

## Mid-County Regional Center

Luisa Montero-Diaz, Director

December 2019 Report

### Wheaton Urban District

- Since early October, Reddie Drive has been one-way as underground construction related to the Town Plaza is completed. Signage and ongoing communication with the businesses has mitigated some of the businesses' and travelers' concern; however, traffic has been particularly heavy.
- The Small Business Assistance Program made two 2 disbursements last month, bringing the total to **\$316,480 in FY2020** and **\$925,156 since the beginning of the program**. Two additional disbursements totaling \$40,479 are in process.
- The demolition of the Ambassador Apts building began. Soon one lane and the sidewalk on the north side of University Blvd (westbound) will be closed. The bus stop directly beside the building has been moved. For information about this project: [wheatongateway.com](http://wheatongateway.com).
- Wheaton Urban District has been working closely with OMB on the FY21 budget. The budget includes increases to cover additional responsibilities that are associated with maintenance and management of the new Town Plaza and Veterans Park.

### Mid-County

- Kaiser Permanente held a community meeting at the Aspen Hill Library to discuss their plans for development of the old BAE building site on Connecticut Ave and Aspen Hill Rd. Kaiser has been working with various community groups. The new facility will provide a cadre of specializations (lab, pharmacy, OB/GYN, an ambulatory surgery center) and will house 60 physicians and over 300 staff. Community amenities will include green space, walking trails, exercise trails for the surrounding community. The intersection on Connecticut Ave will be re-configured using Vision Zero parameters. Construction will begin Spring 2020 with opening scheduled by Dec 2022. Kaiser plans to keep their Kensington location – the Aspen Hill facility is an expansion, not a re-location of services.
- The installation of Public Safety Radio towers in Mid County (Brookeville and Georgia/ICC) is moving forward.

### Community Activities

- The installation of a free Little Library in the median of Judson in Glenmont Forest, is a partnership between the civic association, Civitan Club, Mid County RSC, DEP and MCDOT, and part of the Neighborhood Action Team in this community.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> Wheaton Film Festival, funded in part through the AHCMC's Wheaton Cultural Grants program, was held with standing room only.
- Dept of Planning held a community meeting in Wheaton to obtain inputs on the development of a county-wide Pedestrian Master plan. An MCCAB member will serve on their advisory board.

- District 18 State delegation and Council President Navarro and Councilmember Hucker, hosted a community meeting with WMATA directors to discuss upgrades that will be made to the Wheaton WMATA garage. Residents expressed their concerns about the garage while WMATA responded by detailing their plans for improvements.
- Westfield/Wheaton Mall has accommodated the Wheaton Arts Parade Art Gallery in a new, much larger space. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held to celebrate its opening.
- Sandy Spring Museum has been designated the folklife hub of Montgomery County, in conjunction with Maryland Traditions (part of the Maryland State Arts Council). They are expanding their folk arts programming, partnerships, and support of traditional artists and heritage communities. MCRSC Director is supporting connections with various communities.
- Wheaton/Kensington Chamber partnered with Civitan Club and Montgomery Housing Partnership for the annual Toy Drive and Holiday event at Los Chorros restaurant.
- District 18 and Councilmember Navarro sponsored a Family Resource Fair at the Wheaton Recreation Center which attracted over 450 people.
- LEDC with help from the Wheaton Urban District held a “Cocoa Crawl” to support the small businesses along Triangle/Grandview by attracting shoppers, with raffle prizes and activities for children.