

# Harper's Choice Voice

The e-Newsletter for the Village of Harper's Choice

A BIG THANK YOU FROM HCCA!

## HAPPY NATIONAL NURSES MONTH

The world is a better place because of  
all that you do.



### Harper's Choice Village Elections

FROM: George Cronin, Chair, Election Monitor  
Committee

DATE: May 12, 2020

SUBJECT: Village Elections

A Village-wide election was held on April 25, 2020; there were three (3) candidates for two (2) Harper's Choice Community Association Board of Director seats and three (3) candidates for one (1) Columbia Council Representative Seat. The total number of ballots cast did not reach a quorum. As such, it was not a valid election. Subsequent to receiving the election results, Eileen Brewer and Debra Warner conceded the election; Rebecca Beall and Brynn Conover retained their seats on the Board of Directors. A special meeting was called on May 12, 2020

to determine who would serve as the Columbia Council Representative. The polls were reopened until that date. The results are:

#### COLUMBIA COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

180 Alan Klein\*  
141 Ashley Vaughan

Total Number of Ballots Received for this Position: 382 (includes CA's votes)

\* 241 votes for Klein with CA's 61 votes cast with the majority.



## Maryland Will Lift Stay-At-Home Order Friday

### County Executive Calvin Ball Statement on Governor's Stage One Reopening

ELLCOTT CITY, MD - County Executive Calvin Ball released the following statement addressing the Governor's announcement this evening:

"Governor Hogan has given individual counties and regions the discretion to review our own data and make decisions about when it is appropriate us to relax certain restrictions. Howard County does not meet many of the criteria that the Governor outlined in his four building blocks to reopen."

Ball continued, "Our testing capacity has increased; however, we have only tested about 2% of our Howard County population, or nearly 6,000 individuals to date. Based on modeling to understand full exposure, we need to test up to 6,500 individuals a week. The Governor has demonstrated a commitment to acquire more testing, however these tests will likely go to larger jurisdictions first. Additionally, we do not yet have a robust contact tracing operation, we have 11 out of 45 positions currently filled, and need more time to achieve 15 contact tracers per 100,000 residents. Howard County has also not seen a decrease in cases or hospitalizations over the last 14 days, and borders six jurisdictions, a majority of which have significant case rates."

"Lastly, while we have ramped up our supply of PPE, it is still scarce and reopening sectors of our economy will increase demand making it more difficult to secure a safe stockpile. We do not have the building blocks in place that the Governor has outlined necessary for Stage One of reopening.

"We will continue to make decisions based on these data, and on the safety and welfare of our residents."

## Virtual Graduations and Distribution of Graduation Material



### Updates from Tuesday, May 12, 2020

*The following email provides links and helpful resources. Additional information is provided on the HCPSS website.*

#### Virtual Graduations

Beginning Thursday, June 4, 2020, every Howard County Public School System (HCPSS) high school and the Cedar Lane School will hold a virtual graduation. Understanding that no celebration can replicate a traditional, in-person celebration, HCPSS and high school principals wanted to find a way to recognize and celebrate each one of our 2020 graduating seniors. In-person celebrations will be planned by schools at a later date.

Virtual graduations will be pre-recorded but closely aligned to the programs that were already planned to include student speeches, student performances, commencement remarks by the County Executive, recognition of the graduates by the Superintendent, awarding of diplomas by a Board member, and the turning of tassels. Virtual graduations will be pre-recorded due to concerns with online connection stability, to prevent unwelcome interruptions by people looking to digitally interrupt the special celebration, and to eliminate the risk of inappropriate words or actions being broadcast live.

To highlight individual graduates during the awarding of the diplomas segment of the program, each senior is encouraged to create a short video (5-10 seconds) and submit it based on instructions that will be provided by schools. Students should wear their caps and gowns during this recording. If a student does not provide a video, their graduation picture will be shown instead. Each student's video (no audio) or picture will be featured on the screen as their name is announced by a staff member.

Virtual graduations will be streamed on a staggered schedule during the graduation window of June 4-9 so that students, families, and community members can view multiple ceremonies as they are presented if they wish to do so while also taking into consideration that there are families with seniors in more than one school. Additionally, graduations will be able to be viewed on the HCPSS television channels (Verizon 42 & Comcast 95 in Howard County) based on a schedule that will be provided closer to the graduation dates.

[Information on virtual graduations can be found online](#), and is listed below.

#### June 4

- 10 am - Mt. Hebron High School
- 2 pm - River Hill High School
- 6 pm - Centennial High School

#### June 5

- 9 am - Oakland Mills High School
- 12 pm - Wilde Lake High School
- 3 pm - Marriotts Ridge High School

#### June 8

- 9 am - Cedar Lane School

- 12 pm - Reservoir High School
- 3 pm - Hammond High School
- 6 pm - Atholton High School

## June 9

- 10 am - Glenelg High School
- 2 pm - Long Reach High School
- 6 pm - Howard High School

## Viewing Graduations

HCPSS will stream each graduation online. Recorded videos will be available online soon after each ceremony's end. HCPSS also will broadcast the celebrations on HCPSS TV cable channels 42 (Verizon) and 95 (Comcast). DVD services were discontinued last year. All virtual graduations will remain online for the foreseeable future.

## Diplomas

Diploma distribution will occur at the end of May. Each school will provide dates for seniors to return any additional items owned by the school/school system and receive their diploma and diploma cover. Students may continue to use HCPSS Chromebooks for any remaining school work over the summer, and will be provided with their diploma once the device has been returned.

Please contact your school with questions.

## Distribution of Graduation Materials

Schools are coordinating a schedule and guidelines regarding the distribution of graduation materials and collection of school property. Beginning on Thursday, May 14, each school will be providing families with a detailed schedule on when parents and/or graduating seniors are assigned to pick up their graduation materials and return school materials. Safety is our most important concern during this time, so it is important to maintain social distancing protocols, including complying with the assigned schedule to avoid large gatherings. In addition, all students and family members should wear masks, and all staff involved in this process will be wearing masks and gloves. Schools will provide directions for students/parents who are unable to come at their assigned time.

Schools will have a traffic pattern designated for their school with several stations set-up to check in, distribute caps, gowns, and other graduation materials, collect textbooks and Chromebooks, and collect other school materials such as athletic equipment and music instruments. Additionally, students will have an opportunity to record a brief 5-10 second video in their cap and gown to be included in the virtual graduation.

More information will be sent shortly by your child's school.



**American  
Red Cross**

**Help the American Red  
Cross Today!**  
**LAST DAY TOMORROW**

Make a difference in helping save a life by donating blood today. The American Red Cross is experiencing a blood shortage and is seeking healthy donors who feel well to donate blood. As part of our nation's critical infrastructure, healthy individuals can still donate in areas that have issued shelter in place declarations.

If interested in taking part in this life saving mission, sign-up today to participate in one of these upcoming Red Cross blood drives by clicking below to make an appointment.

NOTE: Per the Red Cross, there is no data or evidence that COVID-19 can be transmissible by blood transfusion, and there have been no reported cases worldwide of transmissions for any respiratory virus including COVID-19. For questions and/or more information about donating blood during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit <https://rcblood.org/2Vx3mPa>.

**Thursday, May 14 and Friday, May 15, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day at The Mall in Columbia  
(open space by Lord & Taylor).**

# A Note From Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks



**Howard County**  
RECREATION & PARKS

7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia, Maryland 21046

John S. Marshall  
Bureau Chief of Parks  
jsmarshall@howardcountymd.gov

Phone: 410-313-4640 Fax: 410-313-1699  
www.howardcountymd.gov/rap Voice/Relay: 410-313-7275

May 5, 2020

Village Manager  
Harper Choice Village Center  
5440 Old Tucker Row  
Columbia, MD 21044

Dear Manager,

Hello, my name is John Marshall. I am the Parks Bureau Chief for the Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks. I want to make you aware of a new lightning alerting system that will soon be installed in the County's eight regional parks, to include Cedar Lane Park.

This system is being installed to better protect and safeguard our park users. The system has a horn and a strobe light that will sound for 15-seconds when lightning is detected 10-miles from the park giving time for those in the park to seek shelter. When the system detects that lightning is no longer a threat, the horn will sound in three 5-second bursts announcing it's safe to resume activity.

I wanted to make you aware of this program as some of the surrounding homeowners may be able to hear the horn when it goes off. The horn is programmed to sound only during hours in which the park is open.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you would like further information or would like me to attend one of your community meetings once this virus permits.

Sincerely,  
*John S. Marshall*  
John S. Marshall  
Parks Bureau Chief  
410-313-1081  
jsmarshall@howardcountymd.gov

Howard County Executive Calvin Ball

[www.howardcountymd.gov](http://www.howardcountymd.gov)

## UNMUTE Student Musicians Present Virtual Concert



When words fail, music speaks. When distance separates, music connects. Let's U-N-M-U-T-E!

UNMUTE was founded in the summer of 2019 by several high school students in Howard County. The group has organized over hundreds of student musicians from Kindergarten to 12th grade to share their music talents with senior residents in the local assisted living facilities. Starting from April of 2020, UNMUTE desires to continually connect to senior residents by launching Virtual Concerts while combating COVID-19. Student musician volunteers stay at home to practice, perform, and record their performance video with the hope to bring smiles and music to their audience. UNMUTE Virtual Concert#6 will be broadcast-ed on May 16, 2020.

To View Their Concerts Click  
HERE

## Wilde Lake High School Senior Appreciation

The PTSA and Boosters of Wilde Lake High School are teaming to get a free yard sign for each of our Seniors. Hopefully you will start to see them popping up as they get them distributed.

They are also selling "We Love Our Seniors" yard signs so our families and friends can show their support of their Senior Wildecats. Signs are only \$10, or people can buy a pack of 5 for \$45 or a pack of 10 for \$90.

All proceeds from the Supporter signs will be donated to the PTSA Ohana Fund, which is used to meet the immediate needs of our WLHS community. To purchase a sign, people can go to <https://formsmarts.com/form/241i?mode=h5>. All signs orders will be dropped off at people's homes or businesses using social distancing protocol.



## Village Board Virtual Meetings

The next meeting of the Village Board is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 7 PM** via GoTo Meeting.

[Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.](#)



- You can also dial in using your phone.
  - United States: tel:+1-872-240-3311
  - Access Code: 587-618-861

[Click Here to View Village Board Agendas](#)

## Have you visited us on Facebook lately?

Please join us on Facebook for up-to-date information about what's happening in and around the Harper's Choice Community.

JOIN US ON  
**facebook**

[Facebook](#)

## Keeping You Informed

This weekly e-Newsletter serves as a recap of news and events we share with our community throughout the week via other social media channels. Connect with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to receive more regular announcements and information from us.

## Subscribe to Our e-Newsletter

Was this message forwarded to you from a friend? You can [subscribe to this newsletter directly](#) so that you can receive it straight to your inbox from us! You may also text HCCANEWS to 22828 and follow the prompts to register.

## Stay Connected

[Steve Ingley](#)  
Village Manager

[Debbie Nix](#)  
Covenant Advisor

[Cathy Murphy](#)  
Facility Manager

[Leah Akers](#)  
Executive Assistant

## Your Village Board

[Joel Hurewitz](#)\*\*  
Village Board Member

[Alan Klein](#)\*  
Columbia Council Re

[Ralph Paez](#)\*\*  
Village Board Member

[Lauren Avant](#)\*\*  
Village Board Member

[Brynn Conover](#)\*  
Village Board Member

[Rebecca Beall](#)\*  
Village Board Member

\* Term expires 4/30/20

\*\* Term expires 4/30/21

