

Mid-County Regional Area Office - CAB

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September 2018 Report

Wheaton Urban District

- The *What's Next for Wheaton* Community Leaders Forum, organized by WUDAC, drew over 120 attendees. Many County elected, and non-elected officials were present to hear issues related to opportunities and needs in Wheaton in the coming years. Bethesda Beat and Montgomery Magazine ran articles about the event
- Since the beginning of FY19, 26 awards totaling \$122,107 have been disbursed to 16 small businesses in Wheaton, bringing the total amount since the start of the Small Business Assistance program to \$387,000.
- A pedestrian safety educational campaign was launched in downtown Wheaton with MCDOT and SHA deploying outreach teams working with the Wheaton Urban District team. RSC is working with Captain Didone, Chief of Traffic Division, MCDOT, SHA, CountyStat, PIO, Wheaton Urban District team, and the community on other short and long-term educational, engineering and enforcement responses.
- A new General Manager of Westfield/Wheaton started meeting with local civic associations and community groups, including WUDAC.

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- RSC facilitated a Neighborhood Action Team (NAT) community meeting in the Veirs Mill Village neighborhood with Police/ District 4, DEP, MCDOT and the County's Animal Control unit to discuss residents' concerns. About 20 community members attended this meeting where County agencies provided information and made note of issues to address. RSC will be following up on identified issues.
- Public Safety Radio Towers/Brookeville: DTS is pursuing an alternative site for the tower. This property has an existing monopole owned by ATC. DTS will either put the public safety antenna on the monopole if it can be extended or ATC will build a new tower to accommodate its existing antennas and the new antenna. A next step is community notification of people living ½ mile radius of the new site.
- Planning Dept with Partners for Economic Solutions completed a retail study for the Forest Glen/Montgomery Hills stretch of Georgia Ave that straddles Mid County and Silver Spring regional areas. The study highlights market conditions, possible development opportunities, and strategies to encourage reinvestment.
- Aspen Hill Master Plan – follow up to Minor Master Plan. The Aspen Hill Vision Zero Study will identify existing barriers to safety and explore ways to improve safety for all road users in the area. The study will rely on traditional data collection and analysis as well as new tools to identify issues and promote solutions. The study will bring together residents, civic associations, local businesses, County Departments, and other stakeholders.
- Ongoing discussions are occurring regarding MNCPPC building's internal design, furnishings, security, town plaza maintenance between building tenants, MCDOT and the developer/architects. Discussion is now moving into the operation of the building and coordination between the tenants.

- Political Activity – BCC reminds all members of the County’s Boards and Commissions that the County’s policy regarding political activity states that the County email system and County email lists cannot be used to disseminate campaign related material. This means there should be no mention of an individual’s candidacy, including in the signature line of emails that involve County business. **All County employees, including BCC members, are subject to this policy.**

UPDATES from previous Community Concerns:

- A meeting is scheduled this week with DHCA, Councilmember Navarro’s office and business owners from the Glenmont Shopping Center. The purpose is to begin a discussion about shopping center improvements. The County will be working with engineering design consultants to come up with building and parking lot design ideas to improve the shopping center.
- DHCA Director and his team met with Impact Silver Spring to follow up on problems at multi-family dwellings, specifically in Aspen Hill and Bel Pre. DHCA followed up on specific issues at targeted apartment complexes and agreed to schedule a community-wide meeting to educate residents about their rights and process for addressing concerns.
- Resident complaint about gas smell in Aspen Hill: Councilmember Navarro’s office facilitated communication with Washington Gas. Issue has not yet been resolved. Washington Gas has been invited to the next meeting of Aspen Hill Civic Association.

During the planning process for the 2015 [Aspen Hill Minor Master Plan Amendment](#) and the [Veirs Mill Corridor Master Plan](#), community members expressed interest in an update to the larger 1994 *Aspen Hill Master Plan*. Pedestrian safety at major intersections has been a common concern. In 2016, Montgomery County adopted [Vision Zero](#) and committed to eliminate severe traffic injuries and fatalities by 2030. Under Vision Zero, policy makers and designers work with local stakeholders to ensure safety for all people as they move about their communities