



County Executive Bob Cassilly eNewsletter

April 2024

We send prayers for the families of those who lost their lives in last week's collapse of the Key Bridge. Within minutes of the collapse, a Harford County team of first responders who are specially trained in water rescue operations were on their way to help. I would like to thank them and all first responders on the scene for their lifesaving efforts on that tragic day.

**Bob Cassilly**

Harford County Executive

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## Featured Stories

- [FY 25 budget update](#)
- [WATCH HarfordTV's "Inside Harford County" April 17 & 24 - Budget for FY25](#)
- [Protecting land from development](#)
- [First responder app for mental health](#)
- [National Prescription Drug Take Back April 27](#)
- [Volunteer Fair April 30](#)
- [Veterans Corner: Month of the Military Child](#)
- [Keep Harford Beautiful - Pitch in!](#)
- [Planting trees for Arbor Day](#)

# *What You NEED To KNOW* **UPDATE** HARFORD COUNTY **FY 2025 BUDGET**

## **FY 25 budget update**

Like all counties across the state, Harford County's income tax revenue for the current year has come in well below anticipated levels. Harford's share is \$13M less than projected, and the state is estimating a \$255M reduction in their revenue for this year and next. We cannot ignore this unexpected decline in revenues and softening of the state and national economies, and their local impact. We must live within our means - I will not raise taxes to balance next year's budget. Look for my budget announcement on Monday, April 15; the budget will also be posted [here on the county website](#).



## **WATCH HarfordTV's "Inside Harford County" April 17 & 24 - Budget for FY25**

After my recommended budget for FY25 is announced, County Treasurer Robbie Sandlass and I will discuss it in detail on the next episode of "Inside Harford County" with host Mark Vernarelli. The program will air live from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17 and be rebroadcast the following Wednesday, April 24 on Armstrong channel 7 & HD 101, Comcast channel 31 & HD 1084, and Verizon channel 31



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## Protecting land from development

You may know that Harford's agricultural preservation program pays landowners not to develop their land, with funding from the county's tax on property title transfers. Based on recommendations from our stakeholder workgroup, and with support from the County Council, we recently revised the program to include all zoning designations and expand its geographic diversity. We also reduced the minimum property size from 50 to 20 acres and added forests, woodlands, and streams to the ranking system for eligibility, among other changes. [Click here for details.](#)

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## First responder app for mental health

As we saw last week, first responders regularly face life or death situations, putting them at a higher risk for mental health issues. With more than 2,800 career and volunteer fire and EMS responders, 911 telecommunicators, and law enforcement officers in Harford County, my administration is offering a new app to help support their physical and mental health. The Lighthouse Health and Wellness app connects first responders and their families to resources tailored to their needs, including mental health services, events, articles, and daily messages of support. We are making this anonymous and confidential app available at no cost to users. [Click here for details.](#)





## National Prescription Drug Take Back April 27

Help us keep prescription drugs from falling into the wrong hands or harming the environment by dropping off your unwanted medications for safe disposal from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 27. Drive-through drop off locations will be open throughout Harford County, including our office building at 220 S. Main Street in Bel Air. [Click here for a complete list of locations.](#)



## Volunteer Fair April 30

Helping others brings meaning to our own lives and strengthens our entire community. To foster this spirit in Harford County, my administration is organizing a volunteer fair. Community organizations seeking volunteers and volunteers interested in serving are welcome to attend from 2 - 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 30 at the McFaul Activity Center in Bel Air. Organizations can register for a free table at [www.volunteerharford.org](http://www.volunteerharford.org).

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## Veterans Corner: Month of the Military Child

April is the Month of the Military Child. In Harford County, there are 2,200 military members at APG alone, plus many Reserve and National Guard families. Military children face unique challenges including deployed parents, frequent moves and navigating new schools, neighborhoods, and support services. My administration and the local veteran service organizations are here to help. For resources, please visit the webpages for the [Harford County Veterans Commission](#) and [Harford County Community Services](#). For further assistance, contact Bob Brown, our veterans resource coordinator at [rbrown@HarfordCountyMD.gov](mailto:rbrown@HarfordCountyMD.gov) or 443-966-4518.

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## Keep Harford Beautiful - Pitch in!

Our crews picked up more than 125,000 pounds of trash, 27,000 pounds of recycling, and nearly 400 tires this year along 900 miles of county roads and known dumping locations. You can pitch in by putting litter in its place and encouraging others to do the same. Individuals, families, community groups and businesses that want to do more can adopt a road. We'll provide the bags and pick them up on site when you're done. [Click here for details](#).

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## Planting trees for Arbor Day

Since 2003, Harford County has planted 33,000 trees for our annual Arbor Day event, organized by the department of planning & zoning. We are also proud to have been honored again this year with a National Tree City USA Award from the Arbor Day Foundation for Harford's ongoing commitment to effective forest management. Thanks to all the volunteers and county staff who helped to plant 150 trees at Harford Glen last Friday for this year's Arbor Day celebration.

## Want more?

Get more updates, photos & event information from Harford County Government:

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