



County Executive Bob Cassilly eNewsletter

February 2024

This month, two pieces of local legislation are of great concern - one that threatens to bring overdevelopment to all residential areas of Harford County and another that would mandate government spending in violation of the Charter. I will continue to fight this legislation, which was initiated by the [County Council](#).

Details are below along with other news from my administration.

Bob Cassilly

Harford County Executive

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Opposing overdevelopment

In January, County Councilman Aaron Penman introduced a [bill that would allow freestanding accessory dwelling units \(ADUs\) in all residential areas](#). I strongly oppose this bill because it would result in a massive increase in the density of housing in all areas of the county, negatively impacting the quality of life in existing communities, reducing property values, undermining effective zoning, and overcrowding schools. ADUs are currently allowed in Harford County but they must be within or attached to an existing single-family home and occupied by a relative of the homeowner. [Read my full statement here](#).



Veto for government spending mandate

I recently vetoed [County Council Bill 23-034 Hotel Tax](#) because it violates the County Charter and imposes a spending mandate on the executive branch of county government. Spending mandates are permitted by the Maryland General Assembly, but they were strongly criticized by former Gov. Larry Hogan for their negative impacts on the executive branch's ability to effectively manage government spending. We are feeling the effects of state overspending, and Harford County must not emulate this flawed state spending policy. Click here to read [my full veto message](#).



HARFORD COUNTY AAA BOND RATING

BOB CASSILLY, COUNTY EXECUTIVE

AAA rating saves taxpayer money; bond proceeds help fund schools

Harford County retained our AAA bond-rating this year, placing us among the top 2% of counties nationwide for responsible fiscal management. This highest possible rating allowed us to sell \$40 million of new bonds at a low, 3.267% interest rate last month. The proceeds will help fund the new Homestead Wakefield Elementary School, renovations to Harford Technical High School, athletic field improvements, roads, bridges, and stormwater and wastewater projects. We also saved \$10 million over 10 years by refunding at a lower interest rate \$35.5 million in bonds originally issued in 2013 and 2014.



BOB CASSILLY
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

TAX CREDIT for qualifying seniors & veterans

Tax credit for qualifying seniors & veterans

Harford County's senior tax credit allows eligible seniors and veterans to receive a 20% credit on their county property taxes for the next fiscal year. To qualify, residents must be at least 65 years old; own a home in the county that is their primary residence with an assessed value of \$600,000 or less, and must meet one of the following conditions: They must have lived in their home for at least 35 consecutive years, or have retired from the U.S. uniformed services, or be the surviving spouse of a qualifying retired veteran. Disabled veterans of any age with a rating of at least 50%, or their surviving spouse, may also qualify. [Detailed criteria and applications are on our website](#), where you'll also find contact information in case you have questions. Applications are due by April 1, 2024.



Veterans Corner - Housing assistance

Veterans who are at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness may qualify for up to one year of income-based rental assistance through our Department of Housing & Community Services. Veterans who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking are also eligible. Applications are by referral only from a veterans' or homeless services provider. Learn more at 410-638-3045 ext. 1229 or email madeem@harfordcountymd.gov.



Minority & Small Business Resource Fair Feb. 15

Minority and small business owners can learn about creating effective business plans, marketing on a \$0 budget, and funding opportunities at the Minority & Small Business Fair from 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Thursday, February 15 at Harford Community College's APGFCU Arena. [Register online](#) or on site for this free event to help business owners connect with resources. The fair is brought to you by Venture Access, a partnership between our Office of Economic Development and the Harford Chamber of Commerce.



Black History Month in Harford County

In honor of Black History Month, we're featuring Harford County people and places that made history in a series of posts on our [Facebook page](#). You may recognize some local heroes, like Sgt. Alfred B. Hilton, Harford's only native-born Medal of Honor recipient. Others may be less familiar, like Eliza Parker Howard, who played a key role in an event credited with sparking the Civil War to end slavery in the U.S. We hope you'll share these stories posted throughout February and help us shine a light for future generations.



Liriodendron Winter Walk in the Woods Feb. 19

Join me on Presidents' Day, Monday, February 19 for a winter walk in the woods starting at the historic Liriodendron Mansion in Bel Air. Enjoy an easy hike in the woods around the mansion and along the Ma and Pa Trail, guided by a naturalist from Susquehannock Wildlife Society. Meet in the lower (Broadway) parking lot at 1 p.m. and make your way to one of the mansion's porticos for light refreshments before the walk begins. All ages are welcome. Please wear sturdy shoes and warm clothes as we connect with nature at these two Harford County Parks & Recreation gems!



Year One: Delivering Results

In case you missed it, watch this [brief video](#) highlighting my administration's first year in office and [click here to view my State of the County Address](#) delivered to the County Council and the public on January 11, 2024.

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