



Committee: Directly to Council

Committee Review: N/A

Staff: Carolyn Chen, Legislative Analyst *CC*

Purpose: Receive briefing and have discussion – no vote expected

Keywords: #RSC #CEC

AGENDA ITEM #4

June 20, 2023

Discussion

SUBJECT

Triannual Lunchtime Meeting with Regional Services Center (RSC) Directors with RSC Key Staff

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

- Jewru Bandeh, Director, [East-County Regional Services Center](#)
 - Ayanna King, Project Manager
 - Cicero Salles, White Oak Project Manager
- Luisa F. Cardona, Director, [Mid-County Regional Services Center](#)
 - Sidney Cooper, Marketing Manager
 - Crystal Ruiz, Program Manager
- Pete Fosselman, Director, [Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center](#)
 - Lynn Barclay, Newsletter Editor
 - TJ Dant, Program Manager
- Jacob Newman, Director, [Silver Spring Region Services Center](#)
 - Carson Henry, Urban District Chief of Operations
 - Nahom Tekle, Regional Projects Manager
- Greg Wims, Director, [Upcounty Regional Office](#)
 - Jake Adler, Community Projects Manager

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

- Fariba Kassiri, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive (CEX)
- Ken Hartman, Director of Strategic Partnerships, CEX
- Eva Acevedo, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- The mission of the [five Regional Services Centers](#) (RSCs) is to represent the County in their respective regions by providing effective, timely liaison between Montgomery County and its residents and businesses.
- The RSC Directors and key staff will be in attendance to discuss the following prompt: **What is one 'big idea' that would be a gamechanger in your region if implemented in the next two years?**
- Future Lunchtime Meetings with RSC Directors are scheduled for: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 & February 27, 2024

This report contains:

RSC Director & Staff Region Reference Map

©1

RSC & Council Districts Reference Matrix

©2

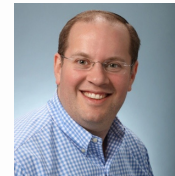
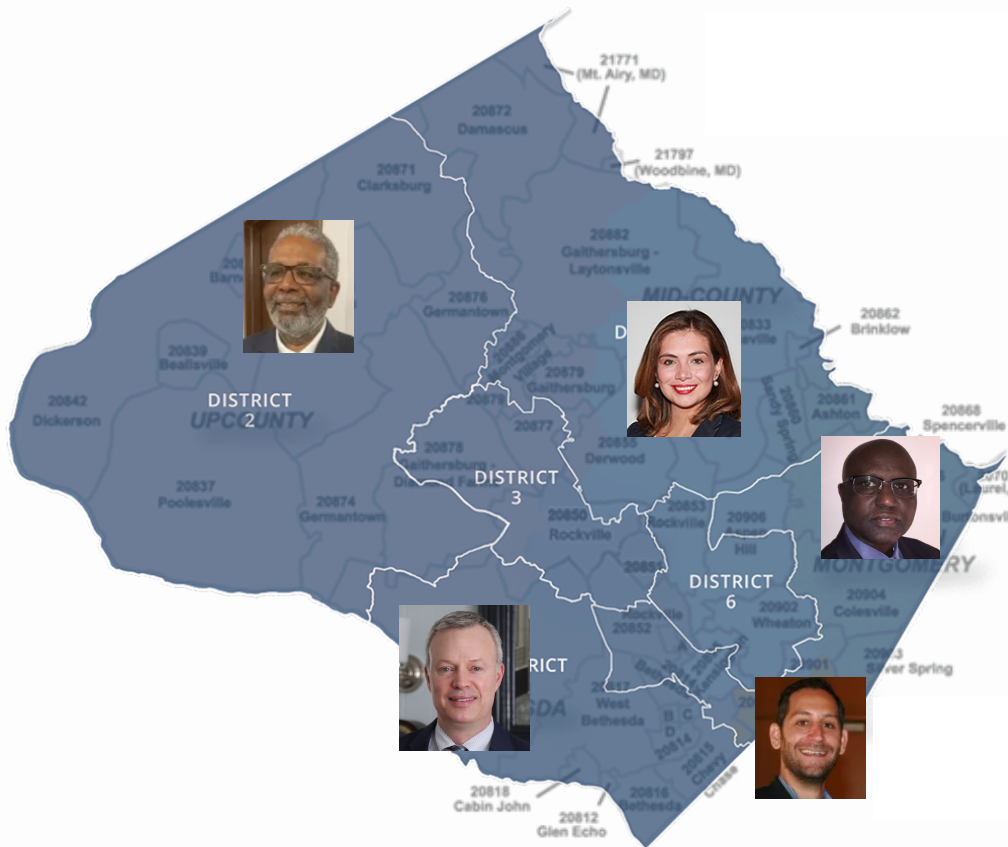
Community Engagement Cluster Monthly Updates – April 2023

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REGIONAL SERVICES CENTERS



UPCOUNTY

Greg Wims, Director
Jake Adler, Community Projects Manager



MID-COUNTY

Luisa Cardona, Director
Sidney Cooper, Marketing Manager
Crystal Ruiz, Program Manager



EASTERN MONTGOMERY

Jewru Bandeh, Director
Ayanna King, Project Manager
Cicero Salles, White Oak Project Manager



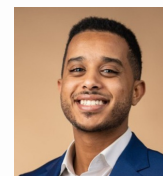
BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE

Pete Fosselman, Director
Lynn Barclay, Newsletter Editor
TJ Dant, Program Manager



SILVER SPRING

Jacob Newman, Director
Carson Henry, Urban District COO
Nahom Tekle, Regional Projects Manager





REGIONAL SERVICES CENTERS & COUNCIL DISTRICTS

		COUNCIL DISTRICT							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
REGIONAL SERVICE CENTER	UPCOUNTY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ALL DISTRICTS
	MID-COUNTY						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	EASTERN MONTGOMERY					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
	SILVER SPRING				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CLUSTER

MONTHLY UPDATES



April 2023

General

- ❖ Recruitment for new Urban District Manager was initiated.
- ❖ Attended Covid update meetings, Land Use Committee meetings, RSO Directors' meetings, and Senior Staff meetings.
- ❖ Coordinated a "Day with Gabe" with CM Alborno's office by creating agenda, arranging meetings with various stakeholders, and securing space.
- ❖ Had a kick-off meeting for new website.
- ❖ Met with Manager of Avenel Community Association to discuss pedestrian safety.
- ❖ Attended multiple FY24 budget meetings for Community Engagement, Bethesda Urban Partnership (BUP), and Urban District.
- ❖ Hosted CIP forum with the County Executive.
- ❖ Attended Ethics Training.
- ❖ Met with board member of the Civic Federation about promotion opportunities.
- ❖ Met with new Citizens' Advisory Board Member.
- ❖ Met with Delegate Korman and multi-family community board members to discuss interior fire sprinklers.

Social Media

- ❖ Sent out bi-weekly newsletters, updated website, Facebook, and Twitter.
- ❖ Monitored Nextdoor for County related issues.

Building & Grounds

- ❖ Broken ADA railings repaired by DGS.
- ❖ Garage 49 roof repairs and new courtyard continue.

Bethesda Urban District & Bethesda Urban Partnership

- ❖ Attended Bethesda Downtown Implementation Committee Meeting.
- ❖ Attended Bethesda Urban Partnership Meeting.
- ❖ Attended monthly Urban District Stakeholders Meeting including D2 police, BUP, chamber, B-CC High and Elem staff, and Fire & Rescue.
- ❖ Attended Arts & Entertainment Board meeting.
- ❖ Enforced business dumping trash on sidewalk of Elm Street.
- ❖ Prepared for Urban District Budget discussion and attended Council meeting.

BUP BTS Metrics

- ❖ Staff worked two Earth Month Outreach events at Maizon and 7001 Arlington.
- ❖ Attended Bethesda Chamber Board, Committee Meetings and Networking events.
- ❖ Attended COG Car Free Day, Bike to Work Day, Employer.
- ❖ Outreach, and Rideshare Virtual Meetings.
- ❖ Attended monthly Montgomery County Bicycle Action Group Meeting, organized by MCDOT.
- ❖ Attended meeting with Custom Ink in Bethesda regarding Walk & Ride event shirts.
- ❖ Volunteered for weekend clean up event at Glen Echo Park as part of community outreach.
- ❖ Attended virtual MCDOT, Commuter Services Meeting to discuss new Walk & Ride website with County IT.
- ❖ Continued follow up with RMA on the new Circulator app that is available to download.
- ❖ Assisted with check of construction projects for pedestrian access.
- ❖ Staff and Advisory Committee Chairperson Walk Around to speak with businesses near Bike to Work Day location to inform them of event and offer opportunity for them to get involved.
- ❖ Promoted MCDOT initiatives at the County Executive CIP Budget event at the B-CC Regional Services.
- ❖ Communicated transportation updates to the public, including Earth Month, Bike to Work Day, Metro's budget, MCDOT FareShare transit subsidy program for employers, Metro's Better Bus initiative, MCDOT Bike Safety Classes and Metro/MCDOT service changes and public meetings.
- ❖ Staff continued outreach to property managers to schedule Commuter Information Day events.

- ❖ BTS newsletter emailed to closed to 2,600 contacts.

BUP Maintenance and Landscaping in the Urban District

- ❖ Mulching
- ❖ Brick repairs ongoing
- ❖ Collect recycling twice a week
- ❖ Rodent control efforts
- ❖ Graffiti and sticker removal
- ❖ GIS updates
- ❖ Event assistance (Bernard Ebb)
- ❖ Plantings at Imagination Stage
- ❖ Planting at Weiner Plaza
- ❖ BCC Rescue Squad cleanup
- ❖ Verizon vehicle tracking software installation
- ❖ Fountain and irrigation activation at Veteran's Park
- ❖ Sidewalk repairs

BUP Ambassador Team

- ❖ Assist with overflowing trash and recycling
- ❖ Citizen Assists/Contacts: 1,672
- ❖ Assist Marketing team with event support
- ❖ Police Assistance (accidents, traffic assistance, lockouts): 5
- ❖ Light survey once per month

Marketing and Communications

- ❖ Bethesda Film Fest (March 24-25) at Imagination Stage, and an after party was held at Rock Bottom.
- ❖ Bernard/Ebb Songwriting Awards (April 21) at the Bethesda Blues & Jazz Club. 400 patrons were in attendance.
- ❖ Bethesda Fine Arts Festival (May 13-14) 100+ artists have been selected.
- ❖ Summer Concerts (Friday evenings from 6-8pm, beginning on May 19) live music will return to the Norfolk Avenue Streatery.
- ❖ Bethesda Painting Awards (June 8 – July 2) will be held from June 8 – July 2 at Gallery B.
- ❖ BUP Strategic Plan - focus groups have been held with the BUP Board, A&E Board, BTS Board, BUP Staff, Retail Business Owners, Developers, Downtown Residents, County Partners, and Visitors. Our online survey has had more than 1,000 respondents.

White Flint/Pike District/North Bethesda/Pike District Partnership

- ❖ Attended ARPA-H updates with CM Stewart and Pike District Partnership.
- ❖ Met with marketing team to review the budget and plan spring and summer events.
- ❖ Met with Community Engagement Cluster Staff to discuss marketing billing.

Citizens Advisory Board

- ❖ Met on April 17th with Planning Board Staff as guest speaker to discuss new study for Friendship Heights.

Community Issues & Other

- ❖ Met with local resident stakeholder to discuss current land development affecting East Bethesda.

Friendship Heights and Friendship Heights Alliance

- ❖ Continued recruitment for the Friendship Heights Advisory Committee.
- ❖ Attended Friendship Heights Transportation Management District Advisory Committee meeting.
- ❖ Met with Community Engagement Cluster staff to finalize billing for the new FH district.

Montgomery County Department of Transportation Good Hope Community Public Meeting

- ❖ MCDOT led a hybrid public meeting on April 26th and presented the latest progress on the Good Hope Road Shared Use Path Extension. This meeting provided an opportunity for residents to learn about progress on the project (at 35% design stage), update on the proposed pedestrian and bicycle improvements, project cost estimates and other potential impacts. Attendees had the opportunity to give feedback, discuss concerns, ask questions, and provide comments regarding the project.

Burtonsville Crossing Shopping Center Celebration

- ❖ EDENS, in close coordination with the County held a major public event at the center in Burtonsville to announce another major anchor tenant (Domain Fitness and Performance in addition to Sprout and T.J. Maxx) and groundbreaking for the community plaza. Despite heavy rain, the event was well attended by local/County and State elected officials, EDENS' business partners, community groups, stakeholders, and residents.

Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County East County Project Proposal

- ❖ I met and discussed with AHCMC about their new initiative that seeks to resource artists and communities in underserved areas of Montgomery County through a year-long artist in residency program to take place in three Regional Service Areas: Mid-County, Upcounty and East-County. Based on the premise that arts and culture are essential to healthy communities, this effort can create an entry point to the collective envisioning of neighborhood goals and strengthen community belonging. Each selected artist in residence will be tasked with engaging their neighbors in ongoing conversations and activities through the lens of a creative practice. AHCMC is seeking support in the successful implementation of this project in East-County. The partnership and involvement of the ECRSO will be essential in ensuring that AHCMC designs a residency program that supports artists in engaging with the diversity of the (Eastern) region in a meaningful capacity.

FY25 Capital Improvements Program Public Hearing

- ❖ The (ECRSO and East County Citizens Advisory Board sponsored East County FY25 CIP Forum (the first of six held county-wide) was successfully held in White Oak on April 12th. This well attended event provided a presentation/discussion with the County Executive and staff from the Office of Management and Budget. The forum concluded with four round table group discussions and report-out focused on Transportation, Education, Environment and Parks, and Recreation/Libraries and General Government.

Home and Community Based Services Workforce Task Force (HCBSWTF) Final Report Officially Delivered

- ❖ The HCBSWTF committees' (Partnerships, Wages and Benefits and Communications) final report highlighting preliminary recommendations on policy and programming was formally presented to the County Executive and Council's HHS committee chair on April 14th. The formal in-person presentation of the final report included a power point presentation, which was attended by the CAO and ACAOs, DHHS Acting Director, Executive Director of Worksource Montgomery and HCBSW Taskforce members. Background: In 2021, the County's Age Friendly Workgroup held roundtable discussions that focused attention on the challenges associated with the training, employment and retainment of skilled home and community-based health care workers. This body recommended that the County Council establish a task force to consider potential avenues the County and our public-private partners can stimulate improvements.

East County Food HUB/ Worksource Montgomery Mobile Career Center

- ❖ The WSM Mobile Career Center on wheels was onsite at the Enclave Apartments with the East County HUB (Kingdom Fellowship AME) to deliver employment services directly to the residents of the apartment community. The services were provided in conjunction with the scheduled (Hub) monthly food and diaper distribution for this apartment community. The mobile center is equipped with workstations, including laptops, Wi-Fi access and is handicap accessible. We are planning on holding the Annual Enclave Community/Family Day by the end of the Summer in partnership with the East County HUB, MCPD/3D, Recreation, Council member Kristin Mink's Office, Enclave management and other community groups/providers.

Covid-19 Vaccination/Testing Clinics Continue

- ❖ The Department of Health and Human Services (in coordination with East County Regional Office) continues to hold free COVID-19 vaccination and testing clinics on Fridays at the East County Regional Services Center. ECRSC continues to publicize this health opportunity and services provided by the Mobilmedical Center and other community-based primary care providers in the region.

Stoneyhill Troubled Property Neighborhood Action Team

- ❖ The reactivated cross-departmental team tasked with addressing several quality-of-life related issues associated with a home on Stoneyhill Drive in Burnt Mills/White Oak meet and held a meeting with area residents on April 25th. A comprehensive (status) update on efforts by each department was provided, followed by input/comments from residents. There are long standing issues (all centered around this one residence) we are trying to resolve that are related to code enforcement, solid waste, animal welfare, unlawful (car) business activities, street parking. County departments engaged in the NAT efforts are: ECRSC, DHCA, DPS, MCPD/3D, Office of the County Attorney and D5 Councilmember's Office.

East County Development Projects/Activities

- ❖ The White Oak Planning Manager continues to work closely with the East County Regional Services Office Director, Planning, MCDOT, Permitting and other County departments/staff to monitor/track activities and help advance planned development projects within the White Oak Planning Area and other centers in the Eastern region. Major development projects in the pipeline include: White Oak Town Center, White Oak Apartments and Montgomery College all within the White Oak Master Plan Area, Burtonsville Crossing Shopping Center, Hillandale Gate and Local Park Renovation in Hillandale, US 29 BRT/FLASH System Phase 2 and New Hampshire BRT Planning.

Board Related: The East County Citizens Advisory Board's regular monthly meeting was held on April 5th. District 7 Councilmember Dawn Luedtke and Anthony Featherstone, and Worksource Montgomery Executive Director were guest speakers.

Budget Meetings: I attended and participated in many FY24 Operating Budget and FY25 CIP Budget related meetings with the Executive branch and County Council (Committees and Full Board) throughout the month of April.

Rotary International District 7620

- ❖ Donated Montgomery County Government Merchandise (Mugs, Water Bottles, etc.)
- ❖ 200 people throughout the state attended the conference.
- ❖ First time the conference was held in Montgomery County in 20 years.

Attended two Ramadan and EID Events

- ❖ EOB Office in Rockville.
- ❖ Mosque in Silver Spring.
- ❖ Gave brief remarks as the Upcounty Regional Director.

Interviewed candidates for the Administrative Assistant role in the office of the Community Engagement Cluster

- ❖ The new employee will start in May.

The County Executive held a meeting with the NAACP Youth Council

- ❖ I was invited, along with other Black Directors in Montgomery County Government.

Attended meeting in the Upcounty pertaining WUMCO and medical concerns in the greater Poolesville Area

Town Hall meeting regarding the CIP

- ❖ Approximately 90 people attended the town hall meeting.
- ❖ Meeting was held at the Upcounty Regional Service Center.

Help arrange Head Start recruiting efforts

- ❖ Goal was to encourage parents to enroll their children in Head Start next year.

Hosted a Sunday event for the staff from the Office of Environmental Protection

- ❖ Helped organize the distribution of over 200 Compost Bins at the Upcounty Regional Services Center.

Attended planning meetings regarding the 20th Anniversary of Black Rock Center for the Arts

- ❖ Gala will be held Saturday, May 20th.

Montgomery College Germantown Campus

- ❖ Attended an event where information was given out about NARCAN, and how it can save lives from Fentanyl overdose.
- ❖ 300 people attended the meeting.

Harriet Tubman Statue

- ❖ Toured the Button Farm in Germantown where the historic Harriet Tubman statue is on display for six weeks.
- ❖ Statue will leave there and go to the state of Alabama.

African American Health Program

- ❖ I am a committee member working on getting youth to attend the African American Health Program Annual Community Day.
- ❖ Summit will be held at the Germantown Montgomery County Campus on May 20th.

Juneteenth Celebration

- ❖ A member of the organizing committee for the Annual Juneteenth Celebration held at the Black Rock Center for the Arts in Germantown for the recurring year.
- ❖ Last year we had 2,000 attendees.

Silver Spring Region

❖ **Purple Line and Transportation**

RSD attended bi-weekly PL meetings for updates on construction and to convey concerns to MTA/MTS. Walked Bonifant Street with MTA/MTS, businesses and community members to discuss placement of catenary poles and concerns. They placement is concerning relative to lines of sight from Kefa Kafe.

❖ **Public Safety**

Discussed issues pertaining to regulation during the cannabis legalization task force meetings. Attended Youth Harm and summer programming planning meetings to provide insight in trends in downtown Silver Spring and the region. Attended the interdepartmental safety task force late night walk/inspections; nothing of significance to report.

❖ **Small Business Support and Economic Development**

Met and coordinated with Montgomery Hills for the Annual Street Festival – the event was an enormous success. Met with Housing and Community Development, PLCC and Main St America to discuss coordination of place-based management oversight and Main St designation process. Discussed redevelopment and affordable housing opportunities related to open solicitations and interest with relevant Departments and stakeholders. Met with MCEDC, WSM, and the Silver Spring Breweries to plan for next 6 months.

❖ **Administrative**

Met with BMT, Procurement, OCA, and others to address a number of administrative pieces including CEC Website redesign; Event solicitation; Lighting, stage and sound; and NDAs. Conducted interviews for Marketing Program Manager SSUD. Facilitated the SSTCi quarterly meeting to discuss programming. Joined budget preparation conversations and council hearing.

❖ **Responsible Hospitality Initiative**

Attended RHI Sociable Cities conference in New York. The gathering brought together leaders from across the Country who work in cities and commercial areas to discuss strategies and best practices relating to a range of issues from nighttime economy to marketing and tourism.

❖ **Community Events and Other Happenings**

- CIP Budget Forum with SSCAB.
- Met with members of the Oromo community to discuss opportunities to engage with the County.
- Discover Long Branch Event at Oak View Elementary School.
- Action Committee for Transit with Tracy Hadden Loh.
- Progress Place – monthly meeting of group members to coordinate efforts in services to unhoused individuals.
- Pride in the Plaza planning meetings.
- Presentation to UMD on community building and economic development.
- Panel Discussion on Youth Homelessness at the MoCo Reconnect Drop-in Center in Wheaton.
- MHP Groundbreaking in Forest Glen.

Silver Spring Urban District

❖ **Clean and Safe Initiatives**

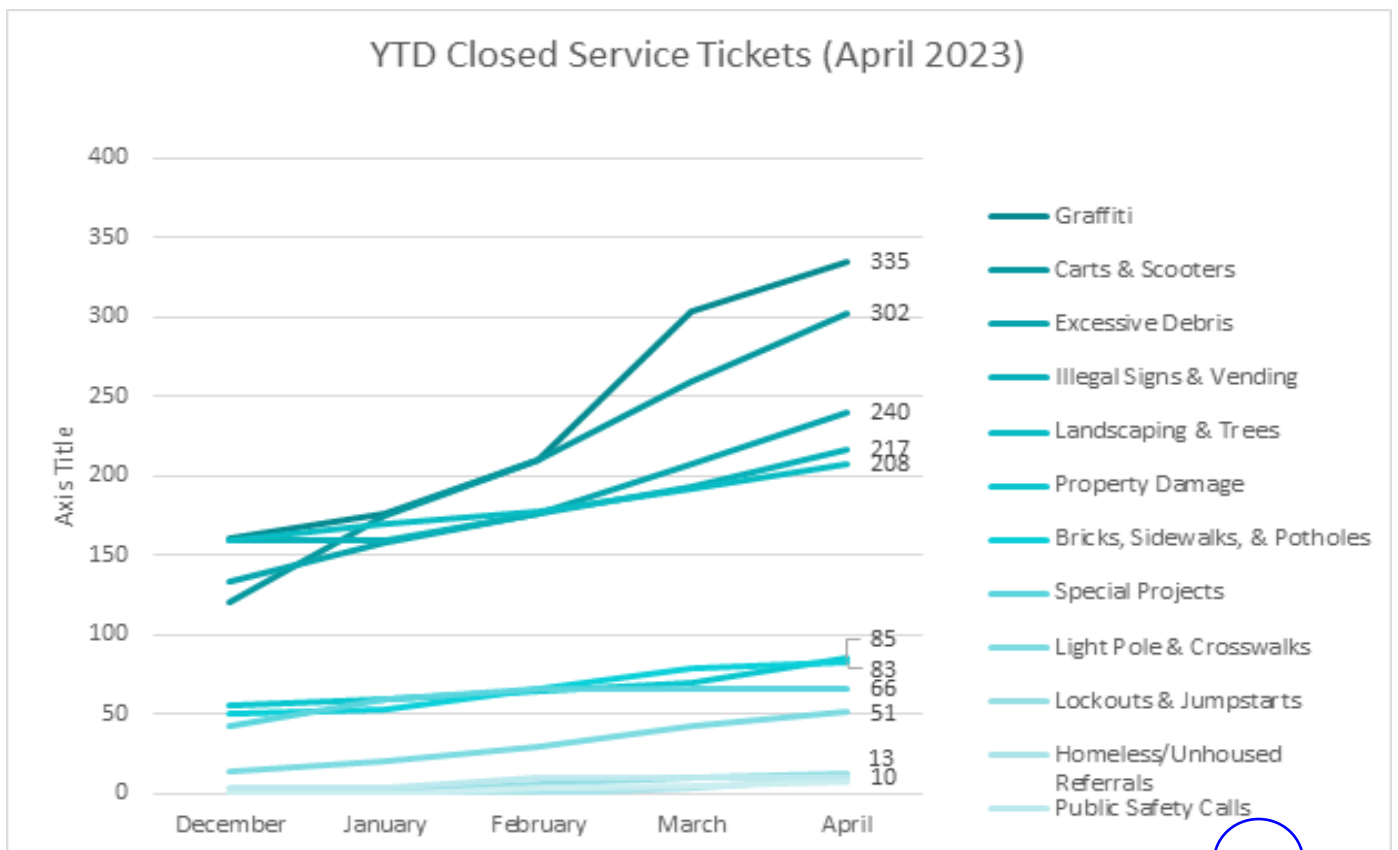
- Completed the Georgia Avenue & Fenton Beautification Initiative which included:
 - Repair of several major trip hazards, sidewalk collapses.
 - Painting of Light Poles.
- Completed the Tree Health Intervention Project to address A-Frame signs and other items (e.g. wiring lighting) attached to the tree trunks.
- Implemented landscape enhancement and tree relocation projects along Fenton and Wayne Avenue in advance of major native install and seasonal plantings along Georgia Avenue.

❖ **General and Administrative Initiatives**

- Welcomed a team of new hires:
 - Program Specialist – Jeffrey Kean (Formerly from DOT Traffic).
 - Maintenance and Service Supervisor – Norman Nelson (Formerly from DOT SS Depot).
 - Maintenance and Service Supervisor – Chanda Mukuka (Internal Promotion).
 - Public Service Worker – Walter Cruz (Formerly Contractor to Silver Spring Civic Center).
- SSUD modified the internal coordination and management structure of the department to be more in line with County classifications, scope of responsibility, and MCGEO leadership aspiration projects.
- Launched a process to upgrade to the SSUD Service Request ticket tracking system. The result of the work will produce a real-time dashboard for team deployment and special interventions.

❖ **Inter-Agency Coordination and Community News**

- Coordinate with DGS and Montgomery Parks to guide the grand opening on Gene Lynch Park. Identified opportunities and efficiencies for partnership to ensure a smooth transition of maintenance for the completed park, a clear billing estimation process, and streamlined accountability for programming responsibilities/processes.
- Continued collaborations with SEPH and MCPD to support and strategic engagement CIT team implementation/ implement enhanced support of outreach efforts for homeless along several areas of South Silver Spring in response to emergence of encampments across the district.
- Completed a community safety walk with Fenton Village Inc. (FVI) and MCPD to help guide FVI’s lighting and camera installation efforts.
- Finalized planning for 2023, National Bike to Work Day will be held on Friday, May 19, and the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) will sponsor seven pit stops throughout the County as part of the Washington Region’s participation in the event .



Silver Spring Arts and Entertainment, Marketing, and Events

Festivals and Events. A sample of events in April included:

- STEM Adventures 4/1/2023
- Free Photo With The Easter Bunny! 4/1/2023
- John E Marlow Guitar Series presents Bokyoung Byun 4/1/2023
- SILVER SPRING B&O RAILROAD STATION OPEN HOUSE 4/1/2023
- PRJC FREE ZOOMED JAZZ CLASS: JOE "KING" OLIVER sponsored by Potomac River Jazz Club 4/3/2023
- Free Bluegrass Night with DMV Collective 4/6/2023
- Masego - You Never Visit Me Tour 4/7/2023
- National Beer Day 4/7/2023
- Free Live Music -- Silver Spring American Legion 4/8/2023
- The Easter Brunch at Zinnia 4/9/2023
- A REPURPOSED CIRCUS 4/11/2023
- One Night Only: LITTLE RICHARD: I AM EVERYTHING 4/11/2023
- Second Wednesdays: Jazz at the Kramer 4/12/2023
- Silver Spring Contra Dance - 10th Anniversary Celebration 4/13/2023
- Karaoke Friday at McGintys! 4/14/2023
- Aly & AJ: With Love From Tour 2023 4/15/2023
- Montgomery County Progressive Happy Hour 4/15/2023
- CKC Farming Open House 4/15/2023
- ADVISE & CONSENT in 35mm 4/15/2023
- Drag Brunch "At the Movies" 4/15/2023
- Ask a Master Gardener 4/15/2023
- Sean Paul - Scorcha Tour 4/16/2023
- A Piece for Peace 4/16/2023
- Lil Wayne 4/18/2023
- Writing the Documentary Proposal 4/18/2023
- Launching Your Digital Platform in Today's Job Market 4/19/2023
- Concert & Food Truck Thursday 4/20/2023
- GNOME PUN INTENDED " BELGIAN CELEBRATION 4/21/2023
- We Call the Earth Our Mother: Stories of Thanks, with Dovie Thomason 4/21/2023
- Life Of Movement - World Dance Show 4/22/2023
- Brett Young - Five, TOUR, Three, Two, One Tour 4/22/2023
- Montgomery County Youth Media Festival 4/22/2023
- CREATE Arts Center's Paint the Town Fundraising Party 4/22/2023
- Symphony of the Potomac Spring 2023 4/23/2023
- All Wiggged Out Premiere 4/27/2023
- All Wiggged Out - The Musical 4/27/2023
- The Gayle Harrod Band at D.C. Blues Society Happy Hour 4/28/2023
- One Night Only: CLUE (1985) with Live Shadowcast 4/29/2023
- First Time Homebuyer Seminar 4/29/2023
- Downtown Silver Spring Chalk Fest 4/29/2023

Advisory Groups

❖ Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board

The SSCAB full Board meeting on April 10th was canceled so that members could attend the CIP Budget Forum. SSCAB committee on 4/24 focused on Rent Stabilization Bills.

❖ Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board

The SSUDAC monthly meeting on April 25th welcomed updates from Department of Recreation of the Silver Spring Recreation and Aquatic Center, 3rd District police updates and the Urban District report.

MidCounty

❖ Public Safety

- The Wheaton and Glenmont areas have seen a sharp and dramatic rise in teen overdoses and crime including open air markets. We know that this is largely connected to the fentanyl crisis. The last month we had over 6 overdoses along the plaza area in Wheaton alone.
- In May, the Mid-County director called together an inter-department youth intervention meeting with MCPD, Youth Positive, Behavioral Health and Crisis Services, and the Drop-in Center. In this meeting we discussed how to collaboratively work together to address the crisis.
- MCPD has increased surveillance and police presence in these areas.
- Youth Positive and Behavioral Health Teams also planned on increasing street outreach to the Glenmont and Wheaton areas.
- The Youth Intervention group will begin to meet monthly.

❖ University Blvd Corridor

- Mid-County Director is working to help promote engagement in University Boulevard Corridor Workshops, Dennis Avenue to Amherst Avenue throughout the months of April and May.

❖ Business

- Worked with the grand opening of Floor and Décor in Aspen Hill and 5 additional grand opening in the Olney area during April and May.
- Worked with the Business Center to contract a customer management relations system that can potentially be used by both the business center team and the RSO's.

❖ Community

- Attended and shared information about the regional offices at the AGWG Civic Association. Learned about their key issues of concern which are government responsiveness and the SHA projects in the area. Connected them with the correct SHA contract.

❖ State Delegation

- Met with Delegate Jared Solomon is discussing the needs of Mid-County and opportunities for cross collaboration specifically within the Wheaton area and with Westfield Mall.
- As a follow-up Meet with Westfield Mall marketing team, delegates team and WUD team to discuss more place making opportunities between the two entities.

Wheaton Urban District

❖ Marketing/Businesses

- The WUD hosted a St. Patrick's Day celebration in conjunction with local business limerick pub and the WUD partnered with DEP to host GreenFest in downtown Wheaton on April 23. Both events had a good attendance despite the weather.
- Spring Fling was on May 21, 2023.
- Our summer concerts powered by Chuck Levin will be every Friday night starting in June.
- Unfortunately, the Taste of Wheaton had to be canceled this year because we were unable to get needed vendors under contracts in time. We also want to work more extensively with local businesses to tailor the event so that it can be a more added benefit to the local restaurants versus a hardship which many had expressed it being.
- Collaboration Council/Montgomery Reconnect Dorp in Center. The WUD is working with the Crop in Center teams for them to host their first Wheaton Festival in the Plaza.
- WorkSource will host a job fair in the Wheaton building and the plaza will have the mobile unit on site.

❖ **Marian Fryer Plaza and Public Events Space**

- The WUD in conjunction with CUPF is in the process of hiring a program specialist and two event monitors for the plaza. We are also considering hiring temporary contracts to be able to fill current demand and the need to program the space. The Director is working with grants management for the fee assistance program to be operational.

❖ **Arts & Entertainment**

- The WUD is working with Ken Hartman and our A&E contractor to design the structure of the WUD A&E board.

❖ **Retail Space**

- DGS and the CE walked the space and reviewed a variety of options. DGS is pulling numbers together for us to better decide what resources are needed to make the space usable since local market demand has not resulted in any rental.

❖ **Childcare Space**

- We provide M-NCPPC with \$1.5 million to help support the build out of a childcare space on the third floor. M-NCPPC has noted various hurdles in getting the RFP for the space out DGS has provided technical guidance and support, but the project has not yet moved forward.

❖ **First Annual Wheaton Sustainable Innovation Zone**

- The WSIZ hosted the first community celebration where updates on the program and plans moving forward were shared. Building on a project funded by the U.S. Department of Energy through the Inclusive Energy Innovation Prize, Bethesda Green, Global Urban Development (GUD), Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) and One Montgomery Green works to strengthen economic development efforts and climate resilience and promote innovation in a diverse urban community through the creation of a Sustainable Innovation Zone.

Advisory Boards

❖ **The Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB)**

- MCCAB has concluded its council listening sessions and heard from MCPD on speed cameras and Montgomery Park on conversion of tennis field to pickle ball courts in East Norbeck Park. Priorities for MCCAB moving forward are centered around public safety. MCCAB has also heard from the Oak Chapel Hub closure and wrote a letter of support asking Council to reconsider funding.

❖ **Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee (WUDAC)**

- WUDAC will have their retreat in June. WUDAC heard from SEPH during their April meeting and from the Office of Food Systems Resilience in its May meeting. WUDAC is interested in exploring how to bring Farmers Markets to the area.

ADVISORY BOARD ACTIVITIES/ISSUES

- ❖ The Girl Power Contest winners were selected at the end of April and will be announced in May. One winner and honorary mention were selected for individuals in each of the four categories. (Elementary school, middle school, high school, and adult.) The contest ran from March 1-31 and was co-sponsored by Montgomery County Library and Friends of the Library. This year's question was, "We now have 6 women on the Montgomery County Council. What advice would you give them to make sure our community is a place where women and girls can feel safe and encouraged?" Forty people participated in the contest.
- ❖ The monthly separation and divorce seminar was held on Wednesday, April 5.
- ❖ The 6-week in person self-defense class was held throughout April. A total of 17 people (a sellout) participated in the comprehensive self-defense class.
- ❖ The Commission participated in numerous community events including the Prom Dress Giveaway, sponsored by the Recreation Department, Respectfest, sponsored by the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, and GLOW, sponsored by Community Bridges.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- ❖ The legislative and victim services subcommittees met on April 19. The legislative committee reviewed the trafficking bills that passed at the state level as well as the County's bodyworks law. The victim services subcommittee discussed enhancements to the county's services pathway for human trafficking victims. The committee is looking to ensure that all trafficking victims are sent to Shady Grove Adventist Hospital for assistance.

SOCIAL MEDIA

- ❖ The Commission's FB page has 2,228 followers. Twitter has 1,038 followers. We have been more active on Instagram and have 1,614 followers. The CFW has 50 YouTube subscribers. The weekly newsletter now goes to 21,318 people.

Community Events/ Issues

- ❖ Julian Norment, African American Liaison, left his position with the County on April 24 to pursue other opportunities. He served as the African American Liaison for over ten years (anniversary was January 2023). The African American Liaison position is open for recruitment until June 6, 2023 ([IRC58160](#)) and expect the position to be filled quickly.
- ❖ Ramadan (March 23 - April 21) and Eid (three days following Ramadan) – OCP partnered with the Montgomery County Muslim Foundation & Montgomery County Muslim Council to host the County’s Annual Ramadan Iftar in the EOB Cafeteria on April 4 from 5:45pm to 8pm. Over 400 were in attendance. In addition, there were over 20 Iftars in the County attended by OCP’s Asian Liaison, Faith Liaison, and/or Middle Eastern Liaisons.
- ❖ Arab American Heritage Month (April) – Middle Eastern American Advisory Group and the Arab Americans of Montgomery County jointly held an Arab American Heritage Month Celebration on April 30 from 3-5p.m. at the Executive Office Building Auditorium. Approximately 200 representatives of the Arab American community participated. County Executive and Council VP presented proclamations for Arab American Heritage Month and a number of other officials were in attendance including State Delegate Sarah Siddiqui Wolek (District 16), and Councilmembers Natali Fani-González, Laurie-Anne Sayles, Kate Stewart, and Sidney Katz.

Covid-19/ Vaccine Outreach

- ❖ OCP continues to work on targeted vaccine outreach with HHS and OEHMS. A key component of our approach to targeted outreach continues to incorporate coordinated multi-lingual and targeted text messaging in promotion of convenient community vaccination opportunities. In partnership with Salud Y Bienestar, a focus of our outreach strategy for the month of June included a text messaging campaign in promotion of a set of reoccurring vaccination clinics in the Middlebrook Community Mobile Park in the 20876-zip code.
 - Through three waves, our texting program reached out to an initial target pool of 9,787 contacts and sent 29,180 initial messages to low-income residents of Montgomery County, MD to make them aware of local COVID-19 vaccine clinics to help them receive their booster or get their children vaccinated.
 - The program was divided into Spanish language campaigns and English language campaigns.

Multilingual Communications

- ❖ County’s Spanish WhatsApp account now has over 1500 contacts. Highest number of inquiries include food distribution locations, school information & rental assistance.

Advisory Groups

- ❖ **African Affairs Advisory Group (AAAG):** The African Affairs Advisory Group did not meet for the month of April due to many competing events. The group will be meet again on May 11, to discuss public safety concerns in Silver Spring and White Oak.
- ❖ **African American Advisory Group (AAAG):** The African American Advisory Group did not meet in April. OCP Director met with AAAG Chair several times to discuss the transition of the African American Liaison, whose last day was April 24 (also discussed support request for BPHN). The African American Liaison position is open for recruitment until June 6, 2023 ([IRC58160](#)) and expect the position to be filled quickly.
- ❖ **Asian Pacific American Advisory Group (APAAG):** The Asian Pacific American Advisory Group did not meet in April but worked on the release of the Hindu Healthcare booklet and the AAPI Heritage Month Celebration planned for May 21.

- ❖ **Caribbean American Advisory Group (CAAG):** The Caribbean American Advisory Group met on Tuesday, April 4, discussed plans for the upcoming Caribbean American Proclamation Day in June, and the proposed idea for CAAG, as a group, to hold conversations and seminars with focus groups at community centers around the county in the near future.
- ❖ **Faith Community Advisory Group (FCAG):** The FCAG met on April 17 and featured MCPTA LGBTQ+ Chair Mark Ekstein to discuss the MCPS no opt-out curriculum. FCAG will meet again in person with the County Executive on May 15 at 6pm at Silver Spring United Methodist Church to discuss pressing issues the communities are facing.
- ❖ **Latin American Advisory Group (LAAG):** The LAAG meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month and the next monthly meeting will be held on May 30, focusing on Affordable Housing and Homelessness Prevention. Contact Jessy Mejia Terry, Latino Liaison for more details.
- ❖ **LGBTQ Advisory Group:** The Advisory Group did not meet this month due to scheduling conflicts and will meet again in May.
- ❖ **Middle Eastern American Advisory Group (MEAAG):** MEAAG did not organize monthly public meetings during the Holy Month of Ramadan (March 23- April 21) and during Eid (three days following Ramadan). However, throughout March and April, MEAAG worked on preparation for April 30 Celebration of Arab American Heritage Month.

Language Access Manager

- ❖ Translations Unit translated 20 documents for 7 County agencies amounting to about 45,400 words translated in the County's top 6 spoken languages.
- ❖ Translations Unit continues to grow the County's glossaries which will ensure consistency in translations across the county. This month, 182 new terms were added to the glossary.
- ❖ OCP taught a Limited English Proficiency class for frontline employees on April 13. This class provides employees with the knowledge to help them efficiently serve the County's LEP residents.

Gilchrist Center

- ❖ Registration for classes has been at an all-time high. Registration closed within six hours for English classes and registration closed within 24 hours for basic computer classes due to high demand. The Gilchrist Center will open a few more classes in person this spring. On April 29, the Gilchrist Center hosted successful immigration clinic held by the Maryland Pro bono Legal Resource Center (MILAP) on April 29. Info and referral calls:
 - Total # of calls to mainline: 214, walk ins: 142
 - Languages: Spanish 56%, English 29%, Amharic 5%, French 4%, Portuguese 1%, Crioulo 1%, Creole 1%, Vietnamese 1%
 - Most popular topics: Classes (56%), Legal (11%), Employment (7%), Housing (4%), Health Care (3%), Continuing Education (2%), Food (2%),

Volunteer Center

VC Database & Website:

- 15 new agencies registered for a total of 2,160 active agencies.
- 856 new volunteers registered on website for a total of 53,549 user accounts.
- 1,932 responses to volunteer opportunities recorded.
- 99,042 views of opportunities.