



April 2026

Councilman Mike Ertel 6th District Newsletter

PROUDLY SERVING HILLENDALE, LOCH RAVEN VILLAGE,
MIDDLE RIVER, OVERLEA, PARKVILLE, ROSEDALE + TOWSON



In the last 2 months, we have seen the closure of three impactful businesses in the 6th District – the Grocery Outlet stores in Fullerton and Rosedale and the impending closure of the Apple Store at Towson Town Center. All of these businesses were closed by national companies for reasons that are not necessarily related to their exact location, business volume, crime, or clientele.

Grocery Outlet is a California based grocer and they closed 36 stores nationwide all at once – 18 on the East Coast. They were struggling with supply chain issues and supporting stores here. I know that both the Chesaco Avenue and Belair Road stores were growing in sales from their recent inceptions in 2025.

Apple has decided to close the Town Towson Center (its only Baltimore location) in June. There has been speculation that it is because that store had one of the only unionized employees’ workforce (only one other union store in Oklahoma), but nationally Apple seems to be moving away from mall locations. Despite claims that crime and difficult clientele caused all three closures, the data points to other underlying causes.

Malls are struggling locally and nationally. Many brick + mortar retail stores are having very challenging times as more and more people shop and purchase online.

National trends like the aging boomer population, changing buyer behavior, private equity firm ownership, business model changes, inflation and wage stagnation are all factors taking their toll on retailers.

I can tell you that our County Economic Development team, my state colleagues and I are working on trying to attract new retailers to Fullerton and Rosedale. I’m also confident that Apple will open a new Baltimore location in the future.

-Mike

New Legislation

I sponsored two new bills recently passed by the County Council:

Bill 3-26: Zoning Regulations – Data Center Study

This legislation requires a study that establishes temporary controls on the permitting of data centers until a certain date and a general review. The study will assess the average public utility usage of data centers.

Bill 19-26: Employees Retirement System – County Council Members – Repeal of Bill 40-24

This legislation repealed the provisions of Bill 40-24 regarding recalculations of a Councilmember’s service retirement benefits (pension) and cost-of-living adjustments.

Upcoming County Council Session Dates

Legislative Session
April 20th - 6pm

VIRTUAL/IN-PERSON MEETING – JEFFERSON BUILDING (105 W. Chesapeake Ave.)

Basic Services Maps Public Hearing
April 28th - 3pm

Work Session
April 28th - 4pm

Budget Public Hearing
April 28th - 6pm

VIRTUAL ONLY
<https://countycouncil.baltimorecountymd.gov/virtual-meetings/>

Legislative Session
May 4th - 6pm

VIRTUAL/IN-PERSON MEETING – JEFFERSON BUILDING (105 W. Chesapeake Ave.)

District 6 Cleanups



Holland Hill Cleanup #2 on March 28th.



Holland Hill Cleanup #1 on February 28th.



Before & After: Garth cleaned up dumped items in Allegheny Ave alleyway on March 31st.

Harford Park Cleanup on April 11th.

Shining Stars Performance



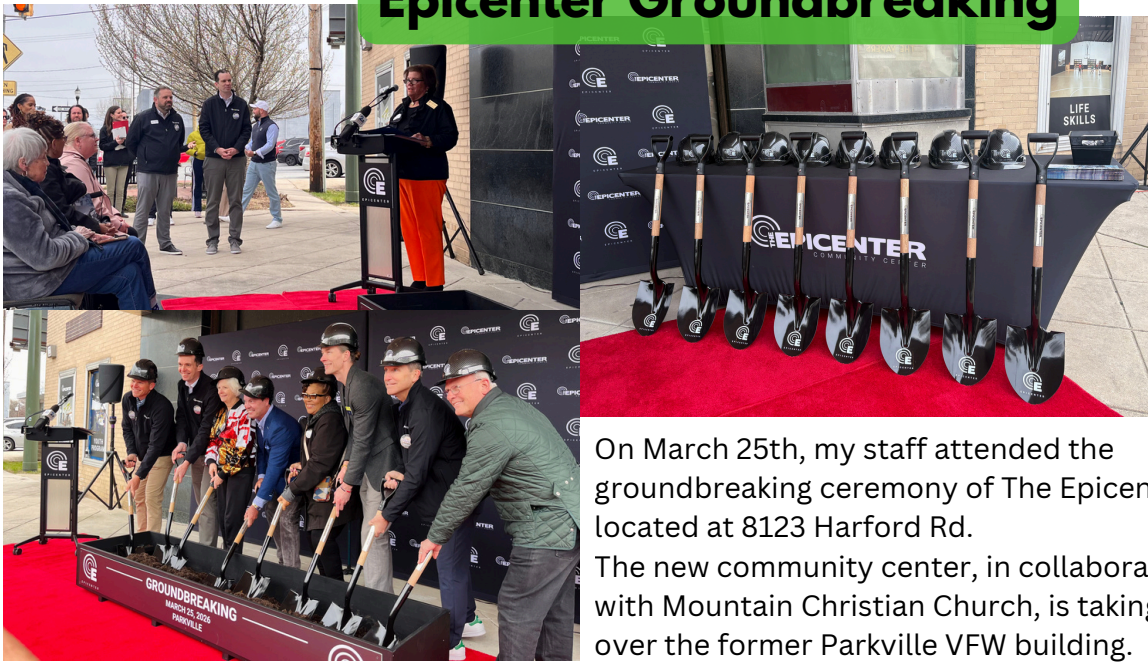
On March 22nd, my staff had the pleasure of attending a performance by the Shining Stars - Senior Tappers of Baltimore County, an incredible, energetic senior tap dance group at the Parkville Senior Center.

Earth Day Spotlight



We would like to recognize the Towson Green Alliance for their efforts in removing invasive English ivy from trees on the site of the Hillendale Animal Hospital on Loch Raven Blvd. in early April. Dr. Ramappa, veterinarian/owner, plans to have 50 canopy trees planted on the property this year.

Epicenter Groundbreaking



Epicenter will provide opportunities for individuals and families to access the resources and support they need to thrive. They plan to have before and after school programs for children, a choice style food pantry for adults, and much more.

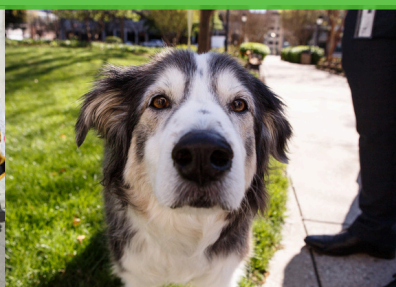
On March 25th, my staff attended the groundbreaking ceremony of The Epicenter, located at 8123 Harford Rd. The new community center, in collaboration with Mountain Christian Church, is taking over the former Parkville VFW building.

Coffee Talk 10 Year Anniversary



We honored Hometown Heroes at Coffee Talk on March 31st. A big thanks to Nara Kharkurel, Coffee Talk owner, for hosting us during his 10-year anniversary celebration! We were glad to present proclamations recognizing: Officer Walter S. Merryman of the BCPD Towson Precinct 6; Brian G. Shannon, a Towson-based author; Charles Brohawn of Plaza Art; Tony DiBasilio, a skilled framing specialist; Deirdre Aikin of Triple Crown Tattoo and the York & Penn Fine Art Gallery; Nancy Hafford, Mark Shulman, & Calixta Eraso of the Towson Chamber of Commerce; Joseph O'Donnell, community helper; Nancy Goldring, East Towson community leader (not pictured); and Nara Khakurel.

Animal Services Legislation



On April 6th, County Executive Klausmeier announced the introduction of three bills to update and strengthen our animal welfare laws, increase protections for animals, and provide more effective enforcement tools for Baltimore County Animal Services. I cosponsored the legislative package with my council colleagues and in coordination with Baltimore County Animal Services.

- **Bill 29-26**
Animal Protection and Humane Care
- **Bill 30-26**
Animal Board Authority and Expedited Hearings
- **Bill 31-26**
Animal Public Safety Designations

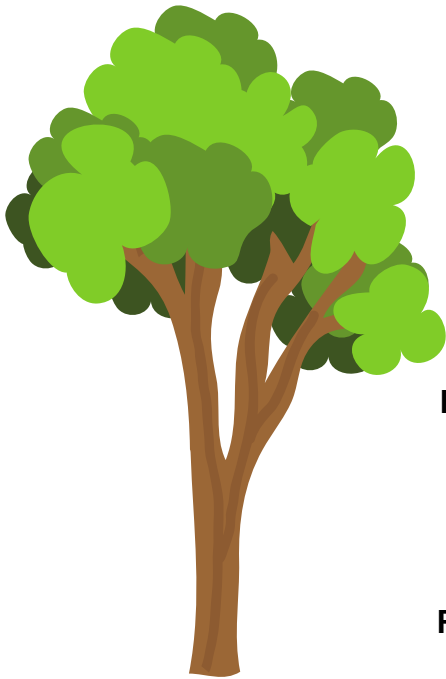
Baltimore County to Celebrate Arbor Day with Free Tree Giveaway

Baltimore County Executive Kathy Klausmeier announced that Baltimore County will offer trees native to Maryland, free for residents, in recognition of Arbor Day, April 24th, 2026.

Arbor Day Weekend Tree Giveaway Details:

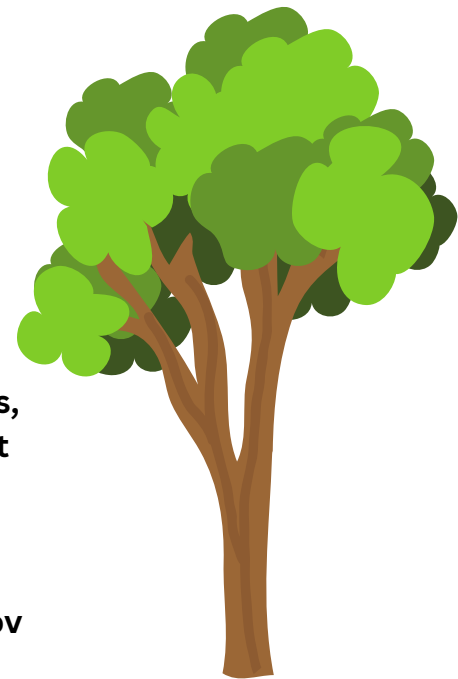
- The giveaway is open to Baltimore County residents only, with **a limit of two trees per household**.
- The Department of Environmental Protection and Sustainability (DEPS) will host curbside pickups at the **Center for Maryland Agriculture and Farm Park, 1114 Shawan Road, Cockeysville**.
- Pickup events will take place rain or shine.
- Residents can select their preferred species and schedule a pickup for Friday, April 24, or the morning of Saturday, April 25. There are 700 trees available for pre-order, and they are expected to be claimed quickly.
- Same-day pickup: Residents who do not pre-order can attend a first-come, first-served event on Saturday, April 25, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. A total of 200 trees will be held back for this event

Pre-order: Starting at 9 a.m. on Monday, April 13, residents may reserve up to two trees at www.baltimorecountymd.gov/freetrees.



Pre-order availability:

150 each: Eastern Redbud, Serviceberry
125 each: Sweetbay Magnolia, Red Maple
75 each: White Oak, Northern Red Oak
Same-day pickup (Saturday afternoon):
50 each: Serviceberry, Eastern Redbud
25 each: Sweetbay Magnolia, Red Maple, White Oak, Northern Red Oak



For planting guidance on containerized trees, including helpful videos, residents may visit <https://www.arborday.org/planting-your-tree/how-plant-containerized-trees>

For questions or to cancel an order, email ForestManagement@baltimorecountymd.gov or call 410-887-1369.

Great books at great prices! The Friends of the Towson Library's annual book sale is back. The event is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, through Saturday, April 18, and will be held on the first floor of the building, located at 320 York Road. There will be books of all genres and for all ages, including a large selection of children's books. Prices range from \$1 to \$5 (Wednesday through Friday) with a \$5-per-foot sale on Saturday.

Friends of Towson Library Annual Book Sale

Dates and Times:

Wednesday, April 15, noon to 7 pm
Thursday, April 16, noon to 7 pm
Friday, April 17, 9 am to 4 pm
***Saturday, April 18, 10 am to 2 pm**



Upcoming Events in District 6

SAVE THE DATE!

CELEBRATE EARTH DAY IN HISTORIC EAST TOWSON



This April, a temporary Complete Street demonstration project is coming to the corner of Towsontown Boulevard and Fairmount Avenue.

You're invited to join in the action!

COMMUNITY BUILD DAY

Saturday, April 18TH
9AM to 11:30AM
[Rain Date: April 25TH]

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

- * Paint the County's first asphalt art mural
- * Assemble street furniture
- * Fill planter boxes
- * Spruce up the space

BLOCK PARTY LAUNCH EVENT

Saturday, April 25TH
12PM TO 2PM

Come celebrate with music, games, and more!



REGISTER NOW >>>

<https://forms.gle/bXpnYnHnbMtE7bka6>



This project is a partnership between Baltimore County Government and the Northeast Towson Improvement Association. This project is supported through the 2025 Smart Growth America Community Connectors Program, with funding provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Towson GARDENS DAY

Gardens Day

Thursday, April 30, 10am - 3pm

Baltimore County Historic Courthouse
400 Washington Ave. (Pennsylvania Ave. side)



TOWSON TOWN SPRING FESTIVAL

56th Annual Towsontown Spring Festival

Saturday, May 2, 2026: 10am-8pm
& Sunday, May 3, 2026: 1pm-6pm.

If you are a thrill-seeker, foodie, music lover, or just a Baltimore explorer, this is your kind of festival. Visit 300+ vendors that offer unique crafts, jewelry, art, food, and more! Live music will feature some of the best music in Baltimore.

Chesapeake, Pennsylvania, Washington, & Baltimore Avenues in Towson (400 Washington Ave.)

Overlea Community Association

Overlea Farmers Market

2026



- June 6
- June 20
- July 4
- July 18
- Aug 1
- Aug 15
- Aug 29
- Sept 12
- Sept 26
- Oct 10
- Oct 24

8:30-12:30

NEW LOCATION: St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church
8 W Overlea Avenue, 21206
facebook.com/overleafarmersmarket