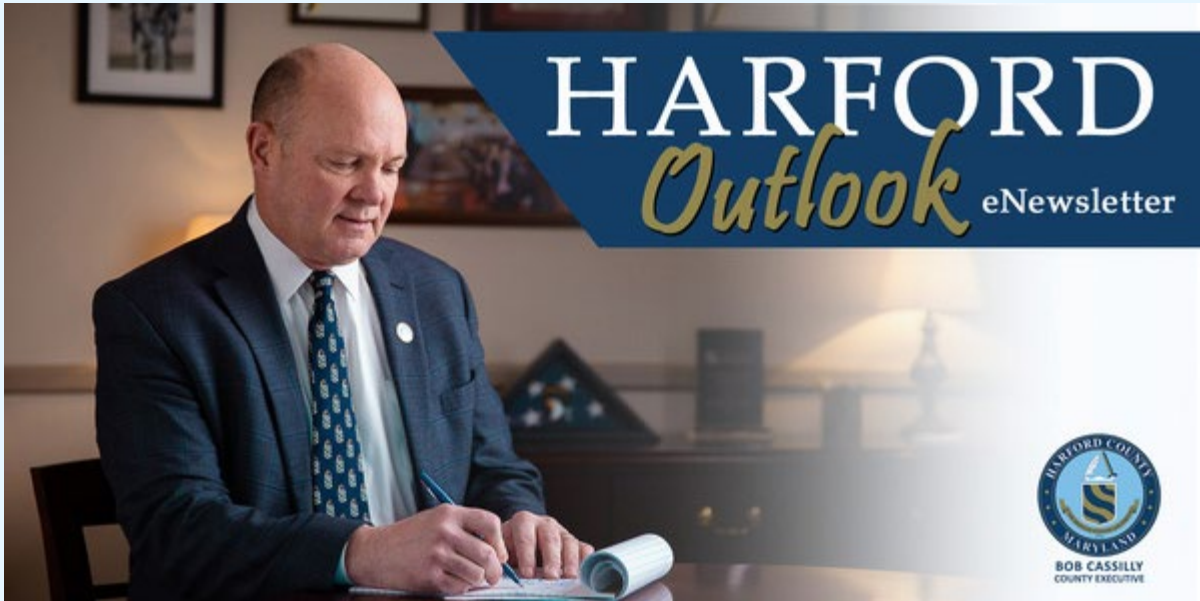




County Executive Bob Cassilly eNewsletter

March 2025

This month marks the 250th anniversary of the Bush Declaration. Signed in Harford County in 1775, this historic document was the nation's first declaration by elected representatives in support of independence. As a descendant of two of the declaration's signers, I am excited to invite you and your family to join in upcoming celebrations for all ages.

Please see below for more information and other news from my administration.

Bob Cassilly

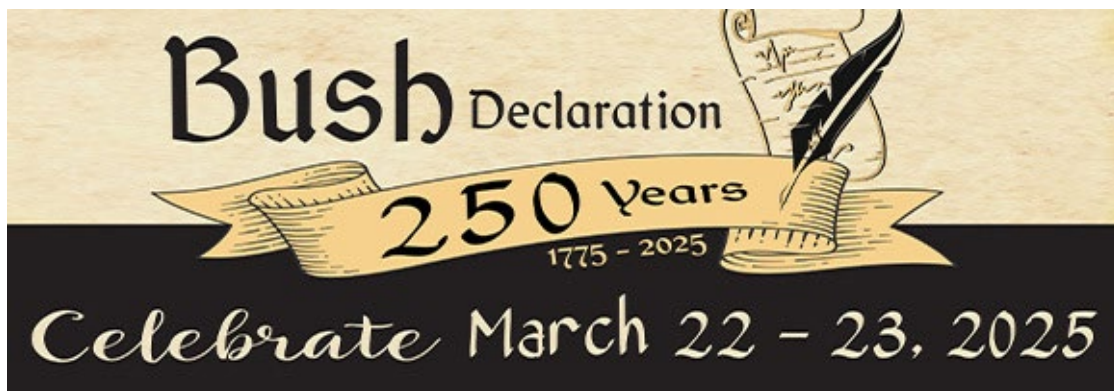
Harford County Executive

CountyExecutive@harfordcountymd.gov

410-638-3350

Featured Stories

- [Celebrate Bush 250](#)
- [Advocating for student safety](#)
- [Funding the education budget](#)
- [Comprehensive zoning review](#)
- [Tax credit for qualifying seniors & veterans](#)
- [Housing fair March 22](#)
- ["Inside Harford County" - Facing Addiction](#)
- [Daylight saving time March 9; Check your fire alarms](#)
- [Honoring Women's History Month](#)



Celebrate Bush 250

Before the American Declaration of Independence from England was signed in 1776, Harford County was the site of the nation's first declaration signed by elected representatives in support of independence. The Bush Declaration of 1775 was signed by 34 local men "at the risque of our lives and fortunes." Join the 250th anniversary celebration of this important document and the brave souls who risked everything for liberty. Free, family-friendly events planned March 22 - 23 include historic re-enactments, live music, and a "passport to history" tour of Harford County sites related to the declaration. Pick up your passport at any library branch and get stamps at four locations to earn a certificate and historian badge; Scouts will earn a special Bush 250 patch!

[Learn more here.](#)



Advocating for student safety

Last week I testified before state legislators, imploring them to help keep kids safe in school following horrific incidents in Harford County. They include the devastating Joppatowne HS shooting in September and the revelation that a student who was a murder suspect had attended Edgewood High without school officials receiving notification of his status. Schools must have information about potential dangers and the authority to protect all students.

[Watch the video to learn more.](#)



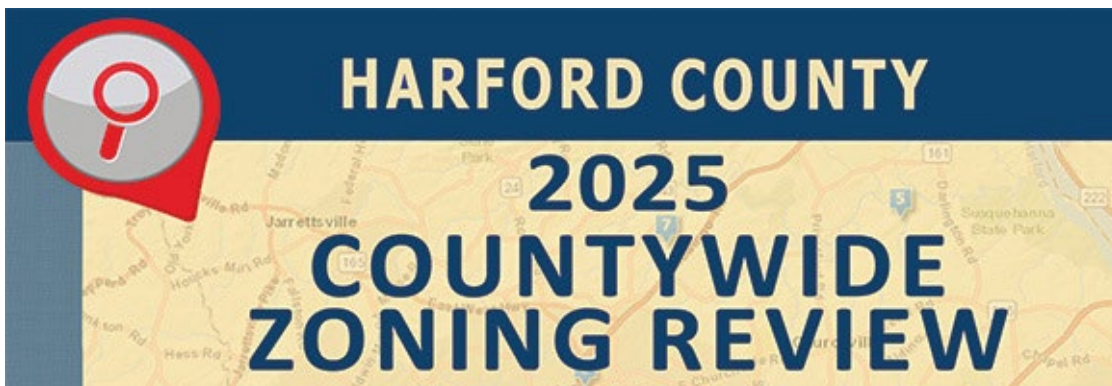
Funding the education budget

I would like to thank the Harford County Board of Education for their unanimous approval of a budget request to the county that more closely matches our anticipated growth in county revenue next year. My budget team and I will be working hard to fully fund this request.

Our goal is to set a budget level that allows for reasonable increases in education funding over the next several years, without raising taxes on households that are already struggling to make ends meet.

We still face a great risk that the state will balance its budget by shifting more costs onto the counties, including unfunded mandates from the state's "Blueprint for Education," which outrageously favors expanding bureaucracies rather than reducing class sizes.

Nonetheless, I look forward to continuing the ongoing collaboration between the school system and my administration. Look for my recommended budget to be released on April 15.



Comprehensive zoning review

Every eight years, the Harford County Code requires a Comprehensive Zoning Review that allows property owners to request a change in their property's existing zoning designation. Zoning determines a property's permitted uses and includes agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial classifications.

The 2024/2025 Comprehensive Zoning Review [was announced a year ago](#), and after careful review, last week I sent draft legislation that approves all or part of 18 out of 65 requested zoning changes to the County Council. The [council](#) will hold hearings on April 1 and April 8 before making the final decisions.

My administration's primary goal was to achieve a balance between protecting our quality of life and allowing for appropriate business development and growth. It was also important to make our process as transparent as possible, with [all requests, public comments and recommendations posted on the county website](#). Click [here to learn more](#).



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, 2025.



Housing fair March 22

Buying a home can be a real challenge, especially for first-time homebuyers. Free help is available at our Housing Fair & First-time Homebuyers Workshop, where topics will include downpayment assistance programs, the homebuying process, and what you need to know about home ownership. Attendees will access housing resources from over 30 vendors in one convenient location. The fair will be held on Saturday, March 22 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the EPICENTER at Edgewood, 1918 Pulaski Highway. [Click here for details.](#)



“Inside Harford County” - Facing Addiction

This month on “Inside Harford County,” we’ll have a candid discussion about the impact of addiction in our community, including the effect on family members. Join me and Don Mathis, peer recovery specialist, as we talk with our host, Mark Vernarelli, about this important topic and an upcoming public discussion organized by the HarfordTV Foundation. “Inside Harford County” is [HarfordTV's](#) half-hour community affairs program airing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays on Armstrong channel 7 & HD 101, Comcast channel 31 & HD 1084, and Verizon channel 31.



Daylight saving time March 9; Check your fire alarms

Remember to set your clocks to “spring forward” for daylight saving time on Sunday, March 9. It’s also a perfect time to test your fire alarms and change batteries if needed. Working fire alarms save lives!



Honoring Women’s History Month

Harford County is the proud home of many trailblazing women. The Harford County Government Facebook page will be honoring some of these amazing women throughout March in honor of Women’s History Month. **Visit our page** to learn more and share their stories to inspire the next generation!

Want more?

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

Like us on [Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) or check out our Instagram [Harford_County_Government_](#)



Got Feedback?

citizensaffairs@harfordcountymd.gov