



# NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE  
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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## **Local man critical after nearly drowning in Ellicott City pond**

Howard County police were called to a possible drowning around 5 a.m. today after a canoe tipped over in a pond behind Tangle Wood Court in Ellicott City. Police and paramedics arrived and found Nicholas Bartko, 20, of Ellicott City, on the side of the pond. Police believe a friend had pulled Bartko from the water before emergency responders arrived.

Bartko was transported by ambulance to Howard County General Hospital, where he remains in critical condition. Investigators believe Bartko was in the canoe with a friend when the boat tipped over. Preliminarily, police believe the incident was accidental.

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