



Civic Federation News

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Serving the Public Interest Since 1925

Peggy Dennis, Editor - Phone: 301-983-9738 - Email: hotyakker@comcast.net

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Annual Awards

by Charles Wolff

The Civic Federation's reception for elected officials and annual awards ceremony was held on May 6th at the New Fortune Restaurant in Gaithersburg. Toward the close of the banquet, President Dan Wilhelm presided over the awards ceremony as two very worthy civic leaders and one group were honored. Read on to see why each award was granted by the Federation's Executive Committee upon recommendation of the Awards Committee (Cary Lamari, Arnold Gordon, Jim Snee, and myself).



Dan Dionisio, Elisabeth Deal, and John Splain accepting the 2005 Gazette Award on behalf of the Olney Boys & Girls Club from Dan Wilhelm, Anne Baxter, and Carol Petzold.

Gazette Award, 2005 The Olney Boys and Girls Community Sports Association

The Gazette Award recognizes outstanding public service contributions by an individual or group in Montgomery County. The Olney Boys and Girls Community Sports Association (OBGC) has fully earned this award for its extensive activities.

The Club was first organized as the Olney Boys Club in 1969 but changed its membership and name two years later to the Olney Boys and Girls Club. Over the years, OBGC has provided extracurricular sports for an estimated 45,000 children in the Olney area. Currently it has over 5,800 children ranging in age from 5 to 18 years who play numerous sports including baseball, soccer, football, baseball, softball, T-ball, wrestling, cheerleading, basketball, field hockey and lacrosse at various skill levels. These services are provided at minimal cost and, in case of need, at no cost whatsoever.

The Olney Boys and Girls Club has one full-time and two part-time paid administrators, but the Board of Directors, sport commissioners, over 800 coaches and officiating personnel are all volunteers. Its facilities

Inside

June Program – County Budget Process 101	4
Community Hero: Save 7 Locks School Coalition	4
President's Message	5
Slate of Nominees for 2005-2006 Elective Office	5
Education Committee Report	6
Where is the FY06 County Operating Budget Going?	7
Environmental Issues	8
Remaining 2005 MCCF Federation Meeting Dates	8
Status of Issues	8
Minutes of the Regular Meeting, May 9, 2005	9
Minutes of the ExComm Meeting, May 19, 2005	9
Membership Renewal Form	11

and activities are the result of numerous corporate and individual donors brought into this effort by the tireless work of those who run the organization's fundraising and athletic programs. This effort succeeds because hundreds of households donate thousands of hours and dollars to the common cause: to provide wholesome, healthy outlets and family-oriented activities for the children of Olney and surrounding communities. Without these volunteers, the OBGC would not have the magnificent facilities and outstanding programs for which it has become recognized. They understand that today's children will soon be our next generation of local citizens and club volunteers.

OBGC's volunteer spirit is driven by parents, relatives, neighbors and other interested community leaders who give freely of their time and energy. The organization is fully committed to community betterment. Let's all offer congratulations to the Olney Boys and Girls Community Sports Association.

Sentinel Award, 2005

Dale Tibbetts

This Award is sponsored by the Montgomery County Sentinel Newspaper and was established in 1989. It is awarded annually by the MCCF to an individual or group, typically outside of government, for a significant contribution to "Good Government" at the local level.

This year we honor Dale Tibbitts for his expertise, and his extensive and exhaustive work on behalf of better government and elections at both the county and state level.

Two years ago, Dale formed and chaired the Federation's special committee on Election Reforms. His committee demonstrated the need for smaller, community-based districts for the County Council and considered additional proposals for election and campaign finance reforms. Dale dedicated himself to



Dale Tibbetts accepts the Sentinel Award from Dan Wilhelm, Ike Leggett and Brian Karem

research and headed up a countywide effort to change the composition of our County Council to nine single member districts. He worked with county lawyers to compose a legally sound petition that over 14,000 people signed to put Question C on the November 2004 ballot. Dale personally gathered 833 of those signatures.

Dale Tibbitts also spends many hours researching bills that are before the state legislature in Annapolis, and testifying on those bills on behalf of the Federation. He testified last year and again this year in support of a bill that would create a system for voluntary public financing of state election campaigns, and a bill that would close the legal loopholes which now permit businesses and corporations to use multiple corporate identities to circumvent the spirit of the law limiting campaign contributions. Another bill Dale has worked successfully to thwart would have allowed counties to significantly increase the number of signatures from registered voters required to put a referendum on the ballot. Had this bill passed, it is unlikely that any group would ever again attempt to put another "Question C", or any other question for that matter, on the ballot in Montgomery County.

Dale Tibbitts is a quiet person, however when he speaks, he usually has a powerful message. We thank him for his dedication and selfless contributions to protecting and promoting good government in both Montgomery County and the State of Maryland. He has served as a role model for others to emulate, and we hope he will continue to lead us in the direction of better and more responsible government.

Star Cup Award, 2005 Peggy Dennis

This historic Star Cup was presented to the Montgomery County Civic Federation in 1927 by the Washington Star newspaper. It is presented to the committee or delegate performing the most outstanding public service on behalf of Montgomery County.

This year we honor Peggy Dennis for her dedicated support of the Civic Fed's many efforts, sustained tirelessly and ever-reliably for almost ten years.

She has performed admirably in her role as newsletter editor, extracting articles from sometimes tardy authors, seeing that prose flows smoothly, picking up the results from the printer and overseeing the mailing and distribution. She went beyond the call of duty and lowered the newsletter's costs by wheedling her husband into doing the newsletter's formatting.

When the decision was made that MCCF would try to place a referendum to change the makeup of the County Council to nine single member districts (Question C) on the 2004 ballot, Peggy gathered an outstanding 1000 signatures for the referendum petition! She again made it a family affair by cajoling her son into building a fine website for VoteYesonC.org at no cost to the organization. Then, on Election Day, Peggy worked all day at Matsunaga Elementary School, one of the largest polls in the county, and got 51% of the votes cast in support of Question C.



Peggy Dennis accepting the Star Award from Phil Andrew and Dan Wilhelm

Peggy Dennis also serves as chair of the Bylaws Committee, where her steady guidance is clarifying and simplifying the MCCF Bylaws. Just recently, the Bylaws Committee proposed, and the membership approved, a change mirroring that of Question C: the creation of eight District Vice President positions (one for each state legislative district), and the assignment of the Second Vice President to chair the Membership Committee. We believe this change will bring about a significant improvement in the operations of the Civic Federation helping us to expand our membership and become a more responsive and effective organization.

Peggy has performed many other tasks over the years including helping to organize the annual reception and banquet and working on the biggest challenge of all: the Nominating Committee. And she offers her home in Potomac as the site of our Annual Summer Potluck Supper and Brainstorming Session.

We proudly award Peggy Dennis the Star Cup for 2005 for enthusiastic, steady and always reliable service to the Montgomery County Civic Federation in our efforts to maintain and improve the quality of life in Montgomery County.

June Program – County Budget Process 101

By Dan Wilhelm, President

During the hearings on this year's Operating Budget, we were asked what part of the budget MCCF felt should be cut. We testified that since the Executive's Recommended Budget only provides changes to the previous budget, there is no way to know how much is being spent on different areas and items and therefore, difficult to comment or make recommendations on the budget. We testified that we support the addition of two Council staff to look at select areas of the county government, to understand the total expenditures and judge their effectiveness. This review would be undertaken by the Council outside the review of the actual budget.

This topic resulted in much discussion within the Executive Committee. Many of us realized that we need to better understand the budget process. We expect most other citizens also have little or no understanding of the county's budget process. Thus, we felt an educational program on the overall budgeting and funding process is warranted.

For the June program, we will have a representative (exactly who has not yet been determined) from either the County Office of Management and Budget (OMB) or Finance Department explain the overall process. This program will not be discussing specific budget items but will identify the time lines and processes for pulling the budget together. This will help us understand where in the process we can participate and help us better understand the budget and finance terminology. This knowledge should help us to more effectively participate in future discussions with the council, especially in the in-depth review of select budget items.

Community Hero Award: The Save Seven Locks School Coalition

by Mark Adelman and Wayne Goldstein

MCCF's Community Hero Award for June, 2005 will be presented to the Save Seven Locks School Coalition. This group of civic associations and MCCPTA members, representing thousands of residents, has worked tirelessly for over a year to inform the public of, and attempt to block, the ill-advised plan of the Montgomery County

Board of Education (BoE) and the MCPS to close Seven Locks ES (SLES) and replace it with a larger school on the Kendale Road site. Despite repeated rebuffs, the group has extensively researched and documented the mis-steps taken and mis-information promulgated about this plan.

Although County government, BoE, and MCPS officials have characterized this as a purely local matter and have attempted to typecast members of the coalition as NIMBYs, the SSLS coalition has generated countywide interest by showing that the planned closure is part of a broader problem involving the desire of the Duncan administration and the County Council to grab currently "unneeded" MCPS land parcels and use them in a drive to increase development in the county under the disingenuous pose of providing more affordable housing. The larger issue has been the subject of investigation and several editorials by the MCCF Education Committee.

We honor the SSLS Coalition for:

- Publicizing the link between the decision to scrap a carefully developed plan to modernize and expand SLES and to instead build a new school on the Kendale Road site, and emphasizing Superintendent Weast's once-visible but now-hidden proposal to surplus the Seven Locks site in response to Mr. Duncan's request for "unneeded" MCPS parcels.
- Cogently arguing that the proposed Kendale Road site is inadequate and that the true cost of building a new school on that site will exceed the cost of the originally-planned upgrade of SLES.
- exposing the reticence of MCPS staff to provide timely and accurate information to SSLS members, and even to the staff of the State School Superintendent.
- mounting a vigorous petition drive (with 1200 signatures collected to date) to show broad community opposition to closing SLES.
- attempting to dialogue with BoE and MCPS officials on an approach that would guarantee that SLES be retained by MCPS and used for educational purposes, whatever happened on the Kendale site.
- showing persistence by having numerous meetings with all accessible County and State officials to present them with the facts and to pressure them to act responsibly to save Seven Locks ES.

At this point in time, the BoE/MCPS/County government machine remains intent on building a new school on the Kendale Road site and closing Seven Locks. The issue may be drawn out because of budgetary constraints and likely legal action. Whatever the eventual outcome, the members of the SSLS Coalition are true Community Heroes for waging a sustained battle to alert the public to a seriously flawed policy decision by elected officials and for continuing to fight to keep this flawed decision from damaging the Seven Locks community and setting a bad precedent by allowing County politics to intrude into how our school system is run.

President's Message

by Dan Wilhelm

Executive Committee members have had many discussions over the last several months about steps we might take to improve MCCF's outreach to our member organizations. One step is to have educational sessions that explain how County processes work and how to be more effective in ensuring the citizens' message is heard and considered. We discussed holding Saturday forums, but in my opinion too few people attend them. Therefore, we will be experimenting with having educational sessions from time to time as the program part of our regular membership meetings. These sessions will provide less detail than a Saturday forum because we are limited to one hour rather than three or four hours. If the members want more in-depth information, we can always schedule Saturday follow-up sessions.

The June program will be the first such educational session. We are also planning sessions on Robert's Rules of Order, Local Transportation Area Reviews (including how to evaluate calculations measuring intersection congestion), and subdivision and site plan procedures.

I have learned that the best way to be effective in communicating your ideas to the government is to start as early in the process as possible. If one waits until the hearing before the Planning Board or Council, the chances of your ideas being accepted are much lower.

Let me address the subdivision process as an example. At a minimum, you should find out which planning staff members are working on a project and talk with them (there is one overall staff member and one in each

functional area). You may be able to point out facts to them that they didn't know, and these new facts may turn out to be critical to their evaluation process. Even when that is not the case, the aggregated staff report will often include comments about the positions that they have heard from citizens. Even if they don't agree with your position, their report helps to get your ideas before the Planning Board. If possible, citizens should meet with the developer to understand what and why the site is being developed in a certain way. Often citizens are able to convince the developer to make some adjustments to address their concerns. When approaching both the developer and county, it is best to realize that the property owner has a right to develop it. Thus, if you oppose any and all development, you will lose – if not initially then eventually. If you are opposed to the first proposed use, you need to decide what use would be acceptable. Maybe you can defeat the first or even second proposal. When an acceptable use is proposed, you then need to work with the developer to make it as attractive as possible.

The MCCF education programs will provide an overall understanding of the process, and who to talk with and at what stage in the process. It will not provide all the detailed information you need but will help you know where to find it and help you understand its context.

In terms of starting early, we are considering a program for September to get agreement about the efforts we want to push next year in Annapolis. Developing our agenda in September will allow us to work with our State delegation and testify more effectively at their fall hearings. We will be meeting on this over the summer. If you have issues you would like MCCF to address with our State delegation, or if you are able to serve on a committee, please call me at 301-384-2698 or email me: djwilhelm@erols.com.

Slate of Nominees for 2005-2006 Elective Office

By Dick Kauffinger, Chair, Nominating Committee

We amended our bylaws to give us 8 District Vice Presidents - an example to the County Council. Now our goal is to focus their energy on increasing our outreach to civics around the county, networking and building membership. The Nominating Committee is particularly proud of the "new blood" we are bringing into the

Executive Committee. We therefore include brief bios of the civic activists we are nominating to serve as our District Vice Presidents.

President, Dan Wilhelm
1st VP, Wayne Goldstein
2nd VP, Arnold Gordon
Treasurer, Luella Mast
Recording Secretary, Richard Zierdt

District 14 VP, Jackie Benn. A resident of the County since her teens, Jackie has been on her association's board of directors and a voting delegate to the Greater Olney Civic Association (GOCA) since October 2000. For the last two years, she's served as 2nd VP for GOCA and one of GOCA's delegates to the Civic Fed. She will be assisted by Dave Michaels

District 15 VP, Sandy Vogelgesang. A veteran diplomat with the Department of State, Ambassador to Nepal and a writer, Sandy has focused on issues such as the environment, human rights and the role of women. In West Bethesda, she serves on the Board of Directors of the West Bradley Citizens' Association and as a leader of the 6000 family Seven Locks Coalition.

District 16 VP, Lee Shipman. Here we want to tap into the extensive background and knowledge of some of our best "old blood". A practicing architect, Lee has represented the Bannockburn Civic Association to the Civic Fed since the mid 1970's. She has worked on a wide range of activities: reform at the WSSC, planning and land use, adequate public facilities legislation and the nominating committee. She is also active with Bethesda Cares.

District 18 VP, Donna Savage. Donna is the outgoing president of the Kensington Heights Citizens Association and an active member of the Coalition of Kensington Communities. She also serves on three committees related to the redevelopment of Wheaton and was awarded "Citizen of the Year" in 2002 by the Mid-County Citizens Advisory Board. In her "day job", Donna is president of Intelligent Fingers Writing and Editing.

District 20 VP, Eileen Finnigan. A 20-year resident of Hillandale, Eileen has served the Hillandale Citizens Association as a VP, Secretary, At-Large Representative, Community Affairs Chair and Zoning Chair. Most impressive, for the last six years she has been the editor of The Hillandaleer, a monthly magazine formatted newsletter.

In District 39, Jonathan Putnam. Jon and his wife (a

Rockville gal) live in North Potomac. Educated at Amherst College and the University of Michigan, Jon currently works in the National Park Services Office of International Affairs. A strong believer in the concept "think globally, act locally", Jon serves as President of the North Potomac Citizens Association and as a Boy Scout leader.

Districts 17 and 19, VP positions open.

We thank each of our nominees - both those who are continuing and those who are new to our endeavor - for agreeing to serve. Now everyone! Make sure you come and vote on June 13th!

Interim Report Card on BoE and MCPS: Policy FAA and Other Matters by Mark R. Adelman, Chair, MCCF Education Committee

This is a follow-up to my recent articles on Policy FAA (Long-Range Educational Facilities Planning), the proposed revision of which, by the Montgomery County Board of Education (BoE), has generated so much controversy. It is also an open-ended commentary on the BoE and the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) system that invites Civic Federation members to issue an interim report card on the performance of those groups.

On May 5 our committee sent the BoE Policy Committee our comments on the proposed revisions to Policy FAA. A "pdf" version is available on the MCCF website. On May 11, Wayne Goldstein and I attended the final meeting of that committee regarding Policy FAA. Other than the three members of the Policy Committee and about seven staff members, we were the only people in attendance. Notable by their absence were representatives of the Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA). The MCCPTA had submitted recommendations that, like ours, urged the revision process be extended to allow more time for discussion of the reasons for the extensive nature of the changes and more public input. Unlike us, MCCPTA did not propose specific "options" if the BoE insisted in proceeding and, by their absence, they sent a clear message that the process was unacceptable. We were not asked to comment during the Policy Committee meeting, nor did we feel it appropriate to ask to be heard. The tone of the meeting was disturbing in that, while a number of modifications were discussed and apparently adopted, each was seemingly considered because of the desire to

mollify unreasonable concerns of citizens who did not appear to trust the intentions of the committee, the BoE, or MCPS. The entire BoE is to vote on the recommended revised Policy FAA on Monday evening, May 23. We will be there and, if given the opportunity, will offer comment. It is our expectation however, that the recommendations of the Policy Committee will be adopted by the full BoE.

We have also submitted comments on the proposed revision of Policy BFA (the "Policy on Policies"). This revision is much less controversial than is FAA. Again, our comments are available (pdf file) on the MCCF website.

It is my perception that this has been a very bad year for the BoE and MCPS. While the glossy mail outs and statistics they use to rally public support for the system attest to progress, many citizens are concerned about the quality of the education our children receive, and question the "meaning" of those statistics. While MCPS will no doubt cite the number of Montgomery County high schools that are ranked high in a recent Newsweek survey, I would argue that one should measure the quality of any public education system by the quality of the programs at the weakest schools, not the strongest. An increasing number of parents are contesting the "two-tier" nature of MCPS programs, which have a frankly discriminatory appearance. The recent challenge by African American Parents of Magnet School Applicants (AAPMSA) of the appalling statistics as to admission of students of color into magnet programs, and the equally appalling speed with which MCPS "caved" on this issue, without even pretending to do any sort of meaningful study, are NOT good signs.

In the last year BoE/MCPS actions have infuriated citizens who feel that school property should not be given up, "surplussed" or sacrificed for any reason - most certainly not to a poorly thought out plan to increase "affordable housing". They have ignored the reasoned arguments of the coalition to save Seven Locks Elementary School that question the wisdom and fiscal soundness of replacing SLES with a new school on the Kendale Road site. BoE/MCPS actions led to the promulgation of a "sex-education" program that has been successfully (and embarrassingly) challenged because, among other reasons, it inexplicably mixes judgments as to the quality of various religious beliefs with a discussion of the need to be tolerant of alternative forms of sexuality. BoE/MCPS

insistence on a hasty and bewilderingly complex revision of grading policy has meet with wide resistance. Decisions to purchase PDAs, and to fund a coalition with local businesses (MCBRE) have been questioned by many in the PTA world. And, with the probable decision to adopt the contested revision of Policy FAA, the BoE/MCPS hierarchy would appear to have achieved the unbelievable: they appear to have alienated the MCCPTA!

As with any report card, the one I propose on BoE/MCPS could have many line items. I will list just a few, complete just one and leave it to you to make other entries:

Performance Area	Grade
Interaction with the community (including the MCCPTA):	F
Sound management of MCPS resources:	?
Careful promulgation of educational programs:	?
Education of all of our children:	?

The Civic Federation Education Committee continues to research these and related issues. We will continue to publish and testify, and we will attempt to dialogue with members of the BoE/MCPS power structure. We would like to help the BoE/MCPS do a better job and get a better report card next year. We need all the help we can get! Please call me at 301-942-6893 to join the Education Committee.

Where is the FY06 County Operating Budget Going?

By Chuck Lapinski, Public Finance and Utilities Chairman

To say that the proposed FY06 County Operating Budget is a work (and not a pretty one at that) in progress, is probably too politic. So, a brief scorecard (subject to additional Council actions after we sent this to press):

- The residential property tax appears to stay within the Charter Limits, but it consists of a \$116 tax rebate that is skewed to provide a larger benefit to those with homes with an assessed value of less than \$300,000, and less relief to those with pricier homes. Since it is a rebate, it is a "one time" deal! You are expected to be mollified by a 4 cent reduction in the property tax

rate, and yes, it is part of a "staying within Charter Limits for Households" strategy.

- To stay within the Charter Limits, the budget should have been cut by less than \$70 million. So far, items totaling less than half that amount have been identified and it's not clear to me that those items were more worthy of being cut than many others I can think of. Actually, out of a proposed budget of some \$3.6+ billion, it should not have been hard to achieve a cut of less than \$70 million. Note that the regional rate of inflation was only 2.6% while the proposed budget grew by 9.4%!
- The energy tax will be continued and households are projected to contribute about 30% of \$117.6 million. The good news: businesses, diplomatic, religious and other not-for-profit institutions will pay their fair share.
- Still no down payment on the long overdue maintenance DEFICIT. Projected needs still exceed some \$700 million.
- Still no effort to control the structural and systemic aspects of spending.

Based on the performance to date, I don't hold much hope of seeing disciplined fiscal prudence, near and long term. And, I have been known to be an optimist.

Environmental Issues

by John Warnock, Environmental Committee Chair

The Parks Department's decision to remove trash containers from all areas under its jurisdiction provoked a strong, negative public reaction. The MCCF passed a resolution late last year calling on the County to reverse this move. Our resolution was echoed by a number of organizations and individuals, and it now seems that a victory in this matter is near.

The MCCF has also been part of the move to form an organization, Friends of Rock Creek's Environment (FORCE) to protect and enhance the Rock Creek watershed. FORCE has been formally established to work with the federal, state and local government entities in whose jurisdictions the watershed lies, and other interested groups and individuals. The main objective of the new body will be to initiate projects to deal with pollution issues and related topics such as invasive plant species.

Note: after the FORCE meeting on May 22, I will update and expand this section for the web site.

Mark Your Calendars! Remaining 2005 MCCF Federation Meeting Dates

The Federation's regular monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of the month starting at 7:45 PM in the Council Office Building, 1st Floor Auditorium. Dates for the remainder of 2005:

September 12
October 10
November 14
December 12

The Executive Committee meetings are held on Thursday in the Rockville Red Brick Courthouse starting at 7:45 PM. All are welcome to attend. Meeting dates for the remainder of 2005 are:

September 22
October 20
November 17
December 15

Status of Issues

HOUSING COMMITTEE

- ZTA 04-10(MCCF opposes), to change regulations on accessory apartments. Council vote pending.
- Bill 36-04, Discrimination in Housing amendments. Council vote pending.
- Workforce Housing, Executive branch planning effort to create subsidized housing program for households above moderate income level. Legislation not yet introduced.
- ZTA 05-04/SRA 05-01/Expedited Bill 4-05, to change membership of panel to approve MPDU alternative agreements and language relating to financial infeasibility, Council approved all 3 unanimously on May 18.

PLANNING AND LAND USE COMMITTEE

- ZTA 03-27, Building Height Measurement, Council PHED Committee April 11 worksession cancelled and no new date set.
- ZTA 05-02, to create a new Transit Oriented Mixed Use Zone (MCCF seeks amendment to specify dwelling-unit-per-acre density limit). PHED Committee

action pending.

- County Service Park at Shady Grove--Executive branch and developers meeting to relocate components to Germantown, Shady Grove and Gaithersburg Vicinity master plan areas.
- Master Plans under revision by Council--Shady Grove (worksessions to continue in June) and Bethesda CBD (continuation of public hearing set for July 12)
- Master Plans under revision by Park & Planning--Damascus, Germantown, and Twinbrook (all 3 to be approved and transmitted to current Council). Gaithersburg Vicinity to be held over for transmittal to 2006 Council.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting, May 9, 2005

By Richard Zierdt, Recording Secretary

MCCF Vice President Wayne Goldstein presiding in President Wilhelm's absence
18 civic associations represented - count by Luella Mast.

Program: State Legislative Wrap-Up. Delegate Sheila Hixson speaks. ICC will be partly funded with Garvee Bonds. There will be a State Constitutional question at the next general election about disposition of State-owned real estate. Library funding to start in 2007. Library functions are diversifying with many becoming community centers. Senator Rona Kramer speaks. Higher Education funding restored. Promote wind energy; wind farms may be built in western Maryland. Several bills passed on teen driving. Stem cell research did not make it out of committee. There will not be new taxes next year. Multiple campaign contribution loophole passed the Assembly but did make it out of Senate committee. Ms. Kramer filed a bill that would have given businesses a tax break if they helped efforts to improve adult literacy.

Nominating Committee. Dick Kauffunger. Announces nominees for 2005-06 elective positions: President, Dan Wilhelm; 1st VP, Wayne Goldstein, 2nd VP, Arnold Gordon; District 14 VP, Jackie Benn, assisted by Dave Michaels; District 15 VP, Sandy Vogelgesang; District 16 VP, Lee Shipman; District 17VP, Open; District 18 VP, Donna Savage; District 19 VP. Open; District 20 VP, Eileen Finnigan; District 39 VP, Jonathan Putnam; Treasurer, Luella Mast; Recording Secretary, Richard Zierdt.

Committee Reports.

Public Safety. Jerry Garson. County may implement a "reverse-911" system where dangerous situations would trigger blanket warning telephone calls to affected residents.

Education Committee. Mark Adelman. Meeting with MCPS

regarding proposed Policy FAA changes. MCCPTA also opposes the proposed changes. Seven Locks Road Elementary School is still in limbo. A suit was filed about the Edson Lane property. Proposed policy BFA revisions: Policy on Policies.

Announcement about "Olney Days" on May 20, 21, 22.

Meeting adjourned 10:10 pm.

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, May 19, 2005

Lyle Schofield, Acting as Recording Secretary

7:50 PM EST - Call to Order

Attending: Mast, Dennis, Humphrey, Adelman, Wolff, Wilhelm, Lamari, Schofield, Sauer.

Minutes - Correction (Mast was in attendance) was made at March meeting but not reflected in minutes published in April. Minutes approved with this correction.

Announcements:

All invited to CITPAC meeting honoring Neil Potter, scheduled for June 12th (Sunday).

Neighbors' PAC is having a fun(d) raiser Saturday afternoon, nice social get together.

GOCA past Tuesday voted to oppose overhead interchange for ICC at Georgia Avenue. They are opposed to the ICC, but if it is going to be built they will only accept a below grade intersection.

Treasurer's Report - Luella presented tax forms required to get tax ID number. Needed to change bank account. Filing is simple due to low revenue involved. Should not require lawyer.

Also circulated copy of "property form" for use with State of Maryland. Would allow transfer of accounts to a local bank. Motion to authorize Luella to file paperwork for tax ID number made and seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Discussion on filing forms showing Federation's "property" of which we have little. Group agreed that President and Treasurer should work on separate issue of property forms.

Review of treasurer's report. Membership form being placed in Newsletter in May was productive bringing in 2 new umbrella associations, 1 new county wide association and some groups renewing early. Question raised about small civic/citizen groups (less than 30 members). Given infill development, there are probably more new, small groups coming. Bylaws Committee will review this issue in autumn.

Looks like we might end the year in the black, removing need to dip into reserves.

Discussion of 2006 Award Function: should probably use clip-on name tags; have lower rate for children (the two who attended were charged adult rate). Summer planning should probably cover whether we want to continue with the awards in the spring or back to the old program. New award suggested from nominations from the member organizations - referred to Bylaws Committee.

Programs - June program: BoE will not participate. Discussion of master plan process vs. how to craft a budget (zero based budget, budget process, etc.). Motion to invite Tim Firestein to enlighten us on the budget process. Seconded. Program should focus not on the numbers, but on how they arrive at the numbers. Passed unanimously. September program suggestions: State legislative agenda; a luncheon for county delegation to discuss Federation members' desires for the session. Orientation of some kind for new members or "training" session on how to be an activist; a forum to educate public on election and campaign finance reform. Small group to discuss further

Election/Appointments - Discussion of timing of appointments and announcements. Need to have more people volunteer to chair or serve on committees. Nominating/confirmation process to be reviewed by Bylaws Committee

June Community Hero: Coalition to Save 7 Locks School held over from May.

Summer Get Together - Because of new structure, Dan proposed get-together for old and new ExComm members instead of the July "brainstorming session". Some want to have both.

Web Site - Register an editing site. Discussion of alternate domains; should we register to help with "cybersquatting" type issues? Consensus was that ".org" was fine.

Education - Adelman attended BoE meeting. Board will vote on Policy FAA on Monday, the policy committee seems to have taken citizens' concerns somewhat to heart, although not as much as was hoped for. BoE is revising Policy "BFA". Committee has document with suggestions on this, but no controversy expected.

Seven Locks seems to be a done deal, community is expecting the old school to be turned into dense "affordable" housing.

Education Committee is working on a program to have volunteers clean up and paint portable classrooms, some of

which are in bad condition. Neighbors for a Better Montgomery PAC has research on health issues around portable classrooms.

Planning and Land Use - MPDU legislation passed by the council. Rewording now being analyzed. TOMX zone will be passed. It is problematic as there is no density cap. Will replace TRS categories.

5 Master Plans under revision: Shady Grove, Bethesda, Damascus, Germantown, and Twinbrook. Being followed. Problem with Ag Reserve: developers are getting in through institutional loopholes ("super churches", for example) and by building sand mound septic systems.

Discussion of Wheaton Plaza and all the development being initiated along University and Georgia Avenue.

Transportation - continued discussion on below-grade intersection for ICC across Georgia Avenue. There should be community input into this process and there is a master plan that dictates what should be done. Norbeck/Georgia shows how it can be done successfully. Motion to send letter and publish article on adhering to master plan for rural gateway in Olney. Additional motion to send letter on Rt. 28 widening - roads in this area will be overwhelmed if improvements have to wait 'til after ICC construction. Motion passed.

Public Safety - New ambulance fee not passed by council yet.

Other Business - Discussion of e-forwarding of political fliers.

Nominating committee did excellent job of collecting bios for each nominee. Should be published in June newsletter.

Newsletter Assignments

Meeting adjourned 10:23 PM EST

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

**Delegates! Please complete and pass to your Treasurer for dues payment
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL**

July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006

Mail to: Luella Mast (Treasurer)
809 Hobbs Dr, Colesville, MD 20904
301-384-4178; luellam@comcast.net

Inquiries: Dan Wilhelm (President)
(301) 384-2698
djwilhelm@erols.com

Name of Organization/Individual _____ Date _____

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

Membership Type	Number of Households	PLEASE CHECK	DUES	Max Number of Members	Voting Privileges
Local Association (civic, community, homeowner or municipality. Must represent at least 30 households - not paid members. Can not be a single local issue group.)	30 to 300		\$45*	2	Yes
	301 to 600		\$65*	3	
	601+		\$85*	4	
Umbrella Association (Two or more local associations. Cannot be single local issue group.)	60 to 500		\$45*	2	Yes
	501 to 1000		\$65*	3	
	1001+		\$85*	4	
Regional or County-Wide Organization (environmental, transportation, or other civic/community).	50+ memberships, not households		\$45*	2	Yes
Individual Associate	(not applicable)		\$20*	1	No
Associate Group (Gov't agency, business, or other organization)	(not applicable)		\$85*	2	No

Can select less than the allowed number of members and pay according to that number. List your members below. Each member will receive our newsletter unless he/she elects to receive an email notice that the newsletter is available at www.montgomerycivic.org for downloading. Please check the email box below for those who will receive the email notice. ***You may also take a \$5 discount off the dues for each person who elects to receive the newsletter email notice.** Please provide the email address whether or not newsletter email notification is selected. We are planning to produce a membership directory. Please identify whether you want your email address included.

1.	Name (President+)		Phone (H/W)	
	Street		E-mail Address	<input type="checkbox"/>
	City, State, Zip		Put email address in directory: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
2.	Name		Phone (H/W)	
	Street		E-mail Address	<input type="checkbox"/>
	City, State, Zip		Put email address in directory: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
3.	Name		Phone (H/W)	
	Street		E-mail Address	<input type="checkbox"/>
	City, State, Zip		Put email address in directory: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
4.	Name		Phone (H/W)	
	Street		E-mail Address	<input type="checkbox"/>
	City, State, Zip		Put email address in directory: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

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

Delegates! Please see that your Treasurer receives this form to expedite dues payment.

Federation Meeting

Monday, June 13, 2005
7:45 3rd Floor Auditorium
County Council Office Building.
Rockville, MD

Agenda

7:45 Call to Order
7:47 Introductions and Announcements
7:55 Adoption of Business Meeting Agenda
7:58 Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report
8:00 Community Hero
8:10 Program: County Budget
9:10 Election
9:20 Committee Reports
9:35 Member Issues
9:45 Old Business
9:48 New Business
10:00 Adjourn

The **Montgomery County Civic Federation** is a county-wide nonprofit educational and advocacy organization. It was founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. Its monthly Delegates meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Monday of each month (except for holidays, July, August and December) at 7:45 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.**"

Submit contributions for the next issue by: **Midnight, Saturday August 20.** Prepare submission as an MS Word, Word Perfect or text-only document, **attach** it to e-mail, and send it to hotyaker@comcast.net Please send all address corrections to Dan Wilhelm, 904 Cannon Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904, 301-384-2698, or djwilhelm@erols.com.

NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, June 23, 2005, 7:45 p.m.

RED BRICK COURTHOUSE

29 Courthouse Square, Rockville

(Note: there is free parking in front of the courthouse.)

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

DAN WILHELM, DATABASE MANAGER

904 CANNON ROAD

SILVER SPRING, MD 20904

DJWILHELM@EROLS.COM

Address Service Requested

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