

New local cable show features county council

Published on: Thursday, September 29, 2011

By Daryl Buchanan

The Montgomery County Council and County Cable Montgomery have launched a new show, "No Boundaries," in an effort to help residents get to know county council members a bit better.

"No Boundaries" aims to illustrate how council members arrived at their positions on a variety of issues in a format that differs from typical political shows viewers may see elsewhere. The 30-minute show airs three times per week and has no host. CCM strives to create an informal atmosphere where the guests are allowed to have a natural conversation that flows organically.

"We want to have a format where people learn about the elected officials. We want people to see the background and personality that they normally would not see or read about elsewhere. All too often people only see one side of their elected officials. We hope people find this unique format more interesting than the usual scripted political show," said Neil Greenberger, Legislative Information Officer for the County Council.

The first episode of "No Boundaries" featured a conversation between Montgomery County Council President Valerie Ervin and Congresswoman Donna Edwards. The second episode again featured Valerie Ervin and Prince George's County Executive Rushern Baker, both from military families, as they discussed how their upbringing led them to dedicate their lives to public service, why they share a passion for improving education opportunities, and the importance of the two counties working together on critical issues.

In future episodes there are plans to involve more county council members, business leaders, political leaders from Fairfax County and Washington D.C., and hopefully Governor Martin O'Malley. There have been very few hiccups since the show started, but a lot of work is being put into getting guests scheduled and making sure the show sticks to the principles of having no boundaries. The show produced with an in-house staff to keep production costs low.

Producer Barbara Grunbaum considers the show unique among other programs offered on local government cable channels in the Washington region in that it gives local leaders an opportunity to "go beyond the press release."

"It is a forum for leaders to discuss not only the issues, but also their personal experiences that have driven them to take positions serving the public," explained Grunbaum.

"No Boundaries" airs on CCM on channel 6 on Comcast and RCN and channel 30 on Verizon. CCM wants to produce a new show every four to five weeks. CCM is working with council President Valerie Ervin, Councilmember Nancy Floreen, and Councilmember Craig Rice.

The show will run numerous times in September and October. Upcoming air times will be on Sundays at 1:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 9 p.m., and Saturdays at 6 p.m. The show is also available for viewing at www.youtube.com under the url <http://www.youtube.com/user/100marylandave>.