



MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA

**Monday, January 12, 2009
7:30 p.m.**

(Please turn off all cellular phones and pagers prior to the meeting. Hand held signs brought into the Council Chambers may not be displayed in a manner which disrupts the meeting, blocks the view of spectators or cameras and poses a safety concern [e.g., signs mounted on stakes]. Your cooperation is appreciated.)

- I. Call to Order
- II. Announcement
- III. Topic(s)
 - A. Presentation from the Ad Hoc Senior Center Committee Regarding Findings and Recommendations Pertaining to the Future Needs of a City Operated Adult Recreation Center
- IV. Adjournment

This schedule is subject to change. Work Sessions are broadcast over Cable TV, Channel 13 and on the Internet at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/tv. Receive City agendas, minutes and news via e-mail. Log on to the myGaithersburg e-mail-based news service at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/myGaithersburg. Please contact 301-258-6310 prior to meetings to confirm accessibility accommodations.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice to the general public is hereby given that the Mayor and City Council of Gaithersburg plan to conduct a closed Executive Session at City Hall, Monday, January 12, 2009, immediately following the scheduled work session of the Mayor and City Council, pursuant to Section 10-508(a)(7) and (8) and (a)(1)(ii), State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, to discuss a legal and personnel matter. The purpose of the session is to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice about potential and pending litigation and to discuss a personnel matter that affects one or more employees. The closed executive session will be conducted pursuant to a motion properly adopted during the meeting of the Mayor and City Council on Monday, January 12, 2009.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING AND WORK SESSION ITEMS

This list is not all-inclusive, and does not reflect priorities or scheduling
But is intended to provide a glance at future items to come before the City Council.

Regular Meeting of the Mayor and City Council

- Feb. 2 - Presentations - GHS ROTC, Winter Lights, MLK, Jr. Essay Readings, GE Tech Park
- Public Hearing - T-389, Amend Chapter 24 of the City Code (City Zoning Ordinance), Article III, Entitled, "Regulations Applicable to Particular Zones," Division 2, Entitled, "R-90 zone, Medium Density Residential," Section 24-32. Entitled, "Dimensional Restrictions," to Modify Subsection (d) to Establish New Standards for Impervious Area In Front and Side Yards
- Pol. Discussion - T-388, Amend Chapter 24 of the City Code (City Zoning Ordinance), Entitled, "Zoning," Article IX, Entitled, "Signs," § 24-211 Entitled, "Signs Permitted In All Zones," Subsection (e), Entitled, "Election Campaign and Ballot Questions Signs," to Eliminate Conflicting Provisions and Renumber Accordingly

Call to Order

Announcements

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Topics

MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

MEETING DATE:

January 12, 2009

CALL TO PODIUM:

Michele R. Potter

RESPONSIBLE STAFF:

Michele R. Potter, Director of Parks, Recreation and Culture

AGENDA ITEM:

(please check one)

	Presentation
	Proclamation/Certificate
	Appointment
	Joint Public Hearing
	Historic District
	Consent Item
	Ordinance
	Resolution
	Policy Discussion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Work Session Discussion Item
	Other:

PUBLIC HEARING HISTORY:

(Please complete this section if agenda item is a public hearing)

Introduced	
Advertised	
Hearing Date	
Record Held Open	
Policy Discussion	

TITLE: Report and Recommendations From the Ad Hoc Senior Center Committee

Presentation from the Ad Hoc Senior Center Committee Regarding Findings and Recommendations Pertaining to the Future Needs of a City Operated Adult Recreation Center

SUPPORTING BACKGROUND:

A Resolution was approved on August 4, 2008, by the Mayor and City Council, establishing the Ad Hoc Committee to Determine the Requirements for the Senior Center and Explore the Recreation Trends for Active Older Adults. The Committee met in the months of September through December and is prepared to give their findings and recommendations.

Tonight, Mrs. Jean Mitchell and Mr. Clyde Horton, members representing the Ad Hoc Senior Center Committee, will present the final report and recommendations to the Mayor and City Council. A power point has been prepared.

The Agenda for the Presentation will entail the following:

- Assessment of the current, City Senior Center and its programs;
- Description of the 'older adults' population growth and trends;
- Sharing of the Committee's research conducted and evaluated;
- Discussion of funding and location options;
- Summarization of the recommendations for a new Adult Activity Center.

Upon conclusion of the presentation, staff is seeking guidance on the following specific issues:

- Commitment in the form of a vote to authorize a feasibility study on proposed sites;
- Be open to any new location which may arise;
- Pursue avenues of funding.

Attachments:

Copy of Work Session Power Point Presentation

DESIRED OUTCOME:

Receive Presentation and Provide Staff Guidance



**Ad Hoc Committee to Determine the
Requirements for the Senior Center and
Explore the Recreation Trends for
Active Older Adults**

Report to Mayor and City Council

January 12, 2009



OUR CHARGE

- Research local, regional and national trends for adult activity programs
- Identify current and future recreational needs of active older adults in Gaithersburg area
- Evaluate current facilities to determine ability to meet needs and challenges
- Review current and future requirements and provide recommendations for a new Senior Center
- Identify and explore funding opportunities and partnerships with government and private agencies

WHO WE ARE

- Brian Feldman (Chairman, Montgomery County House Delegation)
- Charles Ferrell
- Burton Goldstein
- Clyde Horton
- Blanche Keller
- Dolly Kildee
- Michael Knapp (Montgomery County Council)
- Nancy King (Senator, District 39)
- Henry Marraffa (City Council Member & Senior Liaison)
- Catherine Matthews (Director, Upcounty Regional Services)
- Jean Mitchell
- Jeannie Pizzonia
- Yale Wiesberg

THE PROCESS

This committee

- Researched trends for older adults
- Visited other Senior Centers to learn best practices
- Polled our current senior members for their preferences
- Consulted with senior facilities across the country
- Prioritized the requirements for a new Adult Activity Center
 - Interesting discussions
 - Value voting
- Is now prepared to share recommendations

AGENDA

- Assess *current* Senior Center facility and programs
- Describe 'older adult' population growth/trends
- Share committee's research and decision making
- Discuss funding and location options
- Summarize priorities for new Adult Activity Center
- Make recommendations for City Council action

CURRENT FACILITY

- 1st floor of a converted, multi-story hotel
- Shared site with Diamond Square Apartments
- Limited, shared parking spaces
- Total of 10K sq ft (7600 sq ft programmable)
- 5 full-time staff; 1 employment agreement; 2 part-time
- Space completely maximized
- Operating budget - \$700K



CURRENT PROGRAMS/ SERVICES

- Fitness/Exercise programs
- Wellness seminars
- Music/Cultural programs
- Educational opportunities
- Entertainment
- Transportation
- More than 6,000 lunches/year served



CURRENT CENTER PARTNERSHIPS

- Montgomery County Government
 - \$100K Operations
 - On-site case management worker:
 - Medicare/insurance issues/questions
 - Housing and county services
- Federal Government
 - \$40K Nutrition Program

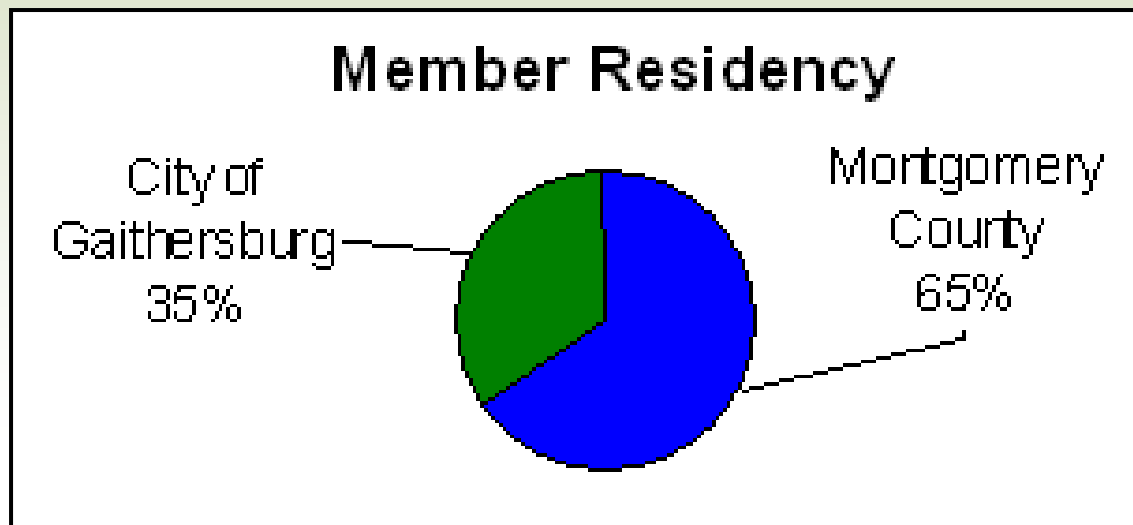
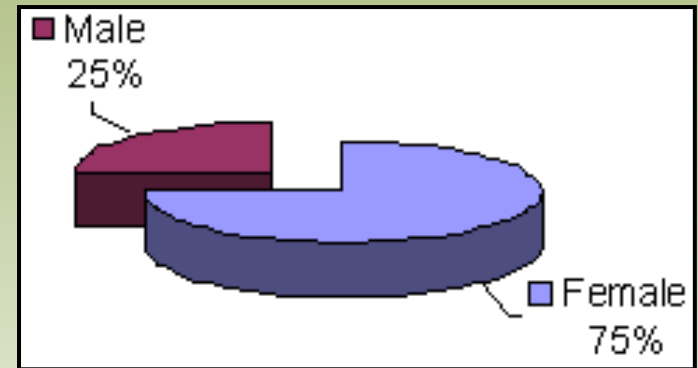


CURRENT CENTER PARTNERSHIPS

- Montgomery College, Suburban Hospital, Adventist Health Care:
 - Free monthly blood pressure checks; nurse available 1 day/week
 - Host life-long learning classes; reduced tuition for programs
- Contracted counselor (from Child Care & Adult Services):
 - Personal/family conflicts
 - Depression
 - Identify beginning stages of dementia or other problems

CURRENT USAGE

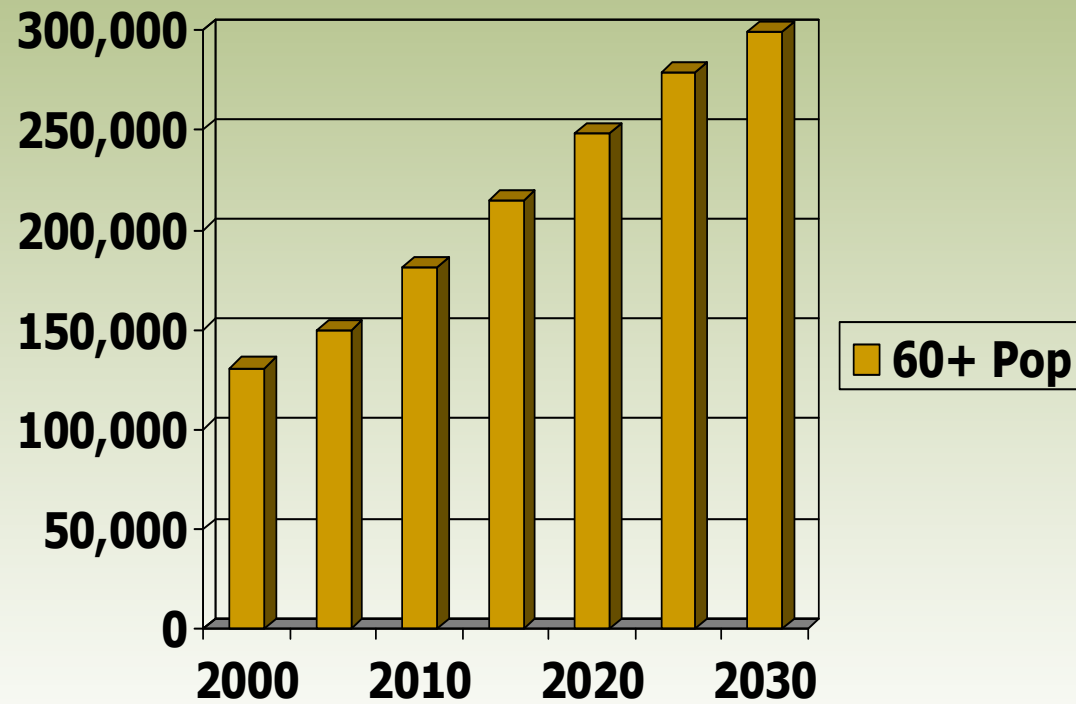
- Members are ages 55 and older (average 75)
- Currently 820 members
 - up from 400 members 5 years ago
- FY08 – 69K scanned participants
 - estimate 2,500-3,000 did not scan card



MONTGOMERY COUNTY TRENDS

- Life expectancy for a child born today in Montgomery County is 81.3 years
 - #1 US county for “Long Life”
- ‘Younger’ older adults who participate in programs/services early in life have fewer age-related problems when they become ‘older’ older adults
- Education and Early Prevention programs/services are key for aging ‘well’
- Senior Centers are integrated with community centers

MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S AGING POPULATION



REGIONAL TRENDS

- Dayton, Ohio
 - Encouraged inter-generational activities
 - Broke stereotypes that encourage seniors to interact with only seniors
 - Corrected misconceptions that younger people tend to have about older people



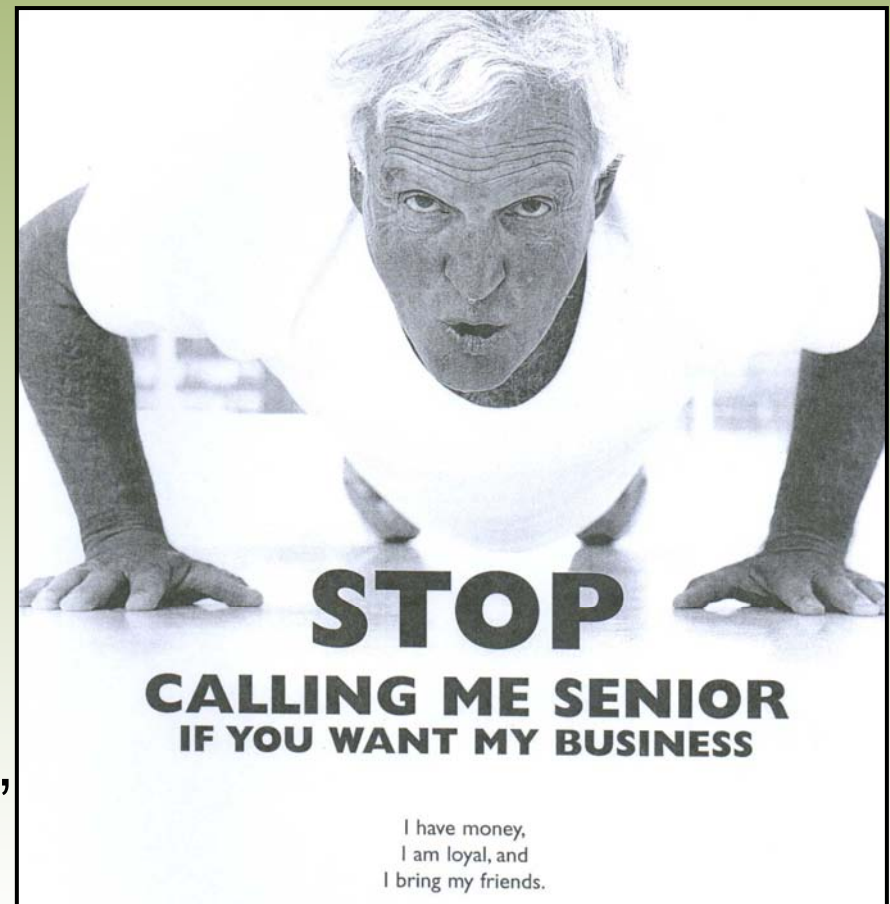
REGIONAL TRENDS (cont'd)

- New York, New York:
 - Senior Centers will transform to community and family centers in the future
- Boston, Massachusetts:
 - Senior Centers are integrated with community centers
 - Mix seniors with other generations so they do not feel isolated

NATIONAL TRENDS

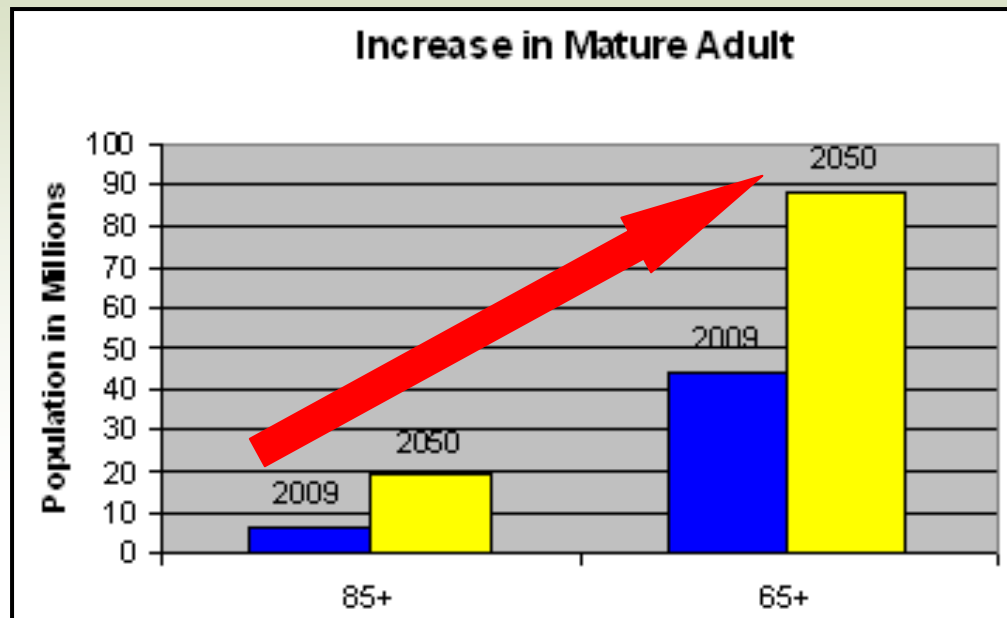
Current

- The group 'senior' is now commonly referred to as 'mature adult'
- 1 in 3 adults is a 'boomer': age 44-62
- Boomers feel 6-10 years younger than they are - and expect to live beyond 90 years of age
- Even though they *feel* young, boomers' health is not as good as their parents!
 - Mostly due to inactivity



NATIONAL TRENDS Projections

- As a nation—by mid-century—we will
 - Be more racially and ethnically diverse
 - Live to be much older
- By 2030
 - 1 in 5 U.S. residents is expected to be 65 and older



NATIONAL TRENDS

Health Benefits

- Physical Activity can help prevent 5 of the 6 leading causes of death and disability – and lower health costs:
 - Coronary heart disease/cardiovascular Disease
 - Cancer
 - Stroke
 - Accidents (especially from falls)
 - Diabetes

NATIONAL TRENDS

Health Benefits

- Other benefits of Physical Activity:
 - Stress Relief
 - Coping with depression
 - Delaying/reversing osteoporosis
 - Improved self confidence and self esteem
 - Increased energy for daily activities



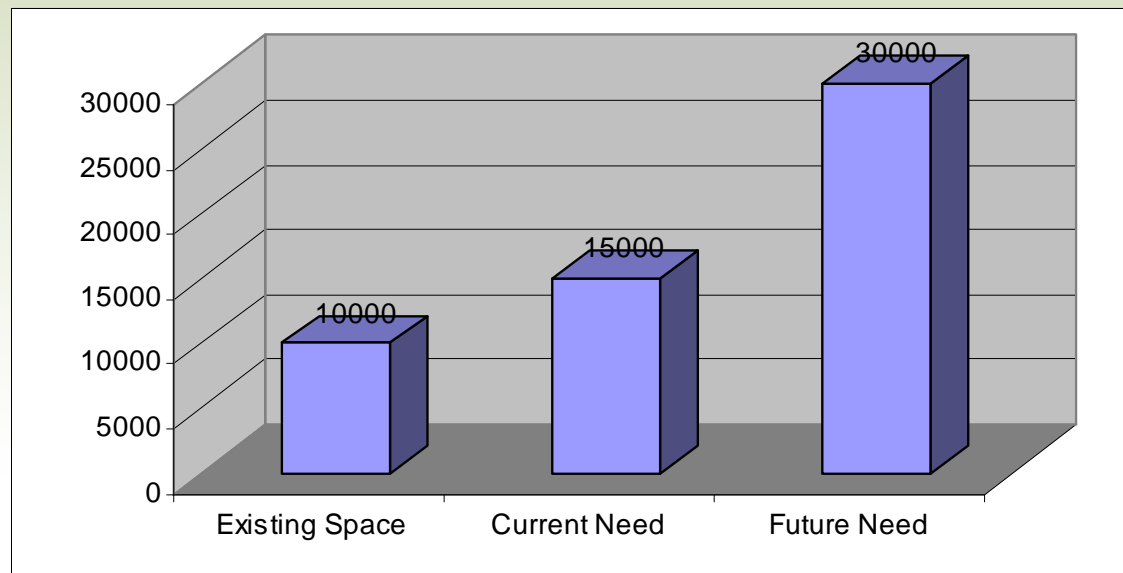
NATIONAL TRENDS

Benefits of Senior Center

- Survey – National Institute of Senior Centers:
 - 87% surveyed said they have developed close friendships at senior centers
 - 75% of these same individuals participate together – in activities outside the center
 - 90% said their health is better
 - 75% said that joining a center has helped them maintain their independence

FEASIBILITY STUDY

- Commissioned study with Colimore Gallow Architects 3 years ago
 - Data from 2000 Census
 - Current Senior Center is below standards
 - Building code and ADA issues were identified and addressed



FEASIBILITY STUDY

Projected Needs Assessment

- Facility may experience at least a 100% increase over the next 10 years
 - Daily member participation > 200/day
- Current facility cannot fully support *current* needs of Seniors
- Most certainly, cannot meet *projected* needs



NEIGHBORING COUNTY VISITS

- Glenwood Community Center
 - Cooksville, MD (Howard County)
 - 50K sq ft combination community center and senior center
- North Carroll Co. Senior & Community Ctr
 - Hampstead, MD (Carroll County)
 - 24.5K sq ft converted store front
- Westminster
 - Westminster, MD (Carroll County)
 - 27K sq ft stand-alone facility shared with the Bureau on Aging



LIKES (composite)

- LEED building
- Gym with indoor track
- Lots of windows in corridors, classrooms, lounge area
- Oversized storage closets, automatic doors and lights
- Stage for performances/entertainment
- Ample parking
- Interior courtyard and fireplace lounge
- Facility access control/check-in system
- Telephones in each room (security/emergency)
- Building could be partitioned off by zones

LESSONS LEARNED (composite)

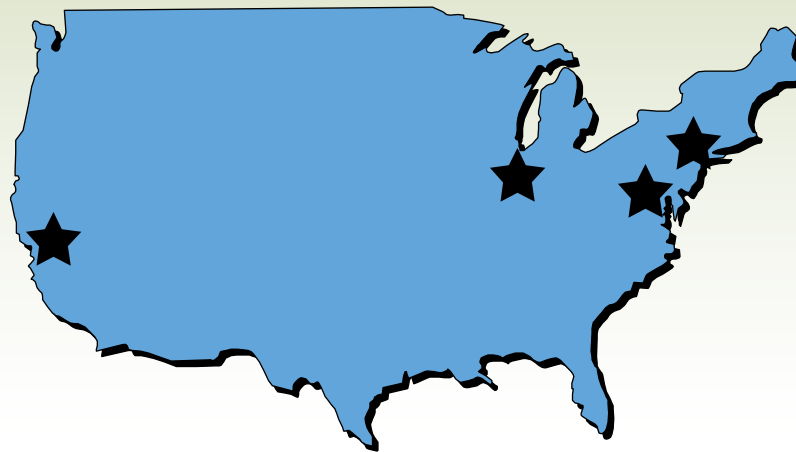
- Location and signage are important
- Recommend laminate or poured floor rather than carpeting
- Selection of chairs is a priority
- Fitness room needs to be large enough and have up-to-date equipment
- Exterior needs to be inviting (not industrial like)
- Entrance needs to be canopied and protected from the elements

LESSONS LEARNED (composite)

- Ample parking is a must
- High ceilings/windows can be difficult to clean/maintain
- Need for several unisex bathrooms throughout facility
- Multi-purpose, flex space is more desirable than rooms allocated to specific activity
- Plan for more storage than initially anticipated

ADDITIONAL SITE VISITS

- Individual committee members also visited Senior Centers in:
 - Cape Cod, MA (3 separate centers)
 - Chicago, IL
 - Dublin, CA
 - Rockville, MD



HIGHEST PRIORITY

Major Facility Elements

- Exercise/fitness room
- Double gym with walking track
- Multiple classroom space
- Room to expand in future
- Large computer room
- Woodworking shop
- Gathering area to accommodate 200 people
- Library
- Meeting/flex space
- Dining Hall
- Full commercial kitchen

HIGHEST PRIORITY

Exterior Design

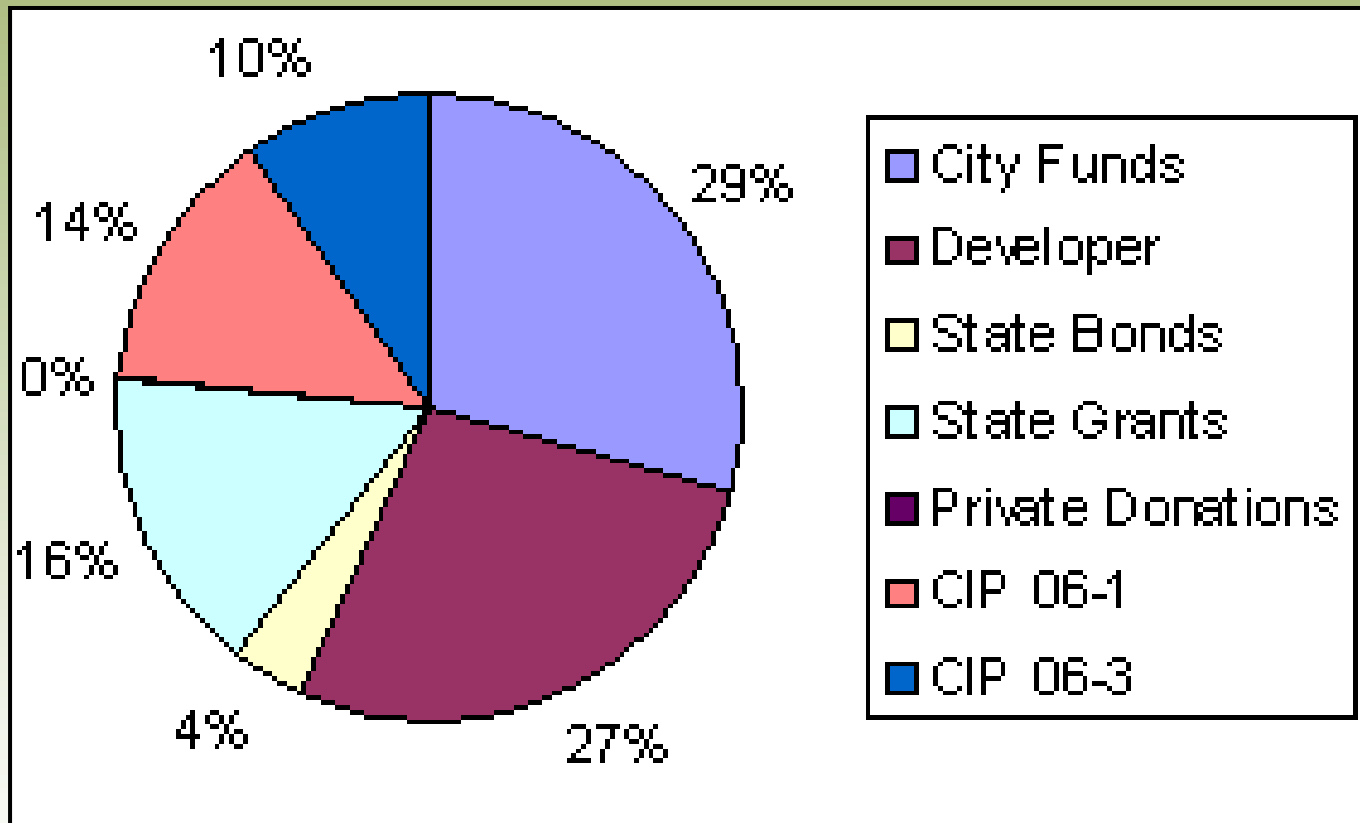
- Walking trails
- More handicapped parking than required by code
- Porte-cochere (covered area for bus)
- Benches and gathering areas with shade
- Few steps as possible from parking to entrance
- Courtyard
- No slope in parking and walking areas
- Security cameras
- Inviting architecture; not industrial looking

HIGHEST PRIORITY

Interior Design

- Dining hall with
 - Ramped stage
 - Near center entrance
 - Dividing doors to expand to more rooms
 - Coffee/drink alcove
- Wide hallways with windows looking into rooms
- Arts/crafts room with kiln, ceramics, sinks, natural lighting
- Diversity through décor and art
- Pull-down projection screen

IDENTIFIED FUNDING



TOTAL= \$5.1 M

POTENTIAL LOCATIONS

- Activity Center at Bohrer Park expansion
- Casey East at Watkins Mill
- Former NIKE site

The City will hire a consultant to perform a feasibility study at each location to determine the best site to match the committee's recommendations

- A traffic study would be part of this effort

ACTIVITY CENTER at BOHRER PARK

PROS/CONS

PROS

- Intergenerational
- *Existing* exercise rooms/
gym/indoor track
- Walking trails, outdoor
pool, miniature golf
- Expanded hours of
operation
- Appealing to boomers who resist
senior center image



ACTIVITY CENTER at BOHRER PARK

PROS/CONS

CONS

- Possible retrofit complications
- Potential disruption to programs during construction
- Concerns about proximity of high school
- Limited parking during large events
- Traffic and access concerns

CASEY EAST at WATKINS MILL

PROS/CONS

PROS

- Dedicated land
- Opportunity to design/build – not retrofit
- Perceived attainable funding
- Location/central access
- Perceived safety - next to Police Station
- Nearby restaurants, shopping and mature adult housing
- Walking trails are on site plan
- Developer will grade site, run utilities and construct parking lot

CASEY EAST at WATKINS MILL

PROS/CONS

CONS

- Site may limit square footage
- Traffic and parking
- Economy-dependent
 - Developer control
 - Infrastructure needed



FORMER NIKE SITE PROS/CONS

PROS

- Large site – 13.1 acres
- Expandability
- Accessible to shopping centers
- Low-traffic volume
- Opportunity to design/build
– not retrofit



CONS

- NIST use – unavailable for 18 months
- Environmental questions remain
- Limited Access (Muddy Branch Road)
- Cost of existing structure demolition = \$800K

SUMMARY

Position Adult Activity Center to provide and address:

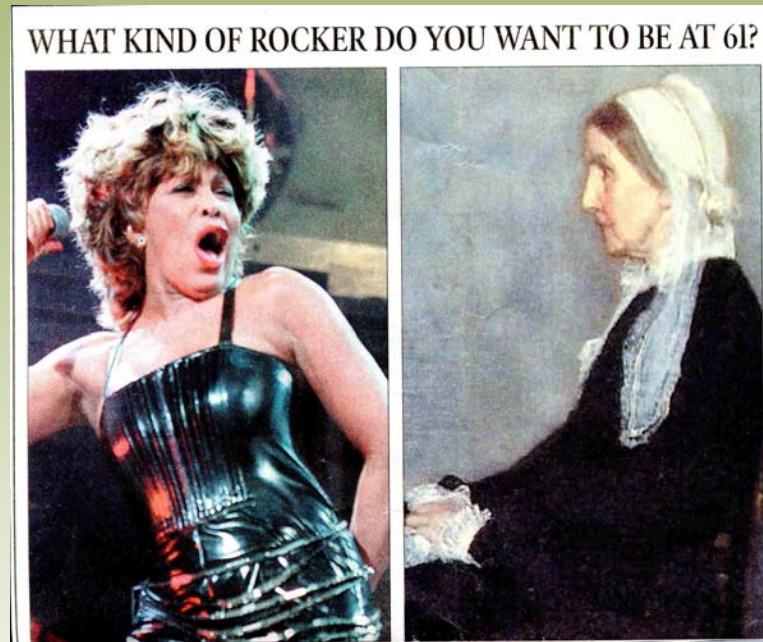
- Physical Activity/Fitness Programs
 - Prevent 5 of the leading causes of death and disability
 - Lower healthcare costs
 - Enable age-in-place living
- Community Outreach
- Education
- Mental Health and Wellness
- Recreation
- Enhanced Transportation
- Diversity

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The City Council's vote to authorize a Feasibility Study on proposed 3 sites based on the Committee's recommendations
- Be open to alternative location sites
- Pursue avenues for funding
- Move project forward as quickly as possible

TODAY versus YESTERDAY

Senior Center



Adult Activity Center

Adjournment

From Staff

For Release January 5, 2009

Arts Barn Presents Montgomery Playhouse Production of *Almost, Maine*

Gaithersburg, MD. The Arts Barn, the City of Gaithersburg's premiere cultural arts facility, presents a Montgomery Playhouse production of *Almost, Maine* by John Cariani, running February 6 through 22, 2009. Shows will be held Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. at the Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Road, Gaithersburg. Admission is \$14, \$12 for City of Gaithersburg residents.

On a cold, clear night in the middle of winter, all is not quite what it seems in the remote, mythical town of Almost, Maine. As the northern lights hover above, Almost's residents find themselves falling in and out of love in unexpected and often hilarious ways. Knees are bruised. Hearts are broken. But the bruises heal, and the hearts mend – *almost* – in this delightful midwinter night's dream. The *New York Sun* calls *Almost, Maine* "A snowy charmer These nine tales of love in the time of frostbite have a winning glow that proves surprisingly contagious."

The show is suitable for ages 13 and older. For more information and tickets call 301-258-6394 or visit online at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/artsbarn.

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Mayor
Sidney A. Katz

City Manager
Angel L. Jones

Council Members

Jud Ashman Cathy C. Drzyzgula Henry F. Marraffa, Jr. Michael A. Sesma Ryan Spiegel

For Release January 7, 2009

Make Valentine's from the Heart at "Family Fun Night"

Gaithersburg, MD. The entire family will enjoy crafting unique and creative Valentine's at the City of Gaithersburg's "Valentine Family Fun Night." The fun takes place on Friday, February 6 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park, 506 South Frederick Avenue in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Reservations are required and space availability is limited. Admission is \$5 per person with a maximum of \$12 for a family of three or more. Admission is free for children under the age of two.

Spend some quality time together and creatively express yourself by making your own Valentine crafts and cards. Paper, scissors, glue and loads of fun craft materials will be provided.

For information and reservations please call 301-258-6350, or visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

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For Release January 7, 2009

Community Museum Invites you to Meet “Father Divine,” a Fascinating Character from History

Gaithersburg, MD. Meet “Father Divine,” a fascinating character from history, at Casey Community Center on Thursday, February 19 at 10 a.m. The center is located at 810 South Frederick Avenue in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Admission is free. Pre-registration is required.

Co-hosted by the Gaithersburg Community Museum and the Gaithersburg Historical Association, this 45-minute program introduces you to George Baker, Jr. from Mount Pleasant (currently the Casey Community Center property). The son of freed African American slaves, George Baker, Jr. went on to become one of the country’s most influential and controversial evangelists and community activists. Historian Judith Christensen will introduce us to George Baker, “Father Divine,” and his humble beginnings in the Cities of Rockville and Gaithersburg. This program is suitable for children in fourth grade or older.

For more information and to register please call the Gaithersburg Community Museum at 301-258-6160 or visit the City of Gaithersburg online at www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

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For Release January 5, 2009

Harmonious Art Group 14th Anniversary Exhibit Features Young Artists

Gaithersburg, MD. The City of Gaithersburg presents the Chinese calligraphy and brush paintings of some of the youngest members of the Harmonious Art Group at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park, located at 506 South Frederick Avenue in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Exhibition dates are January 9 through March 8, 2009. An opening reception will be held on Tuesday, January 20 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Viewing hours are Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Seventeen artists will exhibit their works in traditional and contemporary Chinese styles. The art group was founded in 1995 by Bertrand Mao, master of Chinese Shan-Shui (Mountain-Water), and John Wang, master of Chinese calligraphy, to share the beauty of this ancient art form with the community. Many members have contributed their time to teach young, budding artists in the metropolitan area, especially Montgomery County. Young adults Alex Smith, Melissa Yu and Erica Yu have been working with Mr. Mao and Mr. Wang this past year. The teachers are happy to see significant improvement both in brushing techniques and the maturity of their art works, remarking that it is truly a joy to bring younger generations into this ancient art world, helping them understand that traditional Shan-Shui is not so much portraits of mountains as poetry of nature. It is an expression of both the mind and heart of the artist.

Please note that all images are copyrighted by the artists. For information please call Natalya Parris, Gallery Director, at 301-258-6394 or visit the City's website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

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For Release January 5, 2009

City Hall Art Gallery to Feature Photography Exhibit

Gaithersburg, MD. The City of Gaithersburg hosts the photography of Ellen McGovern, Susie Neel, William Studniarz and Sanjay Suchak at the City Hall Gallery January 16 through March 15, 2009. The Gallery is located on the second floor of City Hall, 31 S. Summit Avenue in Olde Towne, Gaithersburg.

Ellen McGovern's work focuses on diverse people, places and culture. Since leaving the workforce in 2006 she has used the tools and skills of her trade to tell a story of people and culture in Turkey, Greece and Peru. McGovern was raised in the Midwest but has called Washington, DC her home for more than 30 years. She traveled around the world twice before the age of 27 and later worked in or led groups to India, Venezuela and China for an international student/faculty group, Accion, the Peace Corps and a women's group. She holds a BA in History from Duchesne College in Omaha, NE, and an MSW in Community Organization, Social Work from Catholic University in Washington, DC.

Born and raised in Frederick, Maryland, Susie Neel is an IT professional working for the Library of Congress. Her love for the arts started in early childhood, and she continues to rely on classes and training to keep abreast of the latest photography techniques and equipment. Neel's work has been published in *Smithsonian Magazine* as well as several local publications, exhibits and art shows. She serves as an Executive Committee member of the Potomac Valley Nature Photographers, part of the Potomac Valley Audubon Society.

William Studniarz, an eight year resident of Gaithersburg, is a Pennsylvania native whose artistic vision reflects his complex hometown. Growing up thirty minutes outside of Pittsburgh, Studniarz found the natural beauty of the Laurel Highlands captivating, but upon moving away from the area, developed an appreciation for the improbable beauty of a town with industrial roots. This has since served as the catalyst for him to find unlikely beauty in everyday life. Studniarz holds an MBA and BA in Communication and currently works as a project manager in marketing and information technology projects involving databases and search engine optimization. He feels that these skills help him find beauty in the sequential and ordinary.

-more-

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2 – 2 – 2 / City Hall Photography Exhibit

A photographer since he was old enough to hold a camera, Sanjay Suchak got his professional start working as an assistant to Canadian-based commercial photographer Jason Jones. After moving to Washington, DC he began working with nonprofits and companies needing photography for advertising campaigns. He eventually started focusing on music and is now a staff photographer for *Gratefulweb Music Magazine* and *Prefix Magazine*. Through his work Suchak has met and photographed many popular musicians including members of the Grateful Dead, Radiohead, Wilco, The Allman Brothers Band and many others. Additionally Suchak likes to focus on urban landscapes and streetscapes.

Please note that all images are copyrighted by the artists. For City Hall Gallery viewing hours please call Gallery Director Natalya Parris at 301-258-6394 or visit the City's website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov.

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For Release December 31, 2009

Gaithersburg Hosts Youth Workers Training Class

Gaithersburg, MD. Teenagers between the ages of 14 and 18 who are interested in working with youth are invited to enroll in the “Youth Workers Training Course.”

Over the six week course teens will be prepared to work with elementary and middle school youth in recreational settings such as summer camps and after school programs. Topics include activity planning, safety, conflict resolution, and meeting the needs of today’s diverse population. The course includes five classroom sessions and one session with on-site, hands-on experience.

The 75 minute classes will be held on Wednesdays, beginning January 21, 2009, at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park, 506 S. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. The registration fee for the entire series is just \$40 for City of Gaithersburg residents and \$47 for nonresidents.

Register online using RecXpress at www.gaithersburgmd.gov. Please reference class #26584. For more information please call the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture at 301-258-6350.

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Outside Correspondence

Action Committee for Transit

www.actfortransit.org

P.O. Box 7074, Silver Spring, MD 20907

M&CC,

Greg Ossont will prepare a response.

January 1, 2009

Distributed to M&CC: 1/12/09
TT, FF, GO

-ALJ

Mayor Sidney A. Katz
City of Gaithersburg
31 South Summit Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

JAN - 1 2009

Subject: Corridor Cities Transitway, Kentlands, and University of Maryland

Dear Mayor Katz:

We are concerned about the potential effect on Gaithersburg of proposals made at the University of Maryland in College Park. Establishment of a minimum separation of several hundred feet between transitways and research buildings has been recommended. (See the enclosed *Diamondback* article.) Transit engineers are convinced that a transitway would have negligible impacts on research and no separation is needed, but the College Park campus administration has argued for imposing a minimum setback. Acceptance of this recommendation would have a severe negative effect on the future Corridor Cities Transitway.

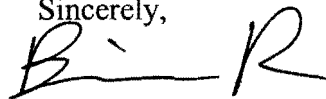
In particular, the Area 6 research building which MedImmune plans to build next year is located close to the Corridor Cities Transitway alignments recommended on page 4.31 of the Kentlands Boulevard Commercial District draft master plan. If the MedImmune building is built and a setback requirement is adopted by the Maryland Transit Administration, it will be impossible for the Corridor Cities Transitway to serve Kentlands.

Requiring setbacks between transitways and research facilities would also have negative effects on several Johns Hopkins University facilities: the Shady Grove campus, the Belward Farm property, and Bayview Medical Center. A task force should be formed to advise MTA about possible setback requirements, with representation from Johns Hopkins, the City of Gaithersburg, and MedImmune as well as the University of Maryland.

Construction of the new MedImmune building should be delayed until this issue is resolved, to preserve Kentlands' future access to transit.

Gaithersburg's years of work toward the Corridor Cities Transitway have done much to advance the prospects of transit in our area. It would be a shame to have these efforts go to waste.

Sincerely,



Ben Ross
President

cc: Tony Zook, MedImmune
Henry Kay, MTA
Brian Dembeck, JHU
Linda Robertson, JHU
Brian Darmody, UMD-CP
Stewart Edelstein, Universities at Shady Grove

Action Committee for Transit

www.actfortransit.org

P.O. Box 7074, Silver Spring, MD 20907

January 1, 2009

Brian B. Dembeck
Johns Hopkins Real Estate
1101 E. 33rd Street
Suite E-100
Baltimore, MD 21218

Subject: Proposed ban on research buildings near Maryland transitways

Dear Mr. Dembeck:

I would like to call your attention to the potential effect on Johns Hopkins of proposals made at the University of Maryland in College Park. Establishment of a minimum separation of several hundred feet between transitways and research buildings has been recommended. (See the enclosed *Diamondback* article.) Transit engineers are convinced that a transitway would have negligible impacts on research and no separation is needed, but the College Park campus administration has argued for imposing a minimum setback.

If the College Park recommendation (which in our opinion is unjustified and counterproductive) were accepted, Johns Hopkins would not be able to implement its current plans for the Belward Farm property. Expansion of the existing Shady Grove campus and Bayview Medical Center would also be impeded. Johns Hopkins would be faced with the choice of either excluding research buildings and medical laboratories from much of the property or losing transit access via the Corridor Cities Transitway and Baltimore Red Line.

Required setbacks would also have a negative impact on the City of Gaithersburg, where the Corridor Cities Transitway adjoins MedImmune's research facility.

A task force should be formed to advise MTA about possible setback requirements, with representation from Johns Hopkins, the City of Gaithersburg, and MedImmune as well as the University of Maryland. Johns Hopkins, with its long tradition of research, can surely make a positive contribution to resolving this matter.

Sincerely,

Ben Ross
President

cc: Mayor Sidney Katz, City of Gaithersburg
Henry Kay, MTA
Tony Zook, MedImmune
Linda Robertson, JHU
Brian Darmody, UMD-CP
Dr. Stewart Edelstein, Universities at Shady Grove

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Locomotion commotion

By: Brady Holt

Posted: 10/21/08

University officials said last week they hoped two new studies describing the effects of the proposed Purple Line transitway on the university research community would help resolve a long-standing disagreement with the project's planners.

But after the two studies offered only background data, the officials did not appear to have reached an agreement with the Maryland Transit Administration over the project's best route through the campus.

Researchers have expressed concern that electromagnetic interference and vibration from light rail trains running near their labs could disrupt sensitive instruments, and the MTA and the university just released the results of their separate studies.

Yet the studies only examined the existing conditions on the campus, not speculating on what light rail or bus rapid transit vehicles would do to sensitive scientific instruments nearby.

"I think we're very frustrated that we know what we've got, but we don't know what we're about to get," said Ann Wylie, the university president's chief of staff, after the university-sponsored study was presented yesterday.

MTA consultant Joel Oppenheimer said the specifics will depend largely on what type of vehicle the Purple Line ends up using. There are substantial differences among various models of light rail vehicles, and using buses instead of electric-powered trains would all but eliminate EMI concerns.

It will be years before the specific vehicle is chosen for the Purple Line, the 16-mile transitway that is scheduled to connect Bethesda to New Carrollton by 2015, Oppenheimer said.

University consultant John Brandon said the university should use the data presented in the studies to determine the maximum amount of interference it would be willing to accept from the Purple Line.

"What you can do is understand how much [EMI and vibration] you have today and what you might be willing to accept with a light rail on the campus, and provide [the MTA] with a lot of help in design and construction," Brandon said.

As proposed by the MTA, the Purple Line would follow Campus Drive from the M traffic circle to Cole Field House, which would put it near labs in the physics and microbiology buildings. The university's proposed alternative, following Preinkert and Chapel Drives, runs close to labs in Marie Mount and Lefrak Halls.

"If you just look at the distribution of where the research is done on campus, it's clear the Campus Drive alignment is going to be closer to many more research facilities," said Steve Rolston, associate chair of the physics department. "We'd like to make sure we don't end up with a large part of the campus unsuitable for research."

Linguistics professor Colin Phillips, who studies brain activity in Marie Mount Hall - just 35 feet from the proposed Preinkert-Chapel alignment of the Purple Line - said his research is "toast" if the MTA selects that route instead of Campus Drive.

"The Purple Line rocks, but if it's going to run right past our lab, it will basically shut us down," Phillips said.

Most labs likely won't see such drastic problems, Rolston said, but if the MTA doesn't properly control its EMI and vibrations, professors will be stuck footing the bill to keep their labs running.

"In the end, if there's a problem, we have to do local mitigation, [building] magnetic shields, transferring the cost from the state MTA onto individual researchers," Rolston said. If the MTA's efforts at reducing EMI and vibration are insufficient, "the researchers are going to have to spend their individual grant money to fix the problem."

Most of the existing interference on the campus comes from passing motor vehicle traffic, elevators, buildings' heating and cooling systems and other day-to-day activity. The thousand amps of electrical current that powers a light rail train can send out electromagnetic waves hundreds of feet away that disrupt sensitive instruments, Rolston said.

The MTA's study noted, however, that poorly maintained trains could create loudly going around sharp curves, which are more common on

The MTA's study, noted, however, that poorly maintained trains could screech loudly going around sharp curves, which are more common on the Preinkert-Chapel route through the campus than the Campus Drive alignment.

holtdbk@gmail.com

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JAN - 2 2009

**STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**



Distributed to M&CC:1/12/09

MARTIN O'MALLEY
GOVERNOR

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ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1925
(410) 974-3901
(TOLL FREE) 1-800-811-8336

TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

December 29, 2008

Honorable Sidney Katz
31 South Summit Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2098

Dear Mayor Katz:

I am writing to you in regard to a federal Economic Recovery package that Congress is expected to take up sometime within the coming months and how it might relate to Maryland.

Historic and exciting days lie ahead as America seeks a course of recovery, confidence, and financial stability with the beginning of the Obama Administration as well as the 111th Congress. As we plan ahead, I continue to be in close contact with Maryland's congressional delegation, county and municipal leadership, my cabinet secretaries as well as the appropriate federal agencies in order to maximize Maryland's opportunities on this important initiative. This is especially pressing given that every \$1 billion in investments in infrastructure projects equates to the creation of approximately 28,700 jobs.

Lt. Governor Brown and I are optimistic that this Economic Recovery initiative in Congress will bring significant infrastructure improvements and jobs to our country and especially to Maryland. However, I would like to offer a bit of caution. In order for our state to successfully achieve the maximum level of funding from this proposal, we must surgically target projects that will fall squarely within one of the following phases of development – in addition to being eligible for federal funding:

- immediately "shovel ready" (within 90 days);
- ready for bid within 180 days; or
- can be obligated for the use of funds within two years.

These projects may include drinking water and waste water treatment proposals, as well as road and highway construction and maintenance programs, bridge and tunnel improvements, and improvements to public transit. Moreover, at some point, we hope to expand our ability to include projects such as rental housing and community development; energy efficiency improvements; improvements to educational facilities, and public safety infrastructure.



Please be assured that the projects to which we plan to target any incoming federal Economic Recovery funds in Maryland are those that will sustain the environment and enhance the safety of the State. While you may see the need to pursue funding for projects on behalf of your County, I ask that you please coordinate with my Intergovernmental Affairs Office and my Federal Relations Office staff.

I thank you for your support and your commitment to improving our State. Please feel free to stay in close contact with Izzy Patoka at 410-767-6241 / ipatoka@gov.state.md.us, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs or Dana Thompson, Director of Federal Relations at 202-624-1430 / dthompson@gov.state.md.us . Of course, also please feel free to contact my office directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin O'Malley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "O".

Governor

cc: The Maryland Congressional Delegation
Representative-elect Frank Kratovil
The Honorable Michael E. Busch
The Honorable Thomas V. "Mike" Miller, Jr.
Izzy Patoka, Governor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs
Dana Thompson, Governor's Office of Federal Relations

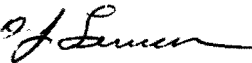
Ms. Angel Jones
City Manager
31 South Summit Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877

JAN - 5 2009

January 2, 2009

Dear Ms. Jones,

I would like to bring to your attention the excellent response from Mark A. Kober, and the ladies and gentlemen of the Landscape and Forestry Division, that responded to my home at 3 Pavilion Dr. on Tuesday 12/30/2008. Due to severe winds on Tuesday a mature tree was up rooted and fell into Pavilion Dr. blocking the street. Mr. Kober and his crew quickly responded and removed the tree before any of the neighborhood residents even knew it had fallen. The same crew of ladies and men returned today and completed the job of trunk removal and restoring the landscape. I hoped to personally thank the crew but they were so efficient and quiet in their work that they moved on before I was able to thank them. I must say they took care of the landscaping as if it was their own yard. Please extend my thanks to Mr. Kober and his crew. As a resident of Gaithersburg for over 30 years, I have an easy time telling others of the excellent City services we residents receive. Thanks again and happy New Year.


O. J. Lennon
3 Pavilion Dr.
Gaithersburg, MD
301-977-4178

JAN - 5 2009

Scott MacFarlane

932 Orchard Ridge Dr., Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Ph: 248-756-5641, 240-477-4667

Mayor and City Council
31 South Summit Avenue
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

Dear Mayor Katz and Honorable Council Members:

Never has it been so important for Gaithersburg's leaders to communicate thoroughly and proactively with their constituents.

The challenging economic times have stretched and strained Gaithersburg families, small business owners and service groups. The recession, declining home values and rising job uncertainty have exponentially increased the importance and relevance of our city government. More than ever, residents need our city services. More than ever, residents need our city programs. More than ever, residents need a government that clearly and vigorously communicates with its residents.

Please consider me a person willing and able to help the city meet this challenge. Consider me for a position on the City of Gaithersburg Communications Committee.

As a network television Washington correspondent, I've built a career out of my skill as a communicator. I broadcast to millions of viewers each day, covering government affairs, the U.S. Congress, The White House, and Supreme Court. My deep knowledge of broadcast technology, video production, graphics, social networking and website production have helped me communicate critical information about American government to mass audiences for years. It's a knowledge base and a skill set I'd like to volunteer on behalf of my home city and its leaders.

My previous work includes service as a Communications Director for a U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee. My responsibilities included sole development of major media plans, composed of: mass mailings, website development, radio and television producing, speechwriting and electronic-newsletter production. I oversaw multiple staff members and budget items totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars. I served as sole conduit between a sitting Member of Congress and her 600,000 constituents, communicating vital information about government services, Social Security benefits, veterans' benefits and tax code changes.


I've previously served on the boards of directors of other major organizations. As a former member of the Board of Directors of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Ohio, I developed a strong ability to handle budgets and oversee the administration of large projects. I made decisions on how and when to spend tens of thousands of dollars. I led brainstorming sessions on communications initiatives and fundraising events. I voted on the hiring of the organization's professional CEO and had a voice in deciding her salary.

While serving as Chief Operating Officer of the WJPZ Alumni Association of Syracuse University (500+ members), I have voted on site selection for major conventions and events, including the selection of keynote speakers and hotel ballrooms for fundraisers which generates tens of thousands of dollars each year. I also have helped lead the group's prestigious Communications Committee. That's no small feat, in light of the fact the WJPZ Alumni Association is a group composed exclusively of high-level professional communicators.

My background includes a rich tapestry of communications experience and organizational oversight. All of it could aid the City of Gaithersburg at this important time.

I'm a proud Gaithersburg homeowner. I'm a proud volunteer of Montgomery College's communications program. I'd be prouder still to join the city government's effort to communicate with its citizens. Please consider this letter as my formal 'letter of interest' for a seat on the Gaithersburg Communications Committee.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott MacFarlane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Scott MacFarlane

Scott MacFarlane

932 Orchard Ridge Dr., Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Ph: 248-756-5641, 202-777-7055 / Email: newsmanscott@yahoo.com

Washington-Based Network TV Correspondent and Web News Producer

Cox Television – Washington Bureau

Correspondent (TV and Web)

Washington, D.C.

December 2005 – Present

- File highly-customized live, locally-focused enterprise reports for diverse group of market-leading TV stations
- Broke several major Washington stories for 10 local TV affiliates; Gained national attention by being first to report resignation of Rep. Bob Ney, federal indictment of Michael Vick, police investigation of Rep. Cynthia McKinney
- Utilize unique Congressional experience to serve as analyst for live “Q&A” sessions during breaking news events, election night coverage and major political stories
- Bureau’s most active on-line contributor; Developed strong knowledge of PHAEDRA and WORLDNOW web news services by producing regular “web-only” stories, videos, slideshows and blogs for affiliate stations (produced multiple web stories that garnered more than 100,000 pages views)

The Honorable Candice Miller (R-MI), U.S. House of Representatives

Communications Director

Washington, D.C.

February 2005 - December 2005

- Served as sole spokesman for all local and national issues; Given full autonomy to design and disseminate message
- Cultivated priceless set of future news contacts and sources while training Members of Congress for media opportunities and while interacting with key staffers in House and Senate offices
- Promptly promoted to senior staff in office and was assigned staffers to help expand role of Communications Dept.
- Started series of new communications initiatives, including: E-newsletter, interactive web features for Member website, and monthly radio and cable talk shows called “*The Washington Connection*” (hosted by Member, with pertinent government officials as guests)

WOIO-Television

General Assignment Reporter

Cleveland, OH

January 2003 – February 2005

- Worked exclusively on 11pm newscasts, which experienced a 40% ratings increase during my tenure
- Quickly rose through the ranks, becoming first choice to file stories for national news outlets, multiple reports filed for *CBS Evening News with Dan Rather*, *The Early Show*, CNN, CBS Radio (airchecks available)
- Provided lead story for highest-rated newscast in station’s history (info available upon request)

WWJ-Television

Chief Political Reporter/Anchor

Detroit, MI

February 2001 – January 2003

- Received statewide acclaim for breaking the story of a 9/11 terrorist warning received by Detroit FBI in Aug. 2001
- Earned “Wade McCree” Award for Advancement of Justice from the Michigan Bar Association for excellence in writing and reporting about the Michigan legal system
- Cultivated influential community contacts as station’s lead political reporter; Served as primary backup anchor

Part-Time/Previous Employment

Michigan Talk Radio Network – *Syndicated Political Talk Show Host*

December 2003 – January 2005

- Hosted 4-hour weekend news, issue-oriented talk show broadcast on 28 affiliate stations
- Developed compelling live performance and interview skills by conducting one-on-one discussions with Presidential candidates, civic leaders, athletes, and Motown entertainers
- Served as fill-in host and news anchor for weekday morning-drive program broadcast on major-market affiliate in Detroit

CBS Radio News – *Freelance Political Reporter*

January 2003-February 2005

- Filed dozens of breaking news, political news, and feature reports for national broadcasts including “*World News Roundup*”
- Proved reliability by offering on-call service to 24-hour / 7 day-a-week network news operation
- Polished news writing skills by adhering to CBS Network News writing standards and by tailoring scripts for a diverse, national audience

Freedom Broadcasting of Michigan (WWMT, WLAJ-TV) – Producer/Reporter
WTVH-TV, Syracuse – Producer/Reporter
WSYR-AM, WYYY-FM, Syracuse – News Anchor

May 1998-February 2001
May 1997-May 1998
February 1995-May 1997

Education

Syracuse University • Bachelor of Arts, 1998 • Majors: Political Philosophy, Broadcast Journalism • Graduate – Summa Cum Laude

Activities

- **Media Training** - Offered symposiums on news interviews, networking with media, press release production, and on-camera performance to multiple groups including: Hermanoff and Associates public relations firm (Farmington Hills, MI), City of Detroit Health Department, Big Brothers/Big Sisters (**2001-current**)
- **Guest Lecturer** – Montgomery College, Rockville, MD and Greenburg House, Washington, D.C. – Regularly lecturing to Media Professionals About Political Coverage and Political Campaigns (**June 2005 – current**)
- **Member - Board of Directors** – Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Ohio (**January 2004 – February 2005**)
- **Chief Operating Officer – Board of Directors** –Syracuse Univ. WJPZ Alumni Association – Administrative Director of alumni group with 500+ active members, operated to enrich opportunities of communications students (**2004-current**)

Computer/Media Skills

Microsoft Publishing • YouTube • *Dreamweaver* • YAHOO SiteBuilder • *Phaedra* Web News Service • *WorldNow* Web News Service • IBM and Macintosh Systems • *I-News* and *ENPS* newsroom software systems

From: [Maureen Herndon](#)
To: [Doris Stokes](#)
Subject: RE: The Judy Center
Date: Thursday, January 08, 2009 10:52:49 AM

The Judy Center

In Intergenerational Program, a Match of a Lifetime

Partnership of Seniors, Children Wins Award

PHOTOS

[Previous](#) [Next](#)



Children from the Gaithersburg Judy Center sing and shake bells as they perform for seniors including Marie Tharp, right, at Forest Oak Towers. (Photos By Susan Biddle -- The Washington Post)

[Buy Photo](#)



Marvin Sorto, 3, and Olivia Price go through hand motions to a song during the session last month. (Susan Biddle - The Washington Post)

[Buy Photo](#)

By Julie Rasicot

Special to The Washington Post

Thursday, January 8, 2009; Page GZ09

As the community room at Forest Oak Towers in Gaithersburg filled with music and the sounds of children stamping their feet, 75-year-old Olivia Price couldn't help but join in.

Gripping the handles of her walker, the longtime resident of the apartment complex for low-income senior citizens began bouncing up and down. The music and the children revived pleasant memories of her grandchildren, Price said.

"I just like children. I love them," she said. "Mine are all so far away. My grands and great-grands are all so far away. They're in North Carolina."

Price was one of about a dozen of the residents of the complex, owned by the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County, who participated in a recent session of an award-winning intergenerational project sponsored by the Gaithersburg Judy Center. Housed at Summit Hall Elementary School, the Judy Center offers services for at-risk children from birth to age 5 and their families, including preschool and parenting and nutrition programs.

There are 24 Judy Centers operating in or affiliated with public elementary schools in Maryland. More than 120 families are enrolled at the Gaithersburg center this year. The county's other center is at Rolling Terrace Elementary School in Takoma Park.

Funded by state and local governments, the centers were established in memory of Judith P. Hoyer, who was a children's advocate and educator in [Prince George's County](#) and the wife of [Rep. Steny H. Hoyer \(D-Md.\)](#).

Last month, the Gaithersburg Judy Center received the 2008 Innovative Spirit Award from the Judith P. Hoyer Foundation for the intergenerational program, which brings the seniors and youngsters together several times a year. The award included \$5,000, which will pay for guest speakers and other amenities for the center and a computer for residents of the complex.

Marty Monks, the center's program manager, said the idea to bring the seniors and children together came to her while attending a meeting of the Housing Opportunities Commission. Monks said she realized that the seniors and the Judy Center children share similar economic and ethnic demographics.

"It tugged at my heartstrings, and I thought: Why can't I bring my children to them?" she said. "I couldn't think of a better match. It was as though it was meant to be. I thought: Somehow, I have to marry these two populations."

At Forest Oak, the Judy Center staff conducted one of its weekly learning sessions to enhance literacy, inviting the children and seniors to participate in the activities. December's session was in the Forest Oak community room, where most of the seniors stood or sat behind the children sitting on the floor as Martha Bruno, the center's parent outreach coordinator, led them in counting and rhyming songs.

Whether it's held at the Judy Center or at Forest Oak, the focus of the hour-long program is to familiarize the children, many of whom are from Spanish-speaking families, with the stories, language and routines they will experience in school.

"I hope that you know that when you're doing the songs, you are following directions," Bruno told the children.

"They're having fun. They don't realize we've aligned every activity" with state guidelines for school readiness, Monks explained as she watched the children clap to another song. "We do everything we can to create an experience that reinforces learning."

The interaction with the seniors is a "win-win" for both groups, Monks said. Parents say the program provides an opportunity for their children, whose grandparents might live in another country, to spend time with older people. And the children bring a bit of youthful joy to the seniors, said Claudia Mendoza-Sanchez of Boyds, whose 5-year-old daughter, Valeria, attends the Judy Center.

"When you have kids around, you feel happy," she said.

Connelly Stewart, resident counselor at Forest Oak, said the intergenerational project has been a big hit with residents of the complex, which includes people 62 or older and those

with disabilities.

"It's been a really wonderful thing for our seniors just to be around young people," she said. "Isolation is one of our biggest issues here. It's really helped them to be around the little ones."

Forest Oak Towers resident John Nazarian, 54, who frequently attends the sessions with the children, said he marvels at how the center staff incorporates music and movement into the lessons.

"I personally enjoy the way the teachers teach them and get them to participate," he said. "I get involved. I do the same wiggling that they do."

On days when center children go to Forest Oak, Price and Marie Tharp, 80, take charge at the apartment complex, making sure visitors know which way to go.

Marie Tharp, a lifelong Gaithersburg resident who has lived at Forest Oak for nine years, said she always looks forward to the children's visit. "I love them. There's one little girl, she always throws kisses to me," she said. "Most of them know me by now."

Sandra Dawson
Receptionist
Community Services
City of Gaithersburg
301.258.6395 ext 4
301.258.6328 fax