

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ARCHIVES

Guide to the
MISCELLANEOUS CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY
1921-1937; 1950-1997

Record Group 18: Civic Organizations

February, 2016
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Montgomery County Archives
Montgomery County Records Center
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ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

Varied (see below for individual histories of each organization).

EXTENT

1.5 cubic feet: 1 legal-size Hollinger box, 2 letter-size Hollinger boxes.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains mostly printed material, though some organic working files are included. Material was collected from various accessions and outlines the activity of some of the smaller Montgomery County Civic Organizations. Each organization has only a few folders of material, usually in a one-or-two-year time period, representing the only information yet collected about their activities. Material can include printed reports, brochures, newsletters, informational booklets, and other publications, as well as meeting minutes/agendas, newspaper clippings, working files, and other documents. Two inventory lists are provided below: one inventory arranged in alphabetical order with a brief description of each organization's administrative history, and one box inventory that lists the material available from each organization.

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS

This material is open for research.

LANGUAGE

English.

PROVENANCE

Varied: including, but not limited to, accessions #90-07, 96-33, 98-29, and others.

USING THESE RECORDS

To request records listed in this finding aid, the following information should be given to the archivist:

Record Group 18, [**Title of Specific Organization**], from Miscellaneous Civic Organizations:
Box Number and Folder Title(s).

The preferred citation for materials from these records is:

Montgomery County Archives; Gaithersburg, Maryland. Record Group 18: Civic Organizations. Records Title: [Title of Specific Organization]. Folder Title, Date[s].

PROCESSING PROCEDURES

General processing procedures consisted of discarding duplicates, unnecessary binders, and routine transmittals. Oversized documents were removed from the original location in their assigned series and placed in separate containers. Separation sheets were inserted in the original location within the folder to indicate the new location of any records placed elsewhere. Preservation copying of newspaper clippings was performed whenever feasible.

PROCESSING STAFF/FINDING AID AUTHOR

Sarah Hedlund.

**INVENTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS
(alphabetical with administrative history)**

Allied Civic Group of Silver Spring, 1953-1962

The Eastern Suburban Central Committee, organized in 1935, became the Allied Civic Group of Silver Spring in 1941. At that time there were six member associations with membership limited to the Silver Spring Post Office District. In 1950, the group was reorganized as the Allied Civic Group, Inc. with membership limited to civic associations in the Silver Spring area as defined by the executive committee of the group. The group mobilizes local organizations on topics such as education, legislation, tax and finance, health, sanitation, public highways, utilities, safety, zoning, planning, parks, recreation, and general civic improvements.

Material includes two citizens' handbooks from the 1950s and two survey/recommendation documents on county government, circa 1962.

Chamber of Commerce, c. 1960s

Material includes a position paper on traffic that is undated but likely from the 1960s. For more publications/printed material from the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, see the collections at Montgomery History's [Sween Library and Special Collections](#).

Citizens' Committee on Poverty, c. 1965

Material relates to citizen-led efforts to address poverty in Montgomery County in the 1960s, including notice of meetings, meeting agendas, reports, newspaper clippings, membership lists, and working papers.

Citizens For a Better Montgomery County, 1975-1977

Organized in 1975 and led by Idamae Garrott, a former Montgomery County Councilmember, this non-partisan group's aim was to help educate and inform county residents on vital issues on the local level. Material includes clippings, meeting agendas and minutes, and newsletters.

Community Coordinated Child Care Council (4C) of Montgomery County, 1973

This organization commissioned studies on child care opportunities in Montgomery County in 1973. Material includes two such studies, one on child care targeted at student mothers, and one using population studies to support the need for a day care center in Montgomery County.

Employees' Organization/UFCW/AFL-CIO, 1995

Material includes one report prepared by Environmental Futures, in Washington D.C., outlining for the union workers how contracting services in the government negatively affects quality.

Garrett Park Women's Club, c. 1950s

The Woman's Club of Garrett Park, still active in the community, won an award in 1950 for developing a local community center. Members took a role in local theater, gardening, book clubs, and community recreation activities. In the late 1950s, the Club collaborated with other local citizen groups to promote better mental health for children, including psychiatric training for teachers, anti-bullying measures, and parental involvement. Material consists of one

descriptive document outlining the Club's accomplishments and activity in the late 1950s.

Heart Association of Montgomery County, 1980-1981

Founded in 1924, the American Heart Association has been a part of the community, working in local schools, hospitals, community centers and city hall to provide critical research dollars and educational and outreach programs. The organization funds cutting-edge research, conducts lifesaving public and professional educational programs, and advocates to protect public health. Material includes on annual report for the 1980-81 fiscal year.

Home Interest Club of Forest Glen, 1921-1937

The Home Interest Club of Forest Glen, a women's club, was founded in 1897 and existed for forty years, until 1937. Initially the members met with their children and needlework to discuss matters of common interest. A small group, with a membership under the mandated maximum of thirty, their charter defined their purpose as simply "to promote sociability in the neighborhood." Schools and education became one of their primary interests, and with \$7,500 raised at card parties and other benefits, they built the Woodside School on two acres of land given to the club by Mr. B.F. Leighton. Later the club joined with the Social Service League and initiated a move to establish the Silver Spring Library, the Annie W. Wilson scholarship, and won the Maryland State Federation Penny art prize for the best art program in its community. They were also active in providing aid to the poor and unemployed in the county. Notable members were Carrie E. and Lavinia Engel. Material consists of a minute book, including handwritten minutes by the Club's recording secretary, as well as clippings and correspondence. Topics addressed in the minutes include internal issues such as entertainment, elections of club officers, finances, and committees, as well as relating to the activities of other Montgomery County civic groups, education, and the growth and development of Montgomery County.

MCARC (formerly the Association for Retarded Citizens/Children), 1972; 1983

Now known as The Arc of Montgomery County, this organization was launched by a group of parents who started a day program for their children with mental challenges, eventually incorporating as the nonprofit Montgomery County Association for Retarded Children (MCARC) in 1958. Originally focused on preschool, MCARC expanded to adult daycare services, which later became group homes, as well as vocational services and family support networks for people with mental disabilities. In 1992, the agency became "The Arc" deleting the word "retarded" from its name as the result of self-advocates' efforts.

Mental Health Association, 1971-1973

The Mental Health Association of Montgomery County (MHA), founded in 1960, provides support services and advocacy to persons and organizations in Montgomery County who are interested in mental health issues. Material includes two reports on mental health services available in Montgomery County in the early 1970s.

Montgomery Housing Partnership, 1980-1981; 1992

In 1988, a small group of housing activists led by Reverend Lon Dring and Peg McRory came together to form a non-profit housing organization that could work with the local government and the community to address affordable housing issues in Montgomery County. In the first few

years, the board of directors and staff concentrated on local government policies that pertained to affordable housing, including an amendment to the county's MPDU law (Moderately Priced Dwelling Units, the country's first inclusionary zoning law) to allow non-profits to buy for-sale units. From 1990 to the present, MHP has continued its mission of expanding affordable housing with the acquisition of older run down multi-family buildings in Montgomery County. MHP acquires and rehabilitates these buildings and leases them to low and moderate income families. Material includes two pre-MHP community discussion documents submitted by Reverend Dring in 1980-81 on affordable housing and unmet social needs; also included is a two-volume 1992 proposal by MHP for a rehabilitation project on property at Second Avenue and Spring Street in Silver Spring.

Potomac Basin Center/Potomac Valley Conservation and Recreation Council, 1968-1970

This collection consists of selected newsletters and bulletins from Potomac Valley and Potomac Basin conservation groups based in Washington D.C., on issues specifically related to development in Montgomery County in the late 1960s that threatened the natural beauty or resources of the Potomac. Material likely donated by the Vinton family.

Redland Station Homes Association, 1980

This neighborhood homeowners association, founded in 1973, commissioned an environmental impact report in 1980, to determine the potential implications for their community after the plans for Interstate 370, state project M248-151-372, were proposed.

Save Takoma Park Committee, 1964-1965

In 1964, the MNCPPC proposed the construction of an extension to the North Central Freeway that would have cut the city of Takoma Park in two. In the mid-to-late 1960s, the future Mayor and civil rights activist Sam Abbott led a campaign to halt freeway construction and replace it with a Metrorail line to the site of the former train station, and worked with other neighborhood groups to halt plans for a wider system of freeways going into and out of DC. This material includes two newsletters from 1964 and 1965, written for the citizens of Takoma Park to inform them of the impending development and organize protests.

Soil Conservation District, 1979-1980

The Montgomery Soil Conservation District was organized at the request of the citizens of Montgomery County interested in soil and water conservation, land use planning and flood prevention. The District was organized on April 4, 1945, under the Maryland Soil Conservation District Law (passed in 1937). Specifically, the District's objectives are to control and prevent erosion, assist in the control of flooding, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, help in maintaining the navigability of the rivers, preserve wildlife, protect the tax base, protect public lands, and protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people. Material includes two publications: an annual work plan from 1979 and a long-range program plan, circa 1980.

Springbrook Forest Citizens Association, 1970

A group of Springbrook Forest homeowners met for the first time in 1952, drawing up a constitution and bylaws for a citizens association a few months later. The group dedicated itself

to maintaining quality of life for forest residents, focusing on street lights and signage, trash removal, beautification, public safety, community activities, child care, and local nuisances. The association later became part of the Allied Civic Group and took part in county development plans that affected their neighborhood.

Sugarloaf Citizens Association, 1976; undated

Material relates to the Sugarloaf Regional Trails project, sponsored by the Citizens Association, which attempted to mobilize citizens associations county-wide to address environmental issues raised by constant suburban development.

Toastmasters Club, 1994

Toastmasters International is comprised of a network of local clubs, including the Montgomery County Government Club #1510, which allows people to work on speechwriting and delivery for effective workplace communication and leadership. Material includes a competition flyer and a newsletter.

Women's Bar Association, Montgomery County Chapter, 1997

The WBA, founded in 1929, maintains the honor and integrity of the legal profession, assists in the administration of justice, promotes and advances the interest of women engaged in the practice of law and advances the status of women in society. The WBA has campaigned throughout history for: women's rights to serve on juries, be appointed to the bench, and elected to public office; improvement of the criminal justice system's handling of rapes and other sex offenses; the right of females to make personal decisions regarding their lives and their bodies; and the creation of a more diverse judiciary. Material includes one member directory from 1997.

BOX INVENTORY

Box 1

- Allied Civic Group of Silver Spring
 - Citizens' Handbook on Montgomery County, Maryland, 1953
 - Citizens' Handbook on Montgomery County, Maryland, 1956
 - Survey of Montgomery County Government, 1962
 - Report and Recommendations of the Government Operations Committee of the Allied Civic Group Concerning Government Structure and Operations in Montgomery County, 1962
- Soil Conservation District
 - Annual Work Plan, 1979
 - "Out of the 70's Into the 80's": Long Range Program, c. 1980
- MCARC (formerly Association for Retarded Citizens/Children)
 - A Program Statement for the Establishment of Community-Based Residential Services for the Mentally Retarded, [1972]
 - Where To Go For Diagnosis and Evaluation For Children and Adults Who Are Retarded, 1983
- Community Coordinated Child Care Council (4C) of Montgomery County
 - Who Will Take Care of the Children? Manual for Providing Child Care Opportunities for Student Mothers, 1973
 - Population Characteristics Reflecting Needs for Day Care in Montgomery County, 1973
- Mental Health Association
 - Attachments to a Study of the Mental Health Division, 1971
 - "A Citizen Looks at Mental Health Facilities, Volume I", 1973
- Chamber of Commerce
 - Position Paper on Traffic in the 70-S Corridor, [1960s]

Box 2

- Citizens' Committee on Poverty
 - General Files, [1965]
- Citizens For a Better Montgomery County
 - Newspaper Clippings, Newsletters, Agendas, Meeting Minutes, 1975-1977
- Employees' Organization/UFCW
 - Montgomery County Contracting Out: Phantom Savings, Real Cuts, 1995
- Garrett Park Women's Club
 - "This is Garrett Park" document, undated, c. 1950s
- Heart Association of Montgomery County
 - Annual Report, 1980-81
- Montgomery Housing Partnership
 - A Public Dialogue on Affordable Housing, 1980
 - Hearings on Unmet Social Needs in Montgomery County, 1981
 - Second Avenue and Spring Street Development Proposal (two volumes), 1992
- Potomac Basin Center/Potomac Valley Conservation and Recreation Council
 - Newsletters and Information, 1968-1970

Box 2, cont.

Redland Station Homes Association

Environmental Study Report of the Western Portion of the Area Proposed for Interstate
370 from I-270 to the Metro Station Access Road (Lewis, Consultant), 1980

Save Takoma Park Committee

Newsletters, 1964-1965

Springbrook Forest Citizens Association

History, Springbrook Forest and Second Addition to Culver's Chance, 1970

Sugarloaf Citizens Association

Citizens Workshops on the Montgomery County Environment, Final Report, 1976

Tools for Environmental Action: A Bibliography, undated

Toastmasters Club

Flyer and Newsletter, 1994

Women's Bar Association, Montgomery County Chapter

Directory, 1997

Box 3

Home Interest Club of Forest Glen, 1921-1937

Minute Book, 1921-1937