

Montgomery College's East County Education Center (ECEC) Coming

(From the Press Release)

County Executive Elrich and Montgomery College President Williams on Wednesday, Nov. 2, announced the opening of the Educational Center. At the event, four council members, the principal of Paint Branch HS, the President of White Oak Medical Center and the Chair of the East County Citizens Advisory Board also spoke.

The college has leased a 55,193 square-foot facility at 2221 Broadbirch Dr. It will feature classrooms, training labs and student advising space. The plan for the center is to provide educational support for residents who will ultimately work in the current and future businesses in the eastern area of the County.

The target date to provide services is Fall 2023. Montgomery College expects to serve more than 1,000 students in the first year.

Montgomery College currently has three campuses (Germantown, Rockville, Takoma Park/Silver Spring) and two training centers in Gaithersburg and Wheaton. The ECEC will be the largest of the college's three training centers, nearly four times larger than the Gaithersburg site. The new center is the first step in the college's expansion into East County. A campus is planned as a future addition.

The college will offer both credit and noncredit classes at the ECEC in fields of interest to prospective students and community members, targeting skill gaps in key industry sectors such as healthcare and IT. Program highlights will include:

- Small Business/Entrepreneurship
- Cybersecurity/IT
- Allied Healthcare classes
- Early Childhood Education
- English for speakers of other languages (ESL)
- General Education (credit courses)
- Raptor Central, the student support services one-stop shop for admissions and enrollment

Thrive 2050 General Plan

The council approved the controversial Thrive 2050 general plan, which provides the vision of how the county should develop in the future. GCCA liked some parts of it but opposed others, especially dealing with the addition of duplexes, triplexes and quadplexes in single family neighborhoods.

Burtonsville Park & Ride Changes

(from Public Hearing information)

This site was included in a 2021 County Request for Developer Proposals for its redevelopment. The County selected First Equity Holdings.

A 500-space garage will replace the current surface Park and Ride Lot. The county retains the option to construct 500 additional spaces in the future to meet transit service needs. The developer has five years to build the garage, which the county will own and operate. The garage is estimated to cost approximately \$18M, of which a \$5M grant was received from the state toward the cost.

The developer will also develop approximately 250 rental apartments, of which at least 30% will be affordable to households making less than 120% of the area median income (AMI). Five percent will be allocated to each of the following AMI brackets: 30-40, 40-50, 50-60, 60-80, 80-100, and 100-120. For market rate units, the developer will pay \$12,000 per unit to the county at the closing of the land deal.