

# Councilman Mike Ertel

## 6<sup>th</sup> District Newsletter



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



*This newsletter is coming out just as we have experienced two difficult weeks in the aftermath of the recent snow/ice event. It has been a particularly tough snow clean-up as it generally warms up to 35-40 degrees after a significant snowfall.*

*The snow froze almost immediately, followed by 12+ days of below freezing temperatures day and night.*

*Baltimore County has always taken pride in our thorough snow plowing services, but this snow required more time consuming and costly efforts. The county had to almost immediately turn to heavy equipment to move additional snow on blocked lanes and big, ice-covered piles (which can normally be cleared by regular plow trucks).*

*In addition, our trash haulers had issues picking up trash in icy or blocked alleys. There have also been numerous water line breaks due to the freezing temperatures.*

*We received many compliments and many complaints. My staff and I worked to resolve these complaints as quickly as was possible, collaborating with county agency leaders to find solutions and options after this very unique weather event.*

*Hopefully, there will be some lessons learned from this type of ice storm that will help the county deal with these issues in the future.*

*Our intent is always to strive to do better.*

-Mike



Our Field Director Garth was out **each and every day** in sub-freezing temperatures after the storm assisting residents directly with snow/ice-related issues in District 6. We had multiple requests for service including **shoveling sidewalks for elderly and disabled constituents; collecting trash, carts, and large debris; making tire tracks in alleyways, and clearing paths all over the district.**

### Snow Cleanup in Towson

On Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>, Garth, and I helped an East Towson neighbor who recently had double knee surgery. We cleared her walk, steps and dug out her car. Then we cleared some walls of snow blocking pedestrian routes at the Towson Circle and then helped clear the walk in front of Coffee Talk.



Coffee Talk owner Nara treated us to my first Dirty Chai which was spot on after shoveling ice blocks of snow.



# District 6 Community Spotlight

## How long have you been a teacher?

I have been teaching for 36 years. It's been my good fortune to be at Rodgers Forge for 20 years!

## What's your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part of teaching is watching children grow, learn, and thrive as learners over the course of a school year.

## What are a few of the biggest challenges you face daily?

My biggest challenge is making sure I am meeting everyone's individual needs as learners, and teaching the BCPS curriculum with rigor to make sure students are prepared to be proficient learners as measured by state assessments at the end of each academic year.

## What things do you do to ensure success for all learners?

To ensure success for all learners, it requires teamwork! I work with many colleagues to meet the needs of all learners.

I work hard to build relationships with each student, so they know I genuinely care about their academic success and personal growth.

Additionally, I work in partnership with the wonderfully engaged parents of the Rodgers Forge community to ensure success for all learners. It takes a village!

## Sarah Mercer



*3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher at Rodgers Forge Elementary*

## How many students do you teach?

I currently teach 3<sup>rd</sup> grade English Language Arts and Content (Science, Social Studies, and Health) to 20 students-my homeroom. I teach 3<sup>rd</sup> grade Math to 26 students.

## How would you describe the life of a teacher?

The life of a teacher is demanding, for sure! It requires collaborating/planning with my stellar 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teammates daily, implementing instruction, assessing students' progress, reteaching, regrouping to meet students' individualized needs based on their performance, emailing parents, using technology every day, creating a classroom community of respectful and responsible learners, and really caring about each child as an individual each and every day.

## New Legislation

I sponsored and passed three new bills recently:

**Bill 92-25:**  
**Neighborhood Preservation District – Rental Housing License Density Limits**

This legislation addresses the rental density limits in the Towson community. It is a pilot program that would regulate the percentage of houses within the neighborhood preservation district that have rental housing licenses.

**Bill 93-25:**  
**Development Impact Fees and Surcharges – Exemptions for Affordable Housing**

Establishes an exemption from the county's development impact surcharge and development impact fee for qualifying affordable housing developments.

**Bill 95-25:**  
**Zoning Regulations – Downtown Towson District – Tree Replacement**

This legislation requires that trees which are removed as part of a development project are replaced/replanted in close proximity to where the development is located.



## Chairman of the Council

On Jan. 5th, I was honored and humbled that my Baltimore County Council colleagues had again unanimously elected me to be the Chairman of the Council for 2026.

I hope to continue the progress we made last year. 2025 was a historic year with the passing of Bill 55-25, which established nine council districts. We are excited to see what the future council will look like and how it will operate.



## MLK Day of Service

I was proud to participate in the Day of Service to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I volunteered at the Student Support Network in the morning of Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>. In the afternoon, I was joined by Stoneleigh Elementary students to pack sandwiches for Assistance Center of Towson Churches.



## Black History Heroes Ceremony

On Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, I attended the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Black History Month celebration for “Black Heroes Unite” at Maryland Live Casino. The ceremony honored pivotal Black changemakers in 2026.

## Underground Railroad Commemorative Walk



I had an amazing morning at the annual Underground Railroad Commemorative Walk at Emmarts United Methodist Church on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>. What a privilege to share stories, listen to incredible artistry, and hear from powerful leaders about the value of Black History and sacrifice.

## Comet Court Fire

My staff attended the press conference for a tragic fire that took the life of 4-year-old Wyatt Martin in Parkville on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>. The Baltimore County Fire Department went door-to-door to neighboring residents informing them of fire intervention tips and how to install and test smoke alarms throughout the home.



## District 6 Budget Town Hall

It was great for CE Klausmeier and I to hear residents' concerns on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> during the District 6 Budget Town Hall at Parkville High School.



Many Baltimore County departments were in attendance to connect residents with additional resources and directly address any questions.



## Towson Growth Summit



I went to the Towson Growth Summit at the StarUP Building on Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>.



The summit was a focused discussion on collaboration and local investments in job training and higher education in Baltimore County.

## Trash Pickup Schedule Update

The Department of Public Works and Transportation wants to remind residents that regular trash and recycling collection will take place on Presidents Day (Feb. 16<sup>th</sup>).

For details or to print a corrected calendar, please visit:

[baltimorecountymd.gov/collectionschedule](https://baltimorecountymd.gov/collectionschedule)

As a reminder, Baltimore County follows a slide collection schedule only on the following holidays:

- Memorial Day
- Juneteenth
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas
- New Year's Day

# Upcoming Events in District 6

## 1<sup>st</sup> Home game for Towson University Men's & Women's Lacrosse

(Men) **Saturday February 14, 12 p.m.**  
vs Navy

Johnny Unitas® Stadium, Towson, MD.

(Women) **Saturday February 14, 3:30 p.m.**  
vs Georgetown University

Tiger Field (below Secu Arena), Towson, MD.

## Egg-Stravaganza

**Saturday, March 28, Noon - 4pm**

Kids go head-to-head in the egg race, a tradition since 2007. Participate in crafts, games, treats, and egg decorating (all materials supplied except eggs). FREE admission; some activities are for a fee.

*Holt Park and Center for the Arts*

## Creative Arts Restoration

**Every Monday from Apr 13-Jun 8, 3 - 4pm**

Develop art skills and thought processes in an inclusive and mentally restorative setting. Participants will explore various styles of art media from fine arts to performance arts, building confidence, and having fun. No experience is required and materials are included. \$20 Ages 12-18.

*Fullerton Community Center*

## Soul Line Dance Party - Black History Month Celebration

**Friday, February 20: 5:30 - 7:30pm**

An energetic evening of joy, community and fitness at this after-hours social for everyone from total beginners to seasoned dancers. Get out on the floor with the Cha Cha Slide, Wobble and more.

*Towson Branch Library*

Register at [events.bcpl.info/event/15586021](https://events.bcpl.info/event/15586021)

## Towson GARDENS DAY

**Gardens Day**

**Thursday, April 30, 10am - 3pm**

Baltimore County Historic Courthouse  
400 Washington Ave



## Clothes Swap and Share

**Saturday, Mar 28 Noon - 2pm**

Refresh your wardrobe and renew the planet. Bring gently used, unwanted clothing, shoes, and accessories and exchange them for new-to-you pieces. Give your closet a second life! FREE All Ages.  
*Middle River Recreation Activity Center*