

We need more ice (rinks) in our life!

From tony pietropola <tonypech@hotmail.com>
Date Sat 4/18/2026 8:57 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc Kimberly Pietropola <kim.a.whipple@gmail.com>

WARNING!!!

This email originated from someone outside of Howard County
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unless you recognize the sender and know for sure that the content is safe

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed Meadowbrook Ice Rink facility. Specifically, I urge the Council to approve the Meadowbrook Ice Rink project.

My son Anthony plays hockey and we are constantly driving him to other counties!

Howard County is currently experiencing a significant deficit in recreational ice compared to our neighbors. While we have grown into one of the premier counties in the state, our infrastructure for ice sports has not kept pace. To illustrate the gap, consider the number of ice sheets available in our surrounding jurisdictions:

Montgomery County: 6

Prince George's County: 6

Anne Arundel County: 3

Baltimore County: 3

Baltimore City: 2

Frederick County: 2

Howard County: 1 (closed in the summer)

The Howard County Youth Hockey Club (HCYHC), for example, has outgrown its local infrastructure. Currently, the club must split its operations between the Columbia Ice Rink and The Gardens Ice House in Prince George's County. By building two rinks, the county would immediately secure an anchor tenant that currently spends hundreds of thousands of dollars outside our borders. A second sheet of ice allows our county to "reclaim" that revenue, ensuring local sports dollars stay within Howard County to support our own infrastructure and services.

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Beyond youth sports, a two-rink facility addresses a long-standing deficit in adult recreation. The Columbia Ice Rink has been at capacity for years, leaving hundreds of Howard County adult league players with no choice but to commute to other counties or find other recreation. Additionally, a larger facility fosters a professional ecosystem for skating coaches, clinic organizers, and camp directors, creating jobs and specialized athletic opportunities right here at home.

Investing in two rinks is a fiscally responsible decision that transforms a recreational project into a high-yield community asset. I strongly encourage the Council to support the full two-rink proposal for the Meadowbrook facility.

Sincerely,

Anthony Pietropola

2485 Valley View Way

Ellicott City MD 21043

410-533-5833

tonypech@hotmail.com

Support for the Two-Rink Meadowbrook Ice Rink Facility Proposal

From Craig Wowkanyyn <cowokanyyn@yahoo.com>

Date Sat 4/18/2026 11:54 AM

To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Sincerely,

Craig Wowkanyn
6917 Deer Valley Rd
Highland, MD 20777
cwowkanyn@yahoo.com

Support for the Two-Rink Meadowbrook Ice Rink Facility Proposal

From Joseph Bird <josephsbird@gmail.com>
Date Sat 4/18/2026 8:55 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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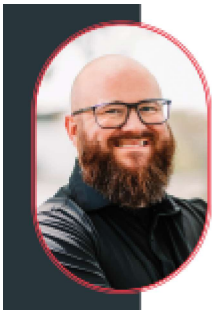
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Sincerely,

Joe Bird



JOE *Bird*
REALTOR®



(443) 538-3899 | (443) 708-2887

joe@thebird.team

www.thebird.team

6325 Woodside Court
Suite 105
Columbia MD 21046

We will never send wiring instructions via email. Please always check with your title company before sending monies. E-mails sent or received shall neither constitute acceptance of conducting transactions via electronic means nor create a binding contract until and unless a written contract is signed by the parties.

Support for the Two-Rink Meadowbrook Ice Rink Facility Proposal

From Rhiannon Kaye <reedle720@gmail.com>

Date Sat 4/18/2026 8:32 PM

To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Sincerely,

Rhiannon Kaye

Support for the Two-Rink Meadow Brook Ice Rink Facility

From Roxanna Moores <roxmoores123@gmail.com>

Date Sat 4/18/2026 1:56 PM

To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Sincerely,

Roxanna Moores

5355 Kerger Rd

Ellicott City, MD 21043

Roxmoores123@gmail.com

Support for the two rink in meadowbrook

From cookieca20 <cookie20ca@gmail.com>
Date Sat 4/18/2026 10:52 AM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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With our rink being closed in the summer it sends all of our hockey and figure skating kids to other rinks for training programs. Also as a coach, I know that about 90 percent of us play adult hockey but are forced to play outside of Howard county and some of us play in multiple leagues. As a new coach and getting more involved in revamping our mite hockey program I have heard a lot of concerns over lack of ice availability and training programs outside of normal

team activities. The Columbia ice rink is always packed so I know the interest for ice sports is strong in Howard county we just don't have the space for all kids or adults to get to play and enjoy the ice activities they love.

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Sincerely,

Nick Mannor

5687 Chandoly Ct

Clarksville, MD,21029

cookie20ca@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

Support for the Two-Rink Meadowbrook Ice Rink Facility Proposal

From Kevin Moores <kevin.a.moores@gmail.com>
Date Sun 4/19/2026 8:03 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc Roxanna Moores <roxmoores123@gmail.com>

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Sincerely,

Kevin A. Moores and Roxanna Moores

5355 Kerger Rd.

Ellicott City, MD 21043

Support for the Two-Rink Meadowbrook Ice Rink Facility Proposal

From Madison Nguyen <madichi117@gmail.com>
Date Sun 4/19/2026 9:40 AM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Sincerely,

Madison Nguyen

13435 Chris Mar Ct.

Highland, MD 20777

madici117@gmail.com

Support for the Two-Rink Meadowbrook Ice Rink Facility Proposal

From Naomi Widmer <ntwidmer@gmail.com>

Date Sun 4/19/2026 11:59 AM

To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Sincerely,

Naomi Sudduth

12120 Gray Star Way

Columbia, MD. 21044

ntwidmer@gmail.com

New Meadowbrook Ice Rink Facility

From Jamie Buonato <jbuonato8@gmail.com>
Date Mon 4/20/2026 11:01 AM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Council Members,

As a former Howard County hockey player, a parent of two current players, and a coach, I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed Meadowbrook Ice Rink facility. Specifically, I urge the Council to approve the Meadowbrook Ice Rink project.

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Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jamie Buonato
6448 Lochridge Road
Columbia, MD 21044
jbuonato8@gmail.com

Support for the Two-Rink Meadowbrook Ice Rink Facility Proposal

From Brandon Dean <bran88dean@comcast.net>

Date Tue 4/21/2026 9:50 PM

To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Sincerely,

Brandon J. Dean
8802 Cardinal Forest Circle
Laurel, MD 20723
bran88dean@comcast.net

Anderson, Isaiah

From: Charlie Ryland <ckryland@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 1:46 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; rap
Subject: Support for the Two-Rink Meadowbrook Ice Rink Facility Proposal

Flag Status: Flagged

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Investing in two rinks is a fiscally responsible decision that transforms a recreational project into a high-yield community asset. I strongly encourage the Council to support the full two-rink proposal for the Meadowbrook facility.

Sincerely,
Charles K. Ryland
4435 Linthicum Rd
Dayton, MD 21036
ckryland@gmail.com

Anderson, Isaiah

From: Dave Barry <djb2181@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 8:54 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Regina Barry
Subject: New Ice Rink!

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Dear Council Members,

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Sincerely,

Dave Barry
Hockey Dad
Howard County Resident

Sent from my iPhone

Anderson, Isaiah

From: Duncan Brooks <dunk12@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 1:55 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; rap
Subject: Support for the Two-Rink Meadowbrook Ice Rink Facility Proposal

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Sincerely,
Duncan Brooks
6561 Prestwick Dr
Highland, MD 20777
dunk12@hotmail.com

Anderson, Isaiah

From: Eric Yandrofski <ericyandrofski@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 1:47 PM
To: CouncilMail
Cc: Ball, Calvin; rap
Subject: Support for the Two-Rink Meadowbrook Ice Rink Facility Proposal

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Sincerely,
Eric Yandrofski
7075 Calvert Dr.
Elkridge, MD 21075
ericyandrofski@gmail.com

Support for proposed Ice Rink

From Erin Clow <ee.mcgregor@gmail.com>
Date Tue 4/21/2026 1:41 PM
To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>
Cc Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>; rap <rap@howardcountymd.gov>

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Sincerely,

Erin Clow

9866 Helmwood Ct.

Ellicott City, MD 21042

Erin Clow

ee.mcgregor@gmail.com

Anderson, Isaiah

From: John O'Brien <jmobrien10@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 7:28 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; rap
Subject: Support for the Meadowbrook Ice Rink Facility

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Dear Council Members,

I am writing to share my enthusiastic support for the proposed Meadowbrook Ice Rink project. As a Howard County resident, I urge the Council to approve this development and invest in the future of our local recreation.

For my family, this project is personal. We have two young boys, ages 4 and 6, who both recently started playing hockey. My oldest, Jack, just completed his first season with the Howard Huskies mite program. My youngest, Owen, attends under-13 stick and pucks whenever Columbia Ice Arena has them (which during the hockey season, is infrequent). I have played hockey for 25+ years, and currently play in an adult league in Laurel.

They are at the very beginning of what we hope will be a lifelong love for the sport. However, under the current infrastructure, their "hockey journey" involves a significant amount of travel outside our county lines. A new, dual-sheet facility at Meadowbrook would allow our children to grow, train, and compete right here at home, keeping our family—and our weekends—rooted in our own community.

Addressing the Infrastructure Deficit

Howard County is a premier destination to live and work, yet our ice sports infrastructure has lagged behind our neighbors. The disparity is stark:

Jurisdiction	Ice Sheets Available
Montgomery County	6
Prince George's County	6

Anne Arundel County	3
Baltimore County	3
Howard County	1 (Closed in Summer)

Economic Impact and Revenue Retention

The Howard County Youth Hockey Club (HCYHC) has long outgrown our single local rink, forcing the club to split operations with Prince George’s County. By approving a two-rink facility, the Council would:

-
-
- **Reclaim Local Revenue:**
 - Ensure hundreds of thousands of dollars in ice fees stay within Howard County rather than being exported to neighboring jurisdictions.
-
-
-
- **Boost Tourism:**
 - HCYHC already hosts a massive annual tournament for 2,500+ players. Currently, most of those families stay and eat in other counties. A premium facility near I-95 would transform Howard County into a premier destination for regional tournaments, benefiting
 - our hotels, restaurants, and small businesses.
-

A Resource for All Generations

This project isn't just for youth sports. It addresses a decade-long deficit for adult league players who are currently forced to commute late at night to find available ice. I am one of these individuals. Furthermore, it creates a professional ecosystem for local coaches and clinic directors, providing jobs and specialized athletic training within our borders.

Investing in two rinks is a fiscally responsible move that transforms a simple recreational site into a high-yield community asset. Please support the full **two-rink proposal** for Meadowbrook and help keep Howard County families—like mine—playing where they live.

Sincerely,
John, Jessica, Jack, and Owen O’Brien
6112 Dry Leaf Path
Columbia, MD 21044

jmobrien10@gmail.com

--

John O'Brien
410-299-7486

Anderson, Isaiah

From: Kim Bender <kimtbender@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 5:42 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Needed Ice Rink

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Sincerely
Kim Bender
5000 Christine Marie Ct
Columbia MD, 21044

Anderson, Isaiah

From: Matthew Wessel <mattwessel32@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 2:12 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; rap
Subject: Please approve the Meadowbrook Ice Rink project

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On a personal level, hockey has given so much to my family. For my son, it has been a path to improved health despite being born with a complex form of congenital heart disease, and it has inspired in him a desire to one day create similar opportunities for others. For my daughter, it has introduced her to a

strong community of young women dedicated to the sport, as well as the joy of competition and the value of teamwork.

Furthermore, the economic benefits extend far beyond hockey registration fees. The HCYHC already hosts a massive annual tournament bringing over 2,500 players to the region. Currently, the majority of the tournament games and local hotel options are outside of Howard County. With a premium, dual-sheet facility located near I-95 and BWI, Howard County would become a premier destination for professional tournament organizers. This means more families staying in our hotels, dining in our restaurants, and shopping in our local businesses throughout the year.

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Sincerely,
Matthew Wessel
14070 Stevens Valley Ct
Glenwood, MD 21738

Anderson, Isaiah

From: Mike Adams <michael.s.adams@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 2:11 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: Support for the Two-Rink Meadowbrook Ice Rink Facility Proposal

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Sincerely,
Mike Adams
10034 Tanya Ct
Ellicott City, MD 21042
michael.s.adams@gmail.com

From: Bobby Shearer <wubbadonut@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 1:45 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin; rap
Subject: Ice Rink

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Sincerely,
Nina Shearer

10809 Graeloch Rd, Laurel 20723

theshearerclan@gmail.com

Support for the Two-Rink Meadowbrook Ice Rink Facility Proposal

From Shiyong Huang <shiyonghuang@gmail.com>

Date Tue 4/21/2026 10:07 PM

To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Sincerely,

Shiyong Huang
10310 Boca Raton Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21042
shiyonghuang@gmail.com

Anderson, Isaiah

From: L McCavanagh <lmccavanagh@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 4:09 PM
To: CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin
Subject: Meadowbrook Ice Rink - Please approve!

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Sincerely,
Liam McCavanagh
3546 Lower Mill Ct
Ellicott City MD 21043
lmccavanagh@gmail.com

Support for the Two-Rink Meadowbrook Ice Rink Facility Proposal

From Chris Szwec <szwec12@gmail.com>

Date Wed 4/22/2026 9:29 AM

To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

Cc Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>; rap <rap@howardcountymd.gov>

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Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed Meadowbrook Ice Rink facility. Specifically, I urge the Council to approve the Meadowbrook Ice Rink project.

I have been a Howard County resident for over 10 years and I have two children in youth travel hockey. With the already significant cost of travel hockey increasing every year, building this facility right here in Howard County would help tremendously and it would also shift some of those travel costs already being spent in other surrounding areas of the DMV back to Howard County.

When I was younger, I grew up in Harford County and played travel hockey myself. In order for me to play at the competitive level that I could, I needed to travel to Prince George's county, to play at the Laurel Gardens Ice House, where a junior team was getting started. I left high school an hour early every day and made the trip from Bel Air to Laurel. This was a significant cost and time commitment. While the youth hockey landscape in Maryland has changed since that time, this is just an example of how the costs of playing travel hockey can be even greater for some families. There are undoubtedly families that live in Howard county today that must make the same decisions and commitments for their kids so that they can play at the appropriate competitive level outside of the county.

By building a facility that can allow the local youth hockey organization(s) to grow, more families will be able to afford the cost and make the commitment to playing competitive hockey right here in Howard County.

Howard County is currently experiencing a significant deficit in recreational ice compared to our neighbors. While we have grown into one of the premier counties in the state, our infrastructure for ice sports has not kept pace. To illustrate the gap, consider the number of ice sheets available in our surrounding jurisdictions:

Montgomery County: 6

Prince George's County: 6
Anne Arundel County: 3
Baltimore County: 3
Baltimore City: 2
Frederick County: 2
Howard County: 1 (closed in the summer)

The Howard County Youth Hockey Club (HCYHC), for example, has outgrown its local infrastructure. Currently, the club must split its operations between the Columbia Ice Rink and The Gardens Ice House in Prince George's County. By building two rinks, the county would immediately secure an anchor tenant that currently spends hundreds of thousands of dollars outside our borders. A second sheet of ice allows our county to "reclaim" that revenue, ensuring local sports dollars stay within Howard County to support our own infrastructure and services.

Furthermore, the economic benefits extend far beyond hockey registration fees. The HCYHC already hosts a massive annual tournament bringing over 2,500 players to the region. Currently, the majority of the tournament games and local hotel options are outside of Howard County. With a premium, dual-sheet facility located near I-95 and BWI, Howard County would become a premier destination for professional tournament organizers. This means more families staying in our hotels, dining in our restaurants, and shopping in our local businesses throughout the year.

Beyond youth sports, a two-rink facility addresses a long-standing deficit in adult recreation. The Columbia Ice Rink has been at capacity for years, leaving hundreds of Howard County adult league players with no choice but to commute to other counties or find other recreation. Additionally, a larger facility fosters a professional ecosystem for skating coaches, clinic organizers, and camp directors, creating jobs and specialized athletic opportunities right here at home.

Investing in two rinks is a fiscally responsible decision that transforms a recreational project into a high-yield community asset. I strongly encourage the Council to support the full two-rink proposal for the Meadowbrook facility.

Sincerely,

Chris Szwec
10512 Bill Lilly Ct.
Laurel, MD 20723
szwec12@gmail.com

Support for the Two-Rink Meadowbrook Ice Rink Facility Proposal

From Laurie Sutton <suttonl@umbc.edu>

Date Wed 4/22/2026 9:42 AM

To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>; Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>

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I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed Meadowbrook Ice Rink facility and to respectfully urge the Council to approve the full Meadowbrook Ice Rink project.

Howard County is currently facing a significant shortage of recreational ice compared to neighboring jurisdictions. Although we have grown into one of the premier counties in the state, our ice sports infrastructure has not kept pace. For example, the number of ice sheets in surrounding counties is as follows:

- Montgomery County: 6
- Prince George's County: 6
- Anne Arundel County: 3
- Baltimore County: 3
- Baltimore City: 2
- Frederick County: 2
- Howard County: 1 (closed in the summer)

The Howard County Youth Hockey Club (HCYHC) has already outgrown the limited local facilities. The club is currently forced to split its operations between the Columbia Ice Rink and The Gardens Ice House in Prince George's County. By building a two-sheet facility, the County would immediately secure an anchor tenant that is presently spending hundreds of thousands of dollars outside our borders. A second sheet of ice would enable Howard County to retain that revenue and reinvest local sports dollars into our own infrastructure and community services.

The economic benefits of this project extend well beyond hockey registration fees. HCYHC already runs a large annual tournament that brings more than 2,500 players to the region. At present, most of the games and many of the hotel stays are located outside of Howard County. A premium, dual-sheet facility near I-95 and BWI would position Howard County as a top destination for professional tournament organizers. In turn, more visiting families would stay in our hotels, dine in our restaurants, and shop at our local businesses throughout the year.

In addition, a two-rink complex would help close a long-standing gap in adult recreation. The Columbia Ice Rink has operated at capacity for years, leaving hundreds of adult league players in Howard County with no option but to travel to other counties or forgo ice sports altogether. A larger facility would also help build a professional ecosystem for skating coaches, clinic organizers, and camp directors, supporting local jobs and specialized athletic programming right here at home.

For these reasons, investing in a two-rink facility is a fiscally responsible choice that elevates this project from a basic recreational amenity to a high-value community asset. I strongly encourage the Council to approve and fully fund the two-rink proposal for the Meadowbrook Ice Rink facility.

Sincerely,
Laurie Sutton
Lower Mill Court
Ellicott City, 21043

Ice Rink Facility

From Meagan Schiavone <megschiavone@gmail.com>

Date Wed 4/22/2026 12:46 PM

To Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>; CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>; rap <rap@howardcountymd.gov>

 1 attachment (150 KB)

Howard Ice Rink.docx;

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April 22, 2026

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed Meadowbrook Ice Rink facility. Specifically, I urge the Council to approve the Meadowbrook Ice Rink project.

Howard County is currently experiencing a significant deficit in recreational ice compared to our neighbors. While we have grown into one of the premier counties in the state, our infrastructure for ice sports has not kept pace. To illustrate the gap, consider the number of ice sheets available in our surrounding jurisdictions:

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outside our borders. A second sheet of ice allows our county to "reclaim" that revenue, ensuring local sports dollars stay within Howard County to support our own infrastructure and services.

Furthermore, the economic benefits extend far beyond hockey registration fees. The HCYHC already hosts a massive annual tournament bringing over 2,500 players to the region. Currently, the majority of the tournament games and local hotel options are outside of Howard County. With a premium, dual-sheet facility located near I-95 and BWI, Howard County would become a premier destination for professional tournament organizers. This means more families staying in our hotels, dining in our restaurants, and shopping in our local businesses throughout the year.

Beyond youth sports, a two-rink facility addresses a long-standing deficit in adult recreation. The Columbia Ice Rink has been at capacity for years, leaving hundreds of Howard County adult league players with no choice but to commute to other counties or find other recreation. Additionally, a larger facility fosters a professional ecosystem for skating coaches, clinic organizers, and camp directors, creating jobs and specialized athletic opportunities right here at home.

Investing in two rinks is a fiscally responsible decision that transforms a recreational project into a high-yield community asset. I strongly encourage the Council to support the full two-rink proposal for the Meadowbrook facility.

Sincerely,
Meagan Lopes
10555 Rivulet Row
Columbia MD 21044
301-404-7462

April 22, 2026

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the proposed Meadowbrook Ice Rink facility. Specifically, I urge the Council to approve the Meadowbrook Ice Rink project.

Howard County is currently experiencing a significant deficit in recreational ice compared to our neighbors. While we have grown into one of the premier counties in the state, our infrastructure for ice sports has not kept pace. To illustrate the gap, consider the number of ice sheets available in our surrounding jurisdictions:

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Sincerely,
Meagan Lopes
10555 Rivulet Row
Columbia MD 21044
301-404-7462

Support for the Two-Rink Meadowbrook Ice Rink Facility Proposal

From Jeff Schneider <roadrunner75.jeff@gmail.com>

Date Thu 4/23/2026 7:14 PM

To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

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Investing in two rinks is a fiscally responsible decision that transforms a recreational project into a high-yield community asset. I strongly encourage the Council to support the full two-rink proposal for the Meadowbrook facility.

Sincerely,
Jeff Schneider
7925 Anfred Dr
Laurel, MD 20723
roadrunner75.jeff@gmail.com


If you do not sacrifice for your goals, your goals become your sacrifice.

Support for Ice Rink

From Kristianna Sica <kristiannasica@gmail.com>

Date Thu 4/23/2026 12:27 PM

To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

 1 attachment (39 KB)

April 21, 2024 Ice Rink Support.pdf;

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Good afternoon. Please find attached a letter in support of the ice rink.

Len Sica

April 21, 2024

To whom it may concern:

I would like to take a moment to share my support for the proposed ice rinks in Howard County at the Meadowbrook Athletic Club.

For many years, the only ice rink in Howard County was located at the Owen Brown village center. I remember looking into taking my son there to learn to skate, only to disappoint him when we learned how difficult that would be. Like many other families, we decided to sign up my child for soccer because it was easier, close to home, and cheaper. This was disappointing to me as a parent because our children need to be given the opportunity to participate in many different sports regardless of cost or location.

This is also a great opportunity for Howard County. We are centrally located and could hold tournaments, create leagues for children and adults, and provide figure skating classes and competitions. There are many local hotels and lots of businesses, including Howard County residents' businesses, that would benefit from the increased traffic an ice rink would bring to the area.

I hope you take the time to truly consider how an ice rink would create so many new and different opportunities for our community.

Thank you,

Len Sica

Len Sica

Support for New Ice Rink from Columbia Figure Skating Club

From Mike Fleming <michaelkfleming@msn.com>

Date Thu 4/23/2026 8:23 AM

To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>; Ball, Calvin <cball@howardcountymd.gov>; rap <rap@howardcountymd.gov>

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Columbia Figure Skating Club

April 17, 2026

Calvin Ball, Ed.D.
County Executive
Office of County Executive
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Dr. Ball,

We are writing to express strong support for the development of a new indoor ice rink in Howard County. This project represents a timely and strategic investment in community recreation, youth development, and local economic vitality. A new rink is an investment in the quality of life for Howard County. Specifically, we strongly urge you to move forward with the capital budget plans to make this new rink a reality.

Howard County is losing money due to the lack of sufficient ice time within the county. Currently, Howard County only has a single ice rink owned by Columbia Association to serve a growing and diverse population of skaters. While the Columbia Ice Rink offers figure skating, demand outstrips the availability of ice. As such, figure skaters and the Columbia Figure Skating Club buy ice and supports businesses in Anne Arundel County (Piney Orchard Ice Rink) and in Prince George's County (Garden's Ice House.)

[We are anecdotally aware that the ice hockey programs in Howard County similarly spend money outside of Columbia Ice Rink to meet the needs of their programs.]

The figure skating community in Howard County is strong and robust. With every hour of ice time purchased outside of Howard County, there are purchases made at restaurants, small shops, and grocery stores by the family members of skaters. Over 50% of the members of Columbia Figure Skating Club do

not live in Columbia; they reside in western Howard County and Ellicott City. There is an unmet need. Meeting this need within the county supports the quality of life for residents – both within Columbia and elsewhere in Howard County.

Beyond recreation, the proposed rink would provide meaningful benefits to the broader community. Expanded ice capacity would strengthen local youth sports programs, support healthy and active lifestyles, and create a welcoming space for families and community gatherings. In addition, a new rink would generate positive economic impacts by attracting regional tournaments and competitions – both hockey and figure skating, increasing local spending, and creating both construction and ongoing operational jobs.

Investing in a new indoor ice rink is an investment in Howard County's quality of life. Thus, we urge you to support the planning and development of this project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Columbia Figure Skating Club
Board of Directors