

I have been a resident of Montgomery County for a total of 35 years and have lived through the rapid growth and increasing congestion of the county. It is **not such a pleasant county to live in anymore**. Too much congestion on the roads, in parking lots at parks. People stacked up in high rises is not a recipe for contented living. Living space is important to mental health.

Downtown Bethesda will soon be canyoned if the developers are given free rein. It will take more than high rises near Metro stations to get people out of their cars. One way to do it would be to **not build garages in all of these new high rises**. That would encourage taking public transit.

Housing costs have skyrocketed. Only the wealthy can afford the new high rises going up all over. **Rent control** instead of building new more affordable housing.

**Plant more trees**. Do not cut down healthy, mature trees in older neighborhoods to build sidewalks that few people will use as is currently proposed in the Rock Creek Forest Neighborhoods where my house is located.

**Ban Gas powered mowers and blowers** in neighborhoods where the houses occupy less than one acre. When the lawn guys come to my neighborhood the noise from the mowers and blowers is deafening and the gas fumes make it impossible to enjoy my property.

**Electrify the county** starting with transportation.

**Ban Mosquito Joe's type spraying**. Mosquitoes can be easily controlled by controlling standing water on your property or with mosquito dunks. The spraying is killing insects that birds and bats eat. Haven't we already lost enough birds and bats which provide natural mosquito control. And perhaps it may be mosquito spray that is killing some of our birds currently. The jury is still out on that one.

Pass a law that the **lights in office buildings must be turned off at end of the work day** except for a few emergency lights.

Give **tax incentives to replace old gas appliances** with electric.

**Mandate solar panels on all office buildings**.

**Don't widen roads. Build public transportation**.

These are a few methods I hope you will consider to save not only Montgomery County but our planet.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bernadette Chapin