

Biography

Professional

A 40+year employee for Lewis Contactors, Dave has more than 35 years supervisory experience in bringing projects in on-time and under budget to the clients' satisfaction. He is the go to person to solve problems created by previous contractors, trusted with delicate and sensitive historic restoration and high profile community buildings like John Hopkins Hospital, New Athletic Center to Notre Dame Prep, New classroom wing at Hannah More School and renovations at Sheppard Pratt Hospital. He is known for successfully leading multi-disciplinary teams, bringing key stakeholders together, and getting the very best out of his employees.

Family

Dave's family first came to Elkridge in 1948. His grandparents and their family of seven moved from Baltimore City for the opportunity to run their own business. Opened one of the first mobile Home Parks in Howard County. Dave and his 7 brothers and sisters were born and raised in Elkridge. Each graduated from Howard High School. Dave played baseball for the Elkridge Youth Organization. After graduation, Dave remained in Elkridge, working for Lewis Contracting and raising his son and daughter, also Howard High School graduates. Many of his siblings have remained in Howard County as well. Today, Dave and his wife Sandy live just around the corner from his childhood home. Dave is looking forward to having his grandchildren too experience all those things that make Elkridge and Ellicott City a great place to raise a family.

Community Service

The lessons learned from his parents and the community spirit and support that Elkridge has given Dave, along with his outgoing nature are the factors that lead to his community involvement over the last 40 years. Here are some of the highlights:

Elkridge Adult Athletic Association- 40 years, Founder, Served as Chairman of the Board, President, Treasurer, Vice President, Secretary, and League Commissioner. Originally formed to assist in the creation of Rockburn Branch Park, EAAA has donated more than \$60,000 in monies and time to the improvement of Rockburn Branch Park. EAAA was voted Howard County's volunteer group of the year in 2008.

- General Manager Rockburn Haunted House – 25 years in partnership with Howard County Recreation and Parks
- Hunt Leader, Rockburn Snipe Hunt - 15 years Event is designed to increase community involvement and use of Rockburn Branch Park
- Chair, Scholarship Committee- awarded \$135,000 in scholarships to high school seniors; raised funds by parking cars at Wine in the Woods (15 years) and Parking at the Preakness Balloon glow (7 years)

- Annual EAAA/HoCo Recreation and Parks Easter Egg Hunt- Easter Bunny 26 years

Greater Elkridge Community Association- 30 years GECA's purpose is to maintain and improve quality of life and promote general civic welfare of all neighborhoods in District 1. Served as President, Vice President, Member of Board of Directors, and Area Director

Elkridge Youth Organization- 20 years EYO provides youth sports to our communities offering soccer, baseball, softball, tennis, and basketball programs. Served as President, Vice President, Member of Board of Directors, League Commissioner Baseball and Softball, Age Group Commissioner Softball, Baseball Team Coach (15 years), Softball Coach (8 years), and Umpire (17 years)

Elkridge Historical Society- 15 years Working to preserve Elkridge's rich history. Currently President and has served as Vice President

Elkridge Business and Professional Association- 15 years Vice President, Secretary, and Carnival Co-chairman

Polar Bear Plunge, Special Olympics- 12 years

BWI Run/Walk for Down Syndrome- 21 years

MS Walk- 10 years

Adopt-a-Park Program for Rockburn Park- 15 years and provided **Field Maintenance at Rockburn Park for 8 years**

Adopt-a-Road Program- 7 years

Blandair Park Planning Committee- member

North Laurel Park Planning Committee- member

Government Service

Howard County Recreation and Parks Advisory Board- 13 years, Chairman for 7 years. This citizen Board is tasked with providing recommendations relating to plans, policies and programs for public recreation, and for reviewing plans for and holding hearings on the acquisition and development of land for public recreation

and open space. Dave was appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. While on the Board:

- Opened Western Regional Park, Blandair Park, Meadowbrook Athletic Complex, Gary J. Arthur Community Center, North Laurel Community Center and Robinson Nature Center
- Installed synthetic turf fields in parks
- Planned for and broke ground on Troy Hill Park in Elkridge
- Acquired Belmont
- Reviewed and approved the yearly Capital Improvement Budget for the County Executive's inclusion in the Capital Budget
- Evaluated and Approved the Recreation and Parks 10-year Comprehensive Plan for inclusion in the Howard County General Plan 2000 and 2012
- While on the Board, the Department received its certification from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) for excellence in operation and service 2001, 2006, and 2012.

Howard County Planning Board- 9 years, serving as Chair and Vice Chair. Appointed by the County Executive and Confirmed by the County Council for two 5-year terms. Powerful citizen- board tasked with oversight of the County's land use policy, future growth, regulations and its capital improvement program budget. Responsible for evaluating the impact of proposed land use planning and zoning policies and programs, their implementation strategies, and proposed land use legislation and regulatory amendments for the County Executive and County Council, evaluating the County's Capital Improvement Plan and Capital Budget (\$434m) for compliance with land use policy, strategic initiatives, and goals and developing priority funding recommendations. Assess the impact of proposed land use programs on the County's General Plan and potential future growth. **Chair** bi-monthly public meetings to ensure full citizen participation and assembly of sufficient public record. Coordinate the development of recommendations for Hearing Examiner, Board of Appeals and County Executive and County Council. Oversaw public input of County's General Plan for 10-year future growth and Comprehensive Zoning Process.

Awards

Service Award, Howard County Recreation and Parks Advisory Board 2013

Inductee, Howard County Community Sports Hall of Fame 2012

Member of the Year, Elkridge Adult Athletic Association 1982, 1997, and 2002

Howard County Volunteer Group of the Year, Howard County Government 2008

Grand Marshall, Elkridge Days Parade 1998

May 27, 2010 Proclaimed Dave Grabowski Day in Howard County Maryland

By Howard County Executive Ken Ulman