



# Civic Federation News

April 2010

Serving the Public Interest since 1925

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the Montgomery  
County Civic Federation  
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## April Program: County's FY 2011 Operating Budget By Chuck Lapinski, Public Finance Chairman

Our Program on Monday, April 12 will focus on Montgomery County's operating budget for the coming year. The Executive's submitted his proposed FY 2011 Operating Budget to the County Council on March 15th. This budget of slightly more than \$4.3 billion dollars represents a - 3.8% decrease from our current fiscal year ending on June 30th. This is the first year-over-year decrease since 1968.

Our meeting will take place after the Council's scheduled hearings are completed. I will testify on behalf of the Civic Federation with recommended issues to be submitted to the MCCF Executive Committee for concurrence. We also plan to submit any resolutions that are passed at our April meeting to the Council while they are in formal work sessions after April 12. We will use prior years' budget testimony and resolutions plus this year's budget to frame our issues. Unfortunately, most of these issues carry over from year to year, and budget actions show little if any progress in resolving them by neither our past and present Councils nor our previous Executives. In fact, it is easily argued that the execution of the Council's processes have only exacerbated these issues and not begun to resolve them!

We have confirmed subject matter experts for our program with long and deep historical perspectives. Representatives from the Executive Branch include Joe Beach, Director of Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and Steve Farber, the Council's Staff Director. Each will address the operating budget from their own - administrative and legislative - perspectives. They will also provide the Executive's rationale for the tightly constrained budget and answer **your** questions. Such issues may include:

- Council's exercise of its Oversight and Accountability responsibilities
  - Spending Affordability Process, Prudence and Discipline
  - Trends in Revenue Sources and Rates of Expenditures
- Operating Budget Cost Drivers: Total employee compensation accounts for over 80% of the budget County Infrastructure: major maintenance backlog continues. When, if ever, will
- (Continued on p 2)

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## Reserve Your Tickets Now for the Montgomery County Civic Federation's 2010 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET Friday, May 14, 2010

honoring

**THE WAYNE GOLDSTEIN AWARD** - awarded to an individual or group for outstanding public service to the people of Montgomery County:

**Hearts and Homes for Youth**

**THE SENTINEL AWARD** – awarded to an individual or group who makes a significant contribution to good government at the local level:

**Montgomery Preservation Inc.**

**THE STAR CUP** – awarded to the MCCF delegate or committee for outstanding public service to Montgomery County:

**MCCF Planning and Land Use Committee**

See complete details and reservation form on page 7.

## April's Community Hero: Karen Roper by Jim Humphrey, Planning & Land Use Chairman

At its April 12 meeting, the Federation will bestow the title of Community Hero on Karen Roper, MCCF delegate from the East Silver Spring Citizens Association. She has worked diligently over the past few years on issues poised to impact the residents of her community.

Karen's involvement as a civic activist started with her concern over a proposed alignment of the Purple Line transit system. She led her community in saving 2 homes, 20 small businesses and historic parkland from being demolished for the Purple Line. While working on the transit issue Ms. Roper met many of the owners of small businesses in Fenton Village, which led her to support their efforts to start a Local First program. The Buy Local Silver Spring program is designed to encourage shoppers to purchase goods and services from small businesses in their local area.

Karen has also contributed her time to help lessen the impact of nearby planned developments on her neighborhood. Her success has shown that working with developers, when they are receptive to it, is far more productive than simply opposing their proposed projects. We applaud her resourcefulness and persistence, and are pleased to honor Karen Roper as a Community Hero.

## Program (continued)

our streets, bridges and schools be repaired?

- For the foreseeable future WSSC continues to need rate increases to fund the repair and replacement of aging and fragile sewer and water pipe. This must be carried out at an accelerated rate in order to satisfy the District Court's judgment and fine from EPA levied because the pipe failures resulted in significant environmental and property damage. Achieving this objective is problematic at best, since the proposed rate increases have to be agreed to both Montgomery and Prince Georges Counties. If less is agreed to, pipe failure rates and maintenance costs will continue to increase rapidly.

Plan on attending our meeting to learn, ask and get answers.

## Future of 11 Park Recreation Centers Uncertain

**By Carole Ann Barth, Park & Recreation Chair**

On February 9, the County Council voted to temporarily close 11 recreation centers as part of a package of cost reductions to the current (FY10) operating budget. Now the question is whether the Council will decide to re-open them in FY11 or close them permanently.

Also unknown is whether there will be a fully transparent discussion of the costs and benefits associated with this decision. For that to occur there needs to be open access to the details of the proposed budget.

It would also be wise to take a closer look at the individual buildings. These facilities have been characterized as in "fair" or "poor" condition.

Supposedly, closing them would save the County additional money that would otherwise be needed for expensive repairs and renovation. Yet the recreation center in North Four Corners Local Park has only recently been renovated with a new foundation, air conditioning system, and roof installed.

This made us curious, so we looked at six of the eleven buildings. They all appeared to be sound and basically in good repair. We saw no cracks, signs of settling, or crumbling foundations. Exterior walls (whether log, brick, siding, or cinderblock) showed no damage or staining. The roofs and air conditioning units appeared to be in good shape and of reasonably recent origin. So a rushed decision to close these facilities may actually waste capital already invested in upkeep rather than avoiding future expenses.

The other rationale for closing these particular 11 buildings is that they are considered "underutilized". Facility users know, however, that the reservation and permitting system is itself an obstacle to improved usage rates. Booking two groups for the same time slot, lost bookings, reserved but unused time slots that aren't released; confusing and awkward online reservation

pages; and inflexible time slots all conspire to make facility booking a painful, frustrating and time-consuming process.

In addition, renters have always had to pick up building keys and sign papers during the work day necessitating taking time off from work. Ironically, now that buildings have been closed for underuse, the Parks permit office will be providing evening hours for key pickup.

Once again, we ask the Council to get all the facts before considering permanently closing these facilities. This should include serious consideration of a consolidated reservation and permitting system managed by one staff. How can the County possibly justify maintaining multiple software copies and reservation staffs for park, recreation, and school facilities while cutting the services those very systems are meant to provide? Supposedly, this is because each agency has different rental policies. It is well past time to create a unified rental policy and single office to handle permits, reservations and keys. Redundant and duplicative offices are costly and counter-productive.

For many neighborhoods, these buildings function as important community space. A recent article from Park Talk, the Newsletter of the Urban Parks Institute, expressed this beautifully. ". . . a good place works well not because of an aesthetic appeal, but because it is neighborly – it draws people in and enables them to relax companionably. It might not look like much, but it knits its residents together as they while away time together and it is seen as the place to be!"

## It's About Community By Peggy Dennis, MCCF President

For decades sociologists and political scientists have bemoaned their perceived diminution of the old fashioned sense of community, particularly in suburban "bedroom" neighborhoods. This got me to thinking about "community" in the broadest sense of the word.

I live on an "orphaned road" – a publicly dedicated but unimproved and privately maintained road – with 17 other families. Because of our shared responsibility (we have to pool money each year for gravel, grading and snow plowing) we maintain an email list with contact information for everyone on the street: singles, moms and dads, boys and girls, even dogs. Every time a family moves away, we have a "Hail and Farewell" party, a community potluck to say goodbye to our old neighbors and greet our newcomers. When a tree goes over in a neighbor's yard, they get help from others with chainsaws and limb loppers to make quick work of the problem. When a new baby is born or someone is seriously ill, the word goes out quickly. Those of us who want to can quickly and easily drop off a hot dish, a get well card or congratulations. Following the "home invader" crisis, we signed up and started a "Neighborhood Watch" program. We don't feel the need to patrol our street, but many of us have carried out the recommended procedures, posted our homes, and we let each other know to keep a watch on our properties when we're

away. We all know each other by name and sight, but we're not into each other's business either. Despite the unfortunate state of our road, I think most of us would feel that we do enjoy a special sense of community.

One of my great frustrations while working to grow the MCCF membership has been the difficulty of communicating with the leaders of homeowners and neighborhood civic and citizens associations. The Community Outreach Office of Maryland-National Capital/Park & Planning Commission keeps a data base with the contacts for all such organizations, 1,228 entries at last count. They charge \$26 for their directory, but it is money poorly spent. Many of the subdivisions listed have either never had a community organization, or their organizations are comatose or defunct. Many functioning organizations have not updated their contact information in years. Many of the active neighborhood associations like West Montgomery County, Northwood/Four Corners, Friendship Heights, Bannockburn, Luxmanor, Norbeck Meadows and Colesville, - are members of the Montgomery County Civic Federation. Many others like Cabin John, Wood Acres and Glen Echo are very active but are not members of the civic Federation. It is not unusual to get a call from the president of a non-member association with a plea for help, usually on a zoning or land use issue. They are often ignorant about these issues because their communities have not been adversely affected for many years, and they have been out of touch with the broader, county wide community. It is so unfortunate when entire neighborhoods neglect one of their most fundamental bonds (those with whom they live in close proximity) until a land use battle or local crime suddenly brings people together.

Our January program on senior-friendly communities dealt with the growing phenomenon of communities using the internet to bring neighbors together to enable elderly residents to age in place. The Bannockburn Civic Association, a well organized neighborhood complete with community club house, started their program, "Neighbors Assisting Neighbors," with the focus solely on the elderly. Burning Tree Village, on the other hand, has no civic association. They started their neighborhood outreach program with a broader vision and the goal of creating a greater, more supportive and vibrant sense of community. Burning Tree is organized under the umbrella of the Senior Connection, a faith-based organization that provides assistance and legal liability coverage. The county's Regional Services Centers may be able to provide guidance for other civic groups wishing to start up community programs like these.

A new internet service called "Connected Communities" has been started by Howard Hartman. The original concept was described as a way to link "school, PTA, neighborhood, civic association and social group listservs into a single connected community which can receive emergency information" from the police. But it may grow to include more information services. I notice that in addition to the crime statistics reported by district, the community and public service news and the "Community Calendar" feature, it also lists the children who have made their schools' honor rolls.

Another method of creating a greater sense of community is that of the "Community Web" at [www.mycommunityweb.org](http://www.mycommunityweb.org). Founded in 1999 by John Nelson, Community Web provides website hosting services for over 260 community associations and PTAs. The Civic Federation has used this service for ten years now, and recommends it to others, particularly associations that do not yet have a website but would like to start one. Associations that already have websites up and running may wish to consider switching to Community Web. If every community association in the county were hooked into this service, we could be a mighty force.

## **The First Budget Decrease in 42 Years: Let's Not Continue Kicking the Can Down the Road!**

### **By Chuck Lapinski, Public Finance & Utilities Chairman**

The County Executive began the current fiscal year by making some modest but necessary cuts in spending to the current year's operating budget to close a gap in revenues and, as a down payment against the originally projected \$400+ million dollar deficit for FY 2011. By the time the FY 2011 budget was submitted, the projected deficit had grown to \$779 million. Long term, the projected structural deficit continues to exceed \$4.0+ billion over the next six years. For the past 8 years we have questioned the advisability and prudence of committing to future expenditures that we thought were likely to exceed revenues. The past years and their projected future budgets were built on spending rates that were simply unsustainable without significant increases in taxes and fees. These increases never happened. If we continue to "kick the can down the road," we will only delay and stunt the economic rebound we would all like and future growth. This will also stunt our current and future quality of life.

Yes! You read right. The County is being forced by "shear" economics (aka serious declines in revenues from all virtually all sources) to cut back. The recession and continued decline in revenues has forced a decrease in our budget essentially across the board. Almost every part of the budget will suffer cutbacks. Unemployment and underemployment rates throughout the County, State and region also continue at historically high levels, and are only showing some feeble signs of slowing, not declining. The really big question is: how much of this budget will be the "can" that is kicked down the road for future councils and executives to solve. A major portion of our current revenue and expenditure problem can be traced to the decisions of both past and current councils and executives. Do any of them now have the guts to take the unpopular measures needed to rein in the structural factors that have driven our ever-mushrooming public expenditures?



## Spring Flowers in the Park: Fragile Yet Stubborn

By Carole Ann Barth, Parks & Recreation Chair

This is the time of year I eagerly search for signs of spring. Of course it always cheers my heart to see the snow drops and crocus in the garden, but for me it's not spring until I see the woodland wildflowers.

One of the first shrubs to bloom is the spice bush. In March, before any leaves unfurl, the spice bush is covered with tiny chartreuse flowers. In April or May, these flowers would never be noticed. In March, however, this color is so sharp and bright against the dull tans, greys, and black of the winter woods that you gasp when you see it. It is the visual equivalent of a squirt of lime juice on the tongue.

Although it appears fragile in bloom, the spice bush is a very tough plant. It survives both drought years and deluges. It's called spice bush because the leaves emit a bracing herbal scent when crushed. It apparently tastes spicy also, since it's one of the few native shrubs deer don't like to browse.

Under the spice bush, the forest floor is home to a host of delicate spring flowers: saxifrage, bloodroot, trout lily, Dutchman's breeches, spring beauties, hepatica, star chickweed, lady slippers, Virginia bluebells, and more. These are called ephemerals because they take advantage of the brief window of time between the end of winter and leaf-out in the forest. They enjoy full sun until the leaf canopy closes over. Rather than struggling to survive the low light levels and heat of summer, they die back and lie dormant until the next spring.

It's a race for these plants to grow, flower, be pollinated and ripen seed in time. That takes a tremendous amount of energy, and once the shade closes in, there is very little energy to be had. So, woodland wildflowers don't set seed very often. One study documented that Dutchman's breeches advance by seed spread at the rate of about a hundred yards per millennium.

The spring ephemerals more often spread vegetatively by runners or other means. A large patch of trout lily may really be a single plant with hundreds of stems. We understand it takes many years for a large tree to grow, but we may not realize that a large stand of trout lily clones probably took centuries to grow. If left undisturbed, they may live for centuries to come.

So this year, come out to the woods, crouch down and take a good look at these miraculous harbingers of spring. Marvel at their delicate strength and tenacity. Meditate on the paradox of their fleeting, yet almost immortal life span. I'll see you there!

## Minutes of March 8, 2010 Meeting by Dan Wilhelm, Acting Secretary

MCCF President Peggy Dennis called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM with introductions all around. There were no announcements and the agenda was approved with one

emergency topic added. The January 11, 2010 minutes were approved; the February meeting having been cancelled because of snow. Bill Schrader handed out the Treasurer's report.

**Program:** Chuck Lapinski introduced the program on the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget with two speakers: Jackie Carter, Manager Office of Management and Budget and Dr. Glenn Orlin, County Deputy Staff Director. Jackie provided two handouts: a briefing on the CIP Budget process and a booklet from the County Executive – Budget in Brief.

A full CIP budget is submitted in even numbered years (e.g., this year) and amendments are submitted in odd numbered years. The proposed budget from the Executive is provided to the Council on January 15 and the Council has until Memorial Day to approve it. The Executive typically provides some changes to his proposed CIP when the proposed operating budget is released on March 15. The proposed CIP from other agencies (BOE, MNCPPC, WSSC and Montgomery College) are provided by them directly to the Council and the Executive's recommendations on their proposals are included in his CIP.

The Executive's proposed FY11-FY16 CIP Budget of \$4B shows an increase over the last one. His justification is that with the recession the capital costs are down, so now is a good time to undertake such projects. The proposed CIP makes extensive use of 20-year general obligation (GO) bonds. The spending affordability guidelines allow up to \$325M per year or \$2.36B for the FY11-16 period. The proposed CIP calls for \$378.6M in FY11 and total of \$2.17B spread over the next six years. The GO bonds and other financing would provide 63.4% of the \$4B, current revenue 9.8%, impact taxes 2.1%, intergovernmental 11.7% and other sources 13.0%.

Much concern was expressed by the audience about the amount of borrowing during this recession, especially since budget pressures are projected at the state level through at least 2015. If the state will suffer from budget constraints, then there is every reason to believe the county will face similar constraints. There was also concern that the operating budget has not kept up with the maintenance costs of capital projects already built, and this year there is greater need for maintenance and repairs due to damage from the recent snow storms. If the county cannot afford to maintain what it already has, this begs the question of building new projects.

### February Newsletter Resolutions:

*Resolution dealing with sidewalks* (page 2 of February newsletter): Jim Humphrey, Planning and Land Use Chair, indicated the council already voted on this issue, so an MCCF resolution was no longer timely..

*Resolutions on State bills dealing with waiver of the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) fines*, covered in Feb. newsletter, page 2. Dan Wilhelm, Legislative Chair, explained that the MOE law requires that in order to receive increased state aid to education, the local government must spend at least the same amount per student next year as the current year. MC14-10 became HB223 when it was formally introduced. Dan indicated that the bill

would grant a waiver to the MOE requirement for FY10 and, if passed, eliminate the \$23M penalty assessed against Montgomery County. Dan made the motion to support the bill, which was then seconded and passed unanimously. Dan also made a motion to support HB410 that would grant a waiver for FY11 for all counties and the City of Baltimore. With the economic recession and a very difficult budget year, it is reasonable to approve this bill rather than require that each county government make its own waiver request. The motion was seconded and passed by a wide margin. Dan lastly moved to support HB304/SB310 which establishes new standards the State Board of Education would use in considering whether to grant a waiver to the MOE. The standards would take into account the economic situation and past funding history, particularly when past education funding had exceeded the MOE threshold. That motion was also seconded and passed by a wide margin.

*Resolution on proposed new 3rd District Police Station and affordable housing project in White Oak.* Eileen Finnegan (Hillandale Citizen Association) summarized the issue along the lines of what was in the February Newsletter, and used diagrams showing the location of the property and nearby roads and uses. She pointed out that the plan had been scheduled before the Planning Board for March 11, but was pulled to allow the Executive Branch to modify the proposal. The staff report had recommended greater setbacks from neighboring house than had originally been proposed. Eileen made the following substitute (different from that in the Newsletter) resolution:

“The MCCF recommends that the Planning Board revise the Montgomery County Third District Police Station proposal in order to require 100% on-site forest preservation. The MCCF also recommends that the Planning Board mandate an additional 4 acres of forest preservation on the property to minimize stormwater runoff into the nearby Paint Branch.”

The motion was seconded, discussed and approved by a wide margin.

**Emergency Motion.** Jim Humphrey spoke about the proposal of the First Baptist Church of Wheaton to build a new, 46,500 sq. foot, 800 seat church on Emory Church Road. Cary Lamari moved to oppose the development. Dan Wilhelm and four other delegates seconded. There was a comment that 225 parking spaces would not be sufficient for a building that size. Emory road is a narrow road which would be overwhelmed with the resulting traffic. The site also does not have public water and sewer and the church is refusing to pay to extend the sewer line. As with past MCCF positions, the group felt that on-site septic will cause many environmental problems. The motion to oppose the development proposal passed unanimously.

#### **Other Business:**

- Peggy Dennis reported that the Nominating Committee, chaired by Cary Lamari, is looking for people to fill elective positions, especially the first and second vice presidents. Volunteers are still sought.

- Carole Ann Barth, Parks and Recreation Chair, reminded people to read the newsletter about the 11 recreation facilities that will be closed the remainder of this fiscal year and will likely be targeted for permanent closure next year. She indicated that she had not heard from any affected group for some of the facilities.
- Paula Bienenfeld, Education Committee Chair, stated that MCPS is proposing to eliminate 252 teaching positions (142 elementary, 55 middle and 55 high) by increasing class size by 1 student each. There will also be some reduction in administrative staffing.

The meeting adjourned at 10:07.

## **Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, March 17, 2010**

### **By Acting Recording Secretary, Sandy Vogelgesang**

The Executive Committee met at the home of Jeff Wolfe and Sandy Vogelgesang.

**Call to Order.** President Peggy Dennis called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM. Present: Peggy Dennis, Dan Wilhelm, William Schrader, Jim Humphrey, Carole Ann Barth, Jim Zepp, Chuck Lapinski, Paula Bienenfeld, and Sandy Vogelgesang.

**Adoption of Agenda and Minutes.** Peggy called for and received unanimous approval of the proposed meeting agenda and the minutes of the February 17 ExComm meeting as published in the March 2010 Newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Bill Schrader provided a written update on finances and membership renewal. The MCCF bank account balance as of March 17 is \$11,006.65. Fifty local associations, one umbrella association, four regional/county-wide associations, and 21 individual associates have joined for the 2009-2010 year.

**Programs.** Peggy summarized the status of preparations for three upcoming programs for the Federation's monthly meetings:

- April 12: County FY 2011 Operating Budget. Chuck Lapinski has arranged for two speakers.
- May 10: County Agricultural Reserve (Jim Humphrey and Peggy Dennis are arranging the program with Jeremy Chriss and Caroline Taylor, Executive Director of Montgomery Countryside Alliance)
- June 14: Deer Issue in Montgomery County (Carole Ann Barth is arranging the program.)

#### **Committee Reports**

**Legislation:** Dan Wilhelm, Chair, summarized the following bills on which he recommended Federation action:

*House Bill 490:* Child Protection and Restoration Act 2. Dan recommended MCCF support this bill. After discussion it was agreed that Jim Zepp should provide more background to Dan

who will, in turn, prepare draft letter for ExComm's review reflecting Jim's input and points raised in ExComm discussion.

*House Bill 1125: Stormwater Management-Development Projects – Redevelopment and Preliminary Plan Approval.* This bill would weaken or delay implementation of the Stormwater Management Act of 2007. Dan recommended and the ExComm agreed that MCCF should oppose this bill.

*House Bill 999/SB 686: Watershed Protection and Restoration Act 2.* The proposed legislation would require all Maryland municipalities to set up dedicated local funds for polluted runoff control programs. Dan recommended and the ExComm agreed that MCCF should support this bill.

*House Bill 351/SB 462: Chesapeake Bay Restoration Consumer Retail Choice Act of 2010.* This bill would reduce plastic pollution in Maryland waterways by promoting the use of reusable bags. Dan recommended and the ExComm agreed that MCCF should support this bill.

*House Bill 1155/SB 760 - Consolidated Transportation Program – Evaluation and Selection of Proposed Capital Projects.* ExComm agreed that Dan will draft letter supporting more transparency in use of State Transportation Trust Fund.

Dan will draft letters of support/opposition on these bills to relevant committees with copies to appropriate elected and administrative officials. Ginny Barnes is drafting a letter on behalf of MCCF expressing support for full funding for the Maryland Environmental Trust.

**Committee for Montgomery:** Dan reported on new facilities at the Universities of Shady Grove where CFM holds monthly Board meetings and nominations for CFM positions next year. ExComm agreed that Dan should continue to serve as our delegate to the CFM (and on the CFM Executive Committee) for another two years.

**President's Report:** Peggy updated ExComm on the status of the Federation's website and asked that everyone – particularly committee chairs - email materials to her for inclusion in the updated site. Peggy, Paula Bienenfeld and Jim Humphrey reaffirmed their plan from the February meeting, to confer on the Federation blog. Finally, Peggy reported on her plans to meet with key members of the County Council regarding next steps for a new, more workable approach to the County's orphan roads.

**Nominating:** Peggy reported that Cary Lamari, Chair, continues to work on the slate of officers to be elected for the next year.

**Awards:** Jim Humphrey, Chair, reported on the status of the awards to be presented at the annual Federation Awards Banquet in May. The three nominations approved by ExComm are as follows:

**Sentinel Award** “for good government at the local level”:  
Montgomery Preservation, Inc

**Wayne Goldstein Award** “for outstanding public service by an individual or group in Montgomery County”: Hearts and Homes for Youth

**Star Cup** “for outstanding public service on behalf of Montgomery County”. A number of individuals, particularly members of the Planning & Land Use Committee, were nominated and discussed. It was ultimately decided to honor the entire MCCF Planning and Land Use Committee.

**Planning and Land Use:** Jim Humphrey, Chair, reported on the County Council hearing on the growth policy amendment resolution, to be held on March 23. ExComm gave unanimous approval to motion opposing this resolution because of the dangerous precedent it sets by waiving LATR and PAMR tests for development projects. He also reported on the position taken by Councilmember Mike Knapp who opposes new nominations for historic preservation pending a vote on the Knapp Amendment to the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Ordinance, an amendment which would effectively gut the existing Ordinance. Finally, Jim agreed to contact MPI regarding preservation of the historic murals in the Bethesda Post Office which is to be sold.

**Education:** Paula Bienenfeld, Chair, will testify at the County Council hearings on the FY 2011 Operating Budget. She plans to underscore the need for the Council to take a closer look at potential cuts in the overall MCPS budget. Finally, she reported on the environmental initiative undertaken by young students at Piney Branch that would eliminate use of styrofoam trays.

**Parks:** Carole Ann Barth, Chair, reported on the status of Council action regarding the closure of eleven County recreational centers. She noted that she had visited six of the centers and found them to be in good condition. ExComm approved her recommendation that the centers remain the property of the County Parks Department but that management of reservations be consolidated, as per several County assessment reports, within the Recreation Department.

**Public Finance:** Chuck Lapinski, Chair, reported on plans for the next Federation meeting program on the Operating Budget. He highlighted some key unresolved issues and asked all to send questions/ideas to be used at the April meeting. He will also draft testimony on the budget for ExComm review.

**Old and New Business.** No old business was raised. Under new business, ExComm discussed possible nominations for Federation Community Hero awards. ExComm approved the proposal from Jim Humphrey to name Karen Roper to be the Community Hero in April. She has been a leader of Concerned Neighbors against the Silver Spring/Thayer Alignment of the Purple Line. Also under new business, Jim reviewed arrangements, including price and menu, for the Annual Awards Banquet.

Newsletter Assignments and Adjournment. After Peggy reviewed Newsletter assignments, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 PM.

Reserve Your Tickets Now For The  
Montgomery County Civic Federation's  
**2010 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET**

**Friday, May 14**

**Wine Reception 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.**

**Buffet Dinner & Awards 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.**

**The Universities at Shady Grove, Conference Center (Building II)**

**9630 Gudelsky Dr., Rockville**

Call 301.738.6023 for more detailed information

\$35 per person or \$65 per couple. Price includes wine and iced tea at the reception.

\$10 per person for reception only, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**Dinner Menu:** House Salad with Dinner Rolls, Top Round Roast Beef (at carving station), Chicken Piccata, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Wine and Iced Tea, with Oatmeal Cookies and Brownies for dessert.

**Directions:**

From Beltway take I-270 north. Take Exit #6B (MD- Route 28) west towards Darnestown and merge onto W. Montgomery Ave./MD-28 going west. Turn LEFT onto Darnestown Rd., turn LEFT onto Shady Grove Rd., turn RIGHT onto Gudelsky Way, then LEFT onto Gudelsky Dr.--parking available in Lots 1 and 2 on your left.

If coming south on I-270, take Exit 8 for Shady Grove Road going west. Go 1.5 miles, cross Darnestown Rd., turn RIGHT onto Gudelsky Way, then LEFT onto Gudelsky Dr.--parking available in Lots 1 and 2 on your left.

**IMPORTANT: Reservations must be made by close of business, Monday, May 10.**

If you have questions, feel free to call Jim Humphrey at 301-652-6359.

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Please cut off and fill in this stub. Mail with a **check** payable to the **Montgomery County Civic Federation** to:

Mr. William Schrader, MCCF Treasurer, 12824 Middlevale Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20906

I/We will attend the banquet \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print name(s) as you wish them to be on your name badge at the banquet)

Association or Organization (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information \_\_\_\_\_

(Telephone)

(Email)

### **Federation Meeting**

#### **Session 816**

Monday, April 12, 2010  
7:45 1st Floor Auditorium  
County Council Office Building.  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD

Agenda:

7:45 Call to Order  
7:46 Introductions & Announcements  
7:56 Approval of Meeting Agenda  
7:57 Approval of Minutes from March 8 meeting  
7:58 Treasurer's Report  
8:00 Program: FY2011 Operating Budget  
9:20 Committee Reports  
9:50 Old Business  
9:55 New Business  
10:00 Adjournment

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, April 24.** Prepare submission as an MS Word, Word Perfect or text-only document, **attach** it to an e-mail, and send it to: **hotyakker@gmail.com**

Please send all **address corrections** to Dan Wilhelm, 904 Cannon Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904, 301-384-2698, or [djwilhelm@verizon.net](mailto:djwilhelm@verizon.net).

### **NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Wednesday, April 21, 7:45 p.m.

At the home of Dan Wilhelm

904 Cannon Road, Silver Spring 20904



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

Dan Wilhelm, Database Manager

904 Cannon Road

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