

# Community Use of Public Facilities



## Interagency Coordinating Board Montgomery County, Maryland

February 2012  
SPECIAL SNOW EDITION



### FROM THE DIRECTOR



*Even small amounts of snow or ice have the potential of causing an avalanche of confusion. This is particularly true when MCPS cancels their activities, but CUPF allows community activities to go forward. At the core of split*

*decisions are differences between the two agencies and uncertainties about weather forecasts, which are generally made in the pre-dawn hours. MCPS has to account for workers (many traveling long distances) very early in the morning and youth drivers. Community Use of Public Facilities' activities start later in the morning and programs include many adult groups.*

*The Interagency Coordinating Board's philosophy regarding cancellations has always been to keep facilities open to the public to the extent possible, keeping safety in mind, with the understanding that groups can cancel use on their own based on their comfort levels. Inclement weather guidelines were included in the last newsletter and are repeated here for your convenience. We now want to take it a step further and provide instructions on how to sign-up for the County's **Alert Montgomery**, which supports a variety of electronic devices. We encourage you to share this information with your membership and participants. Over time we will phase out eSubscription alerts and only use **Alert Montgomery** for this purpose.*

*We also encourage everyone to become more "media savvy" and listen for "cancellation of community use activities" in media announcements.*

Regards,  
*Ginny*  
Ginny Gong, Director

### Media Announcements

CUPF is working closely with MCPS and the County Office of Public Information to facilitate timely and accurate announcements. Unfortunately, due to the volume of announcements being handled by the media during storms, the message that community use is not cancelled sometimes gets missed. Therefore, it's important to keep in mind the differences between MCPS activities vs. community use activities. If the announcement says:

***All MCPS activities are cancelled***, that does NOT automatically mean Community Use is ALSO cancelled. Listen for all MCPS and community use activities are cancelled.

If County buildings (libraries, Civic Building, or other County building) are closed, the announcement will be as follows:

***Community use in County Government buildings is cancelled.***



### Not sure of closings?

- Call **240-777-2710** and listen to the recording. (If weather conditions are rapidly changing, check back for updates.)
- Check CUPF's website [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cupf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cupf)
- Check your registered **Alert Montgomery** device(s)

### Sign-Up Now!

Be in the know – see the next page for easy sign-up instructions for **Alert Montgomery**.





## Inclement Weather Cancellation Guidelines

**Cancellation of weekday community use of schools** will be in effect if schools are closed for the day. That decision is made by MCPS.

**Delayed opening** – when schools open late, before school/morning community use will be cancelled. Childcare providers will have access as normal unless MCPS Administrative Offices are on a delayed schedule, in which case childcare programs will also be on a delayed schedule.

**If schools complete the day or for weekend use**, a decision regarding whether or not schools will be open or open late for community use (non-school) activities will be made by CUPF’s Director.

If community use is cancelled by CUPF, a full credit for the hours cancelled will be issued. However, while all users can certainly make their own choices, it is only when activities have been officially cancelled by this office that credits will be issued.



**We encourage you to send the following instructions for **Alert Montgomery** to your membership and participants.**

## ALERT MONTGOMERY

**Alert Montgomery** includes a variety of alert selection options including traffic, weather, and homeland security. In addition to closings announced by CUPF, you can also elect to receive notices from MCPS, M-NCPPC, Montgomery College, County Recreation and more.

Get started now - it only takes a few minutes!

- 1) To register go to <https://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov/register.php>
- 2) Complete registration form and make sure you’ve highlighted **Community Use of Public Facilities Alerts** (under **Montgomery County Government Notifications**).
- 3) Confirm your selection(s) under My Alerts.



*FYI – you can sign up for alerts on all your devices at one time (cell phone, email accounts, etc., even Twitter and Facebook). If you’ve already registered for **Alert Montgomery**, go to “Home” on above link to update your profile.*