

December 2020

- **COVID-RELATED**

- The weekly drive-up COVID test site at Westfield Mall/Wheaton in partnership with Proyecto Salud has moved from Sundays to Tuesdays due to the high amount of traffic (on a recent Sunday there were over 1000 COVID tests given).
- A meeting of all County Consolidated Service Hubs was held to share updates and resources. The three Mid County hubs continue to individually reach thousands of households a week. They have expanded services beyond food distribution/delivery to include COVID testing, Holiday toys programs, coat drives and connections to DHHS resources.
- The Marian Fryer Town Plaza dedication was cancelled due to COVID concerns. It will be rescheduled when it is safe to do so.
- Working with the Office of Consumer Protection, RSC coordinated a CAB-wide forum to alert members and encourage them to alert their communities on COVID and Holiday scams.

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- **NON-COVID**

- **Wheaton**

- A public meeting for community input on the Wheaton Gateway Project sketch plan was held with over 100 people participating. Community members had various concerns. The sketch plan can be found at <https://www.wheatongateway.com/>. WUDAC has formed an ad hoc committee to review thoroughly the sketch plan and to coordinate and submit the community's concerns to Duffie Companies and HOC.
- Eligibility for the Small Business Assistance Program for businesses directly affected by the Wheaton project construction closed. Businesses can still and are submitting applications for expenses incurred prior to November 2020. The total amount of funds disbursed through this program is \$1.3 million with another \$550,000 in process. Grants ranged from \$1200 to \$125,000 with an average of \$24,000.
- The non-transversible pedestrian barrier on Georgia Ave between Reddie and Price has been installed.
- The Wheaton Safety/Security Task Force continues to meet regularly.
- Wheaton Revitalization Project
- Wheaton Urban District (WUD) has begun working with CUPF to establish a fee structure for use of the Town Plaza when it is safe to do so.
- WUD is working with MCDOT to identify and consolidate storage space for the urban district's equipment and materials, since storage in the new building is limited.
- WUD is working with MCDOT on signage for the Town Plaza. The original sign package that was approved by WUD is no longer viable due to budget constraints, so we are exploring other ways to install adequate signage.
- Holiday decorations were installed on the Plaza stage as a deterrent to long-term usage by people who are homeless for sleeping.
- The ReDiscover Wheaton marketing campaign is ongoing. Loyalty program letters and posters were hand delivered to over 90 open businesses in Wheaton. Mailers were sent out to over 9,000 residents within one mile radius, encouraging patronization of Wheaton businesses with loyalty card incentives. The ReDiscover campaign also includes a partnership with LEDC for placement of 200 Ride-on bus posters with the ReDiscover Wheaton logo and website.

- WUD is exploring the possibility of adding sound and lighting equipment to the Plaza stage. We met with a theatre consultant who provided guidance and will be connecting us to further resources. We are also working with MCDOT to purchase the street barriers that will be used for closure of Reedie Drive during Plaza events.
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- **Mid-County**
- MCDOT and DEP has scheduled an online public information meeting to update residents about the Dennis Avenue Bridge renovations, part of a larger project to mitigate flooding of the Wheaton Branch Creek and ponds, which in the past caused property damage for those residents closest to the bridge. MCDOT/DEP are soliciting community feedback on the project, including eventual temporary re-routing of traffic during construction. Follow up meetings will be planned. <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/projects/dennisave/index.html>
- The Regional Service Office Neighborhood Events Matching Funds program has launched. This program provides funds for community groups, civic associations, businesses to create community building opportunities that support quality of life. This year there is a focus on virtual events that support COVID response.
- Department of Parks continues to hold community meetings and focus groups for residents who live around Wheaton Regional Park, in addition to meetings of the Advisory Committee that was established to inform the Master Plan update recommendations.
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- **Advisory Boards**
- The November meeting of the Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee included updates on the Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan Update Advisory Group and the Veirs Mill BRT Advisory Group. The rest of the meeting focused on updates from the four WUDAC sub-committees, and planning for the Plaza dedication.
- The November meeting of the Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board included a presentation by District 4 Police on crime statistics and an overview of their recruitment strategies and current staffing and recruitment of new police officers. In addition, MCDOT Ride-on team gave an update on Ride-on services and FLEX services during COVID. Councilmember Glass staff gave an update on recent Council actions. MCCAB also held a Phase I Planning retreat to direct MCCAB's efforts over the next 90 days. The three principal areas of focus will be: FY22 Budget, including impact of Question A; Re-districting; COVID impact on housing and food security and the recovery efforts.
- Four new members were recommended for MCCAB by the County Executive and confirmed by the Council. They will join the December meeting. Interviews were held to fill one vacancy for a small business representative on WUDAC; however, none of the applicants represented small businesses. Therefore, an announcement has been re-posted, and interviews will be set up once candidates' resumes are received.
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- **Administrative & Community Engagement**
- The Wheaton Urban District Program Manager announced his retirement. Recruitment for his replacement has begun.
- Forest Estates Community Association meeting
- Glenmont Forest Neighborhood Civic Association meeting.
- Sandy Spring Museum Marketing Advisory Committee
- Mid County United Ministries Event for Larry White

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