins Run at Eva Mar, a continuing care retirement community. The private landowner halted that project two years ago, leaving the shell of a building that will be razed to make way for the new school. Because the property is served by public water and sewer, the state will help us pay for construction, saving Harford taxpayers as much as \$50M. [Read more here.](#)



Volunteer fire companies need your help

Harford does not have a paid fire service. Instead, we rely entirely on volunteer fire companies located throughout the county. VFC members are dedicated to our community, and now, they're asking for our help. Volunteers ages 16+ are needed for everything they do, including administrative support. Please consider volunteering and join a team of heroes that keeps us safe and saves lives in Harford County. [Click here to learn more.](#)



Housing Fair March 23

Buying a home can be a challenge, especially for first-time homebuyers. Free help is available at our Housing Fair & First-time Homebuyers Workshop, where topics will include understanding affordability and credit; getting pre-approved for a mortgage; the purchasing process, and information on down payment and closing cost assistance. The workshop will be held on Saturday, March 23 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the EPICENTER at Edgewood, 1918 Pulaski Highway. [Click here for details.](#)



Harford earns budget award

Harford County has earned its 37th consecutive distinguished budget presentation award from the Government Finance Officers Association. I am proud of our budget team for earning this award and for consistently upholding the highest standards of their profession. As the stewards of taxpayers' money, we must effectively communicate to taxpayers our plan for meeting our fiscal challenges. This award from an independent organization recognizes our budget document as an effective and transparent instrument of sound financial management.

VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Veterans Corner: Make the connection

Whether you're a veteran looking to connect with other veterans or interested in learning about veteran benefits, family programs, or ways to support your community, there's an organization nearby for you. Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) are active in Harford County through schools, Scouts, Boys State, holiday events and more. [Visit our website for a listing of each VSO's](#) location and contact information, and a quick link to their websites.



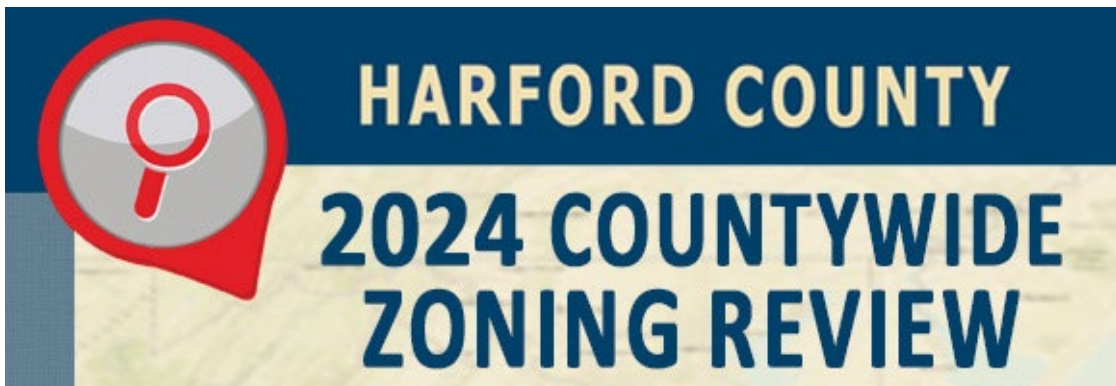
Requested Joppa Road closure denied

Maryland Transportation Authority, on behalf of CSX rail service, requested Harford County's permission in January to close Joppa Road on both sides of the railroad crossing in Joppa. After our investigations raised serious concerns that the closing would slow emergency vehicle response times and impede general traffic circulation in the area, I denied MTA's request and the road will remain open.



Advocating for a Thoroughbred training facility in Harford

State officials are considering where to locate a Maryland Thoroughbred training facility, and in a February 15 letter to decision-makers, I expressed my full support for the proposed Mitchell Farm Training Center in Perryman as the ideal site. Given its planned state-of-the-art amenities for horses and trainers, flat terrain and lack of natural resource challenges, this location near Aberdeen received the highest ranking in a recent study of alternatives. As such, we look forward to a positive decision for our county and state.



Comprehensive zoning review begins in June

The Harford County Code requires a comprehensive zoning review every eight years, which allows property owners to request a change in their property's existing zoning designation. Zoning determines a property's permitted uses and includes agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial classifications. My administration is committed to a transparent process, which will begin later this spring, and I encourage you to stay involved. [Please read our news release for details.](#)



WATCH HarfordTV's "Inside Harford County" - Housing & Community Services

This month on "Inside Harford County," host Mark Vernarelli and I are joined by Housing & Community Services Director Barbara Richardson to talk about how we connect citizens with resources and services that can improve their quality of life. "Inside Harford County" is **available now online** and will air from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. every Monday this month on Armstrong channel 7 & HD 101, Comcast channel 31 & HD 1084, and Verizon channel 31.

Want more?

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