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February Program: BRAC Revealed by Arnold Gordon, First Vice- President

For our program on Monday, February 11, we will be reviewing the status of the Department of Defense's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) program as it relates to Montgomery County. Thousands of medical personnel and workers are expected to be re-deployed from Walter Reed Army Hospital to the Bethesda Naval Hospital and related activities in Bethesda. We also expect to see major additions to federal facilities in the eastern part of the County. What planning and preparations to accommodate the daily influx of these workers, patients and visitors is being carried out? As of the press deadline for this article, we had a commitment from Mr. Phil Alperson, the County Executive's BRAC program director. We are also arranging for speakers from other agencies involved including the MNC/PPC. We expect the presentations will cover:

- Facilities, agencies and populations to be integrated into the expanded federal facilities.
- Projected impacts on roads, transportation and other infrastructure.
- Expected state contributions to mitigate the impact.
- County requirements and requests given to BRAC.
- Results of all efforts to date to obtain Federal support for necessary improvements and programs to mitigate the expected impacts on infrastructure.
- Status of county planning on the subject.
- What we as citizens can do to help the State and County influence the course of federal assistance to support the BRAC changes here.

The program will be followed by our usual lively Q and A session. And as always, the public is invited (continued page 2)

County Executive Pays Us a Surprise Visit by Peggy Dennis, Editor

County Executive Ike Leggett paid us a surprise visit at the January regular meeting. He spoke about the his budget and the financial challenges facing the county, then presented an elegant certificate to the Civic Federation which reads as follows: " in Recognition and Appreciation of your valuable work to research and chart policy alternatives for Montgomery County's Orphan Roads. On behalf of our county's nearly one million residents, I thank you for your experience, your energy, and your dedication to leaving our great county an even better place than you found it."



We are very appreciative of Mr. Leggett's thoughtful recognition. But the Orphan Road issue is not yet resolved. The proof of his effective management of the Departments of Public Works & Transportation, Permitting Services and the Department of Environmental Protection will be seen when both the policy statement, and the code amendments and new regulations to make improvements possible have been put in place. We look forward to continue working with the Executive and the Council to make this happen.

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and encouraged to attend.

For our future programs we need your input: The Executive Committee of your Federation has a number of suggested topics in mind but would like feedback from you and your associations on which of these might be most timely and important to you. Your opinions on this are important to us. Please let me know at nmcaprexy@aol.com.

President's Message: Time to Help the "Farm Road" Property Owners in Sandy Spring by Wayne Goldstein, MCCF President

Since the late nineteenth century, a community of the descendants of freed slaves have lived in the area of Sandy Spring bounded by Brooke Road, Chandlee Mill Road and Gold Mine Road. A number of them have relied on what has always been called the Farm Road, a private road that, nevertheless, is referenced in the deeds of the 20 properties in this community. In the first years of this decade, the northern end of this property, near Gold Mine Road, was redeveloped into several subdivisions, and use of the Farm Road to reach Gold Mine Road was cut off. The property owners along the Farm Road still had access to Brooke Road on the south end. In the summer of 2007, however, without any notice, a chain went up at the entrance to the Farm Road from Brooke Road, blocking vehicular access for the owners of the properties.

Despite the many efforts made by these owners to have the chain removed, they have been told that there is nothing that the police, the county, M-NCPPC, or the state can do to help them. In addition, the county now refuses to issue building permits to these owners to build or rebuild homes on any of the Farm Road properties because they do not have street addresses. M-NCPPC refuses to give these long-time property owners street addresses because it does not recognize the Farm Road as a private road, even though M-NCPPC had previously given street addresses to several of the Farm Road property owners in 2002. In order to help these increasingly-desperate African-American property owners—all of whom pay substantial property taxes—find legal redress to the several facets of their situation, the MCCF Executive Committee recommends that the MCCF delegates approve the following resolution at its February 11th meeting:

MCCF Resolution Concerning the Farm Road

The Federation urges the county government and M-NCPPC to make every effort and provide all necessary resources to expeditiously aid the owners of the residential properties along the Farm Road in Sandy Spring, including but not limited to creating vehicular access and assigning street addresses to their

properties and allowing them to apply for resubdivision and for building permits.



Diane Cameron of the M.C. Stormwater Partners is honored as the January Community hero by President Wayne Goldstein

The Homestead Tax Credit By Dan Wilhelm, Legislative Chairman

Please pass the word to those homeowners who received the property reassessment notice at the end of 2007 that they need to follow the instructions in the mailing dealing with Homestead Tax Credit

Legislation enacted by the General Assembly in 2007 requires homeowners to submit a one-time application in order to continue their eligibility for the homestead tax credit. The homestead credit limits the amount of assessment increase on which a homeowner will pay property taxes in that tax year to the one property actually used as the owner's principal residence. For Montgomery County that limit is 10% per year. The reason why the application process was needed is because some property owners were improperly receiving the credit on vacation homes and rental properties. County and municipal governments were losing tax revenues needed to provide important services to their residents. The only way to verify residency of the homeowner is to require an application and have the filer provide his or her Social Security number.

More information is available at www.dat.state.md.us. Homeowners not reassessed until 2009 or 2010 can wait until then to submit a Homestead Tax Credit application.

Adequacy of Responses to Housing Code Violations

by Jim Humphrey, Chair, MCCF Planning and Land Use Committee

Have you ever reported an alleged housing code violation and received an unsatisfactory response from county government? Perhaps the issue was more than the allowed number of unrelated persons sharing a one-family home, or an unapproved accessory apartment. Or, has work been halted on a new house or home addition in your neighborhood, leaving the property a sea of mud strewn with construction debris, but neither the Department of Permitting Services nor Department of Housing and Community Affairs acted on neighbors' complaints?

The PLU Committee is asking for your help in determining the nature and scale of the problems experienced by residents when reporting alleged housing code violations. The aim of this study is to identify areas in which the response of county government to citizen concerns can be improved.

Please submit any examples to me by email, at theelms518@earthlink.net, and include as much specific detail as possible--street address and nature of the alleged violation, entity of county government from which help was sought, including date and person contacted, and any response received. Identity of persons submitting information for this study will be kept confidential.

State and County Budgeting: The Goose has No More Golden Eggs to Give

By Chuck Lapinski, Co-Chair, Public Finance Committee

I didn't think it could get any grimmer for the county, but it got worse with the release of the state's budget for the combined FY 2009 Operating and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) which goes into effect in July. It's big in size and complexity, and I can only say that I gave it a good critical skim. Definitely not a good read. It fails as a good prudent budget, and more importantly as good economics. The state constitution requires a balanced budget: on paper the budget is balanced, but in reality, in spite of the largest increase in taxes in state history, it may not be.

Let's look at how the budget affects what we taxpayers know and understand well--Montgomery County. We pay a disproportionate share of the state's operating budget. Last year we got back about 31 cents for every tax dollar we paid to the state. My prediction for the new fiscal year is that that return will fall to 29 cents for every tax dollar. For example, we contributed almost 26% of the budget for the Transportation Trust Fund this year, and received

back less than half that. And that doesn't count the new delay to the Georgia Ave.-Routes 28/198 interchange, one of the most needed state funded transportation improvements in the county. (Because of other shenanigans by a few of our legislators, we may never get what we need now and needed yesterday.) Additionally, our housing values are falling significantly (but not as badly) like the rest of the country. It was going to happen, just by the natural laws of economics. Economic and political events do not always go the way you want them to. The county built all of its budgets for the last several years on the belief that real estate values would stay rosy forever, and a fairytale hope that the state would do no more harm to us. But this current and proposed state budget busts that fairytale.

Let's focus a bit on tax increases, what they mean and what little we get from the state in our own CIP. The Tax Foundation determined that Maryland ranked 13th worst in FY2005 among the 50 states for total per capita tax burden (local, county, state and federal)! This is much worse than any of the surrounding states that we compete with. With the new taxes passed in the special session of the legislature, we are likely to crack the top ten states with the worst tax burdens. Tax increases from the special session include:

20% increase in sales tax (from 5% to 6%)

20% increase in car titling tax (from 5% to 6%)

120% increase in car MVA titling certificate (from \$23 to \$50)

up to 200% increase in state income tax (from a high of 5% to 15% for some wage earners; and then the added county piggyback tax rate of 60% for Montgomery County)

18% increase in business tax rate (from 7% to 8.25%)

Lost property exemption for power companies (PEPCO, BG&E, Allegheny for us) that will result in increased electricity rates

100% increase in cigarette tax per pack (from \$1 to \$2 per pack)

Some 12 or so other bits of tinkering that will result in hidden tax increases

NONE of the promised property tax reductions.

The total \$1.4+ billion tax increase represents an additional \$246 tax on every man, woman and child in the state. In addition, the budget raids various trust funds (for example, \$967 Million from the Rainy Day Fund for this year alone) and the state created 6 new programs during the last legislative session that it has not funded or only partially funded. Finally there is the remaining un-funded portion (nearly a Billion) of Thornton for Education. Both the trust fund raids and the unfunded programs will eventually have to be paid for by the taxpayers.

This is the sad situation: there will be very little returned to the county compared to what we will pay out. For example, the state expects to add over \$200 million per year, growing each year, to the Transportation Trust Fund. Based on the new CIP, county taxpayers will contribute some 26+% or approximately \$52 million per year initially. So far, I haven't been able to find any increase in spending on transportation for the county in the state's CIP. I'll keep looking! I hope to find something in the \$31.246 Billion state budget (with the \$1.4+ Billion tax increase) that represents a true return of the tax increase to the county taxpayers.

More clues about the allocation of state funds to Montgomery County can be found in the county CIP, which is easier to understand than the state CIP. Even though the state increases its spending on school construction to \$400 million, MC will receive none of this increase. It can expect to receive some \$50.2 Million out of a needed \$250+ Million that it qualifies for from the state. It can expect to receive some \$65 Million for the new courthouse in Rockville, but this is not really new money as it has been in and out of the State budgets for some 6-8 years while its location and size is being decided. The budget doesn't increase the proposed state's portion to support the transportation road improvements required for the BRAC - consolidation of the former Walter Reed Army Medical Center with Bethesda Naval Medical Center and the Uniformed Services Center for Health Sciences in Bethesda. This will have a significant transportation impact as Park and Planning has stated, in addition to the benefits of medical research and services to the county and the nation. Surely in a budget of its size, the state can find at least several million more to help these costs and impacts. But this looks like wishful thinking.

When will it be realized that this Goose has no more eggs to give, particularly golden ones?

Bylaws Revisions

By Luella Mast, Bylaws Committee Chairman

The bylaws committee has begun a thorough review of our current bylaws starting with Article I. Printed below are six proposed amendments which will be introduced at our February meeting. We will answer any questions you have about them at the February meeting when they will be introduced and then you will vote on them, either as written or as amended, at our March meeting. Words we propose to be deleted are shown with *[italics]*. Words we suggest adding are underlined.

Article II. Membership

2. Association Member

A. Local Association

(1) Definition. Membership in the Federation shall be open to any organized Montgomery County civic, community, homeowner association or municipality which supports the Federation's objective and whose primary purpose is to further the public interest. Local associations must represent neighborhoods of at least *[thirty]* ten households to be eligible.

Change: Change the last sentence in the article to lower the minimum number of households that a member local association represents.

Because: As contiguous land available for residential construction diminishes in size, smaller communities are more likely to be the norm. This change recognizes that communities of all sizes should be eligible for MCCF membership.

Article II. Membership

2. Association Member

A. Local Association

(2) Representation. The number of delegates representing a member association shall be determined by the number of households within the geographic boundaries of the association. Associations shall be entitled to *[two delegates for up to the first three hundred households, one additional delegate for between 301 and 600 households,]* one delegate for ten to fifty households, two delegates for fifty-one to three hundred households, three delegates for three hundred and one to six hundred households, and *[one additional delegate for any association with over]* four delegates for more than six hundred households.

Change: Add the new membership category of 10 to 50 households. Change the original membership group for two delegates from 30 to 300 households to 51 to 300 households. Only one civic group is currently under 50 households and in that case has only named one delegate.

Because: Defines the number of delegates for the new membership category established in Article II. Membership, Section 2.A.1. Sets a reasonable size for communities eligible for membership at the first and second delegate levels.

Article II. Membership

3. Individual Member

A. Associate

(1) Definition. Any individual who is a legal resident of the county may participate in Federation activities by becoming an Associate.

(2) Duties and Privileges. An associate will receive the Newsletter, may attend Federation functions and participate in discussions at meetings and serve on committees, but he may not make motions or vote. If appointed to chair a committee, *[he should attend Executive Committee meetings but shall not be a voting member of said*

committee.] he shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee.

Change: Allow committee chairs, regardless of whether they are delegates or individual members to vote at the Executive Committee meeting.

Because: Committee chairs work diligently for MCCF. They should be accorded the same rights as other members of the Executive Committee at Executive Committee meetings.

Article IV. Officials and Organization

1. Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall meet at least annually prior to the June Executive Committee meeting.

Change: Add a specific date for the annual Board of Directors meeting.

Because: An annual meeting of the Board of Directors is specified in our bylaws and meets requirements of state law. This is an important meeting easily overlooked. This change, by setting a specific date for the meeting, should help MCCF follow our legal organizational requirements.

Article IV. Officials and Organization

3. Executive Committee. There shall be an Executive Committee comprised of the elected officers, committee chairs, appointed officials, [*standing committee chairs, who are either Member Delegates or Past Presidents,*] and the immediate Past President. Any Past President may participate in a meeting of the Executive Committee, and shall have all rights of a member during such attendance. ..

Change: Simplify the explanation of who serves on the Executive Committee. Change Section 3 to reflect the proposed changes to Article II. Membership, Section 3.A.2. The right of Past Presidents to serve on the Executive Committee is covered by the second and third sentences in Section 3 and remains unchanged.

Because: This change supports the recommended change to Article II. Membership, Section 3.A.2.

Article IV. Officials and Organization

6. Standing Committees. The Federation shall have the following Standing Committees with powers and duties as specified in Article IX.

- a. Environment
- b. Education
- c. Legislation
- d. Planning and Land Use
- e. Public Finance [*and Utilities*]
- f. Public Safety
- g. Transportation

h. Utilities

Change: Split the Public Finance and Utilities committee into two separate committees.

Because: We assume these two committees were combined at some time for reasons we cannot determine. They cover two very different areas of civic concern, both of which are equally important to our membership.

Article IV. Officials and Organization

7. Special Committees. Special committees may be established [*from time to time*] by majority vote [*Affirmative Vote of the*] at a regular Federation meeting. The purpose and duties shall be defined at the time the committee is established. Such committees will terminate no later than the next Annual Meeting.

Change: Delete “from time to time”. Delete the requirement that an Affirmative Vote (3/5 vote) is required to establish a special committee. Allow the establishment of special committees with a simple majority vote. Simplify the sentence.

Because: “From time to time” is unnecessary. We want to make it easy for new (and old) members to understand voting procedures at our regular meetings. Since special committees sunset at the next Annual Meeting it seems unnecessary to also require that they be approved by a super majority of the members before they can begin operations.

Thank you! We will be happy to answer your questions, and of course welcome your attendance at our dinner meetings on Tuesdays starting at 7:15 PM at Hollywood East on the Boulevard in Wheaton. Luella Mast, Peggy Dennis, Dan Wilhelm, Sandy Vogelgesang, and Richard Zierdt.

Minutes of January 14, 2008 MCCF Regular Meeting By Dan Wilhelm, Acting Recording Secretary

Call to Order: MCCF President Wayne Goldstein called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM. On the sign-in sheets, 34 people were present from 23 organizations, 6 individuals/past presidents, and 3 guest speakers.

Agenda, Treasurer’s Report and Minutes: The agenda was approved, minutes approved and Treasurer’s report accepted.

Award from County Executive. County Executive Ike Leggett presented a certificate of appreciation to MCCF and Peggy Dennis for research she had done and the report she produced and presented to the County dealing with Orphaned Roads - the publicly dedicated roads maintained privately by residents who live on them.

Ike then talked briefly about his dialog with the public and budget before leaving. Ike has held 10 town-hall meetings,

10 meetings on the CIP and 3 meetings so far on the operating budget. For the operating budget, the \$200M shortfall that existed when he became County Executive has grown to \$400M, because of the overall economic situation and changes that have occurred with the state level budget.

Community Hero. The Community Hero Award was presented to Diane Cameron and the Montgomery County Stormwater Partners Network. For the past two years the large number of groups involved in Partners has been lobbying Montgomery County and Maryland officials to adopt a low-impact development approach to strengthen the stormwater permit issued to Montgomery County. Along the way, the County Council passed a resolution supporting enforceable numbers in a strengthened stormwater permit, and allocated over a million dollars to the effort.

Program: Wayne Goldstein introduced Fariba Kassiri, County Assistant Chief Administrative Officer, and Eric Irving, who is one of the CountStat analysts. The CountStat program is expected to start on January 30 and Chris Cihlar is the new manager for the program. The office will be located at 255 Rockville Pike.

CountyStat is an accountability and assessment tool to improve the day-to-day management and long-term planning of the County Government. It consists of weekly meetings during which the County Executive and Chief Administrative Officer use current data to improve customer service; improve operational efficiency; enable rapid, informed and comprehensive decision-making; and ensure relentless follow-up and assessment.

Each department has developed a performance plan that is the starting place for the program. The Executive has yet to decide exactly which issues will be addressed first, but code enforcement and affordable housing are likely. Other possible topics include pedestrian safety and implementation rates for DPWT projects. Briefings, action items and results will be posted on the web, once established. The public will have an opportunity to comment. There is a plan to issue a request for proposal (RFP) to implement a 311 calling number and provide staff to answer it. It will take some time to get this effort fully up and running. Also, topics must be prioritized since everything can't be addressed at the outset.

Committee Reports:

- Jim Humphrey, Chair of Planning, Land Use and Housing Committee:
 - Rezoning on Arlington Road
 - Local Area Transportation Review regulations are being revised by the Planning Board to implement the Group Policy decisions. For metro station policy areas, lower vehicle trips will be assumed around metro station policy areas which means that

the amount of trip mitigation required to pass the LATR test will be less.

- Oral arguments are scheduled before the Council on the rezoning around Glenmont Metro Station. The hearing examiner recommended remanding it back to the Planning Board
- Wayne Goldstein reported on the Watson House
- Dan Wilhelm indicated that for the first time those who received a property assessment notice this year need to file for the Homestead credit (see elsewhere in the newsletter for details)
- Peggy Dennis asked people to contact the Awards Committee with ideas for who should be considered for the MCCF awards that will be presented in May.
- Dan Wilhelm reminded delegates that we are looking for people to serve on the Nominating Committee. The slate will be presented at the May meeting and nominations can be made from the floor. The actual vote will occur at the June meeting.

New Business. Two topics were brought up but no action was taken:

- Permitting Services code enforcement is not following up citizen complaints. Problems north of White Oak and in Hillandale were discussed.
- Illegal dumping is occurring on property acquired for the ICC, especially near Georgia Ave and MD 28. Norbeck Meadows C.A. has requested SHA to clean it up.

The meeting adjourned just after 9:58 PM.

Minutes of the January 23, 2007 Executive Committee Meeting by Peggy Dennis, Acting Recording Secretary

Call to Order. MCCF President Wayne Goldstein called the meeting to order at 7:53 p.m.. Present were Sandy Vogelgesang, Luella Mast, Jim Humphrey; Dan Wilhelm, Marvin Weinman, Peggy Dennis and Bill Schrader.

Minutes of the December 12 Executive Committee meeting, printed in the Civic Federation News (January 2007) and were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Luella reported we had a number of renewals during the last month and are now ahead of where we were last year.

Environment Committee: Wayne reported that Arlene Bruhn, a new member of the Environment Committee, testified on behalf of MCCF at the Council's hearing on the proposed amendments to the Forest Conservation Law on 1/22. Caren Madsen was testifying on behalf of the Stormwater Partners Network. Wayne

testified as an individual. Discussion followed as to why a newcomer was testifying without first vetting her testimony with the ExComm. This should be done in the future.

Education: Wayne led a brief discussion of John Q. Porter, formerly with the MCPS, and his resignation from the Oklahoma City Superintendent's position.

Public Safety: Chuck Floyd has resigned as chairman due to heavy travel obligations. A chronic problem with drivers "blocking the box" at crowded intersections during rush hour was discussed. Jim will draft a letter to Police Chief Thomas Manger citing examples of grossly affected intersections and asking for more vigorous police enforcement of existing traffic laws.

Planning & Land Use: Jim reported on ZTA 07-1717 that clarifies how 2007 Growth Policy changes should be applied to Special Exception and Variance cases. A motion was made and passed unanimously that the ExComm endorse Jim's planned testimony in early February in support of Bill 38-07 containing a number of improvements to the current MPDU program for the February 5 Council hearing. Jim will be checking with Roger Berliner's office about legislation being drafted on infill development specifically provisions regarding lot coverage and changes to the way building height is measured on sloped lots. Council voted to approve all Legacy Open Space acquisitions except that of the Maryland College of Art and Design and Edson Lane. Wayne and Jim will prepare a resolution to be printed in the Feb. Newsletter and voted on by the membership concerning the unacceptable situation of property owners on the Farm Road in Sandy Spring. Jim will contact the head of DEP about violations continuing on the lot with the dirt bike track in Burtonsville.

Public Relations: Peggy will send out advance notice about the Awards Banquet to members of various county boards and commissions. Luella reported on the excellent website maintained by the Randolph C.A.. Their webmaster is retired and designed and managed the NIH website. It was agreed that Peggy should ask Richard Zierdt to ask their website designer if she would be willing to redesign and manage our website.

Legislation: Marvin reported that Sheila Hixson is introducing a bill that we should oppose. We hope it will not go forward, but will be vigilant.

Public Finance: Marvin reported on the continuing problem of MCPS budget where benefits negotiated with teachers continue to drive unacceptable current and projected future cost growth. Noted State Comptroller Peter Franchott's unusual "State of the Treasury" address. Also mentioned was the OLO's recent report.

Public Utilities: Wayne discussed WSSC's proposed increase in monthly fees to pay for long term reconstruction of aging infrastructure. WSSC should be funding reconstruction on an "as needed" basis over the

next 30 years rather than over the coming 10 years. Dan offered a motion that MCCF support the Prince Georges County position to oppose the proposed fixed fee increase. Rather, the Montgomery and Prince Georges' County Councils should work together on a solution. MCCF supports additional funding because the system needs to be upgraded but oppose a fixed fee. Rather the increase should be factored into the rate structure and spread over a longer period in order to collect funds as needed and encourage people to conserve water." Luella spoke against the motion saying that we know too little about the issue and should not take a position on it without first learning more and bringing it to the membership for debate. Wayne notes that we must weigh in on this issue at a hearing Feb. 7th. If Montgomery County does not join PG County in opposing the proposed fee increase, it will automatically be imposed and it will be impossible to change it later. If we oppose it now, we can work with P.G. County and WSSC in the coming year to get a more fair and reasonable system that is more progressive, less costly to small users, rewards water conservation and puts progressively higher fees on the biggest users. Vote to support the gist of Dan's motion was approved, 6 yes, 1 no. Dan will work on the wording of the resolution and explanation (included above), both to go into the next Newsletter and be ratified by the membership at the February meeting, and Wayne will make our opposition known at the coming hearing.

Bylaws Amendments: Luella presented the latest round of proposed bylaws amendments. A motion was made to submit these to the membership for a vote at the next meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Programs: Discussion of program for March. Suggestions included a History of Montgomery County, the problem of deer overpopulation, and a session with the Chief of the Fire and Rescue Department. Dan moved and we agreed that we pursue the Fire & Rescue option for March. Bill Schrader and Wayne will begin scoping out the idea of a program on the county's history as a fall-back program for March or for June.

Nominating Committee: So far, we have Sandy Vogelgesang, Chair; Luella Mast, Co-chair; and Dan Wilhelm. A final call for additional volunteers will go out in the Feb. Newsletter and at the Feb. Meeting.

Newsletter Assignments were made and the meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Federation Meeting

Monday, February 11
7:45 1st Floor Auditorium
County Council Office Building.
100 Maryland Avenue
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: BRAC Planning
9:20 Resolutions & Bylaws Amendments
9:30 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, Saturday, February 23.** 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, February 20, 7:45 p.m.

Julius West Middle School

651 Great Falls Road, Rockville



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Montgomery County Civic Federation**

First Class Mail

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