

Mid-County Regional Center

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COVID-RELATED

Wheaton Urban District

- Restaurants continue to take advantage of outdoor seating; WUD is working with DPS, ABS and Fire/Rescue for the permitting of tents and heating devices.
- Assistance for small businesses: Through the Small Business Assistance Program, \$600,000 was distributed in FY20, the largest amount distributed in any given year since the program's inception. The Triangle businesses are struggling due to COVID; however, since the pandemic began only one business in the Triangle vicinity closed and two moved out of Wheaton but opened elsewhere in the County. There are two new businesses that have or are in the process of opening. LEDC continues to assist Wheaton businesses to apply for SBAP funds and also for PHEG and other grants.

Mid-County

- There are currently three consolidated service hubs operating in Mid County: one serving the lower part of the mid county region (Wheaton/Glenmont) and two serving the Aspen Hill/Olney areas. DHHS continues to provide financial and technical support as does the Montgomery Food Council. The MCRSC continues to work in concert with DHHS to connect the hubs to respective community providers and resources. Starting this month, the MCRSC began coordinating regular meetings that include all the mid county hubs and their partners to share resources and best practices.
- Up2Us Foundation moved into space at Westfield Mall and are now able to distribute additional food boxes and support the Mid County hubs.
- MCRSC assisted with distribution of window clings and information about #MaskupMoco campaign through the region.

NON-COVID

Wheaton

- Wheaton Revitalization Project
 - The MCRSC and Wheaton Urban District office moved on October 12th.
 - The installation of the public art piece is scheduled for October 22nd.
 - Wheaton Urban District (WUD) in coordination with MCDOT and WUDAC will be planning a ribbon-cutting/Plaza dedication ceremony for mid-November.
 - Safety/security concerns have arisen related to people sleeping on the Plaza and usage by skateboarders. WUD is working with DHHS/Prevention of Homelessness Unit and in communication with others (Police, MNCPPC Security). We are also working with MCDOT to find a solution to discourage skateboarding.
 - A number of concerns were raised by residents regarding infrastructure and traffic flow improvements that were assumed to be part of the revitalization project but have not yet

come to fruition. MCDOT is providing updates and responses to these concerns for the CE and County Council.

- The Wheaton rebranding initiative includes a new Clean and Safe team brochure, an attractions Z-card, updated social media content, new decorative banners, Town Plaza signage. We will also be providing “Welcome” packets for all the employees moving into the new building.
- Wheaton Urban District in partnership with MNCPPC-C presented at this year’s National Capital Area Chapter (Virtual) Conference. It is entitled, “Wheaton Crossroad Case Study: A Closer Look at the Arts & Entertainment District.”
- The Wheaton Arts Parade installed 13 tetrahedrons throughout the urban district, designed and created by various local artists. The launch was held Sept 20th with the County Executive, Council President and Councilmembers, the Planning Director and members of the community. An online festival, V-Fest, featuring local musicians and performers ran for two weeks.

Mid-County

- MCRSC is supporting DEP and MCDOT as they update the community on the Wheaton Dam Bridge replacement, pond, and stream work (at Dennis Ave); including communication with the most affected homes.
- Census events continued to be held at Westfield Mall on Saturdays outside the Costco entrances. In addition, Census outreach continued at Mid County food distribution sites and through the work of the Mid County Complete Count Committee members.
- MCRSC facilitated a meeting between AHC, Inc (developers for the Randolph Rd/Bushey Drive project) and the County’s Office on Early Childhood Services to start putting together a plan to include on-site childcare.
- In concert with the Arts & Humanities Council, the MCRSC selected three mural locations for a Promote the Vote art campaign. Mural designs were selected from Montgomery County-based artists’ submissions; the murals will be up through Election Day.

Administrative & Community Engagement

- MCRSC presented at the Wheaton/Silver Spring Kiwanis Club’s quarterly meeting.
- MCRSC is supporting a partnership between the Civitan Club and the Glenmont Forest Neighborhood Association for a second community Little Library.
- The Connecticut Avenue Estates Civic Association held a ribbon cutting for a mural painted on the Veirs Mill bridge over a branch of Joseph’s Creek. The installation of the mural was funded through MHP and supported by SHA and Delegate Solomon’s office.
- Veirs Mill BRT Advisory Committee was formed and begun meeting
- Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan Update Task Force is up and running with a focus on engagement of non-English speaking communities that surround the park.
- Two FY22 Operating Budget Forums were held in September and the Mid County CIP Budget Forum was held October 8th.