

Mid-County Regional Center

Luisa Montero-Diaz, Director

May 2020

COVID-RELATED

Wheaton Urban District

- Wheaton Urban District (WUD) continues to have a skeleton crew of 8 who rotate three days a week for trash/recycling collection and litter pick-up in the downtown. They have also assisted with installation of COVID signs and communication with businesses. No new planting or landscaping is happening; however, a contractor is mowing and keeping existing landscape watered.
- Taste of Wheaton will be virtual the week of June 7 – 13th, to promote Wheaton-based restaurants. It will include special plates offered by favorite restaurants, activities, online performances, and prizes. The idea is to promote Wheaton businesses and celebrate our community.
- Mid-County United Ministries has expanded and increased their food pick-up sites in Wheaton; over the last 6 weeks, the number of people being served is roughly 5 times more than their usual number (about 100 at each).

Mid-County

- A map was created of grocery stores, apartment complexes and assisted living facilities in 20902, 20906 and 20904 for installation of COVID signage and other outreach, collaborating with OCP.
- Increased issue frequency of the Mid County e-newsletter to 3 times a week the first 6 weeks and now twice a week with a focus on announcements and resources related to COVID and the Census.
- Produced a COVID-focused PSA in Wheaton with local celebrity, Daryl Davis.
- Mid County Take out Tuesday was launched, and we continue to promote it.
- MCRSC is exploring the launch of a ‘food hub’ model in Mid County, based on the Germantown/Black Rock model. (Possible sites include Hughes Memorial Church, Westfield, Wheaton Recreation Center, Mid County Recreation Center, St. Catherine Labourer Church)

NON-COVID

Wheaton

- The Wheaton revitalization project is 98-percent complete. Material and labor shortages are holding steady. Although Use and Occupancy of the building on May 31st tracked successfully for 35-months, it is now scheduled for mid July. Move-in dates are being re-evaluated and will be adjusted.
- Phase I of demolition for the Wheaton Gateway (HOC/Duffie Companies) project is complete. A public online meeting was held to review and provide feedback for the initial concept design, which was submitted to MNCPPC late February. Next step is incorporating feedback into the Sketch Plan.
- WUD is working with a contractor in preparation for a rebranding campaign for the new building and Plaza. Due to COVID restrictions, the campaign will be mostly online.
- WUD is working with CUPF and Silver Spring Urban District to create protocols, policies for Town Plaza usage, both for County sponsored and third-party events.

- WUD is in discussions with MNCPPC for a call for artists for a mural which will be installed on the north side of the new building.
- An MCDOT contractor is on board for the design and installation of a pedestrian barrier on Georgia Ave, which will be aligned with a new traffic signal at Georgia and Price and to include new crosswalk. Community input was solicited for the design that was finally selected.

Mid-County

- Recommendation to establish a Montgomery County Commerce Cabinet
- Represent your Neighborhood – Stand Up and Be Counted 2020 Census Challenge
- MCRSC is working with Dept of Parks for community input for public artwork at Dewey Park, part of a renovation of that park which includes new amenities for the Veirs Mill Village community.
- Redevelopment of Dept of Recreation Site: AHC, Inc., the lead developer, is working on the community engagement approach. Will be setting up meetings with local community leaders.
- Held virtual meeting of the Mid county CCC for 2020 Census; and planning for follow up meeting to refine outreach strategies, particularly in the undercounted census tracts.
- DEP re-launched a GreenStreets project in the Glenmont Forest and Wheaton Hills communities, with an online Community Open House to review the project.

Administrative

- Two new RSC staff started March 30th. They are supporting all five regional directors on community/economic development issues and are now fully deployed on COVID and Census.