



*Bringing the County Closer to You!*

Isiah Leggett, County Executive  
Timothy Firestone, Chief Administrative Officer

Catherine Matthews, Director  
Kevin Linck, UCAB Chair

**May 10, 2013**

**UCAB to meet with Health & Human Services Director, Uma Ahluwalia;  
Services in the Upcounty, and Preparing for Healthcare Reform in Montgomery County  
Monday, May 20 7:00pm  
Upcounty Regional Services Center  
12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown**

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) will meet with Montgomery County's Director of Health & Human Services, Uma Ahluwalia to receive an update on service needs in the county's northern area communities. Ms. Ahluwalia will also discuss how Montgomery County is preparing for healthcare reform procedures as Maryland develops its healthcare exchange system.

*The public is invited to meetings of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board.*

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***Make a Note! . . .***

**Your Comments Are Requested** - The U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD requires all jurisdictions entitled to receive federal funds for block grants, housing program grants and other programs to submit a consolidated plan for community development and an action plan for consideration. Before submitting it, Montgomery County's Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs is taking comments on our draft Consolidated Plan for July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014. Written statements may be submitted until 5:00 p.m., May 14, 2013 and should be addressed to:

Richard Y. Nelson Jr., Director  
Department of Housing & Community Affairs  
100 Maryland Avenue, Fourth Floor  
Rockville, Maryland 20850  
Telephone: 311; TTY number (for the hearing impaired) is 240-773-3556.

To review a copy of the draft plan, visit:

<http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/dhctmpl.asp?url=/content/dhca/community/ConPlan.asp>

**Bike to Work Day!**

Friday, May 17

There will be 13 pit stop locations around the County.

See [www.waba.org](http://www.waba.org) for details.



***Click It or Ticket (seat belt and child safety seat use enforcement)***

Monday, May 20 – Sunday, June 2

Throughout the state of Maryland, this enforcement initiative will focus on the importance of complying with seat belt laws and the proper use of child safety seats.

For details, see <http://www.mymcpnews.com/2013/05/10/police-are-buckling-down-on-enforcement-so-drivers-buckle-up-nighttime-enforcement-ramps-up-as-governor-signs-new-seat-belt-law/>

## Commission for Women Counseling Services are Available

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 8:30a.m. - 5 p.m.

Please call 240-777-8300 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. to schedule an appointment.

The Montgomery County Commission for Women is now offering collaborative, solution-focused, short-term counseling services designed to help individuals effectively address challenging life transitions. The Commission for Women's offices are located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Rockville Memorial Library building at 21 Maryland Avenue, Suite 330 in Rockville, MD.

Counseling services are available in English, French and Arabic, to individuals who are:

- Montgomery County residents;
- Adults 18 years and older;
- Single with no dependent children and income of less than \$50,000 per year; or
- Single with dependent children and income less than \$75,000 per year; or
- Married with a combined income of less than \$75,000 year.

**Counseling will be free of charge until July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013!**

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## Public Meeting on Snouffer School Road North (Webb Tract) Project

Monday, May 20 7:30pm to 9:00pm

Strawberry Knoll Elementary School

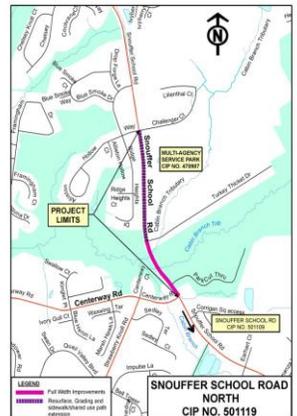
18820 Strawberry Knoll Road, Gaithersburg

(All-purpose Room)

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation will present the 30% completed design drawings at the public meeting. To get: a) the project newsletter that provides a summary of the planned improvements; b) a comment card; and c) an invitation flyer to share with your neighbors, visit:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/projects/index.html>

For more information on this project, contact the Project Manager, Dewa Salihi at 240-777-7290 or at [Dewa.Salihi@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Dewa.Salihi@montgomerycountymd.gov).



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## Midcounty Corridor Study - May 2013 Draft Environmental Effects Report Now Available

The [May 2013 DRAFT Environmental Effects Report \(EER\)](#) is now available on the County's website. This report has been submitted to US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) / Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for their review. The May 2013 DRAFT EER is part of a permit application requirement and it documents the results of the detailed study for each retained alternative. It will also be the subject of discussion for the pending USACE/MDE Joint Public Hearing, anticipated to take place in Summer 2013. In the coming weeks, a newsletter/public notice will be mailed with the details of the upcoming joint public hearing.

In anticipation of the hearing, there are several ways to access and review this draft report.

1. Download report at the following link:  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/midcountycorridorstudy](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/midcountycorridorstudy)
2. Purchase a hard copy of the report for \$123.00. Make a written request to the project manager, Mr. Greg Hwang (contact info is below).
3. Review a hard copy of the report onsite at one of the following locations:

**Damascus Public Library**  
9701 Main Street,  
Damascus, MD, 20872  
Phone: 240.773.9444

**Gaithersburg Public Library Interim Branch**  
701 Russell Ave., Suite D201  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877  
Phone: 240.773.9490

**Germantown Public Library**  
19840 Century Boulevard  
Germantown, MD 20874  
Phone: 240.777.0110

**Rockville Public Library**  
21 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850  
Phone: 240.777.0140

**Quince Orchard Public Library**  
15831 Quince Orchard Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
Phone: 240.777.0200

**Upcounty Regional Services Center\***  
12900 Middlebrook Rd, Ste. 1000  
Germantown, MD 20874  
Phone: 240.777.8040

*\* please call to make an appointment to review*

You are encouraged to share this information with your community. Should you have any questions of concerns, please feel free to contact:

*Gwo-Ruey (Greg) Hwang, P.E.*  
*Midcounty Corridor Study Project Manager*  
*Phone: 240-777-7279*  
*Fax: 240-777-7277*  
*[greg.hwang@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:greg.hwang@montgomerycountymd.gov)*

**Also visit the Midcounty Corridor Study website: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/midcountycorridorstudy](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/midcountycorridorstudy)**

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**County's Department of Permitting Services  
Marks Building Safety Month;  
*Free Deck Maintenance Inspections Offered***

In observance of May as Building Safety Month, the County's Department of Permitting Services (DPS) is educating residents about building safety and sustainability issues and sharing ideas for making structures more energy efficient and durable. Building Safety Month is an international celebration of safe and sensible structures. Each week, DPS is focusing on a different theme and information on any of the themes is available online at [www.iccsafe.org/BSM](http://www.iccsafe.org/BSM) or at the DPS office, 255 Rockville Pike, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Rockville.

Also as part of National Building Safety Month, DPS is once again offering free deck maintenance inspections – **through May 31 only** -- for single-family detached homes, three-story or less townhouses and duplex dwellings. The program excludes four-story townhomes, condominiums and apartments. The inspections are available for all Montgomery County residents, with the exception of those residents living within the cities of Rockville and Gaithersburg.

Requests will be honored as the inspectors' workload allows, and residents will be contacted before the inspection is performed. To schedule a deck maintenance inspection, contact the Montgomery County Government Customer Service Center at 311 or 240-777-0311.

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**New *engageMontgomery* Topics Posted ----  
"Civic Hacking," and "Building a Gas Station at the Wheaton Costco"  
*Residents are Encouraged to Weigh In and Provide Feedback***

Two new topics were posted this week on Montgomery County's engageMontgomery website (<http://engage.montgomerycountymd.gov>), giving residents an opportunity to voice their opinions and share ideas about what kinds of government services they would like to see provided on their smart phones, and how they think the issue of building a gas station at the Wheaton Costco could be resolved.

The questions up for discussion are:

1) **Montgomery County is sponsoring a “National Day of Civic Hacking” event on June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Universities at Shady Grove. What kind of government service would you like to have available for your smart phone?** (Go to <http://www.hackforchange.org> for information on the national event)

2) **How would you resolve the issue of building a gas station at the Wheaton Costco?**

The two discussion topics will remain on the site for the next month, and residents are encouraged to visit and weigh in often with their opinions and ideas on these and other active topics, which include the budget and Wheaton revitalization. The engageMontgomery website is a social media platform that serves as an informal online Town Hall Meeting and that is part of the new open government efforts launched in December to enhance government transparency and accessibility.

Users who sign up for an account are encouraged to express their own ideas on key issues, as well as support the ideas that they like best from others. This offers elected officials, department heads and program managers valuable feedback on issues that affect the community. Users gain points for signing up for an account, points for sharing good ideas, and even more points when others support their ideas. Points can be “cashed in” for various prizes such as a free round of golf at a County golf course, a home security evaluation by a County police officer and a story time and tour for up to four children at a County library.

For access to additional information about the County’s open government efforts, go to the openMontgomery website at (<http://montgomerycountymd.gov/open>).

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## **Leggett Announces Members of County's "Nighttime Economy" Task Force**

On May 9, Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett announced his appointments to the County’s Nighttime Economy Task Force designed to evaluate and push forward changes to encourage increased nighttime business and social activity for residents, employees, and visitors of all ages and cultural backgrounds. The group will explore the following questions and opportunities:

- What kind of mix of business, entertainment and arts would make a vibrant and attractive urban center?
- How do we attract businesses in defined geographic areas that appeal to multiple generations?
- What are the national trends and models on nighttime economy?
- How do we develop local models to enhance the County’s nighttime offerings in its urban centers?

Two members of the Task Force will specifically represent the interests of the Upcounty or northern part of the county:

- Andy Chod, Minkoff Development, will serve as the lead in the Public Space and Amenities workgroup
- Doug Wrenn, Rodgers Consulting, will serve as the lead in the Quality of Life workgroup

The Task Force is expected to complete its policy recommendations within six months of its first meeting. To see the full list of members and other details, visit:

[http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/press/PR\\_details.asp?PrID=9464](http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/press/PR_details.asp?PrID=9464)

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## **Candidate Filing Deadline Update**

The Board of Elections notes that Maryland House Bill HB-1499, signed into Law by Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley on May 2, 2013, changes the candidate filing deadline in Gubernatorial Election years to the last Tuesday in February. Therefore, the filing deadline for candidates who wish to appear on the 2014 Gubernatorial Primary Election ballot is Tuesday, February 25, 2014, at 9 p.m.

The Montgomery County Board of Elections is open from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. To arrange an appointment, please contact Brian McKeivitt at 240-777-8502.

For more details, visit:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Elections/PressReleases2013/CandidateFilingDeadlineUpdate.html>

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**For News from the Office of the County Executive, visit:** <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/news>

*For other News and Meeting Agendas, visit:*

**County Council** [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council)

**Planning Board** [www.montgomeryplanning.org](http://www.montgomeryplanning.org)