

Upcounty Annual Report  
Fiscal Year 2014  
(July 2013 – June 2014)



# Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett



## Montgomery County Council



District 2  
Craig Rice  
President



At-Large  
George Leventhal  
Vice President



District 3  
Phil Andrews



District 1  
Roger Berliner



District 5  
Cherri Branson



At-Large  
Marc Elrich



At -Large  
Nancy Floreen



District 4  
Nancy Navarro



At -Large  
Hans Reimer

# *Table of Contents*

## **Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board**

Letter from Chairperson Cherian Eapen  
About the Board  
Board Photo  
Board Officers and Liaisons

## **Issues and Comments**

The Year in Summary

## **2013-2014 UCAB Guest Speakers**

## **Testimonies and Correspondence**

## **Upcounty Regional Services Center**

Greetings from the Director  
Regional Services Boundary Map  
The Upcounty Regional Services Center

*Upcounty Citizens  
Advisory Board*



## UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

### LETTER FROM THE CHAIR, 2013-2014

After being on the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) for four years, it has been a pleasure to serve as the Chair of the Board this past year leading a group of enthusiastic and active community members.

The Board this year had excellent participation and visitor attendance at most of our full Board meetings and I thank each of the members for their commitment to serve. I believe that the Board will agree that the highlights of this year have been to support the Avery Road Treatment Center on their efforts to secure money for capital improvements/renovations, to secure funding for the construction of the North Potomac Community Recreation Center, and to obtain approval for a new early voting center in Damascus and to extend early voting hours in Germantown. We were also able to join in the celebration for the opening or reopening of several new Upcounty facilities that included the Plum Gar Recreation Center, the Animal Services and Adoption Center, the Equipment Maintenance and Transit Operations Center, the Gaithersburg Library and the Travilah Fire Station. Another special occasion was to honor a former County Executive in dedicating and renaming our local county government facility to be the Sidney Kramer Upcounty Regional Services Center. (See the video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFae4gGgiBI>.)

With the population in our Upcounty community of Clarksburg booming, we also supported the continued progress of the design and capital commitments for the Frederick Road Bike Path project that would connect Clarksburg with Germantown, as well as other Clarksburg infrastructure projects, and expressed the Board's continued support for completing the Mid-County Highway (M-83) project.

Along with the above highlights, the year brought some challenging issues to the forefront for the Board to consider. I hope that our natural compassion to support our individual Upcounty communities and at the same time, weigh-in on broader community-wide interests, has only made the relationships between members of the Board stronger. I hope that the lively discussions the Board had this year have encouraged members to be more active and cognizant of every day issues that residents in our communities face and help them take ownership of them. I also hope that the issues have encouraged many in our communities who typically sit on the sidelines to jump in and serve on the UCAB. As the year winds down, I can only look back and say that there is still a lot more work to do and wish the next Board Chair and Board members the best.

The UCAB cannot be successful and be great at what it does without the nurturing and support of Ms. Cathy Matthews, the Upcounty Regional Services Center Director. The incredible amount of responsibility that Ms. Matthews takes on to shepherd the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board is immeasurable, and I want to express my sincere gratitude to her for that. I also want to thank the numerous representatives of County government, municipal government, Planning Department, Planning Board, elected officials, and support staff as well as members of the community who took their time to attend and enhance the value of our meetings.

Respectfully,

  
Cheriah Eapen  
Chair

## About the Board

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/upcounty](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/upcounty)

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) provides advice and recommendations to the County Executive, County Council, and Upcounty Regional Services Director on issues affecting the northern portion of the county known as the “Upcounty” in addition to acting as a two-way communication link between the County and the community. The twenty volunteer members of UCAB are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.

**Geographic Scope** The Upcounty region is defined as being roughly north and west of Shady Grove Road and it comprises about one-half of the geographic area of Montgomery County and one-third of its population. It ranges in character from urban to rural in communities such as Barnesville, Boyds, Clarksburg, Damascus, Darnestown, Derwood, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Goshen, Laytonsville, Montgomery Village, North Potomac and Poolesville. Therefore, UCAB’s members are selected for geographic balance as well as for diversity of background, community and professional experience and expertise.

**Structure** UCAB operates in public meetings and has two standing committees: the Land Use Committee and the Quality of Life Committee. UCAB’s leadership consists of the chairperson, a first vice-chair, and a second vice-chair along with the chair of the Land Use Committee and chair of the Quality of Life Committee. Other UCAB members also provide liaison to various other County boards and committees.

**Issues** Usually after a planning retreat in July, the UCAB and each of its committees meets monthly from September through June. The UCAB’s committees study a wide variety of issues and help to craft the board’s resulting recommendations. The Land Use Committee has reviewed and commented on master planning practices in the Upcounty, issues related to urbanization, the County’s Growth Policy, development pressures on the Agricultural Reserve, the evolution of the Life Sciences Center at Shady Grove, issues faced by agricultural and related businesses, affordable housing, and growth of the Germantown Campus of Montgomery College. The Quality of Life Committee has reviewed and commented on out-of-school programs for youths, programs for immigrant families and children at risk, mental health services, library services, safety of young drivers and pedestrians, public safety, services for seniors, and the general health of the county’s community. Positions have been taken on many of these issues while others may continue to be examined for comment.

**Recommendations** During the year, UCAB interacts formally and informally with county officials, county and state agency staff, and community leaders in order to understand issues comprehensively before forwarding comments or recommendations to the County Executive and/or County Council. UCAB also meets with the Executive during the year to discuss Upcounty priorities and to summarize their work at their annual meeting, and traditionally, the Executive’s priorities for both the operating budget and the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) have been responsive to UCAB’s recommendations. In the past, the Board has also hosted receptions for officials and community leaders in order to promote networking and the sharing of ideas. On an annual basis, the board meets with State legislators who represent the Upcounty area in the General Assembly, and various county department heads to explore issues and solutions. Additionally, UCAB traditionally hosts the County Executive’s annual Capital and Operating budget forums to solicit community comments. Those comments are then prioritized by the board and forwarded to Executive Branch departments and the County Executive.

The Upcounty Regional Director, Catherine Matthews, can be contacted at 240.777.8040 or via email at [catherine.matthews@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:catherine.matthews@montgomerycountymd.gov).

# *Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board*

## *2013-2014*



*Left to right sitting: Annie McDonald (Rockville/Shady Grove); Ruyan Teng (Travilia/North Potomac); Daisha New (Poolesville); Tobi Printz-Platnick (Boyd's/Germantown); Pat Seals (North Potomac); Gail Robinson (Germantown)*  
*Left to right standing: Matthew Leakan (Germantown); Juan Cardenas (Gaithersburg); Kevin Linck (Montgomery Village); Robert Nelson (Goshen); Cherian Eapen (Clarksburg); James Wallace (Gaithersburg); Mark Firley (Montgomery Village); David Rosenbaum (Germantown); Brian Donohue (Clarksburg)*

*Not available when photo was taken:*



*B. Scott Graham  
(Comus)*



*Beth Daly  
(Dickerson)*



*Ketaki Singh  
(Clarksburg)*

## *Officers*

**Chair** – Cherian Eapen

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair** – Pat Seals

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair** – David Rosenbaum

## *UCAB Committee Chairs*

**Land Use** – Beth Daly

**Quality of Life** – James Wallace

## *Liaisons to Other Boards and Committees*

**Airpark Liaison Committee** – Juan Cardenas

**Dickerson Facilities Implementation Group** – Beth Daly

**Permitting Services Advisory Committee** – vacant

**Shady Grove Implementation Advisory Committee** – Annie McDonald

**Smart Growth Initiative Implementation Advisory Group** – Kevin Linck

**Speed Camera Advisory Committee** – David Rosenbaum

**Upcounty Regional Recreation Advisory Board** – Daisha New

**PEPCO Community Advisory Group** – Kevin Linck

# *Issues and Comments*

# Year in Summary

Throughout the year, our Land Use and Quality of Life Committees examined issues that directly affect the Upcounty as well as the county as a whole. Due to the complexity of many issues, the two committees sometimes met jointly to explore subjects in great depth. Each committee laid the groundwork for elevating issues to the full Board for further discussion and/or to develop a recommendation for the County Executive and/or County Council. The following is a summary of highlights.

## Transportation and Infrastructure

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board agrees that all would benefit from less gridlock and improved travel time on I-270. Given that much of the new development and growth in the County takes place at our northern border and along the I-270 corridor, the board believes that **we should redouble our efforts to initiate transportation solutions discussions with our neighbors north of us in Frederick County.** Given the number of “through commuters” from Frederick County and beyond, a regional approach to transportation solutions is essential. **The Board also thinks that the County should evaluate possible new ideas like ramp metering, Incident Management Towing, signal timing improvements, and supporting the public transit options from Shady Grove to Frederick—whether it be express buses on I-270 or a third track on the Brunswick MARC line so it can run daily, all day. We also would like our State delegation to advocate for SHA’s extension of I-270’s southbound HOV lane to Clarksburg.**

A joint committee meeting was held with Dr. Phil Tarnoff, Traffax, Inc. to discuss various ways to optimize traffic flow in Montgomery County. The intention of the conversation was to highlight alternative possibilities to expensive construction projects that could improve traffic flow quicker and with a high return on the investment. The Quality of Life Committee followed with a meeting with Emil Wolanin, Chief of Traffic Engineering and Operations. In the discussion on current and future efforts to ease traffic congestion along with future opportunities, Mr. Wolman provided insight on the logistics of traffic operations in throughout the County, the technologies, and various constraints ranging from equipment obsolescence to funding to new trends in community design. **The board supported both committees’ recommendation that the county fund upgrades to enhance the County’s traffic management system to ensure that latest technology is implemented and traffic signals are optimized for coordinated traffic flow. As a part of their CIP recommendations, the board urged the County DOT to coordinate this effort with local municipalities.**

The board is pleased that the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) has moved up on the County’s transportation priority list. Not only is this critical for the Upcounty economy since future economic development in the Great Seneca Science Corridor is contingent upon the CCT, but Upcounty residents—and especially commuters-- need access to public transit options. **In a move to make MARC ridership more convenient, the County added a Ride-On route that takes Clarksburg riders to the nearby Germantown MARC station. We encourage the County to advertise this route more extensively to potential riders so that this initiative proves successful.**

**Improvements to bike, pedestrian, transit and vehicular access to the Boyds MARC station and along major roads with Ride-On bus service—such as MD Route 355--should be made in order to enhance safety and facilitate passenger access.**

Other recommendations were to:

**Ensure that Clarksburg infrastructure projects such as Stringtown Road and both ends of Snowden Farm Parkway were built in a timely fashion;**

**Urge the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) to accelerate funding for the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) between Shady Grove and Clarksburg;**

**Provide funding for community education on the CCT and the proposed RTV System;**

**Explore options to extend the functionality of Metro's Red Line from Shady Grove to Frederick and beyond;**

**Urge MTA to enhance/expand MARC service along the Brunswick Line; initiate a traffic assessment for the Shady Grove/Washingtonian/Rio area with expected additional residential/commercial/office densities coming online; and**

**Ensure continued coordination between Snouffer School Road and Goshen Road South projects.**

**Finally, the timely completion of upgrades to the County's traffic management system to ensure that technology is updated and signal timing is optimized is recommended.**

### **Midcounty Highway (M83)**

After much lively discussion and debate on both sides, **UCAB members voted 7-2 to support the continued funding of the Midcounty Corridor Study and the master plan alignment (#9-A) while two members abstained. They also urge the county to assess the need for enhanced mass transit options in addition to Midcounty Highway in order to provide Upcounty communities with travel choices, such as the proposed Rapid Transit Vehicle or RTV System along MD Rt. 355 and/or the Midcounty Highway.**

### **Avery Road Treatment Center**

The condition of this facility was raised at one of the budget forums and the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board explored the situation further at a Quality of Life Committee meeting while learning the history of the center, the current programming and strategies for residential treatment in the future, and how the project might be funded. Issues regarding the disrepair of the overall facility, its overutilization, the proposed scheduling for renovation, and the need for funding were discussed. **The board recommended the immediate funding necessary to renovate the center as soon as possible.**

### **Nighttime Economy Task Force**

The board was asked for comments on the draft recommendations of the Nighttime Economy Task Force workgroups. The discussion focused on the lack of night life alternatives for the growing segment of our population known as "Millennials," and existing café and liquor laws that deter restaurateurs from making

investments in the county. It is presumed that Millennials will find Montgomery County to be a more desirable place for a first home purchase if there are more evening entertainment choices. The board did not forward any formal comments.

### **Senior Citizens**

The Quality of Life Committee met with Dr. Jay Kenney, Chief of Aging and Disability Services for the Department of Health and Human Services to discuss the state of our senior citizens in the county. The focused on the various services available to seniors along with present and future trends of this demographic. The board acknowledges the growing number of seniors in the Upcounty area who have moved here to be closer to family, have become empty nesters, and who are still very active professionally and socially. **The board will continue to advocate for services and opportunities for this group.**

### **Schools**

**The board recommended that the county accelerate, or at a minimum, not further delay much needed funding to modernize both Seneca Valley High School in Germantown and Damascus High School in Damascus.**

### **Libraries**

**The board recommended that the county fund repairs and upgrades to the Germantown Library to expand restroom facilities at the library. With completion of the Germantown Urban Park at the rear f the library, it is expected that the library will experience additional foot traffic for use of its restrooms and facility. It is therefore important that the library is physically ready to accommodate additional patrons.**

### **Public Safety**

**The board recommended funding to complete the final design and construction of the Clarksburg Fire Station.**

### **Parks and Recreation**

**The board recommended maintaining the funding schedule for construction of the North Potomac Community Recreation Center. They also encouraged the initiation of funding feasibility and site evaluation studies for a community center/aquatics center in Clarksburg, and a community/senior center in Poolesville.**

### **Voting Facilities**

The Board asked that the County Elections Director forward their recommendations to:

- **Approve the early voting center in Damascus at the Damascus Community Recreation Center. The area north of Germantown including Clarksburg and Damascus is underserved in many**

aspects and providing an opportunity for residents vote early at this center will benefit many residents.

- **Consider expanding days and hours of service at the existing early voting center at Germantown Community Recreation Center. This is an extremely busy voting center and additional services at this location will well serve the larger Upcounty community.**
- **Explore feasibility of an early voting center in the North Potomac/Kentlands/Quince Orchard area. An early voting center in this area could potentially better serve communities such as North Potomac, Kentlands, West Gaithersburg, Darnestown, Poolesville, Dickerson, etc. of western Montgomery County compared to the proposed early voting center at Potomac Community Recreation Center.**

## 2013-2014 UCAB Guest Speakers

- September 9, 2013      **Presentation & Discussion: “Avery Road Treatment Center”**  
*Guests: Dr. Raymond Crowel, Chief of Behavioral Health & Crisis Services, HHS; Rachel Silberman, Office of Management and Budget; Meghan Westwood, Maryland Treatment Centers; Edwin Rich, Avery Road Treatment Center*
- September 16, 2013      **Presentation & Discussion: “Status of the Zoning ReWrite Project”**  
*Guests: Pamela Dunn, Project Manager  
Joshua Sloan, Staff, Zoning ReWrite Project*
- September 23, 2013      **Discussion: “Future Planning in Montgomery County”**  
*Guest: Gwen Wright, Director, Montgomery County Planning Department*
- October 7, 2013      **Presentation & Discussion: “Nighttime Economy Task Force - Draft Recommendations”**  
*Guest: Henriot St. Gerard, Task Force Vice Chair*
- October 14, 2013      **Presentation & Discussion: “Report from Farming at Metro’s Edge Conference”** *Guest: Jeremy Criss, Manager, Agricultural Services Division, Dept. of Economic Development*
- October 21, 2013      **Discussion with State Legislators (invited - Districts 14, 15, 17, and 39)**
- November 4, 2013      **Discussion: “Countywide Transit Corridors Functional Master Plan”**  
*(No Guest)*
- November 18, 2013      **Discussion: Future Transit in the Upcounty (CCT, BRT)**  
*Guests: Rick Kiegel, CCT Project Manager, Maryland Transit Administration  
Charles Lattuca, Rapid Transit Manager, Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation  
Larry Cole, Functional Planning & Policy, Montgomery County Planning Dept.  
Glenn Orlin, Deputy Administrator, Montgomery County Council*
- December 2, 2013      **Discussion: “Capital Budget Program for Recreation and Parks”**  
*Guests: Jeff Bourne, Division Chief, Dept. of Recreation  
Mike Riley, Deputy Director, Dept. of Parks*
- December 16, 2013      **Discussion with Councilmember Nancy Floreen**
- January 13, 2014      **Presentation & Discussion: “Optimizing Traffic Flow”**  
*Guest: Dr. Philip Tarnoff, Chairman, Traffax, Inc.*
- January 27, 2014      **Discussion: “What’s Up in Planning for Gaithersburg, Montgomery Village, and Shady Grove?”**  
*Guests: Trudy Schwartz, City of Gaithersburg; David Humpton, Montgomery Village Foundation; and Steve Findley, Montgomery County Planning Dept.*

- February 3, 2014                    **Discussion: “Reaction to Planned Development in Gaithersburg/Montgomery Village/ Shady Grove Area”**  
*(No Guest)*
- February 10, 2014                **Presentation & Discussion: “State of Our Seniors”**  
*Guest: Dr. John Kenney, Dept. of Health and Human Services*
- February 24, 2014                **Discussion: “Upcounty Transportation Projects”**  
*Guest: Edgar Gonzalez, Deputy Director for Transportation Policy  
Montgomery County Department of Transportation*
- March 10, 2014                    **Discussion: “Upcounty School Projects”**  
*Guest: Bruce Crispell, Montgomery County Public Schools*
- March 17, 2014                    **Presentation from Councilmember Hans Riemer**  
*(Meeting cancelled due to weather conditions)*
- March 31, 2014                    **Presentation & Discussion: “Repositioning Montgomery County”**  
*Guests: Lily Qi, Director of Special Projects, Office of the County Executive  
Dan Hoffman, Chief Innovation Officer, Office of the County Executive*
- April 28, 2014                    **Presentation: Ovid Hazen Wells Park Development**  
*Guest: Rachel Newhouse, Parks Dept.*
- May 5, 2014                        **Discussion: “Montgomery College/Germantown Campus Update”**  
*Guests: Sandra Filippi, Campus Planner for Montgomery College*
- May 12, 2014                    **Presentation & Discussion: “Traffic Management in the County”**  
*Guest: Emil Wolanin, Chief of Traffic Engineering, Dept. of Transportation*
- May 19, 2014                    **Discussion: Summary of State Legislative Session 2014**  
*Guests: Legislators from Districts 14, 15, 17 and 39 (Upcounty delegation)*
- Presentation: Montgomery College – Renovation of Science and Applied  
Studies Building**  
*Guest: Sandra Filippi, Planner, Montgomery College*
- June 9, 2014                        **Presentation & Discussion: “Our Status in Public Health”**  
*Guest: Mark Hodge, Senior Public Health Administrator, Department of  
Health & Human Services*
- June 30, 2014                    **Annual Report**  
*Guest: County Executive Isiah Leggett*

# *Testimonies and Correspondence*



## UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

May 14, 2014

The Honorable Isiah Leggett  
Montgomery County Executive  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Council President Craig Rice  
Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett and Mr. Rice:

With the goal of ensuring adequate long-term mobility within the Upcounty communities to the east side of I-270 and especially to Clarksburg residents, the Upcounty County Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) had the privilege of hosting County staff to learn about ongoing as well as planned Upcounty transportation projects and CIP priorities. After lengthy discussions, at its regular full Board meeting on Monday April 28, 2014, with the necessary quorum, the Board voted 7-2 to support (with two additional members abstaining) the following two motions regarding Midcounty Highway (M-83):

**Motion #1: Support continued funding as needed in order to complete the Midcounty Corridor Study (MCS).**

**Motion #2: Support the master plan alternative (alignment) for the Midcounty Highway.**

The UCAB and the citizens of the Upcounty appreciate this opportunity to offer these comments. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Cherian Eapen  
Chair, UCAB

12900 Middlebrook Road, Suite 1000 ♦ Germantown, Maryland 20874  
240/777-8000, TTY 240/777-8002, FAX 240/777-8001  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/upcounty](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/upcounty)



## UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

August 23, 2013

The Honorable Isiah Leggett  
Montgomery County Executive  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

Thank you for attending and speaking at the Upcounty County Citizens Advisory Board's Capital Budget Forum held in Germantown on July 31, 2013, along with representatives of various county agencies, in order to receive input on the FY 2015–2020 Capital Improvement Program (CIP). As usual, the forum was well attended by local residents who provided valuable input on capital investments that are essential and critical to the Upcounty.

Based on information we received at the meeting and via email, and the Board's deliberations that followed, we submit the following CIP Priority recommendations for your consideration in the FY 2015–2020 CIP.

### **Transportation and Infrastructure**

- Fund final design and construction of the MD 355/Frederick Road Bike Path bikeway project (CIP #501118). The bikeway will provide a much needed off-road connection between Clarksburg and Germantown and safe walk/bicycle access to schools as well as transit along MD 355. As a way to advance this important project, the County DOT can also identify this project for the new Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding, a federal program under MAP-21 that provides funding for projects considered as "alternatives" to traditional highway construction.
- Fund upgrades to the County's traffic management system to ensure that the latest technology is implemented and signals are optimized for a coordinated traffic flow. The Board encourages the County DOT staff to coordinate this effort with local municipalities as well.

### **Schools**

- Accelerate funding, or at a minimum the County must not further delay much needed funding, to modernize both Seneca Valley High School in Germantown and Damascus High School in Damascus.

**Libraries**

- Fund repairs and upgrades to the Germantown Library to expand restroom facilities at the library. With the expected completion of the Germantown Urban Park to the rear of the facility, it is expected that the library will experience additional foot traffic for usage of its restrooms and other services, and it is therefore important that the library facility is physically capable to handle the expected additional crowd/patrons.

**Community Facilities**

- Accelerate/identify funding for capital improvements at the Avery Road Treatment Center.

**Parks and Recreation**

- Fund a feasibility and site selection study for a community center/indoor aquatic center in the Clarksburg area. This is a priority for the Clarksburg area since most eligible sites in Clarksburg are currently being purchased by private entities for commercial development.
- Fund a feasibility and site selection study for a community/senior center in the Poolesville area.

As matters of continued interest to the Upcounty area, the County must also champion the following initiatives:

- Assess the need and funding sources for enhanced mass transit and public transportation options such as the proposed Rapid Transit Vehicle (or RTV) System (CIP #501318) in the Upcounty area along MD 355 and continue to urge MTA to accelerate funding for the Corridor Cities Transit way (CCT) between Shady Grove and Clarksburg.
- Provide funding for community education on the CCT and the proposed RTV System.
- Explore options to extend the functionality of Metro's Red Line from Shady Grove to Frederick and beyond.
- Enhance/expand MARC service along the Brunswick Line.
- Initiate a traffic assessment for the Shady Grove/Washingtonian/Rio area with expected additional residential/commercial/office density coming online.
- Ensure continued coordination between Snuffer School Road (CIP #501109) and Goshen Road South (CIP# 501107) projects.
- Ensure Clarksburg infrastructure projects such as Stringtown Road and both ends of Snowden Farm Parkway are being built in a timely fashion.
- Complete the Midcounty Corridor Study.

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board and the citizens of the Upcounty region appreciate this opportunity to offer these recommendations.

Sincerely,



Cherian Eapen  
Chair



## UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

September 24, 2013

Montgomery County Board of Elections  
c/o Margaret Jurgensen  
18753-210 N Frederick Ave  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879

Ref.: Comments on Proposed Early Voting Centers in Montgomery County

Dear Ms. Jurgensen:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on the proposed early voting centers in Montgomery County. Based on discussions among the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (“Board”) members present (for discussions) at the September 23, 2013, meeting, the Board submits the following comments:

- Approve the early voting center in Damascus at the Damascus Community Recreation Center. The area north of Germantown including Clarksburg and Damascus is underserved in many aspects and providing an opportunity for residents vote early at this center will benefit many residents.
- Consider expanding days and hours of service at the existing early voting center at Germantown Community Recreation Center. This is an extremely busy voting center and additional services at this location will well serve the larger Upcounty community.
- Explore feasibility of an early voting center in the North Potomac/Kentlands/Quince Orchard area. An early voting center in this area could potentially better serve communities such as North Potomac, Kentlands, West Gaithersburg, Darnestown, Poolesville, Dickerson, etc. of western Montgomery County compared to the proposed early voting center at Potomac Community Recreation Center.

The Board appreciates this opportunity to offer these comments. Please feel free to contact me or Catherine Matthews, Regional Services Director, Upcounty Office, if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Cherian Eapen  
Chair

12900 Middlebrook Road, Suite 1000 ♦ Germantown, Maryland 20874  
240/777-8000, TTY 240/777-8002, FAX 240/777-8001 ♦ [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/upcounty](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/upcounty)

*Upcounty Regional  
Services Center*



## UPCOUNTY REGIONAL SERVICES CENTER

Isiah Leggett  
*County Executive*

Catherine E. Matthews  
*Director*

Dear Community Friend,

I want to thank the members of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) for their dedication to ensuring that their communities are heard on the various important issues that are impacting residents, businesses, places of worship, and small neighborhoods in the northern part of Montgomery County and countywide.

The Board works hard to be inclusive and encourages residents from all interests and demographic groups to stay informed and get involved in their community. One easy way to do that is to attend the meetings of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board to learn what the pressing issues of the day are and to share your creative ideas for resolving them. The Board reserves time on their monthly meeting agendas to hear from residents and is interested in knowing what you think.

There is a lot of talent in our community and we need you to share it in order to nurture the Upcounty region as it continues to evolve in the years ahead. As I have said before, our neighborhoods hold untapped resources like you who are skilled in technology, construction trades, the biosciences, landscaping, teaching, and emergency response, or those of you who have that special knack for getting to the core of the issue and encouraging a balanced discussion.

I also want to thank the many County and State officials, departmental staff, and civic leaders for the time and expertise that they generously give to help clarify the issues for the Board and to explore possible solutions.

UCAB has represented this region and county well, and I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work with them. Join us. We look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Catherine Matthews  
Regional Services Director

## *Upcounty Regional Services Boundary Map*



Proudly serving approximately 300,000 residents of Barnesville, Beallsville, Boyds, Clarksburg, Damascus, Darnestown, Derwood, Dickerson, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Goshen, Laytonsville, Montgomery Village, North Potomac, Poolesville, Tobytown and Washington Grove.

# The Upcounty Regional Services Center

The Upcounty Regional Services Center (URSC) is a 100,000 square foot facility that, in 2012-2013, housed 10 county agencies and 10 community partner agencies who together offered 28 different services. The Center is located at 12900 Middlebrook Road in Germantown, Maryland and provides a county presence for the northern region of Montgomery County where a third of the county's population or more than 280,000 people reside. The service area encompasses approximately 200 square miles and is bordered on the north by Frederick County, on the east by the Olney area, on the south by the Shady Grove Metro area and Rockville, and on the west by the Potomac River.

## **Administration Office**

The Center is anchored by the Upcounty Regional Services Office (URSO) that functions as a link to the County Executive's Office; coordinates policy making and service delivery that focus on the particular needs of the Upcounty area; offers effective and timely problem-solving assistance to neighborhoods, individuals, community organizations, businesses, and agencies; and coordinates service delivery and assistance to the agencies housed in the Center. More specifically, the office offers an effective, timely liaison between Montgomery County and its citizens and businesses, and works with individuals, community groups, regional citizens advisory boards, and other public agencies to:

- research and disseminate information;
- identify and assess regional problems and issues and facilitate solutions;
- bring community perspective to major policy issues;
- assist with site evaluations for public facilities;
- promote a sense of community; and
- provide general on-site supervision of the center and build collaboration among partner agencies.

Major services provided to the public by the URSO this year included:

- providing information and making referrals for county and other governmental entities about local programs, activities, and community issues;
- assisting individuals, groups, and neighborhoods in developing solutions to local problems;
- assisting new non-profits as they get established and build capacity to provide services;
- leveraging funds/resources for community-based initiatives (i.e. transit station safety);
- providing a county government presence and serving as the public's regional access point for communicating with county government;
- serving as one regional repository and the public's point-of-access for government and regional planning documents (master plans, sector plans, county budgets, Capital Improvements Program, maps, Mid-County Corridor Study, etc.);
- providing education and strategic-planning assistance to groups, neighborhoods and communities for local issues; and
- disseminating center and community information and special announcements through the center's webpage, mailing lists, e-newsletter and web-based events calendar.

In a broader effort to bridge the gap between citizen needs and county public services, the Upcounty Regional Services Director regularly looks for opportunities to bring relevant services from a variety of other agencies and organizations to the Center.

## **Other Center Agencies & Services in 2011-2012:**

### **Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County**

**301-942-7700**

Provides dispute prevention, resolution and education to individuals and community organizations. Call to schedule an appointment or visit [www.crcmc.org](http://www.crcmc.org)

### **Gilchrist Welcome Center**

**240-777-6950**

This welcome center for new residents offers information and referral services, County programs and services provided by the County government as well as community organizations and non-profits. At the Upcounty Regional Services Center, the Gilchrist Center offers English as a second language (ESOL), citizenship preparation classes and pro bono legal services. Call for more information regarding other upcoming programs or visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist)

### **Office of Community Partnerships - Faith Community Liaison**

**240-777-2503**

The County's Liaison to faith communities offers information and problem-solving assistance primarily to places of worship in order to encourage inclusiveness and engagement in county government initiatives and processes and other civic activities. [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cec](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cec)

### **Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP)**

**301-916-5946**

As a contract partner to the County's Department of Housing and Community Affairs, HIP provides foreclosure intervention counseling for Montgomery County homeowners. Bi-monthly foreclosure prevention workshops are provided followed by a one-on-one appointment with a certified housing counselor to discuss options available for families to remain in their homes or transition into other sustainable housing arrangements. Bilingual counseling services are available. [www.hiphomes.org](http://www.hiphomes.org)

### **MontgomeryWorks (Department of Economic Development/Division of Workforce Services)**

**240-777-2050**

MontgomeryWorks is Montgomery County's "One-Stop Career Center," where the State and County work together to provide free employment and training services to job seekers and employers in one place. For job seekers, the center provides computer access, workshops, job listings, access to career fairs and other career resources. For employers, the center offers employer recruitment events, and employment supportive services. [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ded](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ded)

### **Peppertree Children's Center**

**301-540-1170**

Montgomery County, as part of a commitment to families and children, provides space in many public buildings for community child care. Peppertree Children's Center is a contractor to the Department of Health & Human Services and offers full-time and part-time care for children ages 6 weeks through 12 years. Morning preschool is also offered. NAEYC accredited. [www.peppertreechildrenscenters.com](http://www.peppertreechildrenscenters.com)

### **Department of Health and Human Services**

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs)

#### ***Housing Stabilization Services/Emergency Services***

**240-777-4448**

- Rental assistance
- Eviction prevention
- Foreclosure avoidance
- Court ordered evictions
- Past due or disconnected utilities
- Burial assistance
- Information and referral for food and prescriptions
- Homeless assessment services for families with children

***Income Support Programs***

**240-777-3420**

- Temporary Cash Assistance for families
- Food Stamp Program
- Transitional Emergency, Medical and Housing Assistance (TEMHA) for residents who are totally disabled and cannot work
- Medical Assistance

***Public Health***

**240-777-3380**

- Maternal and Child case management and home visitation
- “Access” nurse service, including assisting clients with Health Choice access as well as enrolling women into the County maternity program and acting as a health resource to walk-in clients
- Children’s immunization clinics
- Pregnancy tests, information and referral

***Service Eligibility Unit (SEU)***

**240-777-3591**

- Helps find health coverage for uninsured Montgomery County residents through: Maryland Children’s Health Program, Prenatal Care, Care for Kids, Dental
- Provides information and phone numbers for food, shelter, and clothing needs (Financial eligibility required)

***Dental Program***

**240-777-3290**

- General dental services to children 0-17 years
- General dental services to maternity clients enrolled in the HHS maternity program
- Emergency service limited to preliminary evaluation and provided to children and seniors who are established clients.

***Child Welfare***

**240-777-1742**

Continuing protective service, foster care service, case management, and home visitation; assist with family reunification. Aftercare services, in-home monitoring of children returned to families.

***Family Service Agency Inc.***

**301-972-0307**

Serves youth and families from five school cluster communities in Clarksburg, Germantown, Damascus, Gaithersburg, and Poolesville. Services include individual and family counseling, psycho-educational/skills groups, information and referral, crisis intervention, community outreach/education, and tutoring. Visit [www.guideprogram.org](http://www.guideprogram.org)

***Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF)***

**240-777-2746**

This regional CUPF office offers scheduling of meeting rooms at the Upcounty Regional Services Center, school facilities, library meeting rooms, Executive Office Building space, Council Office Building space, and school fields for community use in the Upcounty area. Visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cupf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cupf)

***Volunteer Center***

**240-777-2600**

Individuals, groups, and businesses can register for volunteer opportunities and offer their skills and talents. Student Service Learning (SSL) students can find projects and get credits to fulfill their graduation requirements. Visit [www.montgomeryserves.org](http://www.montgomeryserves.org).

**Office of Human Resources****240-777-5116**

The Center serves as the main training site for the County's Office of Human Resources where county employees are offered workshops, seminars and other training activities as scheduled. [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ohr](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ohr)

**Montgomery County Public Schools*****Office of Organizational Development***[www.montgomeryschools.org](http://www.montgomeryschools.org)**301-601-0300**

The mission of the Office is the organizational development of a leading, self-renewing organization focused on achieving the school system goals by strengthening the knowledge, skills, beliefs, and practices of Montgomery County Public School's staff and stakeholders.

***Transportation Services*****301-840-8130**

This office coordinates and administers transportation services for Montgomery County Public Schools.

***Maryland Leadership Workshops*****301-444-8623**

Staff work with individual students and small groups at the middle school and high school levels to develop leadership skills during a summer camp experience. The program is in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Association of Student Councils, and Leadership Maryland.

**Department of Recreation, Northern Region Office****240-777-6840**

A satellite office is provided at the Center for a manager who oversees the various activities and programs offered at recreation centers in the northern part of the county. [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec)

*Prepared by the Upcounty Regional Services Center  
June 10, 2014*