



Civic Federation News

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Serving the Public Interest since 1925

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January Program: "CountyStat" ?!? By Wayne Goldstein, President

At our June 2004 meeting, then-Mayor Martin O'Malley described the implementation of his CitiStat program in Baltimore, and more than 100 people attended. We were very impressed. Some of us suggested to Ike Leggett when he was running for County Executive, that he develop a similar program at the county-wide level. Now it is being done.

What is CountyStat? It is an accountability and assessment tool for everyday management and long-term planning in government. It consists of a series of meetings during which the Chief Administrative Officer uses "real time" data to discuss, examine, and analyze with the department directors, the departments' past, future, and overall performance strategies. The objective is to improve the efficiency and responsiveness of government by using up-to-date information as the ongoing focus for everyday management and long-term policymaking.

Our program on Monday, January 14 will bring Ms. Fariba Kassiri, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer for the County Executive to be our program presenter. January 2008 is the projected target date for the first CountyStat meeting, so having Ms. Kassiri come to explain the program to us and answer our questions will be very timely. As usual, we anticipate a lively Question and Answer session.

Community Hero: Diane Cameron & the Montgomery County Stormwater Partners Network by Peggy Dennis

On October 27, over 100 citizens, local officials, green business leaders and educators attended a conference on "Clean Water and Streams for Montgomery" in Rockville organized by Diane Cameron. Many of us were highly impressed by the breadth of vision, depth of detail and superb planning that went into organizing this "stormwater summit".

Diane Cameron has worked for better stormwater management for the past two years with a wide variety of citizens, environmentalists, government staff, builders, and others both here in Montgomery County and more broadly throughout Maryland. Through her earlier work on stormwater and stream protection issues for the Natural Resources Defense Council (1989-1998) and the Audubon Naturalist Society, Diane organized 22 organizations, including the Montgomery County Civic Federation, to create the Montgomery County Stormwater Partners Network in October 2005. She knew that the key to success in stream protection in an urbanizing county consists of three things: 1) citizen empowerment and unity across many groups; 2) accountability for the county and individual property owners to better manage their stormwater; and 3) full-scale application of known and proven low-impact techniques for capturing and re-using stormwater as a resource on each site. These three goals have guided the work of the Stormwater Partners, with the most important element being the first one -- citizen empowerment and unity. The three concepts were the major guiding principles for the October 27 conference.

Inside

Planning and Land Use Matters	2
2008 Winter/Spring Calendar	3
Montgomery County's Fiscal Future	3
Randolph Civic Has Been Around a Long Time	4
Membership Renewals	5
Useful Election Information	5
Future Programs	6
Committees Need Volunteers and Input	6
Bylaws Committee	7
Minutes of December Regular Meeting	7
Minutes of December Executive Comm. Meeting	8
MCCF Officers & Committee Chairs	11

Mark your calendar now for the Civic Federation's

**ANNUAL AWARDS
RECEPTION
AND BANQUET
Friday, May 9**

For the past two years the broadly-based Stormwater Partners Network has been lobbying Montgomery County and Maryland officials to adopt a low-impact development approach to stormwater and to make such efforts accountable to the taxpayer through issuing a renewed and strengthened Clean Water Act NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) stormwater permit to Montgomery County. Along the way, our own County Council in 2006 passed a resolution supporting our call for enforceable numbers in a strengthened stormwater permit, and allocated over a million dollars, administered by DEP, to low-impact approaches like rain gardens, green roofs, and sustainable landscaping with native trees and plants, for public and private properties. This year our

Council's Road Code amendment package included a set of stormwater standards proposed by the Stormwater Partners. Also in 2007, the Maryland General Assembly passed a nationally-significant Stormwater Management Act requiring developers and redevelopers to adopt Environmental Site Design, with the late Delegate Jane Lawton as the bill's champion in the House.

While we have not yet achieved the ultimate goal - adoption of the strengthened Clean Water Act stormwater permit by Montgomery County - the progress made along the way is reason enough for us to honor Diane Cameron for her outstanding leadership in this area. She is definitely one more of our respected and honored "Community Heroes".

Planning and Land Use Matters

by Jim Humphrey, Chair, Planning & Land Use Committee

It looks like 2008 will be a busy year for the MCCF Planning and Land Use (PLU) Committee. Initiatives will be considered by the Planning Board and County Council to make changes to the master planning process and to use a new "form-based zoning code" format, at least for some limited areas in the county such as older, retail "strip malls." We will follow these issues as they develop, and comment when we feel it necessary.

The committee will also monitor the implementation of the new growth policy, and weigh in as further improvements are considered over the next six months. The amended policy calls for applying two tests--the new Policy Area Mobility Review (PAMR), and a revised Local Area Transportation Review (LATR)--to all project applications submitted to the Planning Board for approval. There are also revisions to the Schools Test that will be applied to all new residential projects seeking approval. Inadequate student capacity on the middle school level in Clarksburg puts that area in moratorium for new development approvals, and insufficient capacity in nine other clusters will require projects in those areas to pay a School Facility Payment for students on the affected grade level that will be generated by the project. The clusters requiring this Payment due to insufficient capacity on the elementary school level are B-CC, Blake, Richard Montgomery, Northwest, Quince Orchard, Rockville, Wheaton and Whitman, with Wootton affected on the high school level.

Committee members will also monitor and comment as the Council considers changes to the Moderately

Priced Dwelling Unit (MPDU) Program, some offered by County Executive Leggett and Councilmember Leventhal and some by MCCF. And, we will discuss community concerns with Planning staff who are charged with writing a Housing Study, which we hope will focus on methods to retain and preserve existing affordably priced housing in the county, in particular rental housing.

In addition, we will study relocation of some facilities from the County Services Park in Shady Grove, follow the effects of the Walter Reed move to the Naval Medical Center on local traffic and transit, and study the impact on Fairland-White Oak from creation of the new east county high tech center, relocation of Washington Adventist Hospital, and the proposed Percontee town center planned for that area. Finally, as always, we will monitor rezoning cases as well as new development proposals submitted for Planning Board approval. There is currently a backlog of projects seeking approval that was caused in part by developers waiting for the new growth policy changes, to see how their plans will be affected by the increased Development Impact Taxes, new PAMR and revised LATR transportation tests, and the new Schools Test.

Although 2008 looks to be a busy year, PLU Committee members will always find time to work with citizens who need education and guidance on planning, zoning and land use issues affecting their community, and we welcome new members to our ranks.

Montgomery County Civic Federation 2008 Winter/Spring Calendar

REGULAR MEETINGS: 2nd Monday, September - June 7:45 - 10:00 PM, 1st Floor Auditorium, Werner Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville. Free evening parking in the adjacent garage.

January 14
February 11
March 10
April 14
May 12
June 9

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS: 2nd Wednesday after the regular meeting, 7:45 - 10:15 PM, Julius West Middle School, 651 Great Falls Road, Rockville. Free parking at the school.

January 23
February 20
March 19
April 23
May 21
June 18

MCCF ANNUAL AWARDS RECEPTION AND BANQUET Friday, May 9, 6:00 - 9:30 PM, New Fortune Restaurant, 16515 Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, in the Walnut Hill Shopping Center.

SUMMER POTLUCK: July, date TBA

Why We Should Be Concerned About Montgomery County's Fiscal Future!

By Marvin Weinman, Co-Chair, Public Finance Committee

Since the recent release of FY 09 initial financial projections indicating the existence of a \$401 million funding gap was identified, we have seen justifiable concern expressed in a Washington Post editorial and other local media with comments and suggestions about how to solve the gap problem. The County Executive made a good first step by initiating a savings plan for county departments requiring agencies to reduce their current budget spending by 2%. This should result in \$64 million in savings and a correspondingly smaller gap. This will help but a significant gap remains. There were a number of methods proposed for balancing the budget including increasing taxes, which would most likely result in a need to override the charter limit, additional spending reductions or a combination of both methods.

It would be nice if we just had a one year gap to solve, however FY 09 is just the tip of the iceberg. Beneath the surface is an issue that is not being addressed. We continue to work the budget one year at a time. We have a FY 09 - 14 six year gap of \$4.68 billion. The six year gap is 122% times larger than the total for the current FY 08 budget Total Uses. The six year FY 09 -14 Tax Supported Fiscal Plan is not sustainable. Failure to adequately acknowledge and discuss the county's long term

revenue problem leaves the general public vulnerable to an uncertain future.

Why are the yearly budget increases so high? Where does the money go? Last year the county negotiated three-year labor contracts with three union bargaining groups. FY 08 labor costs represent over 80% of the Tax Supported Budget, an increase of 9% for FY 08 for the 33,000 county employees. A significant number of eligible employees received combined step increases and general wage adjustments which, when compounded over the three years of the contract, results in a 9.25% yearly average increase. How much of an increase did you receive last year?

Should we continue to hire additional employees at the current accelerated rates without justification for their critical need? In FY 07 MCPS hired 564 employees when student population decreased by 1,589. Were all the new hires absolutely necessary?

Over the last three years the Council has been reviewing department priorities and goals. The time has come to examine the benefits provided by each program and determine if there is a viable return for the investment provided. The County Executive in his December 3rd State of the County Message identified a number of priorities that are worthy of

implementation. It is questionable if they all can be funded this year. In difficult financial times it is reasonable to take a hard look at ineffective programs or programs with marginal public benefit and redirect the appropriations to higher priority programs such as those identified in the Executive's message.

Increasing taxes on the general public is not the solution to our budget problem. Comments from the recently completed Montgomery County 2007 Resident Survey indicated only 7% of respondents

are willing to pay more taxes for more services. The more realistic approach is to do what individuals do, reduce spending. The county should explore the option of combining spending reductions with selective revenue increases in areas such as fees for additional personal services provided. Increased management monitoring of programs that traditionally overrun their budget appropriations could also provide the opportunity for additional savings.

Focus on Member Organizations:

Randolph Civic Has Been Around a Long Time

by Richard Zierdt, District 18 Vice President

This is the first of what will, we hope, become a series of articles that describe member organizations of the MCCF. Who knows what secrets we have that can benefit all of our member organizations?

Formed in 1955, incorporated in 1960, and still going strong is the Randolph Civic Association (www.randolphcivic.org). It represents 1335 homes in the northeast corner of the North Bethesda Planning District, sometimes known as "South Rockville", but which we consider "North Bethesda." The area is immediately east of Loehmann's Plaza on Randolph Road. Two past presidents of the MCCF have come from the RCA: Alvin Rivera and Allen Bender.

The RCA has been a consistently active organization with great momentum. We publish a newsletter – the "ECHO" - eight times a year, and distribute it free to all households regardless of RCA membership making our presence felt year-round. Universal distribution of the ECHO also allows the RCA to claim at public hearings that it represents all residents, not just those that pay dues (\$10 per year). Household participation is 40%. Sure, we'd like 100%, but we believe all residents must receive the ECHO. Active civic associations tend to attract new residents. Communication is key.

The RCA maintains a telephone "hotline," where anyone may leave messages 24 hours a day (301-881-2RCA). These messages, transcribed and published in the ECHO, are the most-read part of the newsletter. A list-serve is also maintained so that participants can exchange thoughts and ideas via e-mail. A common call describes a specific complaint and the corresponding lack of code enforcement. We

encourage residents to call the appropriate County department themselves ("you don't have to leave your phone number"), but RCA executive members will sometimes call the County on behalf of a reluctant neighbor.

The RCA plays a large role with our youth, principally by sponsorship of Girl and Boy Scout Troops. Annual donations to these groups are on the order of \$1000. Further, Boy Scout Troop 1083 delivers our newsletter for \$1000 a year. This is not a donation, but a separate payment for services. No boy receives a penny from this; the payment benefits the Troop so it may purchase equipment or provide discounts for activity fees to families in need. Sometimes, Boy Scout leaders provide the guidance a father might to a boy in a single-parent environment. I'm proud of the work our Scout leaders do.

The RCA sponsors a Community Picnic every September (free lunch to all residents), and two Community Yard Sales each year, one in the spring and one in the fall. Working with Loehmann's Plaza, a portion of its parking lot is roped off and used for residents to "turn their trash into cash." While Loehmann's requires the RCA to have liability insurance (\$750/year for an umbrella policy from Erie Insurance), Loehmann's also donates the services of a face painter and balloon artist for the youngsters at each event. We thank Loehmann's for their generosity.

One funky benefit we offer to RCA members is Sam's Club memberships for \$35 annually, \$5 less than an individual membership, and since the RCA is an incorporated "business," our members can begin shopping at 7 AM instead of 10 AM (Monday –

Saturday). This takes co-ordination with Sam's and bookkeeping on our part, but it provides a great incentive for joining the RCA.

One of our latest projects is the formation of an adjunct organization, the Randolph Civic Foundation. Newly incorporated in 2007 for non-profit charitable purposes, the RCF's mission – to be crude about it – is to encourage (i.e. increase) donations to the neighborhood that happen to be tax-deductible under section a (401(c)(3) of the tax code. These moneys go to supporting our Girl and Boy Scouts, maintaining flower beds in common areas, erecting neighborhood identification signs – all the “good works” that civic associations perform – as opposed to “raising hell” before the County Council. [Actually, “raising hell” can be a part of a 401(c)(3) group, but it's easier to get tax-exempt status by not going there.] So officially, the RCA raises hell, but the RCF is the “nice guy” in the neighborhood. The process of forming a tax-exempt organization can be done by an “ordinary citizen,” but a lawyer versed in this is easier, albeit more expensive. Expect a fee of about \$4K to retain one for this purpose (at least the \$4K is deductible). Perhaps Norm Knopf or David Brown of Rockville (attorneys sympathetic to civic associations) can be helpful here. By shifting as many activities of the RCA to the RCF as legally possible,

dues to the RCA (or now RCF) can be deductible “to the maximum extent of the law.” A sales-tax exemption from the State of Maryland is next. With this, for example, the RCF would be exempt from the sales taxes the RCA now pays when printing the newsletter.

Speaking of “Raising Hell”, the RCA has been doing this to prevent Park and Planning from demolishing our recreation center buildings. This possibility seems to have subsided since it was introduced last summer, but officially the Randolph Hills Recreation Center building is still on the chopping block. We await a final decision from Parks before we turn up the heat under the County Council.

My sage advice to all CAs is to keep the momentum going. I encourage universal distribution of a newsletter. Try to start an activity (yard sale, picnic) that could become a tradition. One effective program – one that the RCA used to have and needs again – is a “Welcome Wagon” new-neighbor program where, working with real estate agents, new residents are given an introduction to the neighborhood as they move in. I suggest new residents be given a pie or cake (or bottle of wine?) and a notebook of materials describing the area. Great way to increase membership!

Membership Renewals

by Dan Wilhelm, Data Base Manager

Happy New Year! We want to welcome our newest associate member, Arlene P. Bruhn of Bethesda.

Our membership year begins on July, and renewals with dues are expected at that time. We are pleased that so many member organizations renewed and remain actively with us. But our bylaws require us to drop those that haven't paid their dues by December 31 from our rolls. The following is the list of associations and individual members who must now be considered inactive. We would still be delighted to have you pay up and rejoin.

Snowdens Mill Homeowners Assoc

Sonoma Citizens Association
Springbrook Forest Citizens Association
The Preserves @ Smalls Nursery HOA
Town of Kensington
Wheaton Citizens Coalition
Woodside Park Civic Association Inc.

Individuals

Caren & Eric Madsen
Brian McTigue
Bette Petrides
Jeanne Taylor

Useful Election Information

Primary Election Day is Tuesday, February 12. This is for Presidential candidates and all other applicable contested seats. Other important dates: Last day to register to vote in the February 12 primary election is Tuesday, January 22. The last day

to register for an absentee ballot is Tuesday, February 5. The Montgomery County Board of Elections offices are at 751 Twinbrook Parkway in Rockville. Office hours are Monday through Friday,

8:30 am to 5:00 pm. There is a 24 hour voter information line: 240-777-8683.

Election Judges Needed. The Board of Elections still needs election judges to work at the polls on February 12. If you are interested, please contact the Board by phone or on-line through the Montgomery County government web page (see above).

Primary Election Guides from the League of Women Voters should be available for free in all branches of the county library system around the end of January. If you do not find the Guides there or would like to know where else to get a guide, please contact Cindy Snow in the League of Women Voters office, 301-984-9585 or lwvmc@erols.com.

A Primary Election Board of Education Candidate's Forum is being sponsored by the Montgomery County League of Women Voters on Monday, January 28 at the Wheaton Regional Library, 12:00 to 2:00 pm. All are welcome. Come and bring a brown bag lunch. Coffee and cookies will be

Future Programs

by Arnie Gordon, 1st Vice President and Program Chair

We plan to have an exciting series of programs this winter and spring.

In February we intend to take up issues surrounding the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process which, if not dealt with in a timely and comprehensive manner, will compound the congested roads and other infra-structure problems we already have in the county. We will be inviting the county's BRAC officials as well as representatives of the local, state and federal agencies involved.

In March – this is open to suggestions.

April will be our annual spring program covering the budget the Executive will be presenting to the Council. Discussions and budgetary issues this year will center on the anticipated shortfall of more than \$400 million in the county's revenues and how that budget gap will be closed.

Committees Need Volunteers and Input

The 2008 **Nominating Committee** which will propose the slate of candidates for next year's elective positions still needs at least five delegates to serve. This committee's work is of short duration. The Nominating Committee will be announced in the

provided. For more information contact Cindy Snow in the League of Women Voters office, 301-984-9585 or lwvmc@erols.com.

Women's Legislative Briefing (28th Annual) will be held on Sunday, January 27, 12:30 - 5:00 pm at the National 4-H Conference Center, 7100 Connecticut Avenue, Chevy Chase. This event is free and open to all. Pre-registration is required and may be made on-line through the Montgomery County government website: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw>. Irene Natividad, President of the Global Summit of Women and member of the National Women's Political Caucus will be this year's keynote speaker. Attendees may choose from six workshops on Women and: Health, Immigration, the Law, the Economy, Effective Advocacy and Running a Campaign. The program concludes with a desert reception for attendees and County and State elected officials. For more information, call Rudy Marcelo at the Commission for Women, 240-777-8331.

In May we will focus on the county's third and rarely thought about branch of government, our judicial system. Topics should include, but not be limited to: the process by which our judges are selected/appointed; why our "sitting" judges have to campaign to be "re-elected" from time to time; whether judges specialize in certain areas of the law; whether our judges reflect the diversity of our population; how mandatory sentencing appears to disproportionately affect some groups; how the jury selection system is working; the administration of the courts and the impact of these operations on our daily lives.

The Executive Committee tries to plan programs of interest to all our member organizations, and we always welcome suggestions for future programs. Please contact me, Arnie Gordon at nmcaprexy@aol.com or 301-570-0481 if you have suggestions for future program topics.

February Newsletter and elected at the February regular meeting. The committee's work must be completed by April 26, the deadline for getting the list of proposed candidates into the May newsletter. Delegates interested in serving on this committee

should contact President Wayne Goldstein at waynemgoldstein@hotmail.com or 301-942-8079.

The 2008 **Awards Committee** has been named: Peggy Dennis, chairman; Arnie Gordon and Jim Humphrey. We have three awards to present at the May 9, 2008 Annual Awards Dinner:

- The Sentinel Award, presented to an individual or group for a significant contribution to good government at the local level.
- The Gazette Award, presented to an individual or group who performs exemplary

Bylaws Committee

By Luella Mast, Bylaws Committee Chair

The Bylaws Committee will have a dinner meeting on Tuesday, January 8, 7:15 p.m. at Hollywood East on the Boulevard in Wheaton. We expect to be meeting once a month on yet unspecified Tuesdays through the end of the 2007-08 program year. If you

Minutes of December 10, 2007 Regular Meeting by Peggy Dennis, Acting Recording Secretary

Call to order: President Wayne Goldstein called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. There were 58 who signed in including four program speakers and many guests and representatives of organizations not yet members of the Civic Federation. Introductions were made all around and announcements.

Agenda: adopted as printed in the December Newsletter and approved unanimously.

Minutes of the November 12 regular meeting as printed in the Newsletter were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report was available in the entry. Luella asked everyone to be sure to sign in.

Community Heroes recognition was given to Harriet L. Kuhn and Sue G. Stricklett for their work in improving and adding to the Hillmead Neighborhood Park. Harriet and Sue thanked MCCF profusely for standing by them, advising and encouraging them through their two year struggle.

volunteer service for the residents of the county.

- The Star Cup, awarded to a MCCF delegate or committee for outstanding public service on behalf of Montgomery County.

So, please! These are our awards and you have a say in who should be honored. We cannot read your minds. If there are individuals or organizations you believe should be considered, we need to know. Please communicate your ideas and preferences to Peggy Dennis at hotyakker@comcast.net or 301-983-9738.

have changes to the bylaws to recommend to the committee or would be interested in joining the committee, please contact Luella Mast at luellam@comcast.net or 301-384-4178.



Community Heroes Harriet Kuhn and Sue Stricklett

Program on the county's trees and 1982 Forest Conservation Law (FCL) was hosted by our Environment Chairman, Caren Madsen.

Laura Miller, Arborist and Forest Conservation Coordinator for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), explained that DEP has no regulatory role but is in unique position to advocate with other agencies & departments. Members of the new Forest Conservation Board are being appointed by the County Executive. While still challenged by

constraints on time & resources, advocacy on behalf of trees is showing up in many different departments & agencies, and she is encouraged by the cooperation she is receiving.

Mark Pfefferle, Forest Conservation Coordinator for the MNC/PPC Environmental Planning Division (EPD) discussed their role in implementing and enforcing the FCL. FCL does not apply to development plans less than one acre with minimal disturbance. Newly planted trees must be cared for for 2 years, but this is too short a time period. Planning Board will likely recommend increasing care period to 5 years and additional improvements to current FCL. EPD is currently short-staffed, but building is slow now.

Michael Galvin, Supervisor of Urban & Community Forestry for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources-Forest Service: Maryland is the only state with a state-wide forest conservation law. Roadside tree law was passed in 1914, and 3 other laws concerning trees, but DNR has jurisdiction only over roadside trees and there are many limitations to the act.

Brett Linkletter, Program Manager of Tree Maintenance for the Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation. DPWT plants & prunes new street trees and cuts down dead trees in public right-of-way; 500,000 trees to care for in old, suburban districts and at least as many to manage in the outer areas. 40 contractors carry out actual work. DPWT has 3

professional arborists on staff. Job is reactive with plenty of work.

Q. & A. Session addressed need for a tree ordinance to protect more individual trees and small stands.

Councilmember Marc Elrich is introducing amendments to current FCL that go beyond MNC/PPC's recommendations aiming to achieve zero net loss of trees in future, and giving citizens standing in protecting trees. Hearing on his amendments is slated for Jan. 22.

Environment Committee Report: issue and photographs presented concerning a noisy, dusty, dirt bike path on a ½ acre private lot in Burtonsville that adjoins wetlands in the Hollings River watershed. Inspector said a special exception may have to be sought by owners.

Pam Browning from "Take Back Bethesda.org" presented a petition and color photos seeking to save trees along the Capital Crescent Trail and the route of the Inner Purple Line by requiring tunneling rather than cut-and-cover construction.

Planning, Land Use & Housing Committees Report: Jim Humphrey reported on a variety of topics already covered at length in his report on page 2.

No New business, old business or member organization issues were raised.

9:50 Meeting adjourned.

Minutes of the December 12 Executive Committee Meeting

By Sandy Vogelgesang, Acting Recording Secretary

Call to Order. MCCF First Vice-president Arnold Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:48 PM. With President Wayne Goldstein arriving shortly thereafter. Also present: Peggy Dennis, Dan Wilhelm, Luella Mast, Marvin Weinman, William Schrader, and Sandy Vogelgesang.

Minutes of the November 14, 2007 Executive Committee Meeting, printed in the Civic Federation News (December 2007), were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Luella Mast referred to the report made available at the most recent 12/10 meeting.

Environment Committee. Wayne Goldstein spoke for Caren Madsen, Committee Chair. He applauded the large turnout for the December 10

meeting, on the County's forest and tree programs/laws arranged by Caren. MCCF will monitor follow-up by the County Council and others on amendments to the Forest Conservation Law, as well as other County/State measures affecting forests and trees. Wayne noted the recent open house regarding the Purple Line, including its implications for the environment.

Education Committee. Wayne Goldstein noted the decision by the Maryland State School Board to reappoint Superintendent Nancy Grasmick to a fifth four-year term, a controversial decision. He also reported that MCPS Superintendent Weast would present the MCPS operating budget on December 13 asking the County to approve a \$2.1 billion, a 6.3 percent increase from the budget approved last year.

Transportation Committee. Peggy Dennis, Member of the Transportation Committee, reported on the latest developments regarding so-called “orphan roads”. A multi-departmental working group is headed toward recommending “context sensitive standards” for improving these roads on a “case-by-case” basis, a radical and welcome departure from DPWT’s old “one-size-fits-all” approach.

Public Safety Committee. Wayne reported for Chuck Floyd on some of the public safety issues reflected in the survey of community opinion released on December 11. The countywide report card, the first conducted since 1994, is intended to provide County policymakers with a baseline of community priorities when dealing with budget decisions. Transportation emerged as one of the key issues in the survey. (The full results of the survey can be found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov.)

Planning and Land Use (PLU) Committee. Jim Humphrey, Chair, presented an extensive report which included the following:

- County Planning Board voted to recommend to Council the placement of the Falkland Apartments, a 1930s-era complex of garden apartments in Silver Spring, on the Master Plan for Historic Places. The owner of the property has filed an application to build a mix of retail and residential uses on about one third of the complex. MCCF strongly supports historic designation for the Falklands.
- Legislation amending the Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit (MPDU) Program, introduced by Council President at request of County Executive Leggett, would eliminate the buyout alternative and reinforce that MPDUs, provided either on site or off, must be integrated with market-rate units.
- Planning Board held December 13 hearing on revisions to the Local Area Transportation Review (LATR) and Policy Area Mobility Review (PAMR) Guidelines, to reflect changes in the recently approved County Growth Policy.
- Prospect for considerable development around the new Germantown Town Center
- School Facility Payment will be required in nine MCPS clusters to accord with new County Growth Policy; Clarksburg will be placed in moratorium.

- Awaiting plan from County Executive regarding creation of a new Public Safety Training Academy on the National Geographic site and transfer of some facilities from County Service Park in Shady Grove.
- Expecting inclusion of infrastructure for East County High Tech Center in the upcoming Capital Improvement Program (CIP).
- Watching emerging battle over redevelopment of 4 Bethesda Metro Center, a high rise office building planned for current food court site.

Legislation/Committee for Montgomery

(CFM). Dan Wilhelm, Chair, reported on several bills on which MCCF might take a position, including at the hearings to be held on December 13 by the Montgomery County State Legislative Delegation. It was agreed that Arnie Gordon, MCCF First Vice-President, would reflect Federation views in the testimony before the County delegation. The four bills are:

- Bill 803-08: ExComm voted to support Delegate Lee’s initiative to allow Montgomery County to regulate the campaign financing of candidates for elective office in Montgomery County. The vote was: For (5), Against (0), Abstain (2), Non-vote (1).
- Bills 815-08 and 816-08: ExComm voted to indicate that, although the Federation is not taking a position on these two bills on the conversion of rental units into condominiums, the Federation is concerned about the problem of the loss of rental housing due to condominium conversions. The vote: For (7), Against (0), Abstaining (0).
- Bill 811-08: ExComm voted to support adoption of Delegate Barkley’s bill to prohibit wireless communication towers on elementary and middle school campuses in Montgomery County. The vote: For (5), Against (3), Abstaining (0). The Executive Committee also agreed to send a memorandum on this subject to the delegation.

Public Finance and Utilities. Marvin Weinman, Chair, reported on the large financial challenges faced by the County. He emphasized the reported \$401 million budget gap for FY 2009 and the projected gap of \$4.68 billion for the six-year FY 2009-2014 period. He indicated that addressing the problem will require savings in addition to added revenue. The County budget will be presented on March 15, 2008.

Membership Committee. Peggy Dennis, Chair, had nothing new to report.

Public Relations Committee. The continuing need for updating the Federation website was noted. As part of expanded Federation outreach, Sandy Vogelgesang, District 15 Membership Vice President, reported that she would continue to place notices about the Federation's monthly meetings in the local press – particularly the Washington Post, the Gazette, and the Almanac.

Bylaws Committee. The committee, chaired by Luella Mast, will meet next on January 8, 2008 with note in the upcoming Newsletter

Awards and Nominations Committees. Wayne Goldstein checked on the status of appointments to these two committees. Peggy Dennis reaffirmed her agreement to chair the Awards Committee, with Jim Humphrey and Arnie Gordon serving as members. Sandy Vogelgesang agreed to chair the Nominations Committee, with Luella Mast and Dan Wilhelm serving as members. The vote : For (6), Against (0), Abstaining (2). It was agreed that the Federation would continue to seek other volunteers for service on both committees.

Program Committee. Arnold Gordon, Chair, reported the need for a new program proposal for January and asked for discussion of other program proposals for Spring 2008. The Executive Committee made the following decisions on programs for upcoming monthly meetings:

- January 2008: The subject will be CountyStat, the new program for accountability in Montgomery County government initiated by County Executive Leggett with Fariba Kassiri, Assistant Chief Administrator Officer the presenter.

- February 2008: The subject will be plans for Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) in Montgomery County. Vote: For (7), Against (0), Abstaining (0).
- March 2008: The program will focus on the County's judicial system. Peggy Dennis agreed to make arrangements. Vote: For (8), Against (0), Abstaining (0).
- April 2008: County operating budget. Marvin Weinman to make arrangements.

Community Hero: Peggy nominated Diane Cameron for her outstanding work in forming the Stormwater Partners Coalition, organizing the forum in October, and working to get stronger requirements for the Clean Water Permits. This was approved by consensus.

Newsletter Assignments, New and Old Business, and Adjournment. Assignments for the upcoming Civic Federation News were made. The Bylaws Committee agreed to look at the issue of providing Delegates with more opportunity to raise questions at the Federation's monthly meetings. Arnie Gordon informed the ExComm of some new responsibilities he has assumed regarding appeals of County real estate assessments, lest those responsibilities constitute a conflict of interest with his role in the Federation. It was concluded that there appears to be no conflict but that all concerned will remain attentive to the issue. Concern was expressed about how to handle the role of those members of the Executive Committee who have paid no dues to the organization or who belong to no dues-paying entity. Several members of the Executive Committee agreed to deal with outstanding issues. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

MCCF Officers & Committee Chairs, January 2008

Position	Name	Home Phone	Office Phone	Email
Elected				
President	Wayne Goldstein	301-942-8079	Same	waynengoldstein@hotmail.com
1st Vice-President	Arnold Gordon	301-570-0481	Same	nmcaprexy@aol.com
2nd Vice-President	Peggy Dennis	301-983-9738	same	hotyakker@comcast.net
District 14 VP	<i>vacant</i>			
District 15 VP	Sandy Vogelgesang	301-365-2347	same	everest.associates@erols.com
District 16 VP	Lee Shipman	301-229-2005	same	plannerlee@earthlink.net
District 17 VP	<i>Vacant</i>			
District 18 VP	Richard Zierdt	301-881-0283	703-464-1617	richard.zierdt@asg.com
District 19 VP	Bill Schrader	301-946-6545	same	schraderw@erols.com
District 20 VP	<i>Vacant</i>			
District 39 VP	<i>Vacant</i>			
Treasurer	Luella Mast	301-384-4178	same	luellam@comcast.net
Recording Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>			
Appointed				
Historian	Charles Wolff	301-585-9744	301-286-8185	wolff99@starpower.net
Website Manager	Lyle Schofield	301-785-7437	301-951-5340	lyle@norbeck.org
Newsletter Editor	Peggy Dennis	301-983-9738	same	hotyakker@comcast.net
Parliamentarian	<i>Vacant</i>			
Past President	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698	703-883-6847	djwilhelm@verizon.net
Standing Committees				
Education	<i>Vacant</i>			
Environment	Caren Madsen	240-793-4603		carenmadsen@msn.com
Legislation	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698	703-883-6847	djwilhelm@verizon.net
Planning Land Use & Housing	Jim Humphrey	301-652-6359	same	theelms518@earthlink.net
Public Finance & Utilities	Chuck Lapinski	301-384-0392	202-548-5578	clapinsk@mcri.com
Public Finance & Utilities	Marvin Weinman	301-946-3799	same	weinmanm@msn.com
Public Safety	Chuck Floyd	301-273-5620	same	chuck@chuckfloyd.com
Transportation	Byron Bloch	301-299-1801	301-299-1800	byron@autosafetyexpert.com
Special Committees (Not Part of the Executive Committee)				
Bylaws	Luella Mast	301-384-4178	same	luellam@comcast.net
Database	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698	703-883-6847	djwilhelm@verizon.net
Sentinel Article Coordination	Wayne Goldstein	301-942-8079	same	waynengoldstein@hotmail.com
Historical Preservation	Wayne Goldstein	301-942-8079	same	waynengoldstein@hotmail.com
Committee for Montgomery	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698	same	djwilhelm@verizon.net

Federation Meeting

Monday, January 14
7:45 1st Floor Auditorium
County Council Office Building.
100 Maryland Ave.
Rockville, MD

Agenda:

7:45 Call to Order
7:46 Introduction and Announcements
7:55 Adoption of Meeting Agenda
7:56 Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report
8:00 Program: CountyStat – Ms. Faribah Kassiri
9:20 Committee Reports
9:45 Member Issues
9:50 Old Business
9:55 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 Federation meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Monday of each month September through June 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, Friday, January 25**. Prepare submission as an MS Word, Word Perfect or text-only document, **attach** it to e-mail, and send it to hotyakker@comcast.net

Please send all address corrections to Dan Wilhelm, 904 Cannon Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904, 301-384-2698, or djwilhelm@verizon.net.

NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, January 23, 7:45 p.m.

Julius West Middle School

651 Great Falls Road, Rockville



**Official Publication of the
Montgomery County Civic Federation**

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