



# Better Ways To Work!

Montgomery County Commuter Services

Spring 2009

Volume 1, Number 1

## In This Issue

- Smart Benefits FAQs
- Bike to Work Day
- *TRIPS* Commuter Stores –Silver Spring and New Friendship Heights Location
- Employer Recognition
- New Online Traffic Mitigation Plans and Annual Reports System
- Transit Services Updates

## Resources

### Commuter Services

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/commute](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/commute)  
240—773-TRIPs (8747)  
240-773- BWTW (2989)

### Ride On

*Get information on bus routes and schedules*

### Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

[www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com)

*Find information on Metrobus or Metrorail including trip planning and fare information.*

### CommuterConnections.org

*Find information on regional commuter programs*

### Washington Area Bicyclist Association

[www.waba.org](http://www.waba.org)

*Get information about biking for fun, fitness or transportation*

## Welcome to the New Commuter Services Newsletter!

**Spring Greetings** to our clients, customers and friends. The Commuter Services Section of the Division of Transit Services is pleased to send you our new e-newsletter. This quarterly communication will keep you informed about alternative ways to commute and transportation news in Montgomery County. Like our newsletter? Share it with a friend, or send us their e-mail address. We want our partnership to be as mutually beneficial as possible. **E-mail** your comments and ideas for articles to us and visit **our website**.

## Smart Benefits - Frequently Asked Questions



Commuter Services is available to assist you with SmartBenefits, a web-based program that lets employers assign the dollar amount of employees' monthly commuting benefit directly to employees' SmartTrip cards. In each issue we will highlight your questions

and answer them.

**Question:** Can I still use my Metrocheks as Metrorail farecards?

**Answer:** Yes, you can use Metrocheks as farecards but as of April 1, 2009 you can no longer exchange them for other rail or bus passes.

**Question:** Where can I buy MARC rail tickets? **Answer:** You can only buy tickets at Union Station (DC), and stations in Frederick and Brunswick. Or, you can purchase tickets through **Commuter Direct**. For more information, call 240-773-8747 (*TRIPS*).

## Bike to Work Day - Friday, May 15, 2009

**Bike to Work Day** is a regional event that grows each year. Bicycle commuting conserves energy, enhances air quality, and reduces traffic congestion and noise. Montgomery County, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Washington Area Bicyclists Association (WABA) and a growing number of businesses are promoting bicycling as an alternative to driving to work. **Register at [WABA.org](http://WABA.org)** and join us for free food, beverages, entertainment and giveaways (including a bike raffle at some locations).

### Event Pit Stops and Contacts:

- Silver Spring - Terrie O'Steen (240) 777-8392
- White Oak/FDA - Sheila Wilson (240) 777-8390
- Rockville/Falls Grove - Linda Provost (240) 777-8391
- Bethesda - Danielle Milo (301) 656-0868
- North Bethesda/White Flint - Mirza Donegan (301) 770-8108

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**VACANCIES** – *Individuals interested in helping these areas improve transit and other alternative modes of travel are needed:*

- Friendship Heights
- Silver Spring

Contact Commuter Services at (301) 777-8380 for more information.

## CSS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Free services are available for commuters, employers and the community. We offer assistance with:

- Commuter Information Days
- Telework Programs
- Alternative Work Schedules
- Customized Trip Planning
- Biking and Pedestrian Resources
- Guaranteed Ride Home
- Transit Benefit Programs
- Carpool and Vanpool Matching

*Rideshare Tuesday* is a new effort in the Washington metropolitan region to encourage carpooling at least once a week, every Tuesday!



Try it and make it a regular part of your routine. [Click here to learn more!](#)

**Let us Help You Find Better Ways to Work!**

Montgomery County Government does not share e-mail addresses. To unsubscribe, simply [e-mail us](#) and put "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

## Employer Recognition

In each issue we will salute employers who have made significant efforts to encourage employees to get to and from work by some means other than driving alone. Employers recognized this quarter are: Pollinger, Shannon and Luchs, Federal Drug Administration (White Oak campus), Discovery Communications, and the American Speech Hearing Association. Visit our website to learn more about these employers.

## Commuter Stores - *New Name, New Locations*



**TRiPS** stands for Transportation Resources, Information and Places to See, a fitting name for a commuter store that provides fare media (i.e., bus passes and tokens, Metrorail farecards, and SmarTrip cards) and visitor information). Existing transit system riders, new riders and visitors can get personalized assistance when purchasing fare media or making connections to regional transportation. Transit-related merchandise is also available.

**Silver Spring TRiPS Store:** 8413 Ramsey Avenue (at the corner of Wayne and Ramsey Avenues)

**Opening Soon - Friendship Heights TRiPS Store:** 17 Wisconsin Circle, Chevy Chase

## File Traffic Mitigation Plans and Annual Reports Online

Now it's even easier for businesses to comply with traffic mitigation requirements for employers in Montgomery County. Employers with 25 or more employees located in a Transportation Management District (TMD) are required by law to file a Traffic Mitigation Plan (TMP) and Annual Report. Both the TMP and the Annual Reports can now be filed online. For more information, [click here](#).

Interested in doing a voluntary plan? Even if you are not required to submit a plan and report, we invite you to meet with CSS staff to design a traffic mitigation plan for your company. Show your employees and your community you care about improving traffic congestion in Montgomery County and the environment too.

## Transit Services Updates

Ride On made several service changes effective April 5, 2009. The changes affected twelve weekday and three weekend routes. Use the following link to view the brochure that details these changes in service:  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/DOT/transit/flyer.pdf>