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Snow affects County Council schedule

Dreyfuss appointed to Planning Board

County News | Erin Cunningham

Several Montgomery County Council public hearings, committee meetings and work sessions were postponed Monday and Tuesday and will now take place next week — when the council was scheduled to be off.

A public hearing on County Executive Isiah Leggett's (D) proposed capital budget, which includes funding for projects in fiscal years 2011-16, now will take place at 7 p.m. Tuesday at 100 Maryland Ave. in Rockville.

A public hearing on the same topic was moved from today to Feb. 17 at 7 p.m.

Dreyfuss tabbed

for Planning Board

The Montgomery County Council voted 7-2 Tuesday to appoint Norman M. Dreyfuss, executive vice president of the Ballston-based IDI Group Cos., to complete the Planning Board term of Republican Jean Cryor, who died in May.

Dreyfuss, whose company developed Leisure World, would become the second developer on the board, joining Joseph L. Alfandre, a Democrat who developed Kentlands.

Councilmen Marc B. Elrich (D-At Large) of Takoma Park and Philip M. Andrews (D-Dist. 3) of Gaithersburg opposed Dreyfuss' appointment.

Dreyfuss has served on the county's Housing Opportunities Commission and described himself, when the council interviewed him last week, as a consensus builder "who listens [and] knows how to work with people and keep peace."

Dreyfuss also said that older communities deteriorate and that people who live there need to participate in the planning process so their neighborhoods can adapt to changed needs and markets.

Councilman Roger Berliner (D-Dist. 1) of Potomac nominated Kenneth Hurdle of North Bethesda, a manufacturer's representative, who has worked with architects and engineers and also has served on citizen advisory panels.

Berliner, Andrews and Elrich voted for Hurdle.

Trachtenberg launches

'en Español' blog

Montgomery County Councilwoman Duchy Trachtenberg (D-At large) has started a Spanish-language blog — making her the first council member to do so, according to a news release.

The blog, "Duchy Trachtenberg en Español" is edited by Wil Gutierrez, of Silver Spring, who recently joined Trachtenberg's office.

Trachtenberg's Spanish-language blog includes links to local, state and federal Internet Web Sites, including Montgomery County Public Schools, the Montgomery County library system, the county's Family Justice Center and the Latino Health Initiative. It also includes links to key Spanish language media such as El Tiempo Latino, El Zol Radio, Telemundo and Univision, the release states.

"I am a strong believer of using all types of new media and the social networking tools that we have to reach out to our citizens," Trachtenberg (D-At large) of North Bethesda said in a release. "Montgomery County is home to a diverse population of nearly one million people and we need to do whatever we can to educate and inform all the people."

Trachtenberg's English-language blog is [www.duchytrachtenberg.](http://www.duchytrachtenberg.blogspot.com)

[blogspot.com](http://www.duchytrachtenberg.blogspot.com), and the Spanish-language version is <http://duchytrachtenberg-espanol.blogspot.com>.

Montgomery County took part in Clean Energy Week

Montgomery County supported Clean Energy Week, held Feb. 1-5, by working with other jurisdictions, organizations, nonprofits and private businesses to promote clean energy, according to a news release.

The American Council on Renewable Energy, which organized the events, issued an appeal to U.S. Congress and President Barack Obama, pressing them to take action on climate solutions, renewable energy, energy efficiency and other issues, according to the release.

Montgomery County is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050, the release states.

Montgomery County's Sustainability Working Group, appointed by Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett (D) last year, offered suggestions that the county is working to implement.

Those initiatives are available at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep. For details on Clean Energy Week, go to www.cleanenergyweek.org.

Some in county eligible for free income tax preparation

Montgomery County residents who earn less than \$49,000 annually may be eligible for free income tax preparation assistance through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, according to a news release.

The VITA program is sponsored by the county's Community Action Agency, which is part of the Department of Health and Human Services.

For appointments and other details, call:

-Gaithersburg: Monday evenings 5 to 9 p.m., 301-258-6395 — press option "6." (Limited Saturday appointments at this site)

-TESS Center, Silver Spring: Tuesday evenings 5 to 9 p.m., 301-565-7675.

-Rockville: Wednesday evenings 5 to 9 p.m., 240-314-8310.

-Silver Spring: Thursday evenings 5 to 9 p.m., 301-565-7451. (Limited Saturday appointments at this site)