



Early Voting Begins Today!

Don't forget to vote in the primaries. Early voting is today through June 21st, with the primary on the 26th.

Montgomery County

County Elections - Primaries for County elections are on June 26th. Early voting begins June 14th, and goes through June 21st. Click [here](#) for more information on early voting centers. If you are not registered to vote, you can register at any early voting station with a picture ID and utility bill. Visit the State Board of Elections [page](#) for a full list of all candidates running. Wondering where candidates stand on issues such as affordable housing, healthcare, and education? Check out these two questionnaires MHP participated in: [Montgomery Housing Alliance Questionnaire](#), and [Community Ministries of Rockville Questionnaire](#). You can also watch the video of the County Executive Candidates' Forum on Housing that we hosted [here](#).

County Budget – On May 24th, Montgomery County Council approved the County's \$5.6 billion FY19 Operating Budget, the FY19 Capital Budget, and the FY19-24 Capital Improvements Program (CIP). In total, \$63.8 million was allocated to the Housing Initiative Fund, including an additional \$6 million to the capital appropriation to increase the preservation and production of affordable housing in the County. The County also re-appropriated \$300K from the CIP to support Long Branch businesses through the construction of the Purple Line. The funding allocated for Long Branch will be used primarily for marketing, signage, and technical assistance to the businesses. The Council also agreed to a \$17.3 million cap for the Payment In-Lieu of Taxes Program. These funds help support the construction of affordable housing throughout the county by reducing properties ongoing operating expenses through an upfront payment of property taxes versus on on-going annual payment.

Sector Plans in Process - The Forest Glen/Montgomery Hills Sector Plan is under way, with community meetings being held to gather public input into a draft plan, expected in the Summer of 2018. The most recent public community meeting was held on June 4th. Through initial studies of the corridor, it was found that there are limitations on homeownership because of high homeowner costs and only a modest supply of affordable housing. The study also found that 33% of residents in this plan area use public transit to commute to work, making it a prime location for combined transit oriented development and expanding affordable housing development. Preliminary recommendations of the plan include balancing traffic demands on the traffic heavy corridor of Georgia Avenue, and residential needs for connectivity and safety for pedestrian and cyclists. The Veirs Mill Corridor Master Plan working draft was presented to the Planning Board on March 8th. You can see a full list of preliminary recommendations, and continue to provide input into the plan, by visiting this [website](#).

Bills

Bill 11-18, Buildings - Environmental Roof Design. This bill would require an environmentally sustainable roof on certain new and extensively modified non-residential or multi-family buildings, creating a precedent for environmentally sustainable building design in Montgomery County. The bill was introduced on March 20th, with the latest public hearing held on April 10th.

Bills 34-17 and 38-18 addressing changes to the MPDU program continue to be reviewed by the County Council's Planning, Housing, and Economic Development Committee. The next work session is scheduled for 2 pm on Monday, June 18th. As discussed by the committee, a number of the changes need to be reflected in the zoning code, separate from the County Code. Therefore, a complementary zoning text amendment is scheduled to be introduced to the Council on June 19th, with a public hearing to follow.

State of Maryland

State Elections. All State offices are up for election this year, including the Governor's seat, State Senators, and House of Delegates. Refer to the State Board of Election's [page](#) for a full list of candidates. And most importantly, DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Federal

50th Anniversary. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the passage of the Fair Housing Act. *Seven Days* is a short but powerful documentary looking at the seven days after Martin Luther King was shot leading to the passage of the Fair Housing Act. The video can be seen [here](#).

The FY19 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development (THUD) appropriations bill was approved by the House appropriations Committee, and will now move to the floor for consideration by the full House. The committee approved a \$941

million increase in THUD funding from FY2018, to a total of \$46.3 billion. Key funding points include:

- Level-funding for the **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program** at \$3.365 billion.
- Decreased funding for the **HOME Investment Partnerships Program** to \$1.2 billion. The FY18 omnibus spending package funded the HOME Program at \$1.362 billion. At its height, HOME was funded at \$1.8 billion.
- Increased funding for **Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers** to \$22.476 billion, a \$455 million increase over FY18.
- Increased funding for **Project Based Rental Assistance (PBRA)** at \$11.747 billion, up from \$11.515 billion in FY18.
- Level-funding for the **Section 4 Capacity Building for Affordable Housing and Community Development Program** of \$35 million.
- Decreased funding for **Section 202 Housing for the Elderly** to \$632 million, from \$678 million in FY18.

The Annual Report on Fair Housing Trends for 2018 was released, which outlines key obstacles to carrying out the Fair Housing Act (FHA) of 1968. The FHA was established to protect individuals from discriminatory housing practices when buying or renting. The Annual Report on Fair Housing noted the federal government's suspension of the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH), as a failure of the federal government to enforce the FHA. The AFH was created under the 2015 Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule (AFFH) within the Fair Housing Act, which required program participants to submit an AFH, documenting their plan to vigorously enforce the Fair Housing Act in their jurisdiction. The suspension of the Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH) by the federal government has in effect indefinitely suspended the implementation of the 2015 AFFH rule.

The Senate confirmed Brian Montgomery as the new Assistant Secretary of HUD and the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Commissioner. Montgomery previously held the position under President George W. Bush from 2004 to 2009.

The Annual Report on the Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households was released by the Federal Reserve. You can read the full report [here](#). The report documented that 74 percent of individuals reported that their finances have improved over the past five years. However it noted differences in economic well-being between sub-populations in the U.S., including race, ethnicity, and educational attainment. For instance 7 out of 10 low-income renters surveyed experiencing housing strain (spending more than 30 percent of ones monthly income on rent), and those living in low and moderate income neighborhoods were 21 percent less likely to be satisfied with their neighborhood than those in middle and upper income communities.

The 'Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act (PTFA)' has been permanently extended, through a law signed by President Trump on May 24th. The PTFA, which had expired at the end of 2014, enabled renters whose homes were in foreclosure to remain in their homes for at least 90 days, or for the term of their lease, whichever was greater.

Upcoming Events

June

14 - Early Voting Opens! Vote from the 14th to the 21st. See above for additional information.

15 (Friday) 8:30 AM – 12 PM – National Housing Conference Annual 2018 Policy Symposium. Join housing leaders from around the country to discuss innovations in community development strategies and learn how affordable housing leaders are achieving lasting change in distressed communities. Washington Marriott at Metro Center, 775 12th St NW, Washington, D.C.

19 (Tuesday) 4 – 6:30 PM Release Event – State of the Nation’s Housing, published by the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, celebrating the 30th anniversary of this publication’s annual release. Register to attend here. National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC 20045.

26 – Primary Day! Last chance to vote!

27 (Wednesday) 8 AM – 7:30 PM - National Forum on the Human Right to Housing – Using the power of law to end homelessness. Register for the event here. **Sidley Austin LLP**, 1501 K Street NW, Washington, DC.

July

23-25 (Monday-Wednesday) 8 AM – 6 PM – National Alliance to End Homelessness presents the NAEH 2018 National Conference on Ending Homelessness. Washington Marriott Wardman Park, 2660 Woodley Rd NW, Washington, DC.

30 – Save the Date: MHP's Annual Policy Forum: Affordable Housing 101

Please visit our website at www.mhpartners.org
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