



CIVIC FEDERATION NEWS

Official Publication of the Montgomery County Civic Federation

Serving the Public Interest Since 1925

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November 2001

November Meeting To Focus on Issues from East Silver Spring and Takoma Park

—by Charles Pritchard

At the November 13th Montgomery County Civic Federation delegates' meeting, Jim Johnson, a member of the Civic Federation and long-time civic activist in the Long Branch/Flower Avenue district of Silver Spring, will speak on efforts to assist in the revitalization of this area. Jim is a co-founder and representative of the "Long Branch Initiative," an umbrella group of local civic groups in that area. He has played a significant role in the establishment of the federal-local "Weed & Seed" program to improve public safety in the Long Branch neighborhood. Jim addressed members of the Federation executive board at our annual retreat last summer. The board was impressed by his presentation and voted to offer it as a program topic to the full membership. Please plan to come and learn about this important work.

Delegate Meeting Minutes Oct. 9, 2001

—by Winifred Klein, Corresponding Secretary
and Richard Zierdt, Recording Secretary

The meeting convened in County Council chambers in the Stella Werner Bldg., 7th floor, 7:45 pm, Vice President Cary Lamari presiding.

The Chair offered a slide presentation showing photographs of the events of September 11 in New York City and at the Pentagon. This was followed by a minute of silence in remembrance of the victims.

The Minutes were approved without objection as published.

Announcements: The MCCF November 13th meeting will be held in the Council Bldg. Cafeteria, 2nd floor. Mr. Skinner announced a "Spending Affordability Briefing" for the legislature, 6 pm, Lowe Bldg., Annapolis.

The Chair made a quorum call, with 17 delegates being counted, representing 16 member associations. He declared the meeting open.

Dan Wilhelm, on behalf of the Transportation Policy Review Task Force, presented the program on "What

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is the Future for Transportation?" He distributed copies of a summary of the report and discussed various aspects of the study.

Respectfully submitted,
Winifred Klein, MCCF Correspondence Secretary

8:15 Recording Secretary Richard Zierdt arrives.
Dan Wilhelm - Transportation Policy Review. Among many other items, Dan describes three "Scenarios," (A) Road Emphasis, (B) Transit Emphasis, and (C) Bus Network. Bill Skinner: Where will funding come from? Jerry Garson: Purple line is not efficient (cost/benefit). Increasing parking at current Metro stations makes more sense. Dan: Improve the buses so that people don't have to use their cars at all. Q: Where did the estimates come from? Dan: Council of Governments. Charles Wolff: No more than 20% of the proposed projects will be completed. What is Dan's opinion? Dan: use transit. Increasing roads tends to decrease transit. Lee Shipman: How likely is "Techway Lite"? Dan: like it better than "Heavy Techway." Q: What is the timetable for the Task Force to complete its work? Dan: the week after Thanksgiving. Peggy Dennis: What about intersections that were "de-proved" (not "improved")? Dan: first he's heard of them. Pat Baptist: increased accessibility increases development, which will increase the load on transit and roads. Dan: APG has many holes in it. Cary Lamari: Is the goal to decrease congestion, or increase capacity for greater development? Charles Pritchard: Is this a battle between moving goods or people?

9:05: MCCF president Dean Ahmad arrives.

9:12: Dean: County Council will make an alignment decision on the Purple Line on October 16th. This is not enough time for proper citizen involvement. There may be a deadline to apply for federal funds. Cary moves **that the MCCF urge the County Council to delay a decision until proper citizen input is heard.** Pat Baptist: Council has had 13 years to come up with a plan; 6 more years won't matter. Motion passes.

Agenda is adopted. 5 minutes allocated to property tax reassessment.

Approval for membership of Winding Orchard Citizens Association is deferred until someone from WOCA attends.

WSSC Rate Structure: Deferred.

Property Tax Reassessment. John Nelson. New homeowners are being assessed upon purchase, rather than at the end of the normal three-year cycle. Dean recommends that the idea be referred to the executive committee. Pat Batiste: Property is now assessed a 100%, rather than 40% or 50% before. Lee Shipman moves that **the property tax assessment issue be referred to the ExCom.** Seconded. Passes.

9:36 PM. Meeting adjourns

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Zierdt, MCCF Recording Secretary

Ex-Comm Meeting Minutes Oct. 18, 2001

–by Winifred Klein, Corresponding Secretary
and Richard Zierdt, Recording Secretary

President Ahmad convened the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Additions to agenda: Cary Lamari County Expenditure Excess; Dick Stombotne Terminus for Transit line terminus in Clarksburg

Minutes of Ex-Comm meeting of September 20, 2001 are amended as follows "Dick Strombotne is working on wording for a petition to reduce the number of signatures on petitions for referendum." Minutes are then accepted as amended.

Treasurer's Report: \$5153.37 in checking, \$2316.64 in savings.

Eligibility of membership of M2X: Marylanders for a Second Crossing and Cost: Committee to Save the Trail. Fifa Northrop moves to not debate the issue. Fails for lack of a second. Discussion continues. Richard Zierdt: the issue here is the definition of the word "civic." M2X is not a 'local' group. Tom DeGraba: How many members does M2X have? Jerry: 400, most of which are Maryland residents. Tom: M2X may not meet the definition of a countywide organization. Dick Strombotne: "Regional" is ambiguous. Clarksburg Jail was a countywide issue. Cary: M2X membership may already represent other MCCF member organizations. M2X represents a wider area than Montgomery County. Charles Pritchard: "Regional" is an ambiguous term, but probably refers to Montgomery County. Dean: purpose of MCCF suggests it does. Peggy Dennis:

M2X is a single-issue group. Jerry: M2X has testified on several non-bridge transportation and non-transportation issues. Tom: M2X's boundaries suggest it represents areas outside of Montgomery County, giving representation to those outside of Montgomery. Dean: Would Tom feel differently if only Montgomery County citizens could vote in M2X deliberations? Tom: Not really. Charles Wolff: other MCCF member organizations may also have out-of-state voting members. Dick: Has suggested that the group Solutions Not Sprawl apply for MCCF membership. Would this body object to that group? Tom: Yes, but their participation is appreciated, and should be invited as nonvoting members. Dean suggests that the ExComm answer two questions to help reach a decision: **(1) Is the group a local single-issue group, and (2) is it a regional Montgomery County organization?** Cary Lamari moves that we answer the two questions in order to reach a decision as to M2X's membership status. Seconded. After further discussion, motion is withdrawn. Mark Adelman moves **that a vote be taken on M2X's status first, on the basis of the two questions combined.** Seconded. Passes 12-0. Vote is then taken on M2X's voting status. 4 yea, 8 nay. **The classification of Marylanders for a Second Crossing as nonvoting is affirmed.** Discussion turned to COST. Jean Goldstein: Group is concerned about the Georgetown Branch Trail in Bethesda and Chevy Chase. Mark: sounds like a single-issue group. Tom: what are the boundaries and is it registered with Park and Planning? Jean: not sure if it is registered. Cary: Moves that **classification of the voting status of COST be postponed until next meeting.** Seconded. Passes. Dean asks if the intention is that COST continue to have voting status until a final decision is made? There is no objection.

Political Campaigning on County time. County Attorney has said that MCCF should take the issue to the State.

Referendum Reform. Dick Strombotne. Distributes a time line, a preliminary budget of \$665, and a sample petition form. Wants to form a MCCF committee. Richard: is funding from the MCCF requested? Dick: yes, but costs could be reduced. Three MCCF delegates volunteer.

County Property Tax. Cary: County is aggressively reassessing property when it is sold, rather than when the three-year phase-in period. Mark: Moves to table until the advocate who raised this issue attends. Seconded. Passes.

Library Hours. Dean. The Library system will hold a roundtable Thursday, Nov 8 from 4 to 8 PM to discuss library hours. Does the MCCF want to send someone? Peggy Dennis: moves that **local civic groups should speak to this at the roundtable (rather than the MCCF take a formal position).** Seconded. Passes 7-5. Delegates may call Cheryl Brite 240-777-7928 for more information.

Annual Reception. Myrna Taylor. Has composed letters to association presidents. Reception will honor fire and rescue people. Dean: Three officials were invited and have accepted. Q: Award certificates: Give a donation instead? Charles moves that MCCF **give the honorees a framed certificate.** Seconded. Passes. Myrna volunteers to draft the certificates and Dean volunteers to finalize and print them. Charles Pritchard volunteers to arrange the framing of the certificates. Richard Zierdt moves that \$40 be appropriated for 100 plastic nametag covers. Seconded. Passes. Richard then moves that **\$60 be appropriated for outside MCCF signs that could be used to direct traffic to MCCF activities, including the Reception.** Seconded. Passes.

Reallocation of NIH Trips to Developers. Jean Goldstein (MCCF representative to NIH). Working on the 5-year master plan. Reduced employee trips to NIH will be used by developers to justify more development in Bethesda. Charles Wolff: Moves that the MCCF oppose the reduction of NIH trips to justify increased traffic in Bethesda, Chevy Chase, or Friendship Heights. Seconded. Cary: Federal agencies do not have to adhere to APFO standards. Tom: Park and Planning must use some figure to measure the impact of NIH. Jean moves to table the motion. Dean so orders without objection.

Community Hero. Dick Strombotne. Presents evidence of non-mayoral activities of Libby Tolbert, former mayor of Clarksburg. Dean nominates Ms. Tolbert to receive Community Hero award. Passes.

Programs: Cary Lamari. November: Eastern County Communities. Charles Pritchard will coordinate. January: Maryland State redistricting. George Sauer will coordinate. January: County finances/budget. Possibly ask Tim Feinstein.

Education Committee. Mark Adelman is contacting people. Fifa Northrop will assist.

Environment. Charles Pritchard. Attended Mid-Atlantic Governors' Conference on Greenways and Blueways.

Legacy Open Space: County is looking at Casey Property. May be donated if County allows fox hunting on it.

Land Use and Planning. Tom DeGraba. A committee member may testify November 6 before County Council to comment on Park and Planning proposals about Chapter 59 zoning. Peggy moves **that MCCF send a notice to Park and Planning and County Council objecting to proposals being offered without public input.** Seconded. Passes.

Legislative Committee. George Sauer. MCCF supports single-delegate legislative districts. Mark Adleman moves that **the MCCF discuss the federal funding of the Purple Line at the November delegates meeting.** Seconded. Passes.

Transportation. Dick Strombotne moves **that the MCCF oppose current plans to have an interim transit terminus for the Corridor Cities Transitway south of the traffic bottleneck at I-270 and MD 121, and support putting the terminus at a location north of MD 121 with easy access to I-270 and MD 355.** Issue will be brought up at the next delegates meeting.

Organizing standing resolutions. Dean. Seeks volunteers to organize all MCCF motions.

Meeting adjourns 10:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Zierdt, MCCF secretary

It's Time to Renew

–by I. Dean Ahmad, President

Thanks to the twenty Civic Federation member associations who have already paid their dues for the membership year ending June 30, 2002. Those who have not yet responded to mailing we sent out a few months ago should renew now. We have a very long grace period that extends until January 15 before your voting rights are suspended, but we really encourage you to pay your renewals now. If you need another copy of the application you may download it from our web site (www.montgomerycivic.org) or just photocopy the copy on page 5. Please don't wait until the last minute to renew. Renew right now.

Our Bylaws require that we print the list of organizations whose dues have not been received as of press time. Based on the information sent to me by our database coordinator Steve Howie, here are the organizations unpaid as of Sept. 26 (my apologies to any who paid since):

Allanwood-Gayfields-Willson Hills-Gaywood
Estates Civic Association, Inc.
Alta Vista Gardens / North Bethesda Grove
Community Association
Ashton-Sandy Spring Civic Association
Bannockburn Citizens Association
Bennington Community Association
Boys Civic Association
Briggs Chaney Countryside Citizens Association
Brookdale Citizens Association, Inc.
Byforde-Rock Creek Highlands Citizens
Association
Cabin John Citizens Association
Carderock Springs Citizens Association, Inc.
Castlegate HOA
Chevy Chase Valley Citizens Association
Chevy Chase West Neighborhood Association
Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship
Heights
Citizens of South Germantown
City Commons of Bethesda
Clarksburg Civic Association
College Garden Civic Association
Congressional Forest Community Association
Connecticut Avenue-Greenwood Knolls Civic Ass'n.
Contemporaries in the Park Citizens Association
Coquelin Run Citizens Association
East Springbrook Citizens Association
Edgemoor Citizens Association
Fallsmead Homes Corporation
Forest Glen Park Citizens Association
Fox Hills West Citizens Association
Friendship Heights Village Civic Association, Inc.
Germantown Citizens Association
Glen Echo Heights Citizens Association
Golf Estates Community Association
Greater Colesville Citizens Association, Inc.
Greater Darnestown Civic Association
Greater Olney Civic Association
Greater Shady Grove Civic Alliance
Grosvenor Park Condominium Citizens Association,
Inc.
Gunpowder Citizens Association
Hillandale Citizens Association
Hunting Ridge Citizens Association
Kemp Mill Civic Association

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Serving the County since 1925

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002

Mail to: Steve Howie
P.O. Box 325
Clarksburg, MD 20871

Inquiries: I. Dean Ahmad
(301) 951-0539
deanahmad@yahoo.com

Name of Organization/Individual _____

Number of Households (Approx) _____ Annual Dues (see below) \$ _____
(Make checks payable to "Montgomery County Civic Federation")

Date _____

Membership Type	Number of Households	PLEASE CHECK	DUES	Number of Delegates	Voting Privileges
Individual/Associate	(not applicable)		\$15	1	No
Neighborhood Organization	Less than 300		\$35	2	Yes
	301 to 600		\$50	3	
	More than 600		\$65	4	
Umbrella Organization	Less than 500		\$35	2	Yes
	501 to 1000		\$50	3	
	More than 1000		\$65	4	
Municipality (Town/City)	(any size)		\$65	2	No
Business Associate	(not applicable)		\$65	2	No
Nonprofit Organization	(not applicable)		\$35	2	No
Public/Govt. Organization	(not applicable)		\$65	4	No

Name your delegates according to the number allowed as indicated above. Each will receive our newsletter.

1. Name (President*) _____ Phone (H) _____
Street _____ (W) _____
City,State,Zip _____ E Mail _____

2. Name _____ Phone (H) _____
Street _____ (W) _____
City,State,Zip _____ E Mail _____

3. Name _____ Phone (H) _____
Street _____ (W) _____
City,State,Zip _____ E Mail _____

4. Name _____ Phone (H) _____
Street _____ (W) _____
City,State,Zip _____ E Mail _____

*President of applying organization or permanent substitute designated by the president.

Kennedy Community Coalition
Kensington Heights Citizens Association
Kentlands Citizens' Assembly
Kentlands Community Foundation
Layhill Alliance, The
Layhill South Citizens Association
Locust Hill Citizens Association
Long Branch Neighborhood Initiative
Luxmanor Citizens Associaton
Manor Lake Civic Association
Maplewood Citizens Association, Inc.
Norbeck Citizens Association
North Bethesda Congress of Citizens Ass'ns, Inc.
North Farm Citizens Association, Inc.
North Hills of Sligo Civic Association
North White Oak Civic Association
Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association
Oakview Citizens Association
Old Coach Square Homeowners Association
Old Farm Civic Association
Potomac Glen Association
Potomac Manors II
Potomac Woods Citizens Association
Quail Valley Homeowners Association
Randolph Civic Association, Inc.
Rock Creek Hills Citizen Association
Rock Creek Palisades Citizens Association
Sacks Neighborhood Association
Seven Oaks-Evanswood Citizens Association
Sligo Park Hills Citizens Association
South Four Corners Citizens Assn.
South Tuckerman-Inverness Citizens Association
Springbrook Forest Citizens Association
Stonegate Citizens Association
Tilden Woods Citizens Association
Tulip Hill Citizens Association
Valencia Civic Association
Walnut Woods Neighborhood Association
West End Citizens Association
West Montgomery County Citizens Association
Westmoreland Citizens Association
Wheaton Citizens Coalition
Whittier Woods Civic Association
Wildwood Manor Citizens Association
Willows and Neighbors Citizens Association
Woodside Civic Association

Update on Referendum Reform

–Dick Strombotne,
Dist. 2 Vice President

Last spring, the MCCF decided to support and work for a charter amendment for the November 2002, general election to reduce the number of signatures needed for a referendum on a law enacted by the County Council to 10,000. The current requirement is five percent of registered voters, or about 22,600. After that decision, this newsletter printed a series of two articles on the referendum and initiative processes, nationally and locally.

This is a status report. First, some of the essential preliminary work has been done. The Board of Elections has provided information about the procedural requirements for conducting a charter amendment petition drive. The Attorney for the County Council has given constructive comments on a draft of the language of the petition and that language has been adjusted. A draft of the complete petition has been written on a computer file for ease of printing.

Second, strategic planning is underway for the next important steps. These include organization and outreach. Organization to conduct the petition drive, keep track of income and expenses, and make sure that all is going as it should. Outreach to enlist other organizations and groups beyond the MCCF to get their involvement, support, and participation in both the petition drive and the subsequent campaign to pass the charter amendment.

The organization and outreach activities can be started this fall and continue thru the winter months. It takes time for organizations to decide to participate and make their own plans with their members for active support. The next few months can be used to good effect. All MCCF members can start informing the membership of their local civic associations about the charter amendment drive for referendum reform. They can also raise the issue with other organizations they belong to such as good government groups, environmental groups, labor unions, PTAs, church groups, service clubs, political parties and clubs, etc. Involving many other organizations has two obvious benefits. First, many hands make light work and it will be easier for many people to get more than 10,000 signatures of

Renew Now!

Please help us to have a successful year by renewing your association's membership now. Copy the application form on page 5 or download a copy from www.montgomerycivic.org to renew.

registered voters than for a few. Second, it lays the groundwork for a successful election campaign next spring and summer.

The actual petition drive should get into high gear with the first pleasant days of spring and should be completed before the end of school in June. Some people may want to start earlier and there is no reason why they should not. The absolute deadline for the President of the County Council to receive the valid signatures of 10,000 registered voters is August 12, 2002 for the general election on November 5, 2002. Completing the petition drive early would show good support for the issue and might generate a bandwagon effect.

Planning for a successful charter amendment drive for referendum reform will be on the agenda for the November 13, 2001 membership meeting, so bring your ideas and suggestions. Your help is not only welcomed but also needed.

A Transit Terminus in Clarksburg?

—by Dick Strombotne,
Vice-President for District 2.

State and county agencies are planning to put an interim terminus for the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) at the Lockheed-Martin site in Clarksburg. The CCT will run from Shady Grove to Frederick when it is completed. Ridership projections indicate that it would be premature (not cost effective) to go all the way to Frederick, so the current plan is to end it at Clarksburg. The Lockheed-Martin site is the old Comsat Lab site, on the east side of I-270 about one mile south of MD 121, Clarksburg Rd. The I-270 intersection with MD 121 gets a lot of publicity these days because of the multi-mile backups on I-270 during the evening rush hour when commuters are leaving Montgomery County for points west and north.

There is a big problem with the planners' idea of having the interim terminus for the CCT at the Lockheed-Martin site. If this is done, then evening commuters using the CCT would be getting into their cars only to join the horrible bottleneck on I-270 and MD 355 (Frederick Rd.) Current plans for the I-270 corridor will not eliminate the bottleneck.

The solution to this situation is pretty straightforward. Put the interim terminus farther north at a location where home bound commuters will have access to I-270 and MD 355 beyond the bottleneck, perhaps closer to Urbana.

A resolution from the Montgomery County Civic Federation proposing this solution can bring the issue to the attention of the transit planners and road planners, as well as the State and County officials who make the decisions. Accordingly, the following resolution is offered for consideration by the membership.

Whereas: The Maryland Department of Transportation and agencies of Montgomery County have been planning for the Shady Grove-Frederick transit service (Corridor Cities Transitway—CCT) to have an interim terminus in Clarksburg at the Lockheed-Martin site, and

Whereas: Evening rush hour commuters traveling northbound on I-270 and MD 355 for the past several years have been caught in a bottleneck at the Clarksburg exit (MD 121) and current alternative plans for widening I-270 do not eliminate the bottleneck in this corridor, and

Whereas: Transit riders returning home would get in their cars and immediately encounter the bottleneck on routes north of MD 121, and

Whereas: There is substantial economic development underway in Frederick County at Urbana on the I-270 corridor, and

Whereas: Under these circumstances, any interim transit terminus should be located north of the I-270/MD 121 bottleneck,

Therefore, be it resolved: The Montgomery County Civic Federation strongly objects to current plans to have an interim transit terminus for the CCT south of the traffic bottleneck at I-270 and MD 121 at the Lockheed-Martin site and supports putting the terminus at a location north of MD 121 with easy access to I-270 and MD 355, and

Be it further resolved: That officers of the MCCF shall deliver copies of this resolution to

all appropriate State and Local officials and agencies and other parties.

NIH Transportation Committee Report

—by *Jeanne Goldstein*

I have represented the Montgomery County Civic Federation in the Community Liaison Council of the National Institutes of Health from its inception when it was known as the Community Working Group. The Council is made up of interested citizens, most of whom live in the local area, who are concerned that some decisions of the NIH might have an adverse impact on their neighborhoods. The Council, however, has no geographic boundaries and welcomes anyone who wishes to participate. It is strictly an advisory group, and its members may or may not adequately inform their residential community members of the issues discussed or of the positions that they themselves have taken at Council sessions. The extent to which Council members views are supported by their communities' residents is unknown.

The NIH is now in the process of creating a 5-year update of its 20-year Master Plan. For five years I have been a member of the transportation committee. During these years, the number of community representatives has dwindled significantly from those originally participating. Only a small number, usually 5 or 6 representatives, regularly attend sessions, which are now dominated by an even smaller group of individuals. These individuals have made it their mission to compel as many employees of the NIH as possible to stop driving to and from work. They have convinced themselves that by reducing automobile commuter "trips" they will achieve a reduction in the overall traffic in the area. They are resolutely uninformed about the manner in which commuter trips are used and assigned. I have consulted several highly knowledgeable sources who agree that if the NIH voluntarily relinquishes any of the trips that it is entitled to, these will be taken up by developers in the Bethesda and Friendship Heights business districts. Because these trips will have already been counted (i.e., when they were part of the NIH allotment) they will be a free gift, over and above the allotment of whoever receives them.

The NIH has done an outstanding job of managing its commuter traffic. Employees' hours are staggered, so the impact of those who drive on peak rush hour traffic has been greatly mitigated. In addition, employees come from all directions, which reduces the impact on any one thoroughfare. If its commuter trips were to be redistributed they would cause increased congestion during peak rush hour periods along Rockville Pike/Wisconsin Avenue and other routes that feed into the central business districts of Bethesda and Friendship Heights. These routes are already so heavily congested that any additional traffic would have a disproportionately harmful impact not only on congestion, but also on its byproducts of increased air pollution and the accident rate.

There is an additional facet to this issue. There seem to be increasing indications of attempts by some in the business community and some politicians to exert undue influence on Janyce Hedetniemi, Director of the Office of Community Liaison, and through her, on the Acting Director of the NIH. Ms. Hedetniemi announced at the October 18th session of the CLC that Douglas Duncan requested a meeting with her to discuss problems faced by businesses in downtown Bethesda. There have been complaints of loss of business due to increasing traffic congestion. Since the NIH can have no effect on this matter (it is too far away to influence traffic conditions in the Bethesda CBD), presumably there is an additional agenda. Such a request by Mr. Duncan appears to be unethical. He should not attempt to involve a federal employee in county concerns unrelated to their federal institution. This is especially true if the concern is with traffic problems that result from decisions made by the county politicians.

The NIH is a major player in Montgomery County's economy. In addition to the jobs it provides directly, from time to time biomedical scientists leave to form their own companies. One of the County's goals is to attract biomedical firms. It should therefore do everything possible to support and encourage the entire NIH enterprise. Many researchers and support personnel, especially clinicians, require the flexibility that can only be had by driving to and from work. The NIH has already reduced the proportion of parking spaces to employees below that which is mandated by the federal government. It has made a commitment to the surrounding communities that its employees will park only on its campus, so reduction of its parking spaces automatically reduces automobile commutes. In view of the nature of its employees requirements and its probable future needs, as well as the fact that its

commuter traffic has less negative impact on area congestion, air pollution and the accident rate, the NIH should not relinquish any of its rightful allotment of parking spaces and commuter trips. It would be a shame if the nation's premier health institution were to contribute to ill health in Bethesda.

Legacy Open Space Trail Construction and Activities

—by Charles G. Pritchard
Environmental Committee Chair

I serve currently as the Conservation Committee Chair of the Montgomery County Civic Federation, and concurrently as the park trails specialist in the Citizen Advisory Committee, Legacy Open Space (LOS), Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NC/PPC). Legacy Open Space is a multimillion-dollar Montgomery County program directed toward preservation and acquisition of "greenways" and open space, protection of water and environmentally unique resources, historic sites and urban improvements. During September-October 2001, Federation Conservation Committee activities associated with LOS included the following events:

On September 15, a volunteer work day on the Seneca Greenway Trail in Great Seneca Park, Montgomery County Park System was conducted as part of a public-private partnership planned and carried out jointly by the Park & Planning Commission, Recreation Equipment Inc. (REI), our committee and over 100 volunteers from the Seneca Greenway Trail Coalition, Potomac Branch, Appalachian Trail Club, and other volunteer organizations. Supervised by Mark Nelson, REI public outreach manager, members of the Natural Resource Division, M-NC/PPC and trail managers of the Park Department, the work force completed a mile and three quarter section of the Seneca Greenway Trail between Watkins Mill and Brink Roads in Great Seneca Park. The natural surface hiking and equestrian trail now extends 21 miles from Riley's Lock on the C&O Canal paralleling Seneca Creek through Seneca Creek State Park to Brink Road. Recently constructed bridges across Seneca Creek at Routes MD 28 (Darnestown Road) and MD 355 (Frederick Boulevard) have high

overhead clearances that provide for both trail access and wildlife migration.

The Seneca Greenway and Trail are LOS priority projects connecting stream valleys in western and eastern Montgomery County. The trail has been surveyed and laid out to replace environmentally harmful informal trails along the Seneca Creek stream valley. It has been lauded by the Montgomery Village Foundation, Maryland Governor Parris Glendening and local civic associations in the Germantown and Gaithersburg areas.

On September 17, as Chair of the Federation Conservation Committee, I gave a presentation on Seneca Greenway trail management at the Mid-Atlantic Governors' Conference on Greenways and Blueways in Arlington, Virginia. The conference was sponsored by the University of Virginia Division of Continuing Education and the Maryland State Division of Natural Resources. A letter of appreciation to the Federation Conservation Committee was received from the conference sponsors for its presentation under the difficult conditions caused by the September 11th terrorist attack on the nearby Pentagon.

On October 15, a meeting of the LOS Advisory Committee was convened by LOS manager, Brenda Sandberg, M-NC/PPC, at its headquarters, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring. Ms. Sandberg and John Turgeon of the Commission described negotiations for land and historical site preservation and acquisition under the LOS priorities. LOS programs include an outreach program to encourage land grants and/or easements by private landowners. LOS also seeks private funding to augment county funding of the program.

Holiday Reception

—by Myrna Taylor

The annual Civic Federation reception for elected officials will be held on Sunday, December 2, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Aspenwood Senior Living, 14400 Homecrest Road, Silver Spring. We will be honoring the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue personnel for their response to the attack on the Pentagon on September 11, and also for the work they do in our community every day of the year. Dean Ahmad, President of the Civic Federation, has invited Fire

Administrator Gordon A. Aoyagi, Chief David S. Dwyer, and Chief Roger W. Strock to accept the honor on behalf of the fire and rescue workers. Several workers who were actually at the Pentagon will also join us.

Please take this opportunity to speak in person with elected officials and colleagues from other associations. This newsletter contains a flyer with a registration form for the reception. Please duplicate this flyer for use in your own association newsletters, as all members of member organizations are invited. And PLEASE, send in your forms EARLY so we can get an accurate head count and prepare name tags in advance.

If you have any questions about the reception, call Myrna Taylor at 301-869-4499.

Library Round Table

–by I. Dean Ahmad, Ph.D.

Civic associations are encouraged to have members attend the Library Hours Round Table being held at the Council Office Building on November 8, 2001 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the third floor Council conference room. After introductory comments and a panel discussion, there will be a general discussion open to all attendees. Discussion will center on the adequacy of current library hours, whether they should be adjusted, and what approaches might be considered should reductions in the Dept. of Public Libraries budget be required.

For information call Cheryl Bright at 240-777-7928.

Receive Montgomery County Legislative Notices Online

–by Richard Zierdt

The Montgomery County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly maintains a web site, www.montgomerycountydelegation.com, that keeps information about state legislation directly affecting Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties. This is the legislative season, and many additions and updates will

be posted in the coming weeks. This is great, but who wants to check the site daily for updates?

No problem! The Delegation Administrator, Susan Gottschalk, will email you a short message when something new is posted. Just send her a note that you want to be included in the list of those who receive update notices. Ms. Gottschalk's email is Moc2@mlis.state.md.us. The Moc2 stands for "Montgomery County #2" (I guess).

Community Hero: Lib Tolbert

–by Dick Strombotne

Elizabeth H. "Lib" Tolbert, had served as Mayor of Barnesville, MD for 34 years when she retired. She has been a tireless advocate for Montgomery County's rural upcounty areas and communities. In her own words, "This is a special part of the world." In many forums and on many occasions she has spoken up for the special character of the rural upcounty area and the need to preserve its agricultural reserve. She has been a powerful voice for the upcounty so that people have had to pay attention. She made her home in Barnesville open for the use of community groups who were working on upcounty issues, e.g. opposition to landfills, opposition to the Dickerson incinerator. Even the Civic Federation met there.

She served on the original Rustic Roads Task Force whose work led to the legislation establishing MC's rustic roads program. Over the years, she has served on many committees for Montgomery County and for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. She served on numerous task forces for Maryland's governors.

From the President

It has been a very busy month. Our Executive Committee meeting was one of the longest in a long time. There are many people I need to thank for keeping the Civic Federation on track in our variegated efforts to maintain and improve the quality of life in Montgomery County.

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With our Annual Reception of Elected Officials coming up on December 2, it is a pleasure to thank Myrna Jean Taylor and her crew of volunteers. Our very special guests will be representatives of the brave fire and rescue teams who made us all so proud last month, so make sure you attend. See the article on page 10 for details. You will find an insert with this newsletter that you can use to make your reservations.

Due to the Veteran's Day holiday our general meeting is on Tuesday Nov. 13th. Since I teach on Tuesday nights, I'll be arriving late to the meeting, as was the case last month, so now is a good opportunity to thank our Vice President Cary Lamari for getting the meetings rolling until my arrival.

I owe special thanks to Stuart Rochester, Cary Lamari and Jorge Ribas for their work on the letter on the Civic Federation's response to terrorism resulted in an invitation from the Washington Post for me to write an exclusive letter for them which they published in the Montgomery Extra section.

Charles Wolff, always ready to work for the Civic Federation in a variety of ways will be addressing the

Planning Board on our position on the preservation of the Canada Dry building in Silver Spring.

Richard Zierdt and Fifa Northrop assisted me in collecting the standing resolutions from meetings over the past decade and they are now in a draft form on our web site waiting for comments (www.montgomerycivic.org). Dick Strombotne has offered to help me put them together in a more useful arrangement.

Please attend the next meeting to hear Jim Johnson brief us on the situation in East Silver Spring and Takoma Park. Participants in our annual brainstorming session last August were so impressed with Mr. Johnson's exposition of that subject that we wanted him to share it with the Federation membership. Long Branch has the highest concentration of people per acre.

–I. Dean Ahmad, Ph.D.

Delegates Meeting

Tuesday, Nov.13–7:45 p.m.

Cafeteria

County Council Office Building, Rockville, MD

NOTE UNUSUAL DATE!

AGENDA:

7:45 Call to Order, Cary Lamari presiding

7:55 Announcements, Introductions

8:00 **Program: Takoma Park and Silver Spring Communities**

James Johnson (Long Branch Neighborhood Initiative)

9:00 Business Meeting, I. Dean Ahmad presiding

Credentials / Quorum

9:05 Adoption of Agenda

9:10 Approval of Minutes, Officers' Reports

9:15 Old Business

9:25 New Business

- Purple Line (p. 4)
- Transit Terminus (p. 8)

9:45 Adjourn

The **Montgomery County Civic Federation**, a nonprofit, educational, and advocacy countywide group, was founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. The monthly Delegates Meeting is open to the public and it is held on the second Monday of each month (except for holidays, July, August and December) at 8:00 p.m. in the First Floor Auditorium, County Office Building, Rockville, MD.

The **Civic Federation News** is published monthly. It is mailed to Delegates; associate members; news media, and local, state, and federal officials. Permission is granted to reprint any article provided proper credit is given to the "*Civic Federation News* of the Montgomery County Civic Federation." Deadline for submissions for the next issue: 5 p.m. Saturday, November 24. Attach submission to e-mail to: Hotyakker@aol.com file in fully justified 11-point Times Roman font (preferably as a Word document.) Send editorial content to Peggy Dennis, 11115 Fawsett Road, Potomac, MD 20854.

Please send all address corrections to Steve Howie, P.O.Box 325, Clarksburg, MD 20871, 301-972-2736, stevehowie@aol.com.

Next Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, Nov. 15, 2001, 7:45 p.m.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Services Center

4805 Edgemoor Lane in downtown Bethesda

(Note: there are two entrances to the parking garage—one on Edgemoor Lane and another on Woodmont Avenue.)

Montgomery County Civic Federation

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