

INTRODUCTION: The Mid-County Regional Services Center serves as the local government hub for various communities including Ashton, Aspen Hill, Brookeville, Capital View, Derwood, Forest Glen, Glenmont, Kemp Mill, Kensington, Layhill, Norbeck, Olney, Sandy Spring, Upper Rock Creek, and Wheaton. The Center's mission is to enhance communication between community members and county agencies, identify regional priorities, recommend tailored programs and policies, and oversee specific services, notably in downtown Wheaton, including the Wheaton Clean and Safe Teams.

Within this framework, several advisory bodies, such as the Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB) and the Wheaton Urban District Advisory Committee (WUDAC), regularly meet to address regional issues. These meetings are open to community participation, providing residents the opportunity to stay informed and engaged.

The Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board (MCCAB), consisting of 15 members, acts as a vital link between Montgomery County's government and approximately 220,000 residents and businesses spread across a 99 square-mile area. MCCAB advises the County Executive on policy, budget, legislative matters, and community planning. Additionally, the board educates residents on government processes and facilitates solutions to community issues.

February MCCAB Meeting Highlights:

- **Councilmember Updates:**
 - **Councilmember Glass's Office:**
 - Monitoring federal government changes.
 - Passed a bill shifting impact tax collection to post-construction to encourage development.
 - Passed legislation removing the 10-year statute of limitations for specific claims.
 - **Councilmember Fani-Gonzalez's Office:**
 - Addressing housing shortages through the "More Housing Now Act."
 - Scheduled a Town Hall meeting for February 27 in Wheaton.
- **Workforce Development Initiatives (WorkSource Montgomery):**
 - Provides job placement, training, and specialized support services, including "Skill Up Montgomery" for free credentialing.
- **Montgomery College Immigrant Services and Community Education:**
 - Comprehensive English and workforce-oriented language programs, with funding primarily from grants.
- **Community Planning Academy:**
 - Launching Summer 2025 to educate residents about the planning process.
 - Online, multilingual, accessible modules with optional in-person interactions.
- **MDOT State Highway Administration Pedestrian Safety Project:**
 - Proposed safety improvements, including pedestrian hybrid beacons at a key Georgia Avenue intersection, currently in early planning.
- **Community Concerns:**
 - Requesting the Planning Board to reconsider weekday closures by Montgomery Parks, specifically impacting local school drop-offs on Fridays.

