

Councilman Mike Ertel

6th District Newsletter

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



We have seen an evolving landscape of unusual moneymaking ventures in the region over the past few years – everything from unlicensed retail vendors to promoters selling tickets to pop-up events.

One of our responsibilities in local government is making sure business ventures are operating in a safe manner and not a detriment to our citizens' quality of life.

Newly Adopted Legislation

Bill 75-26 Rental Housing Licenses – Advertising

This bill will require a property owner to possess a rental housing license prior to advertising a property for rent.

Bill 78-26 Office of the Inspector General – Technical Definition and Clarification

This bill clarifies the definition and ability of the Office of the Inspector General.

Bill 79-26 Data Centers – Extension of Temporary Controls Enacted Under Bill 3-26

This bill extends the temporary controls enacted under Bill 3-26—that suspended the permitting of data centers—to December 31, 2027.

Bill 82-26 Surplus Commodities – Alternative Disposition Methods for Public and Nonprofit Entities

This bill allows for the County Purchasing Agent to engage in alternative transfer methods, including the donation, lease, loan, or below-market-rate sale, of surplus commodities in the County. For example, if the fire department has a surplus truck in the reserve and a local volunteer fire department wanted to purchase a truck, the county could sell directly to that entity.

On County Council – we have had two recent bills that address some concerning issues:

Smoke Shop Bill – addressed the proliferation of smoke shops with proximity to each other but also their distance from schools and daycare centers. Many of the smoke shops are selling products that target teens with candy and bubble gum flavors. Some of the smoke shops are selling dangerous substances like Kratom and Tianeptine (aka “gas station heroin”) which is enforced by State Law Enforcement.

Commercial House Parties – this summer, the county saw a major uptick in promoters who sell tickets to a pool or house party hosted at a VRBO, AirBnB or private residence. The promoters are often selling up to 150 tickets to persons online to attend events at a house in your neighborhood. These properties are residential homes not entertainment venues. Often large crowds show up and get turned away because of an overbooked party. A few incidents have required a mobilization of police officers exhausting the resources of the local police precinct and across the county. The promoter makes the money, the neighbors deal with cars parked on their lawns, disrespectful behavior and the taxpayers are footing the police overtime bill. This bill will give the County Police the enforcement tools that they need.

We will continue to be vigilant with these issues.

-Mike

Pending Legislation

Bill 84-26 Commercial House Parties – Prohibition

This will prohibit commercial house parties, unlicensed parties where a fee is charged to enter, in residential areas.

Bill 85-26 Advisory Committee on Animal Services

This sets new regulations and protocols for the establishment of the Advisory Committee on Animal Services.

Bill 92-26 County Council – Compensation

This would increase the current compensation for the council to match the change from part-time to full-time pay. Council salaries are not subject to Cost of Living Adjustments, like other county positions.

House Party Legislation



Large commercial parties at residential properties have become an increasing concern in Baltimore County.

On September 8, the County Council joined with County Executive Klausmeier for a press conference announcing new commercial house party legislation, Bill 84-26.

Homes are being advertised as venues, tickets are sold, and large crowds are causing disruptions in neighborhoods. Just this summer, Baltimore County communities experienced “pool parties” hosted at various residential homes. Tickets to the parties were sold to hundreds of people after promotional flyers were distributed across social media.

The bill would establish misdemeanor penalties of up to \$2,500 for a first violation and up to \$5,000 for a second or subsequent violation within 24 months.

Water Supply Drought



The Baltimore County Department of Public Works and Transportation is urging residents and businesses to continue conserving water as Baltimore City Department of Public Works is supplementing the regional water supply with water drawn from the Susquehanna River.

The change is currently expected to begin in early October, depending on rainfall, reservoir levels and operating conditions.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, more than 60 percent of Maryland is experiencing abnormally dry conditions and nearly 27 percent is experiencing moderate drought.

The blended water will be treated and tested at the Montebello water treatment plants before reaching Baltimore County customers. The water will continue to meet all federal and state drinking water requirements and will remain safe for drinking, bathing and cooking as normal.



Towson High School Field Dedication

On September 26, the Alumni Soccer game and 11th Annual Men’s Prostate Cancer Awareness game was held at Towson High.

I was glad to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony dedicated to former coach and teacher Randy Dase, as we unveiled the new Randy Dase Field. Randy is a cancer survivor after being diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2016.

Capital Improvement Program Community Input Meeting

The Planning Board is hosting the FY2028 Capital Improvement Program Citizen Input Meeting on **Thursday, October 15 at 5 p.m.**

The Citizen Input Meeting is an opportunity for residents and community groups to propose and discuss capital project needs, such as roads, sidewalks, drainage, parks, schools and public facilities, for consideration in the upcoming Capital Improvements Program and budget year.

The meeting will be held in the Jefferson Building, 105 West Chesapeake Avenue, Hearing Room 104, Towson, Maryland 21204.

Residents can sign up to speak for two minutes in support of projects they’d like to see in their communities.



Nepalese Community Candelight Vigil

On August 30, I gathered with my colleagues and community residents for a candelight vigil hosted by the Baltimore Association of Nepalese in America (BANA) to remember all those lost in the devastating floods in Nepal and Tibet. We prayed and lit candles in the shape of Nepal. We stood together in the time of need and hope for the nation and all those affected.



Officer of the Year



On September 22, my staff presented a proclamation to Parkville Precinct 2025 Officer of the Year Officer Alejandrina (Andy) Bray. She was recognized for her commitment to the safety and well-being of the Parkville area and its citizens.

Server Games



On August 9, I had the honor of being a judge at the first ever Server Games in Towson. It was a lot of fun and proceeds from the event went to Signal 13 Foundation, which supports fallen officers and first responders.



Hamiltowne Community Cookout

Had a great time at the community cookout in the Hamiltowne neighborhood in Rosedale on Sept 5. I ate, laughed, and spent time with great people .

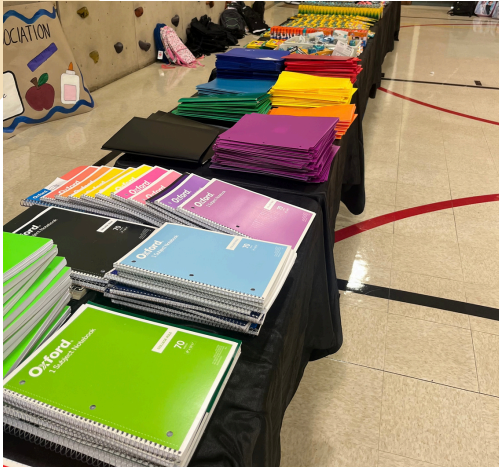
Back to School Night

I attended the back to school night at Overlea and Parkville High Schools on September 3. I enjoyed the event with my colleagues: Delegates Nick Allen & Kim Ross, State Senator Carl Jackson, and School Board Member Christina Pumphrey.



Hillendale School Supply Drive

On August 27, I joined the Hillendale Community Association School for a school supply drive at Halstead Academy. They had hundreds of donated bookbags, notebooks, pencils, and other school supplies for kids of every grade level.



Dumbarton Middle's New Gym Floor

On August 28, I was invited to the unveiling of the new hardwood gymnasium floor at Dumbarton Middle. A huge thanks to Towson Recreation Council who funded this project for the middle schoolers to enjoy.



ArtFusion

It's always a great time at the annual art festival held at Holt Park and Center for the Arts. ArtFusion is a free, immersive arts festival with activities and performances for all ages.



I attended ArtFusion on August 29 with Councilman David Marks and County Exec Kathy Klausmeier.

Upcoming Events in District 6

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

Towson Farmers Market

The Towson Farmers Market brings organic, locally grown foods & hand crafted products to the Towson community.

The 2026 season is open on Thursdays from **June 4 -**

November 19, 2026 on Allegheny Avenue.

When: **10:30am - 2:30pm**

Rec & Parks Hosted Events:

Community and Craft Fair

Sunday, October 11 | Noon to 4 p.m.

Rosedale Recreation Activity Center

Free

Holt Haunted Hike

Holt Park and Center for the Arts

Friday, October 23 | 6 to 9 p.m.

\$6 per person

Holt Harvest Day

Holt Park and Center for the Arts

Sunday, November 1 | 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

\$6 per person

TOWSON 2026 FIREWORKS CELEBRATION

SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 3, 2026

FIREWORKS START AT
APPROXIMATELY 8:15PM

This Event is Sponsored and Supported by



Area parking lots fill up quickly, so plan to grab your parking spot by 7:45 pm.

**LOCH RAVEN ACADEMY FIELD
8101 LASALLE RD**



Baltimore County Department of Aging

Power of Age

EXPO

**2026 HEART • MIND
& COMMUNITY**

October 22, 2026 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Timonium Fairgrounds

Featuring:

- Connect with up to 300 sponsors and exhibitors with information and specialty products
- Live Continuous Entertainment
- Find a treasure at the Silent Auction by being the highest bidder
- Benefit from free preventive health screenings and flu/pneumonia vaccinations
- Discover the joys of County Senior Centers with center displays, the Creative Arts Contest and the Pickleball Palooza Championships
- Learn about government resources available in Baltimore County

For more information, please call

410-887-2594

or visit www.powerofageexpo.com



For more information on Sponsorships/Booths, please call 410-887-2002.



Trick or Treat

October 23
5:00pm-7:00pm

.....

**Participating Businesses will be
handing out all kinds of treats**

.....

Free Event

.....

towsonmainstreetcollaborative.com

408 York Rd, Towson, MD 21204



ROSEDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

FOOD TRUCK SPOOKTACULAR

TRUNK OR TREAT • FIREHOUSE FINALE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2026
4:00-8:00 PM

FOOD • FUN • FALL FESTIVITIES

Food Trucks • \$5 Kids Meals
Cookies & Fried Dough • Music by DJ Joey C

Guess the Weight of the Pumpkin!



Want to decorate a trunk and join the fun?
Contact foodtrucks@rosedalevfd.com

Thank you for supporting your volunteer firefighters!

**8037 Philadelphia Rd
Baltimore, MD 21237**



Towson Arts Collective

PRESENTS

ARTS IN THE PARK

**FREE FALLEVENTS
AT TOWSON'S
HISTORIC
COURTHOUSE
GARDENS**

SPONSORED BY:
Paint Breeze[®]
Credit Union

ART VENDORS **FOOD & DRINK** **LIVE MUSIC** **FUN FOR ALL AGES**

THURSDAYS 4:00 - 7:30 PM
AUGUST 27th
SEPTEMBER 24th
OCTOBER 29th
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE GARDENS

400 WASHINGTON AVE
TOWSON, MD 21204
WWW.TOWSONARTSCOLLECTIVE.ORG

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



Community Shred Day

Loch Raven Library
Saturday, October 24: 10am - 12pm

Destroy your confidential household paperwork at our free Community Shred Day. This outdoor event is for personal/residential users only. Limit of three (3) boxes per household; paper items only.

Contact Us:
Historic Courthouse
400 Washington Avenue
Towson, MD 21204
(410) 887-3388
council6@baltimorecountymd.gov