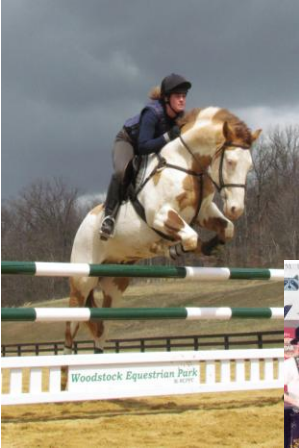


Upcounty Annual Report

**Fiscal Year 2013
(July 2012-June 2013)**





Montgomery County Executive

Isiah Leggett

Montgomery County Council

Nancy Navarro, President

Craig Rice, Vice-President

Phil Andrews

Roger Berliner

Marc Elrich

Valerie Ervin

Nancy Floreen

George Leventhal

Hans Riemer

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*Upcounty Citizens
Advisory Board*



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR , 2012-2013

It has been an interesting year serving as Chair of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB). Our enthusiastic board members are a dedicated group, who all share a vision of improving Montgomery County and our beloved northern county geography for the enjoyment of all residents. The members of UCAB represent the diversity of our communities. Collectively, they have an incredibly broad knowledge and experience base which contributes to rich and thorough discussions on many issues. This year we actively reached out to the Clarksburg and Poolesville communities to better understand their unique and challenging issues. The UCAB did a lot of active listening to community groups, reviewed our County's budget items and developed a priority item focus list that we presented to the County Executive.

This year the UCAB discussed a number of land use and quality of life challenges drawing not only on the Board's expertise, but also that of numerous county officials and members of the community. The UCAB greatly appreciates the participation of the representatives of the Montgomery County government, our state delegation, and private organizations that all took the time to keep us informed about issues and challenges that affect the Upcounty. A special thanks goes out to the Police force and our County Fire & Rescue Service for their active participation in several of the UCAB meetings during this past year.

Given the delicate and emotional nature of some topics, the Board did not try for unanimous agreement on points in question but always sought consensus in the advice provided to the County Executive and Council. Various viewpoints, including those in the minority, were provided so that our elected leaders would have as much information as possible when making their difficult decisions. We believe the feedback we received indicates that we have provided a very valuable service.

In closing, the Board wants to sincerely thank Ms. Catherine Matthews, the dedicated director of the Upcounty Regional Services Center. With her guidance and support the Board was able to effectively reach out to our north and west areas to establish better communication between our community leaders. She also was key to making arrangements for the many guests and organizations that came to present to us at our board meetings. Ms. Matthews has been crucial to the UCAB's ability to accomplish so much this season. Working together, the Upcounty Regional Services Center and the UCAB, provide a crucial communication link between Montgomery County Government and its citizens. We had a great year thinking "outside-the-box" and soliciting new ideas. We asked the hard questions of our presenters and together worked to develop excellent suggestions to meet the needs of our expanding population. We look forward to continuing these efforts next year.

Respectfully,

Kevin E. Linck, Chair

About the Board

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/upcounty

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) provides advice and recommendations to the County Executive, County Council, and Upcounty Regional Services Director on issues affecting the northern portion of the county known as the “Upcounty” in addition to acting as a two-way communication link between the County and the community. The twenty volunteer members of UCAB are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.

Geographic Scope The Upcounty region is defined as being roughly north and west of Shady Grove Road and it comprises about one-half of the geographic area of Montgomery County and one-third of its population. It ranges in character from urban to rural in communities such as Barnesville, Boyds, Clarksburg, Damascus, Darnestown, Derwood, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Goshen, Laytonsville, Montgomery Village, North Potomac and Poolesville. Therefore, UCAB’s members are selected for geographic balance as well as for diversity of background, community and professional experience and expertise.

Structure UCAB operates in public meetings and has two standing committees: the Land Use Committee and the Quality of Life Committee. UCAB’s leadership consists of the chairperson, a first vice-chair, and a second vice-chair along with the chair of the Land Use Committee and chair of the Quality of Life Committee. Other UCAB members also provide liaison to various other County boards and committees.

Issues Usually after a planning retreat in July, the UCAB and each of its committees meets monthly from September through June. The UCAB’s committees study a wide variety of issues and help to craft the board’s resulting recommendations. The Land Use Committee has reviewed and commented on master planning practices in the Upcounty, issues related to urbanization, the County’s Growth Policy, development pressures on the Agricultural Reserve, the evolution of the Life Sciences Center at Shady Grove, issues faced by agricultural and related businesses, affordable housing, and growth of the Germantown Campus of Montgomery College. The Quality of Life Committee has reviewed and commented on out-of-school programs for youths, programs for immigrant families and children at risk, mental health services, library services, safety of young drivers and pedestrians, public safety, services for seniors, and the general health of the county’s community. Positions have been taken on many of these issues while others may continue to be examined for comment.

Recommendations During the year, UCAB interacts formally and informally with county officials, county and state agency staff, and community leaders in order to understand issues comprehensively before forwarding comments or recommendations to the County Executive and/or County Council. UCAB also meets with the Executive during the year to discuss Upcounty priorities and to summarize their work at their annual meeting, and traditionally, the Executive’s priorities for both the operating budget and the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) have been responsive to UCAB’s recommendations. In the past, the Board has also hosted receptions for officials and community leaders in order to promote networking and the sharing of ideas. On an annual basis, the board meets with State legislators who represent the Upcounty area in the General Assembly, and various county department heads to explore issues and solutions. Additionally, UCAB traditionally hosts an annual forum to solicit community comments on the CIP. Those comments are then prioritized by the board and forwarded to Executive Branch departments and the County Executive.

The Upcounty Regional Services Director, Catherine Matthews, can be contacted at 240.777.8040 or via email at catherine.matthews@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board

2012-2013



*left to right sitting: Ruyan Teng (Travilah/North Potomac); James King (Montgomery Village); Daisha New (Poolesville); Pat Seals (North Potomac); Beth Daly (Dickerson); James Wallace (Gaithersburg).
left to right standing: Brian Donohue (Clarksburg); Matthew Leagan (Germantown/business); Juan Cardenas (Gaithersburg); Mark Firley (Montgomery Village); Kevin Linck (Montgomery Village); Robert Thompson (Darnestown); Andres Aviles (Germantown); David Rosenbaum (Germantown).*

Not available when photo was taken:



*Robert Nelson
(Goshen)*



*Doug Noble
(Damascus)*



*Scott Graham
(Comus)*



*Natalia Farrar
(Shady Grove)*



*Cherian Eapen
(Clarksburg)*



*Gail Robinson
(Germantown)*

Officers

Chair - Kevin Linck

1st Vice Chair – Cherian Eapen

2nd Vice Chair – Pat Seals

UCAB Committee Chairs

Land Use – Robert Nelson

Quality of Life – Robert Thompson

Liaisons to Other Boards and Committees

Airpark Liaison Committee – Juan Cardenas

Dickerson Facilities Implementation Group – Beth Daly

Germantown Master Plan Community Advisory Committee – Andres Aviles

Permitting Services Advisory Committee – James King

Shady Grove Implementation Advisory Committee – Natalia Farrar

Smart Growth Initiative Implementation Advisory Group – Andres Aviles and Kevin Linck

Speed Camera Advisory Committee – David Rosenbaum

Upcounty Regional Recreation Advisory Board – Cherian Eapen / Daisha New

PEPCO Community Advisory Group – Kevin Linck

Issues and Comments

Year in Summary

Throughout the year, our Land Use and Quality of Life Committees examined issues that directly affect the Upcounty as well as the county as a whole. Due to the complexity of many issues, the two committees often met jointly to explore subjects in great depth. Each committee laid the groundwork for elevating issues to the full Board for further discussion and/or to develop a recommendation for the County Executive and/or County Council. The following is a summary of highlights.

Transportation and Infrastructure:

The Upcounty would benefit from various approaches to improving travel on I-270. We believe that **efforts should be made by Montgomery County to discuss joint solutions for improvements for I - 270 with our neighbors in North Frederick.** The Board also thinks that the County should **evaluate possible new ideas like ramp metering, Incident Management Towing, and supporting the transit from Shady Grove to Frederick.**

We believe the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) needs to move ahead as soon as possible with a decision on how to fund the project. This is critical for the Upcounty economy.

Improvements to bike, pedestrian, transit and vehicular access to the Boyds MARC station should be made in order to enhance safety and facilitate passenger access.

Maintain funding for improving Snouffer School Road in order to cost effectively accommodate the planned county service facilities that are relocating to the Webb Tract.

The timely completion of upgrades to the County's traffic management system to ensure that technology is updated and signal timing is optimized is recommended.

UCAB continues to support the planned improvements to Snouffer School Road and the Goshen Road widening project.

Mid-County Highway (M83)

UCAB recommends that officials make a decision as soon as possible as to the preferred alignment for the Mid-County Highway. Of the several alternatives currently under study, Alternative 4 has received significant opposition for its impact on current residents, environmental and historical impacts, and higher cost. Many residents of Montgomery Village oppose the master planned alignment but support travel demand management or MD 355 options, while Clarksburg and many Goshen area residents are eager for the selection and construction of the M-83 master plan alignment as an alternative to the congested routes currently available. The majority of residents who responded to a survey from MCDOT's public workshop that they attended on June 6 supported the M83 Master Plan Route. **UCAB has not made a specific recommendation on the Mid-County Highway (M-83) road project.**

Clarksburg

UCAB would like to see a new express bus route from Clarksburg Town Center to Shady Grove Metro Station operational along with the coinciding SHA extension of I-270's southbound HOV lane to Clarksburg, (similar to the very successful Route 100 express Ride On bus from Germantown Transit Center to Shady Grove).

Stringtown Road must be funded and constructed at the earliest, especially with those improvements that will improve safety.

Prioritize the completion of Snowden Farm Parkway between Ridge Road (MD 27) and Frederick Road, and Little Seneca Parkway to Frederick Road (MD 355).

Public Safety

UCAB continues to support the construction of a new 6th district police station that will be located on the extension of Watkins Mill Road in Gaithersburg.

Schools

Excellent public schools are a hallmark of our county and our public schools' national reputation continues to be a primary motivating factor for young families and businesses moving into our community. In that context, we urge you to support the modernization of our public school facilities by working collaboratively with the Board of Education to undertake capital projects that will maintain the quality of our schools. As an area of strong population growth, the Upcounty will require a new middle school (Arora Hills) and other expansion/modernization projects soon.

Libraries

UCAB is pleased to see the renovation of the Gaithersburg Library and we look forward to the re-opening of them both later in the year. **UCAB strongly encourages the County to appropriate funding for a new Clarksburg library by 2015.** Late in the fiscal year, UCAB forwarded a recommendation to the County Executive to rename the Gaithersburg Public Library as the "Gaithersburg-Montgomery Village Public Library." The Executive decided not to in the best interest of maintaining consistency throughout the county.

Parks and Recreation

UCAB supports continued efforts to build the Germantown Town Center Urban Park and the extension of the Magruder Trail from the Damascus Recreational Park to the Damascus town center.

UCAB encourages the timely development of the new Seneca Crossing Park on Brink Road.

Economic Development in the Upcounty area

UCAB would like to see more efforts made to attract large commercial corporations as well as the federal government agencies they contract with in order to boost job creation in the area.

Outreach Efforts

The UCAB Chair suggested that the Board hold at least two of our meetings within the communities they represented. The purpose was to improve communications between the Board and community residents, and to get a better understanding of their needs and desires. The following is a summary of those meetings.

Clarksburg

UCAB members joined staff from the Planning Department as well as residents and business representatives at Rocky Hill Middle School on November 19 for a community workshop that kicked off the Ten Mile Creek Limited Amendment process that will determine how development might be handled in Stage 4 of Clarksburg's planned development. UCAB members participated in the small workgroups and discussion focused on a variety of factors that strengthen a community such as viable transportation/transit services, environmental stewardship, the local economy, and community-building efforts. Suggestions were made such as establishing a Clarksburg telework center and other options for the residents that would lessen the need to commute.

Poolesville

The second community-based meeting was scheduled in order to meet with the leadership of the Town of Poolesville and their consultant about repositioning that community for future success. The discussion included thoughts about the current assets found in Poolesville such as a strong farming and horse-oriented industry. Town Commissioners provided us with background history covering issues from the past to the present. One major point made was that town leaders do not want a major highway through their town, nor did they want to see Route 28 widened.

2012-2013 UCAB Guest Speakers

July 7, 2012	Rick Nelson, Department of Housing and Community Affairs	
July 9, 2012	Councilmember Phil Andrews, Montgomery County Council Councilmember Craig Rice, Montgomery County Council David McDonough, Johns Hopkins University Thomas Osborne, Consultant, Johns Hopkins University Drew Morrison, Offices of the County Executive	
September 24, 2012	Steve Silverman, Department of Economic Development Pamela Zorich, Planning Department	
October 15, 2012	Senator Nancy King, District 39 Senator Karen Montgomery, District 14 Delegate Anne Kaiser, District 14 Delegate Eric Luedtke, District 14 Delegate Craig Zucker, District 14 Melanie Wenger, Intergovernmental Relations	Delegate Kathleen Dumais, District 15 Delegate James Gilchrist, District 17 Councilmember Craig Rice, District 2
November 19, 2012	On November 19 th , the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board participated in a community workshop at Rocky Hill Middle School with Clarksburg residents and the Planning Department to kick off the Clarksburg Master Plan Limited Amendment process regarding the Ten Mile Creek Area.	
November 26, 2012	Casey Anderson, Montgomery County Planning Board	
December 17, 2012	Councilmember Phil Andrews, District 3 Councilmember Nancy Floreen, At-Large Councilmember marc Elrich, At-Large Councilmember Craig Rice, District 2 Jennifer Hughes, Office of Management and Budget	
January 14, 2013	Chief Thomas Manager, Montgomery County Police Chief Richard Bowers, Fire & Rescue Service Chris Voss, Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security	
February 11, 2013	Councilmember Roger Berliner, District 1 David Kline, First Energy Power Company Michael Hosier, First Energy/Potomac Edison Power	
February 25, 2013	Philip Tarnoff, Traffax, Inc.	
March 18, 2013	Greg Ossont, Department of General Services	
April 22, 2013	On April 22, the Board met at Poolesville Town Hall with: James Brown, Poolesville Town Commissioners Jerry Klobukowski, Poolesville Town Commissioners Wade Yost, Poolesville Town Manager Michael Knapp, Orion Ventures Paula Sind-Prunier, Montgomery County Community Emergency Response Team	
April 29, 2013	Jeremy Criss, Department of Economic Development Colby Ferguson, Frederick County Business Development and Retention	

May 20, 2013

Uma Ahluwalia, Department of Health and Human Services

June 10, 2013

County Executive Isiah Leggett (UCAB's annual meeting)

Testimonies and Correspondence



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

April 15, 2013

TO: Poolesville Community Members and Associations

Subject: UCAB coming to Poolesville to listen and better understand the issues, concerns and initiatives of the Poolesville community.

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board, I wish to invite everyone in the Poolesville area to join the members of your Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) for a scheduled meeting on April 22, 2013. This meeting will be a forum for residents, organizations, and businesses of Poolesville to present their ideas and priorities for their community.

UCAB is pleased to inform everyone that this is the second time this fiscal year that the UCAB Board has gone out into the community to better communicate with our residents, organizations, and neighborhood leaders. We are seeking input from everyone on how we can better serve your needs and desires for an improved quality of life. The areas we are hoping to explore at the meeting are Poolesville's transportation/transit & infrastructure, schools, libraries, parks and recreation facilities, public safety, and any other ideas the community wishes to share for the benefit of the Poolesville area.

To date, the County government has engaged in hard work and difficult decision-making in order to address long-term financial challenges and establish a new balanced budget with continued spending control. However, the UCAB still sees areas that need improvement and new visions for our future direction. One of the most important is our need for comprehensive long-term transportation solutions and success in obtaining the necessary funding for needed transportation improvements. Building transportation infrastructure is very important and we are lacking much needed road and transit improvements and expansions throughout the Upcounty.

We invite everyone to attend the above referenced meeting, and we look forward to having the opportunity to discuss the many issues facing our County including those specifically impacting the Poolesville community.

The UCAB board members are looking forward to a good meeting where we will listen and learn.

Regards,

Kevin E. Linck, UCAB Chair



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

April 19, 2013

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

On behalf of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board, I wish to thank you for scheduling to meet with us on April 23rd. Per your request, I am pleased to inform you that the following members are planning to attend at this time and we look forward to having the opportunity to discuss the many issues facing our County, especially Upcounty:

Mr. Cherian Eapen, 1st Vice-Chair;
Ms. Pat Seals, 2nd Vice-Chair;
Mr. Robert Thompson, Chair of our Quality of Life Committee;
Mr. Robert Nelson, Chair of our Land Use Committee;
Mr. Mark Firley, member;
Ms. Beth Daly, member; and
me --- Kevin Linck, Chair.

Your outstanding economic efforts have re-established Montgomery County back to being in the forefront of regional activities. This has been accomplished by providing excellent leadership involving hard work, difficult decision making, and management support while correcting past financial challenges leading to a new balanced budget with continued spending control.

However, the UCAB still sees areas that need improvement and new visions for our future direction. One of the most important is our need for comprehensive long-term transportation solutions and obtaining necessary funding for needed transportation improvements. Building transportation infrastructure is very important and we are lacking much needed road and transit improvements and expansions throughout the Upcounty. We also see the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) as a must to get development for the Great Seneca Science Corridor project back in full gear. We also eagerly await Maryland State Highway Administration's (SHA) response to the County's request to extend the southbound I-270 HOV lane from Exit 8 to Exit 18 in Clarksburg.

The UCAB Board believes that the following areas need additional efforts and new ideas and thoughts.

Transportation and Infrastructure:

- The Upcounty would benefit from various approaches to improving travel on I-270. We believe that efforts should be made by Montgomery County to discuss joint solutions for improvements for I-270 with our neighbors in North Frederick. The Board also thinks that the County should evaluate possible new ideas like ramp metering, Incident Management Towing, and supporting the transit from Shady Grove to Frederick.

- Residents of the Upcounty are almost in complete agreement for moving ahead with the planned Corridor Cities Transitway. We believe the CCT needs to move ahead as soon as possible and a decision on how to fund the project is critical for the Upcounty economy.
- Getting to a decision on Mid-County Corridor is recommended. (This is an issue on which the full Upcounty community has not reached a consensus). Of the several alternatives currently under study, Alternative 4 has received significant opposition for its impact on current residents, environmental and historical impacts, and higher cost. Residents of Montgomery Village support no build, travel demand management, or MD 355 options, while Clarksburg and many Goshen area residents are eager for the selection and construction of the M-83 master plan alignment as an alternative to the congested routes currently available. The majority of respondents to last year's MCDOT public workshop supported the **M83 Master Plan Route**.
- UCAB would like to see a new express bus route from Clarksburg Town Center to Shady Grove Metro Station operational along with the coinciding SHA extension of I-270's southbound HOV lane to Clarksburg, (similar to the very successful Route 100 express Ride On bus from Germantown Transit Center to Shady Grove).
- The timely completion of upgrades to the County's traffic management system to ensure that technology is updated and signal timing is optimized is recommended.
- Improvements to bike, pedestrian, transit and vehicular access to the Boyds MARC station should be made in order to enhance safety and facilitate passenger access.
- Recommendations for improvements to Stringtown Road along with proper funding appear to be proceeding with construction scheduled to begin this summer. This project must be funded and constructed at the earliest, especially with those improvements that will improve safety.
- In Clarksburg, prioritize the completion of Snowden Farm Parkway between Ridge Road (MD 27) and Frederick Road, and Little Seneca Parkway to Frederick Road (MD 355).
- Maintain funding for improving Snouffer School Road in order to cost effectively accommodate the planned county service facilities that are relocating to the Webb Tract. The Goshen Road widening project is currently in the semi-final design phase. Both roads are in the Mid-County Corridor Study (M-83) and the prioritization of these improvements needs to be done based on the final recommendations from this study.

Public Safety:

- UCAB is pleased with the leadership with of both Chiefs of our Police and Fire & Rescue departments and we are very glad to see that our overall crime is down. We wish Fire Chief Bowers much success in his new position in Fairfax County.
- The citizens of the Upcounty are extremely grateful for the two new fire stations in Germantown and the temporary station that has provided much needed service to Clarksburg.
- Continuation of support for the construction of a new 6th district police station in the Upcounty (along with the extension of Watkins Mill Road) is recommended.

Schools:

Excellent public schools are a hallmark of our county and our public schools' national reputation continues to be a primary motivating factor for young families and businesses moving into our community. In that context, we urge you to support the modernization of our public school facilities by

County Executive Leggett
April 19, 2013
Page Three of Three

working collaboratively with the Board of Education to undertake capital projects that will maintain the quality of our schools. As an area of strong population growth, the Upcounty will require a new middle school (Arora Hills) and other expansion/modernization projects soon.

Libraries:

- UCAB is pleased to see the renovation of the Gaithersburg Library and the reconstruction of the Olney Library is looking good as well. We look forward to the re-opening of them both later in the year.
- The Clarksburg library is one of six in the CIP. It is strongly encouraged that by 2015 there will be an appropriation for the Clarksburg Library.

Parks and Recreation:

- Funding for the Germantown Town Center Urban Park should be continued.
- Funding for the design and construction of the Magruder Trail from the Damascus Recreational Park to the Damascus town center is supported by UCAB.
- Timely development of the Seneca Crossing Park on the 26 acres donated to the county for that purpose is strongly recommended.

Upcounty Regional Services Center

As you know, The Upcounty Regional Services Center (URSC) provides services for citizens and businesses of northern Montgomery County. The URSC's service area is the largest of the five centers with approximately 250 square miles or one-half of the County's land area. The Upcounty region has almost 300,000 people in the communities of Gaithersburg, Germantown, Clarksburg, Damascus, Goshen, Laytonsville, Derwood, North Potomac, Darnestown, Boyds, Montgomery Village, Barnesville, Dickerson, Poolesville, Washington Grove, Beallsville, Hyattstown and Tobytown. The facility continues to be the largest of the five centers in the County with 100,000 square feet of space, and 11 agencies (including the Regional Services Office) providing 19 different programs/services on a daily basis.

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) and the citizens of the Upcounty region appreciate the opportunity to offer these comments and recommendations and we look forward to having a more detailed discussion with you on April 23rd. Our discussions will include the above items as well as an overview of what impacts, or new opportunities and challenges may affect or change the county's directions. One of these areas we wish to pursue further is the county's economic development and job creation efforts, like attracting the FBI or other federal government agencies and/or large commercial corporations that serve as federal contractors to the Upcounty region. UCAB is pleased to be having this face-to-face meeting with you and we thank you in advance for this opportunity.

Sincerely,



Kevin E. Linck
Chair



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

May 21, 2013

The Honorable Isiah Leggett
Montgomery County Executive
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

We would like to clarify a statement that was made in our April 19th letter that was sent to you in preparation for our meeting with you on April 23rd. On page two of that letter, we gave our perspective on the Midcounty Corridor Highway or M-83 road project. The last statement in that discussion was that “The majority of respondents to last year’s MCDOT public workshop supported the **M83 Master Plan Route**.” However, our statement has raised a question with some opponents to M83 who think our statement is misleading.

We realize that the tally of written comments was from that particular public workshop and we also realize that the sentiment expressed at that event did not reflect the opinion of the community at-large, but only that of the people who attended the workshop. The May 2013 Draft Environmental Effects Report reflects this in its “Public Involvement” Section, pages 9-2 and 9-3.

As clarification, the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board was reiterating that the majority of written comments submitted by those attending MCDOT’s June 6, 2012 public workshop favored Alternative 9A or the Master Plan Alignment.

We take our representation of the Upcounty community’s views seriously and want to make sure that we convey them accurately. Thank you again for the opportunity to discuss our community’s priorities with you.

Sincerely,

Kevin Linck
Chair

cc: Montgomery County Council

*Upcounty Regional
Services Center*



UPCOUNTY REGIONAL SERVICES CENTER

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Catherine E. Matthews
Director

Dear Community Friend,

I want to thank the members of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) for their dedication to ensuring that their communities are heard on the various important issues that are impacting residents, businesses, places of worship, and small neighborhoods in the northern part of Montgomery County and countywide.

The Board strives to be inclusive and encourages residents from all interests and demographic groups to stay informed and get involved in their community. One easy way to do that is to attend the meetings of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board to learn what the pressing issues of the day are and to share your creative ideas for resolving them. The Board reserves time on their monthly meeting agendas to hear from residents and is interested in knowing what you think.

There is a lot of talent in our community and we need you to share it in order to nurture the Upcounty region as it continues to evolve in the years ahead. As I have said before, our neighborhoods hold untapped resources like you who are skilled in technology, construction trades, the biosciences, landscaping, teaching, and emergency response, or those of you who have that special knack for getting to the core of the issue and encouraging a balanced discussion.

I also want to thank the many County and State officials, departmental staff, and civic leaders for the time and expertise that they generously give to help clarify the issues for the Board and to explore possible solutions.

UCAB has represented this region and county well, and I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work with them. Join us. We look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Catherine Matthews
Regional Services Director

Upcounty Regional Services Boundary Map



Proudly serving over 280,000 residents of Barnesville, Beallsville, Boyds, Clarksburg, Damascus, Darnestown, Derwood, Dickerson, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Goshen, Laytonsville, Montgomery Village, North Potomac, Poolesville, Tobytown and Washington Grove.

The Upcounty Regional Services Center

The Upcounty Regional Services Center (URSC) is a 100,000 square foot facility that, in 2012-2013, housed 10 county agencies and 10 community partner agencies who together offered 28 different services. The Center is located at 12900 Middlebrook Road in Germantown, Maryland and provides a county presence for the northern region of Montgomery County where a third of the county's population or more than 280,000 people reside. The service area encompasses approximately 200 square miles and is bordered on the north by Frederick County, on the east by the Olney area, on the south by the Shady Grove Metro area and Rockville, and on the west by the Potomac River.

Administration Office

The Center is anchored by the Upcounty Regional Services Office (URSO) that functions as a link to the County Executive's Office; coordinates policy making and service delivery that focus on the particular needs of the Upcounty area; offers effective and timely problem-solving assistance to neighborhoods, individuals, community organizations, businesses, and agencies; and coordinates service delivery and assistance to the agencies housed in the Center. More specifically, the office offers an effective, timely liaison between Montgomery County and its citizens and businesses, and works with individuals, community groups, regional citizens advisory boards, and other public agencies to:

- research and disseminate information;
- identify and assess regional problems and issues and facilitate solutions;
- bring community perspective to major policy issues;
- assist with site evaluations for public facilities;
- promote a sense of community; and
- provide general on-site supervision of the center and build collaboration among partner agencies.

Major services provided to the public by the URSO this year included:

- providing information and making referrals for county and other governmental entities about local programs, activities, and community issues;
- assisting individuals, groups, and neighborhoods in developing solutions to local problems;
- assisting new non-profits as they get established and build capacity to provide services;
- leveraging funds/resources for community-based initiatives (i.e. transit station safety);
- providing a county government presence and serving as the public's regional access point for communicating with county government;
- serving as one regional repository and the public's point-of-access for government and regional planning documents (master plans, sector plans, county budgets, Capital Improvements Program, maps, Mid-County Corridor Study, etc.);
- providing education and strategic-planning assistance to groups, neighborhoods and communities for local issues; and
- disseminating center and community information and special announcements through the center's webpage, mailing lists, e-newsletter and web-based events calendar.

In a broader effort to bridge the gap between citizen needs and county public services, the Upcounty Regional Services Director regularly looks for opportunities to bring relevant services from a variety of other agencies and organizations to the Center.

Other Center Agencies & Services in 2011-2012:

Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County

301-942-7700

Provides dispute prevention, resolution and education to individuals and community organizations. Call to schedule an appointment or visit www.crcmc.org

Gilchrist Welcome Center

240-777-6950

This welcome center for new residents offers information and referral services, County programs and services provided by the County government as well as community organizations and non-profits. At the Upcounty Regional Services Center, the Gilchrist Center offers English as a second language (ESOL), citizenship preparation classes and pro bono legal services. Call for more information regarding other upcoming programs or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist

Office of Community Partnerships

240-777-2503

The County's Liaison to faith communities offers information and problem-solving assistance primarily to places of worship in order to encourage inclusiveness and engagement in county government initiatives and processes and other civic activities. www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cec

Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP)

301-916-5946

As a contract partner to the County's Department of Housing and Community Affairs, HIP provides foreclosure intervention counseling for Montgomery County homeowners. Bi-monthly foreclosure prevention workshops are provided followed by a one-on-one appointment with a certified housing counselor to discuss options available for families to remain in their homes or transition into other sustainable housing arrangements. Bilingual counseling services are available. www.hiphomes.org

MontgomeryWorks (Department of Economic Development/Division of Workforce Services)

240-777-2050

MontgomeryWorks is Montgomery County's "One-Stop Career Center," where the State and County work together to provide free employment and training services to job seekers and employers in one place. For job seekers, the center provides computer access, workshops, job listings, access to career fairs and other career resources. For employers, the center offers employer recruitment events, and employment supportive services. www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ded

Peppertree Children's Center

301-540-1170

Montgomery County, as part of a commitment to families and children, provides space in many public buildings for community child care. Peppertree Children's Center is a contractor to the Department of Health & Human Services and offers full-time and part-time care for children ages 6 weeks through 12 years. Morning preschool is also offered. NAEYC accredited. www.peppertreechildrenscenters.com

Department of Health and Human Services

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs

Housing Stabilization Services/Emergency Services

240-777-4448

- Rental assistance
- Eviction prevention
- Foreclosure avoidance
- Court ordered evictions
- Past due or disconnected utilities
- Burial assistance
- Information and referral for food and prescriptions
- Homeless assessment services for families with children

Income Support Programs

240-777-3420

- Temporary Cash Assistance for families
- Food Stamp Program
- Transitional Emergency, Medical and Housing Assistance (TEMHA) for residents who are totally disabled and cannot work
- Medical Assistance

Public Health

240-777-3380

- Maternal and Child case management and home visitation
- “Access” nurse service, including assisting clients with Health Choice access as well as enrolling women into the County maternity program and acting as a health resource to walk-in clients
- Children’s immunization clinics
- Pregnancy tests, information and referral

Service Eligibility Unit (SEU)

240-777-3591

- Helps find health coverage for uninsured Montgomery County residents through: Maryland Children’s Health Program, Prenatal Care, Care for Kids, Dental
- Provides information and phone numbers for food, shelter, and clothing needs (Financial eligibility required)

Dental Program

240-777-3290

- General dental services to children 0-17 years
- General dental services to maternity clients enrolled in the HHS maternity program
- Emergency service limited to preliminary evaluation and provided to children and seniors who are established clients.

Child Welfare

240-777-1742

Continuing protective service, foster care service, case management, and home visitation; assist with family reunification. Aftercare services, in-home monitoring of children returned to families.

Guide Youth Services

301-972-0307

Serves youth and families from five school cluster communities in Clarksburg, Germantown, Damascus, Gaithersburg, and Poolesville. Services include individual and family counseling, psycho-educational/skills groups, information and referral, crisis intervention, community outreach/education, and tutoring. Visit www.guideprogram.org

Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF)

240-777-2746

This regional CUPF office offers scheduling of meeting rooms at the Upcounty Regional Services Center, school facilities, library meeting rooms, Executive Office Building space, Council Office Building space, and school fields for community use in the Upcounty area. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cupf

Volunteer Center

240-777-2600

Individuals, groups, and businesses can register for volunteer opportunities and offer their skills and talents. Student Service Learning (SSL) students can find projects and get credits to fulfill their graduation requirements. Visit www.montgomeryserves.org.

Office of Human Resources**240-777-5000**

The Center serves as the main training site for the County's Office of Human Resources where county employees are offered workshops, seminars and other training activities as scheduled.

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ohr

Montgomery County Public Schools***Office of Organizational Development***

www.montgomeryschools.org

301-601-0300

The mission of the Office is the organizational development of a leading, self-renewing organization focused on achieving the school system goals by strengthening the knowledge, skills, beliefs, and practices of Montgomery County Public School's staff and stakeholders.

Transportation Services**301-840-8130**

This office coordinates and administers transportation services for Montgomery County Public Schools.

Maryland Leadership Workshops**301-444-8623**

Staff work with individual students and small groups at the middle school and high school levels to develop leadership skills during a summer camp experience. The program is in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Association of Student Councils, and Leadership Maryland.

Department of Recreation, Northern Region Office**240-777-6840**

A satellite office is provided at the Center for a manager who oversees the various activities and programs offered at recreation centers in the northern part of the county. www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec

Maryland Senior Olympics**240-777-8080**

The Montgomery County branch office is located at the Center. For information about the program, upcoming events, and event results, visit www.mdseniorolympics.org

*Prepared by the Upcounty Regional Services Center
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