



A little more than a week has passed since Winter Storm Jonas hit, dumping a record-breaking 37 inches of snow in Harford County and prompting a state of the County emergency that officially ended on Friday, January 29. In the aftermath of this historic storm, I want to thank the Maryland National Guard for helping us respond to 911 calls during and after the snowfall. Thanks also to our first-responders and county employees who worked around the clock for your safety, and to get county roads passable so that all citizens could get to work, receive medical treatments, and keep other vital appointments. Last but not least, thank you for heeding the warnings to be prepared, and for checking on the elderly and other vulnerable neighbors during this extraordinary storm. Caring for one another is one of the many reasons we are proud to be Harford County citizens.

Barry Glassman
County Executive

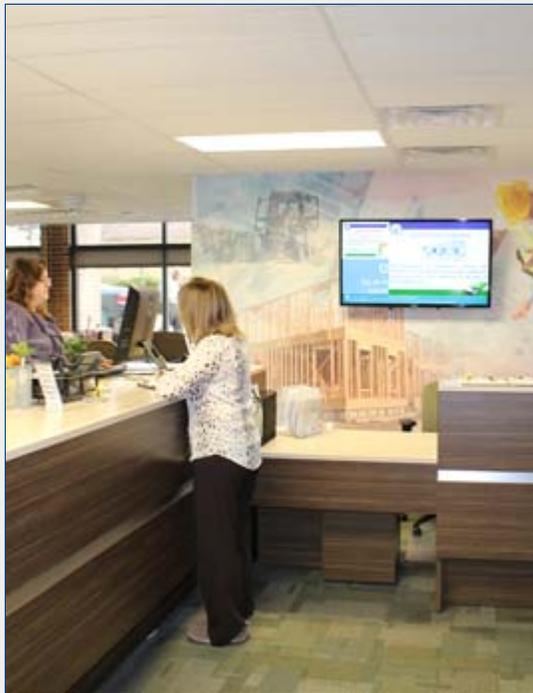
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Harford County retains highest possible Triple-A bond rating

Harford County has once again earned the highest possible bond rating by the nation's major independent bond-rating agencies. In mid-January, Moody's, Fitch, and Standard & Poor's reaffirmed our Triple-A rating, which is an evaluation of the county's credit worthiness and fiscal management. I am especially proud that the agencies recognized my administration's focus on efficiency and fiscal responsibility. These top ratings will save taxpayers' money by reducing our relative cost of borrowing when the county issues bonds to pay for capital projects.

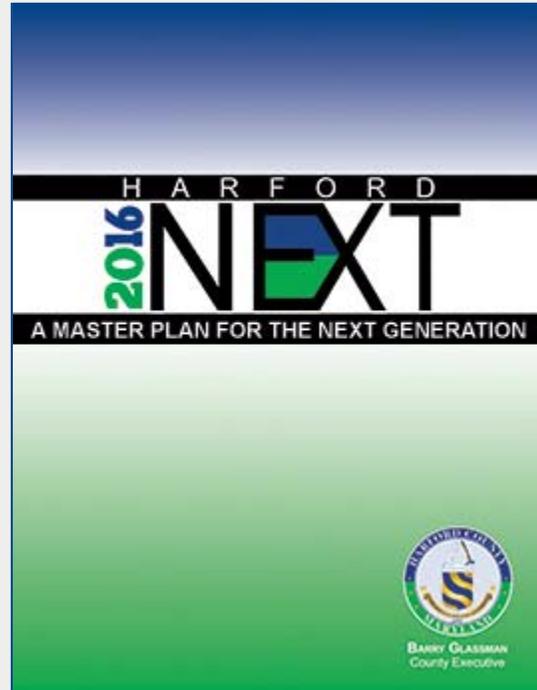


Permit fees waived for storm-related repairs

To help ease the burden on residential property owners in the aftermath of Winter Storm Jonas, I am waiving permit fees for storm-related repairs to their roofs, porches, and decks. The waiver is effective from January 25 through March 7 for single-family homes, townhouses, and any associated accessory structures such as detached garages or sheds. Although a fee waiver is in effect, property owners are still required to apply for their permits through the Harford County Permit Center located on the first floor at 220 S. Main Street in Bel Air. For more information, please call 410-638-3122. Refunds will be available to qualifying property owners who paid for their permits within the effective period prior to this announcement.

Coming soon: First draft of HarfordNEXT - A Master Plan for the Next Generation

After almost a year of preparation and public input, our Department of Planning & Zoning will soon release the first draft of HarfordNEXT. This countywide master plan will guide policy decisions on land use through the year 2040, and will also include innovative ideas to help build strong communities, grow a competitive economic base, and preserve our rich heritage. The coming draft will be written in layman's terms, making it easy for anyone to read and provide comments. Look for a public announcement next week when the draft is posted online, with multiple opportunities for public input before our final draft is presented to the County Council. [Click HERE](#) for more information about HarfordNEXT.



<http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/660/HarfordNEXT>



Harford Gem: Free Parks & Rec programs in February

Critter-feeding: Visit the nature center at Eden Mill to learn about snakes, frogs and other critters, and take a turn feeding the turtles their meal, Saturdays from 11:00-11:30 a.m. Pre-registration is required. Call 410-836-3050 or edenmillnaturecenter@gmail.com. Visit us online at <http://www.edenmill.org>

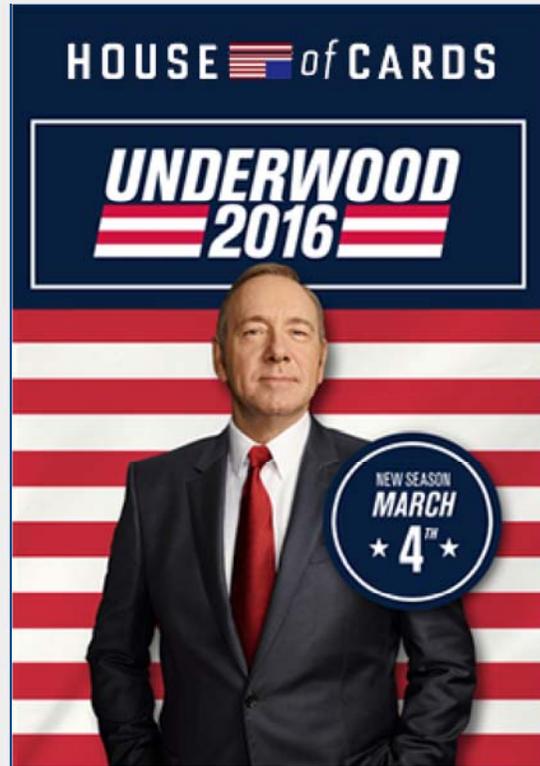
Wednesday Night at the Movies: This free program is designed for individuals with disabilities and their families. Held at John Archer School from 6:30 p.m. until approximately 8:30 p.m., family-oriented movies are shown each Wednesday throughout the school year. For more information, call 410-638-4899 or [click here](#).

<http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/documentcenter/view/5020>

**Good news for Harford County:
"House of Cards" returns**

The highly acclaimed political drama "House of Cards" has announced plans to return for a fifth season, which is good news for Harford County, where the production is based. The hit series has created jobs by hiring cast, crew and extras, and in one year alone supported nearly 500 local businesses by purchasing and renting goods and services.

Catch up on the first three seasons of "House of Cards" on Netflix and see familiar Harford County faces and locations. Season 4 debuts March 4.



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Maryland's New Center of Opportunity!