

## Montgomery County Council approves business group

County News | Erin Cunningham

The County Council on Tuesday unanimously approved a new Business Development Corp. for Montgomery County.

The group's board of directors, composed primarily of county business leaders, will work to enhance economic development in the county, according to the resolution forming the body.

The group, which has been in the works for nearly a year, was initiated by Council President Nancy M. Floreen (D-At large) of Garrett Park.

She said Tuesday that the development corporation will offer a "reality check" for what the county government must do to support businesses.

### Knapp introduces bill to create council budget office

The Montgomery County Council would have its own budget office — separate from that of the County Executive — under a bill introduced Tuesday by Councilman Michael J. Knapp.

Knapp (D-Dist. 2) of Germantown said his bill does not include specifics on how the new office would be formed. It was unclear Tuesday whether additional staff or increased spending would be required.

"At a time when we're talking about shrinking everything in the county government, I don't know how I justify creating another office, another director position," said Councilman Marc Elrich (D-At large) of Takoma Park.

Knapp said the budget office is needed to provide additional information to guide the council's budget decision-making. Concerns have been raised over the timeliness and accuracy of some of Executive Isiah Leggett's (D) budget information.

A public hearing on the bill is scheduled for Oct. 26.

### County department receives environmental award

Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection received a Potomac Champion Award on Sept. 22 in a Washington, D.C., ceremony during the fifth annual Potomac Watershed Trash Summit.

The department was recognized for its efforts in reducing trash and litter in the Potomac River, according to a news release.

"I'm very proud of DEP's innovation and willingness to champion more aggressive ways of improving water quality," Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett (D) said in a news release. "Trash not only ruins the beauty of our neighborhoods and rivers, it blocks our storm drains causing our streets and basements to flood, carries bacteria and other pollutants into our drinking water supplies, destroys fish habitat and prevents us from swimming and fishing in our streams."

In the release, Leggett added that the county government spends about \$3 million annually to clean up litter.

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County saves \$2 million in paper costs

Montgomery County government saved about \$2 million last year by reducing the amount of paper used by employees.

The county reduced paper consumption by about 20 percent, or 52 million sheets, a news release states.

County Executive Isiah Leggett (D) initially set a goal of 15 percent paper reduction across all departments.

Going forward, departments have been instructed to reduce consumption again by between 3 percent and 5 percent.