

## **Montgomery County Council to Host Wheaton/Northern Silver Spring Area Town Hall Meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 2**

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- Contact: Neil Greenberger 240-777-7931 or Delphine Harriston 240-777-7931
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ROCKVILLE, Md., October 25, 2011—The Montgomery County Council will continue its efforts to find out what issues most concern residents when it hosts a Town Hall Meeting for the Wheaton/Northern Silver Spring area on Wednesday, Nov. 2. The meeting at Mario Loiederman Middle School in Silver Spring will start at 8 p.m. A pre-meeting reception will begin at 7:30 p.m.

This will be the fifth Town Hall Meeting hosted by the Council in 2011. The Council hosted a Town Hall Meeting for the East County area in Silver Spring in January; for the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area in March; for the Derwood area in June; and one devoted to the views of students in October.

The Council is composed of President Valerie Ervin, Vice President Roger Berliner and Councilmembers Phil Andrews, Marc Elrich, Nancy Floreen, George Leventhal, Nancy Navarro, Craig Rice and Hans Riemer. Most town hall meetings hosted by the Council in recent years have drawn crowds of more than 200 residents.

Mario Loiederman Middle School is located at 12701 Goodhill Road in Silver Spring.

It is expected that the major topics of the evening will include the future of the Wheaton Library; schools; the redevelopment of the Wheaton Business District and the Georgia Avenue corridor; crime; the proposed County-wide youth curfew; big box stores coming to the area such as Costco and the proposed Walmart for Aspen Hill; the performance of power utilities, including Pepco, following storms; and traffic.

The meeting will allow residents to voice their opinions on specific issues and will allow them to ask questions of the Councilmembers in an organized, but informal, setting.

“We made some decisions in approaching the current year’s budget that will affect the budget process for years to come because we could not continue to operate in the manner we had been in recent years,” said Council President Ervin. “Some of these very difficult decisions will impact every resident of this County. In addition, the Council has been working to improve situations that affect people in this community every day. We want to hear their thoughts on these issues.”

Council President Ervin said Town Hall Meetings are one of the avenues the Council has pursued to keep residents better informed.

“This Council has made a priority of having better direct communication with residents,

and Town Hall Meetings have proven to be an excellent way to do just that,” she said. “For the residents, these meetings provide a forum where they can see their elected officials in a different format than a televised meeting or through a news release.”

The meeting will be taped for later broadcast on County Cable Montgomery (CCM—cable Channel 6 on Comcast and RCN, Channel 30 on Verizon). Susan Kenedy, a producer for the County station, will moderate the meeting.

For more information about the Town Hall Meeting or about the broadcast times, call 240-777-7931.

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