



Civic Federation News

June 2010

Serving the Public Interest since 1925

Official Publication of
the Montgomery
County Civic Federation
www.montgomerycivic.org
hosted by
www.communitywebinc.com

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June Program: Deer in Montgomery County by Carole Ann Barth, Parks & Recreation Chairman

The program for our June 14 meeting will focus on deer population management in Montgomery County's parks. Bill Hamilton, the Parks Department's Principal Natural Resource Specialist but better known as the "wildlife ecologist", will be the presenter. We have asked Mr. Hamilton to address the following questions:

1. Location of Areas Under Population Management - What areas are currently under deer management? Is there a threshold for determining which areas will be managed? According to the Department of Parks Deer Population Management Fact Sheet (October 2007) "... Deer density goals range from fifteen to fifty deer per square mile dependent of the ecological value of the habitat and land use." Can you provide a map showing where the different target densities are located?
2. Forecasting Future Densities - Assuming a consistent effort at current levels, how long do you project it will take to reach the target densities? How will current budget cuts impact that date?
3. Rapid Assessment of Forest Health - The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources uses the presence or absence of 4 wild flowers (trillium, Canada mayflower, Jack-in-the-pulpit, and Indian cucumber root) as key indicators of the level of deer impact on a given forest site. This provides a quick assessment of browsing pressure and forest health that lay people can use. Does Montgomery County utilize any indicator species?

4. Selection of Hunters - What requirements must hunters meet in order to participate in managed hunts?
5. Ecological Interactions - What is the interaction between deer populations, invasive plants, and forest health? How does the concern over Lyme disease change the equation? The Tick Management Handbook (2004, Kirby C. Stafford III, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven) suggests that by reducing the deer population to levels of 8 to 10 per square mile, the tick numbers can be brought down to levels too low to spread Lyme and other tick-borne diseases. In order for this to work, would we also have to manage for the rodents that are alternate hosts?
6. Forest Restoration - There are a variety of approaches and products for protecting restoration plantings from deer. A Cacapon Institute study, for example, found solar-powered, low-voltage, temporary fencing to be a cost-effective approach for riparian reforestation sites. What approaches does our Parks Department use?
7. Deer Discouragement in Home Gardens - Gardeners are always looking for ways to make their yards less palatable to deer without making a major investment in fencing. For example, some gardeners report success with "hiding" deer favorites behind a perimeter of less palatable plants. Can you give us an idea of which techniques may work for different deer density levels?

As always, our program is open to the public, and we anticipate a lively question and answer session on this topic.

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CELEBRATE
THE
CIVIC FEDERATIONS'S
85TH ANNIVERSARY
BIRTHDAY CAKE & PUNCH
AT THE JUNE 14 MEETING

July Potluck Dinner

All Current, Former and Prospective New Members
And State Delegates and Senators
Are Cordially Invited to the
2010 Montgomery County Civic Federation Summer Potluck Dinner
Friday, July 16, 2010
6:00 p.m. to whenever.....
At the home of Peggy Dennis
11115 Fawsett Road, Potomac

Since our meetings provide little time to get to know one another, our Summer Potluck is mainly a social event to allow us time to relax with great food and wonderful friends. We will have the opportunity to discuss issues with members of our State Delegation that we would like to see addressed during the 2011 session in Annapolis and getting their take on their top legislative priorities.

Please RSVP to Peggy at 301-983-9738 or hotyakker@gmail.com. Former and Current Members are asked to bring a dish to share (appetizer, salad, side dish, casserole or main dish, bread/rolls, or dessert) and the serving utensils needed for that dish. Elected officials and Prospective New Members will be our guests.

Directions:

FROM DOWN-COUNTY / Beltway take exit 39 onto River Road (Rt. 190) going west to Potomac Village. Turn LEFT at second light in the village onto Falls Road (Rt. 189). Drive 2 miles to the T-intersection where Falls Rd. meets MacArthur Blvd. Turn LEFT on MacArthur and LEFT immediately onto Fawsett Road.

SCENIC ROUTE ALTERNATIVE: take Beltway Exit 41 onto the Clara Barton Parkway heading west towards Carderock and Great Falls. When Parkway ends, turn LEFT onto MacArthur Blvd. Follow MacArthur past Old Angler's Inn, up the long, curvy hill, past the Woodrock development, the Rockwood Manor Conference Center and Picasso Lane (all on the right) then turn RIGHT onto Fawsett Road.

FROM UP-COUNTY / I-270: Take exit for Falls Road west to Potomac. Pass through the village and drive 2 miles to the T-intersection where Falls Rd. meets MacArthur Blvd. Turn LEFT on MacArthur and immediately LEFT onto Fawsett Road.

House is the second on the left with the green mailbox. Our driveway has limited space for parking and turning around, so please save space in the driveway for our less able walkers. Also, please park only on the right side of the road so enough space is left for other cars to get through safely. A flashlight is useful for finding your way back to your car in the dark.

Tarzan, Apes and Victorians By MCCF President, Peggy Dennis

One of the great (and little known) benefits of being MCCF President is that I occasionally get invited to really wonderful events. The grand opening of "GoApe" on May 8 is a case in point. GoApe is the most recent "public/private" partnership between the county's Parks Department and a private, for-profit enterprise.

GoApe has been operating in the UK since 2002 where they now have 26 different tree top adventure parks. Each park is a bit different but they all feature rope ladders, high-wire rope bridges, zip wires and stomach-hollowing Tarzan drops. Our GoApe, located at 6129 Needwood Lake Drive in Rock Creek Regional Park, is the first to open in the U.S. It's located in a mature forest, far from other attractions, and environmentally correct in every way. The trees have been very carefully protected. Walking is on natural surface paths. There is no electricity, muzak or anything to detract from the peacefulness of the natural environment. In short, it's a great alternative to Kings Dominion and Six Flags. It has taken a small bit of the park that would otherwise be unused

and turned it into a uniquely appropriate venture that should generate some badly needed revenue for the cash-strapped Parks Department, provided summer jobs to a number of county residents, and offer an adventurous and thrilling experience to young and old who want to abandon their couches and computers for some quality time in the country.

I originally thought it would be an experience aimed mainly at the 20-something demographic, but I went with my grown sons, did the entire course, and I can say with all honesty, it's a blast! In the UK, their most senior participant is 93, but I'm told they have many enthusiasts who are in their 70's. I was impressed by the very kind and supportive attitude of the younger participants who mixed right in with us older folks. No ageism at GoApe, at least, not on opening day. There is a minimum height requirement, so it's not an appropriate venue for small children.

The safety instruction and full course takes about 3 hours to do. It is challenging, fun and exhilarating. The management puts great emphasis on safety, and I was impressed by the thoroughness of the training which everyone must do before venturing up the first ladder. The equipment is very sturdy, new and well-designed. I felt very safe and secure while still

being challenged by the heights, balance features and fun zip lines. For those who want or need a total escape from the stress of life in the metropolitan area, those who need an excuse to cut loose and scream “arrrh-a-arrrh-a-arrrhhhh!” as you fly through the tree tops, this is it!

GoApe is currently closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, but starting on June 15 they will be open from 8:30 AM until sunset seven days a week. Full information is on their website at www.goape.com.

Finally, let it never be said that your current president avoids challenges and adventures. I'll be among the bevy of “sisters, cousins and aunts” singing and dancing our way through Gilbert & Sullivan's HMS Pinafore. The Victorian Lyric Opera Company is another of our county's cultural treasures. With seven performances (June 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20) at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater in Rockville, this is a “must see.” No, not for the opportunity to see me, but my son, Alex, the Ship's Carpenter, has a fine voice. All of our amateur stars, for that matter, are stand outs and Melissa Kornacki who plays Little Buttercup, can do things with her bodacious body that will totally crack you up! Get tickets and more information at: www.vloc.org/wiki/H.M.S_Pinafore_2010.

And for heaven's sake, have a wonderful summer!

Time to Renew Membership

The Civic Federation's membership year runs from July 1 through June 30, so it's membership renewal time. Because we do not have the names and contact information for your treasurers, we ask that delegates take responsibility for initiating the renewal process. Please cut or print out the Membership Form on page 11, fill in the necessary information and pass the completed form to your treasurer so he/she can mail it in with the dues check. Providing an addressed envelope with the form often makes the treasurer's job easier.

Election of MCCF Officers for 2010 - 2011

The following slate of officers was announced in the May News and at the May meeting. The vote will take place at our monthly meeting on June 14.

- President – Peggy Dennis
- First Vice President – Dan Wilhelm
- Second Vice President – Carole Ann Barth
- Treasurer – William Schrader
- Recording Secretary – Open

Education Committee Report By Paula Bienenfeld, Chairman

Congratulations to our Graduating Seniors. As the school year is almost over, members of the Civic Federation say congratulations to all our graduates and to their proud parents. Graduating from high school is a wonderful achievement and we wish all the best for our grads as you move on to new endeavors.

Public School Gardens and the Local Food Movement. School vegetable gardens are cropping up all over the US and have been encouraged by the USDA and most recently by the First Lady, Michelle Obama, inspired in part by the local food movement. One of the earliest proponents of these gardens was Chez Panisse owner and chef Alice Waters, who in 1994 worked with her local King Middle School in Berkeley, California to begin 'The Edible Schoolyard.' Since then the school vegetable garden idea has spread throughout the country, including in neighboring Frederick County, and the District, where the Safeway Corporation recently announced its new partnership with DCPS to help finance and support 10 healthy school gardens throughout the District. Unfortunately in Montgomery County school gardens are prohibited.

Montgomery Victory Gardens and the Montgomery County Master Gardener Association have joined together to send a letter to the Board of Education asking that the prohibition on healthy school gardens be overturned. You can read the letter at <http://bit.ly/montvictory>. Gordon Clark, Project Director of Montgomery Victory Gardens has asked for our support in this effort and the Executive Committee has agreed that the membership should vote on this issue. To this end, I will introduce the following resolution at the June MCCF meeting.

“Whereas promoting healthy gardens teaches our children to lead active healthy lives and enforces a connection between the food we grow and the food we eat; and

“Whereas school gardens are promoted by USDA because they are a great way to teach children about caring for plants, how fruits and vegetables grow, and about healthy eating; and

“Whereas Superintendent Jerry Weast issued a February 26, 2010 memorandum disallowing growing such gardens; and

“Whereas the Montgomery County Board of Education has enforced this memo;

“Therefore, be it resolved that the Montgomery County Civic Federation supports the efforts of Montgomery Victory Gardens and the Montgomery Master Gardener Association to encourage healthy vegetable gardens on public school property; supports removing any obstacles that prevent food gardens from being planted on school grounds; and encourages the development of healthy vegetable gardens on our public school properties.”

Oh Deer, Part Three: Population Control

By Carole Ann Barth, Parks & Recreation Chairman

Every deer population control method has its share of controversy. And yet, without population control, the deer and the forest will both continue to suffer. Here is a brief description of the currently available methods of population control, the issues pertaining to each, and their effectiveness:

Managed Hunts - Managed hunts are not like traditional hunting seasons. To begin with, these hunts are not open to all hunters. Participants must pass a pre- screening questionnaire and a background check. Hunters must also have a State Shooter Qualification Card demonstrating his/her proficiency with the firearm they plan to use for the hunting program. Further, the process is supervised by wildlife experts and police. Safety buffers are established and the hunting sites are selected so hunters are generally firing downward. Some hunters use rifles, and others use bows. Bows are generally considered safer, since an arrow will not ricochet and can not penetrate a house like a bullet can.

Issues: These hunts are deplored by those who believe all hunting is inhumane. Others are concerned that volunteer hunters may not be skilled enough to effect a quick, painless kill.

Effectiveness: One problem is that most sport hunters still target trophy bucks. However, to effectively manage the population, does should be targeted.

Sharpshooters - Instead of hunters, these programs use police or other trained marksmen. Bait is used to draw the deer into position, and high-powered scopes allow for precise shot placement to the head or neck. Death comes within 30 seconds or less. It is more execution than hunt. Specialized ammunition is used to increase safety, and sharpshooter programs are generally considered to be the safer approach for areas near dense human population centers. Meat from deer killed in these programs is donated to area food banks.

Issues: These hunts are deplored by those who believe all hunting is inhumane.

Effectiveness: This approach is considered the most cost-effective by many localities.

Re-introduction of Predators - Predators like wolves and mountain lions do more than simply keep deer numbers in check. By culling the sick or weak animals, predators keep the herd healthy. Moreover, predator and prey population levels are linked in a feed back loop keeping numbers in a healthy balance with what the habitat can support.

Issues: In some states, where wolves have been reintroduced and/or where the suburbs have begun to encroach on predator habitat, conflicts arise when farmers

or residents blame predators for the loss of livestock or pets.

Effectiveness: It is difficult to re-introduce large predators, such as the mountain lion, into remnant and fragmented habitats. This technique clearly has more potential in wilderness areas than in urban and suburban communities. Wolves, for example, have been successfully reintroduced into a number of wilderness areas. However, there is data to show that wolves can also adapt to more open, less wild areas.

Contraception and Contraception - A variety of contraceptives and delivery methods are being tested, some at the National Institute of Standards. Contraception is the process in which the development of a fetus is purposely terminated. This can be done by applying a drug called prostaglandin to bait piles during the winter.

Issues: No-one knows what the impact would be of the wide-scale release of contraceptive drugs into the environment through wildlife. There is concern that these substances might affect non-target species or end up contaminating the environment. Contraception programs may be culturally unacceptable and people may object to finding deer fetuses in suburban areas.

Effectiveness: Depending on the drug involved, treatments must be repeated at least every two years. Contraception works best on confined populations, where one can be reasonably sure that the deer have been treated consistently. Wildlife managers also need a way to tell which deer have been treated. Where individuals roam freely, this is very difficult.

Population Control in Montgomery County - The Montgomery County Deer Management Workgroup consists of members from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Heritage Service, M-NCPPC, Montgomery County Department of Parks Montgomery County Cooperative Extension, Montgomery County Police Department USGS, Biological Services Division, Patuxent Wildlife Research Station, U. S. National Park Service, and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. This group developed a deer management plan for the county and implements a countywide deer management program. The group annually reviews deer data and makes recommendations to agencies and private landowners.

Currently, Montgomery Parks Department uses both managed hunts and sharpshooters to control deer. Managed hunts were implemented in the county in the Fall of 1996 and have occurred annually ever since. Currently, managed hunts are being conducted on eight county parks annually:

- Hoyles Mill Conservation Park
- Blockhouse Point Conservation Park
- Woodstock Equestrian Park
- North Germantown Greenway
- Great Seneca Stream Valley Park
- Rachel Carson Conservation Park

- Buck Lodge Forest Conservation Park
- Little Bennett Regional Park

Police-based sharpshooting was implemented in the county in the spring of 1999 and has occurred annually ever since. To date, the Department has conducted Police-based sharpshooting programs in ten county parks:

- Agricultural History Farm Park and attached segments of Rock Creek Stream Valley Park (Derwood)
- Black Hill Regional Park (Boys)
- Layhill Local Park (Wheaton)
- North Branch Stream Valley Park, Units 2&3(Norbeck)
- Northwest Branch Recreation Park(Aspen Hill)
- Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park, Unit 7 (Ashton)
- Rock Creek Regional Park (Rockville)
- Rock Creek Stream Valley Park, Unit 7 (Aspen Hill)
- Wheaton Regional Park (Wheaton)
- Woodlawn Special Park (Sandy Spring)

Together these programs cover about 40% of the county's Parks. There are additional areas where management has been recommended but funding is not available to expand the program. For more information on Deer Management in the County, see the following web page:
<http://preview.tinyurl.com/22wqfv5> .

While I was able to find reports on the number of deer harvested each year by these programs, I could not find anything showing the change in deer density over time. Nor could I find anything comparing current density figures to the deer density goals. Without this information, it is hard to objectively say what impact the program is having. Similarly, reports mention improvements in vegetation, such as the return of orchids and lilies to some areas, but I could find no actual data. Without data, there is no way to quantify this improvement.

Update Your Contact Information

Many civic associations hold annual elections and install their new boards during the summer. If this is the case for your association, please make sure your contact information (president, vice president, secretary, land use chair) is updated as soon as possible with the M-NCPPC and the appropriate regional services center. Complete information is requested including names, addresses, phone numbers and email.

To contact Maryland-National Capital/Park & Planning Commission use: mcp-cr@montgomeryplanning.org .

To subscribe to InfoShare, their weekly electronic newsletter, visit the website at: <http://bit.ly/infoshare>

Regional services centers:

Western Montgomery County Regional Services Center (formerly BCC)
bethesda.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov

Silver Spring Regional Services Center
Silver.spring@montgomerycountymd.gov

Eastern County Regional Services Center
Eastco.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov

Mid-County Regional Services Center
Midcounty.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov

Up-County Regional Services Center
Upcounty.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov

Curious about Solar?

Whether you're just curious or ready to buy, learn more at Bethesda Green's "Solar Bethesda," a FREE solar expo for homeowners:

Saturday, June 12, 2010

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

4825 Cordell Ave., 2nd Floor, Bethesda, Md. (above Chevy Chase Bank at Woodmont and Cordell)

- Hear from neighbors living with solar
- Get info on costs, benefits, rebates, tax credits
- Check your home's solar readiness with satellite mapping
- Meet local solar companies
- Hands-on activities for kids!

Solar Bethesda will offer visitors an information-packed showcase event featuring solar providers, cooperative purchasers, government and financing specialists and more. The goal of this event is to provide homeowners and other interested parties an opportunity to get the latest information about solar-powered technologies, purchasing and investment opportunities, and incentives for home installation.

Our objective is to educate and enable homeowners to make rational and informed decisions about solar energy as a renewable energy source. For more information about the expo or to RSVP contact: solar@bethesdagreen.org.

Eleven County Recreation Centers Still Shuttered by Jim Zepp and Carole Barth

To our knowledge, the FY11 operating budget contains no funding to reopen the 11 recreation centers which were closed as of April 5. The water has been turned off, signs have been posted, and neighbors have been warned by Park Police to report any activity in or around the buildings.

In April, the Northwood Four Corners Civic Association (NFCCA) held its last meeting at the rec. center in North Four Corners Park. It was a sad moment, since the Association has been meeting at the log and stone building for 40 years.

Residents reflected on all the events which took place there over the years. Second generation residents recalled biking to the park for summer recreation programs when they were kids. Couples remembered dance classes and anniversary parties. No doubt the other affected communities have similar stories to tell.

Of course, we are told that the centers have been closed as a budget-cutting measure, and there is no question that cuts must be made to the County's operating budget. The Parks Department has pointed out that these centers cost more to run than they generate in rental income. That, in itself, is not surprising, since they were not created for generating income but rather to provide a public amenity.

What is surprising, however, is just how much the Parks Department says it spends to operate these recreation centers. The Parks Department says it takes 40 person-years to staff the 28 centers: that includes the 11 now closed and the 17 which remain open. How can this be possible for buildings which are only open when they are rented? There is no staff onsite like you have at a nature center or aquatic facility. Moreover the buildings are not maintained by Parks staff. Instead, Parks spends \$80,000 a year for contractual custodial services.

What are these people doing? Clearly they are not marketing the buildings or creating programs to increase usage rates of the underutilized buildings. They are not fixing the problems with the reservations system. They are not working with their colleagues in the other County agencies to consolidate the four separate automated reservations systems that are essentially fulfilling the same function.

Even more surprising, however, is that after closing more than a third of the recreation centers, Parks only plans to reduce the staffing level (for operating the remaining 17 buildings) by one workyear. One has to wonder, what else in the Parks Department's budget just doesn't add up?

Minutes of the May 10 Monthly Meeting by Sandy Vogelgesang, Acting Recording Secretary

Call to Order, Announcements, Approval of Agenda and Minutes, and Treasurer's Report: President Peggy Dennis called the meeting to order at 7:49 P.M. with introductions all around. Peggy called for announcements and made two herself: one regarding the Rachel Carson Meadow Festival (May 16) and one on the Women's Suburban Democratic Club of Montgomery County At-Large County Council Candidates' Forum (May 12). Jim Humphrey reminded delegates of the May 10 deadline for signing up for the MCCF Annual Awards Banquet. The agenda for the meeting was approved with the addition of the Community Hero Award. The minutes of the April 12 meeting were approved. Bill Schrader, Treasurer, circulated copies of the

latest report, showing a Federation bank account balance of \$11843.62.

Presentation of Community Hero Award: Jim Humphrey, Chairman of the Planning and Land Use Committee, presented the May 2010 Community Hero Award to Donna Baron. She spearheaded the formation of the Gaithersburg-North Potomac-Rockville Coalition, which educated the community west of Gaithersburg about the implications of planned new development and succeeded in reducing the amount of growth allowed by the new master plan for the area now renamed the Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan. The citation presented to Ms. Baron stated that the Award was given "in appreciation of her commitment to volunteerism in the areas of Land Use Planning, Transportation, and Zoning, and for her efforts to inform and educate residents of her community about the governmental procedures involved in revision of their area master plan in order to empower them to participate in decisions which will impact their quality of life."

Program: Jim Humphrey introduced the speakers for the evening program on the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve -- Jeremy Criss, Agricultural Services Division Manager in the county's Department of Economic Development, and Caroline Taylor -- Executive Director of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance. Criss highlighted the mission of the Agricultural Services Division, the status of agriculture in the County, the rationale for creating the Agricultural Reserve in 1980, the distinction between protection and preservation of farm land, and county agricultural initiatives such as the Buy Local Challenge and Annual Farm Tour, both scheduled for late July. For more information see: <http://bit.ly/mcagservs>.

Ms. Taylor discussed why the Agricultural Reserve benefits the whole county. She emphasized why the Reserve, celebrating its 30th anniversary, is more important than ever given the growing interest in local sustainable food production and the popularity of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). For more information about the work of the Montgomery Countryside Alliance, see www.MoCoAlliance.org. Delegates raised many questions for both speakers during the discussion period. One of the recurrent themes to emerge from the Q and A period was the need for some change in Maryland state law to help encourage local production of food.

Committee Reports:

Nominating: In the absence of Committee Chair Cary Lamari, Peggy drew delegates' attention to the slate of MCCF officers for 2010-2011 printed in the latest Civic Federation News and requested additional nominations from the floor (none proposed). The vote on the final slate will take place at the June meeting.

Review of Candidates for County Planning Board Chair: Dan Wilhelm reported that the MCCF committee had interviewed five candidates, four of whom remain in the

running for Council consideration, and recommended selection of Francoise Carrier.

Planning and Land Use: Jim Humphrey, chair, reported on the County Council's straw votes earlier in the day regarding the FY11 budget for the Parks and Planning Departments. He reported that the staff funding for the Planning Department will likely be reduced by 25 percent from "pre-fiscal crisis" level. The Planning Department's proposed master plan work program reflects deferral of many projects. Historical Activities was placed on the reconciliation list for reinstatement of \$109,000 in next year's budget (equivalent of two full-time positions), pending availability of funds. The Council also voted to merge the Park Police into the County Police Department, as a separate division to monitor "large" parks, which they believe can be done immediately under a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Maryland prior to seeking change in the law during next year's General Assembly session.

Education: Paul Bienenfeld, chair, reported on the Board of Education's suit against the County Council's proposed cuts in the MCPS budget and several other issues (use of physical restraints in classrooms and initiative to ban Styrofoam trays).

Old and New Business and Adjournment: There was no new or old business to address although Peggy did announce that the annual MCCF potluck dinner will be held on July 16 and that Maryland state delegates and senators will be invited to discuss possible initiatives for the 2012 session in Annapolis. The meeting adjourned at 9:46 PM.

Minutes of the May 19 Executive Committee Meeting

By Ginny Barnes, Acting Recording Secretary

Call to Order: President Dennis called the meeting to order at 7:50 pm at Bill Schrader's home.

Attendance: President Peggy Dennis, Carole Ann Barth, Jim Humphrey, Chuck Lapinski, Bill Schrader, Paula Bienenfeld, Carole Ann Barth, Jim Zepp, Ginny Barnes and Dan Wilhelm.

Agenda and Minutes: The agenda was distributed and accepted. Minutes of the April 21 ExComm meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Schrader reviewed financial status, membership totals, etc. Account balance as of 5/10 is \$12,977.10.

Awards Banquet wrap-up: 88 attended. The program went well and publicity was well worth the effort. Discussion of financial logistics: it was agreed that those who make last minute reservations and agree to pay at the door should pay even if they fail to attend and this should be made

clear in the future. Otherwise the Federation foots the bill for their dinners. Discussion of date and venue for 2011 banquet should continue at June ExComm meeting.

President's Report: Membership - Peggy Dennis reported on membership outreach and fruitful relationship she is creating with Regional Services Centers. Their lists of community organizations are better than those available from MNCPPC's Community Outreach Office, and the RSCs will provide them to us at no charge. They appreciate corrections and additions we may provide them, too.

Planning Board Chair - Council unanimously approved Francoise Carrier, our choice, who should take over from retiring Chairman Royce Hanson on June 14.

July Potluck: the Potluck Dinner will take place at Peggy's home on Friday evening, July 16. State Delegate Brian Feldman has extended out invitation to the entire delegation, and we have already had two positive RSVPs. Objective will be to discuss state legislative issues we want to see addressed before the delegation solidifies their agenda for the 2011 session.

Candidates' Forum: Discussion of co-sponsoring one or several candidates' forums with the League of Women Voters before the September primary. Jim suggested that, as a county-wide organization, we focus our efforts on one forum for At-Large candidates.

Programs: June program will focus on the deer problem, scale of problem and management of deer population. Six programs for the autumn/winter were briefly discussed, a new option being the OLO's mandate to carry out a study and provide recommendations on the county's structural budget deficit and need for governmental reforms.

Committee Reports:

Education - Paula reported on \$24 million cut from school budget and the departure of Superintendent Weast from his job. Discussed framing a resolution to support Montgomery Victory Gardens, an organization led by Gordon Clark who has been working to have County schools allow gardens on school property.

Public Finance/Utilities - Chuck reported on County being warned about bond rating and the need to boost reserves to retain Triple A rating. A possible future program on greater taxes to County homeowners including recent vote on energy taxes.

Environment - Ginny reported on meeting with County Executive staff on Ten Mile Creek and the link between Clarksburg Stage IV and choices for a new County Bus depot. Both create threats to future water quality of what was our best County stream watershed. Water quality monitoring of the impacts caused by 16 years of development on the east side of I-270 show the need for caution in any future development plans on the west side. Since the Clarksburg Master Plan was adopted allowing for

10% imperviousness, it has been shown that protecting water quality resources requires lower percentages and that the stormwater management techniques used in Clarksburg so far are inadequate and outdated.

Planning and Land Use - Discussion continued on new bus depot as a land use issue. Most prominent site being considered is on 2 parcels adjacent to Clarksburg Jail and totaling 128 acres of which 23.5 would be impervious.

County Council has approved Gaithersburg West now called Great Seneca Science Corridor, reducing density from 20 million to 17.5 million sq. ft.

The PHED Committee is currently holding sessions on the Kensington Sector Plan, with Council vote likely occurring

before the August break. The Takoma-Langley and the Wheaton Sector Plan revisions will be considered by the next Council.

Parks and Recreation – Carol reported on Rec Center closings and extensive cuts to Parks budget approved by County Council. Discussion also about moving Recreational programming from Parks Dept. to Recreation Dept under the County Executive.

Newsletter Assignments: Carole Ann to provide “Oh Deer!” and information on the program. Paula to draft resolution on school gardens

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 PM.

2010 Awards Banquet Photos



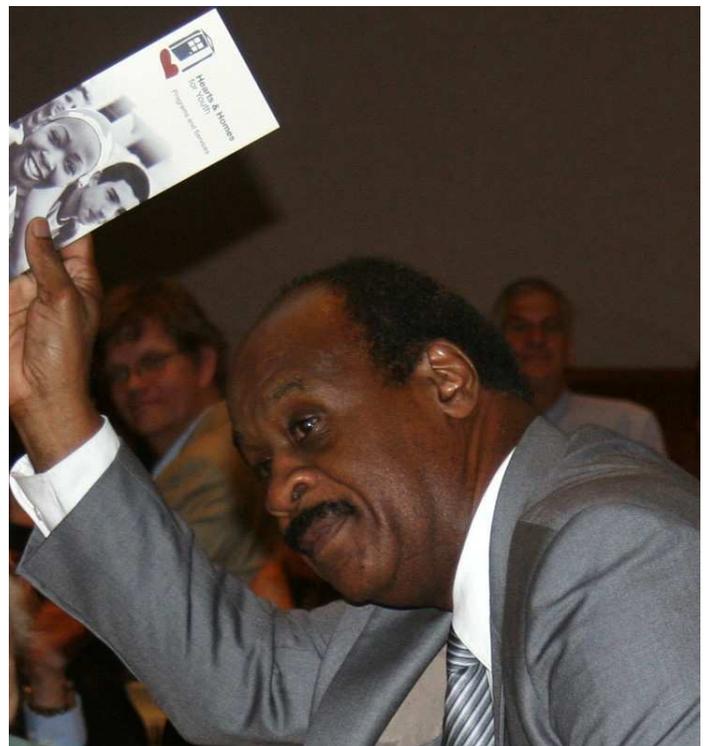
Jim Humphrey, Virginia Sheard, Kathie Hulley receive the Star Cup from Councilmember Marc Elrich



Paul Chrostowski, Lorraine Pearsall, Senator Jamie Raskin, Peggy Dennis, Bernie & Lynn Kapiloff of the Sentinel newspaper, and Mary Reardon. Montgomery Preservation Inc. received the Sentinel Award



Senator Rich Madaleno, Del. Brian Feldman, Rex Smith and Mike Whitehurst of Hearts & Homes for Youth with citation and Wayne Goldstein Award



County Executive Ike Leggett



Joan and Bill Schrader, MCCF Treasurer, take a bow



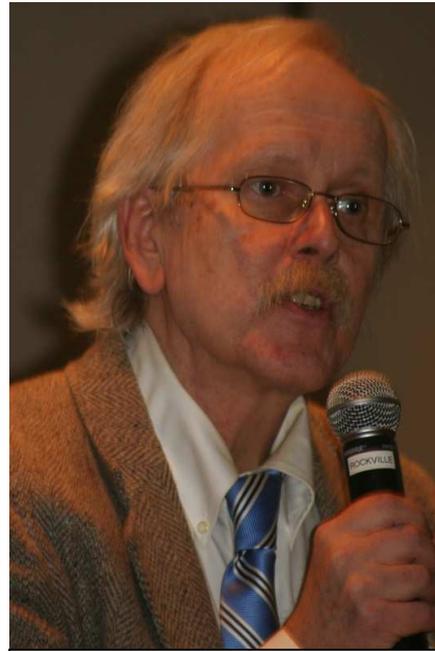
Delegate Susan Lee and Peter Dennis take a swig



Environmental co-chairs Caren Madsen and Ginny Barnes with George Barnes and Councilmember Duchy



Delegate Brian Feldman with Mike & Nan Whitehurst



Jim Humphrey, Planning & Land Use Chairman



Jim Zepp, Parks Chairman Carole Ann Barth and Senator Mike Lenett



Councilmembers Roger Berliner and Duchy Trachtenberg



Christina Ginsberg, Judy Miller of the Twinbrook C.A. and Councilmember Phil Andrews

Many thanks to Jeff Wolfe for the photographs. More will soon to be available on the website

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Serving the County since 1925

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011

Mail to: William H. Schrader (Treasurer)
12824 Middlevale Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20906
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Inquiries: Dan Wilhelm (1st VP, Database)
904 Cannon Road, Colesville, MD 20904
301-384-2968; djwilhelm@verizon.net

Name of Organization/Individual _____ Date _____

Number of Households (Approx) _____ Annual Dues (see below) \$ _____

Make checks payable to **Montgomery County Civic Federation**)

Membership Type	Number of Households	PLEASE CHECK	DUES	Max Number of Delegates	Voting Privileges
Local Association (civic, community, homeowner or municipality. Must represent at least 10 households - not paid members. Cannot be a single local issue group.)	10 to 50		\$25*	1	Yes
	51 to 300		\$45*	2	
	301 to 600		\$65*	3	
	601+		\$85*	4	
Umbrella Association (Two or more local associations. Cannot be single local issue group.)	60 to 500		\$45*	2	Yes
	501 to 1000		\$65*	3	
	1001+		\$85*	4	
Regional or County-Wide Organization (environmental, transportation, or other advocacy organizations).	50+ memberships, not households		\$45*	2	Yes
Individual Associate	(not applicable)		\$20*	1	No
Associate Group (Gov't agency, business, or other organization)	(not applicable)		\$85*	2	No

***A \$5 discount may be taken for each person who elects to receive the newsletter via email – please check e-mail box below.** You can also select less than the allowed number of delegates and pay for the lesser number. Please provide all the information below regardless of newsletter delivery method. Please indicate whether you want your email address included in a membership directory.

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

* Organization president or a permanent substitute designated by the president.

Federation Meeting

Session 818

Monday, June 14, 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 May 10 meeting
- 7:58 Treasurer's Report
- 8:00 Tom Street on new 311 system
- 8:10 Program: Oh, Deer!
- 9:15 Birthday Cake Break
- 9:30 Vote on Slate of Officers
- 9:31 Resolution on Gardens in MCPS schools
- 9:40 Committee Reports
- 9:44 Old Business / New Business
- 9:45 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, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD.

The **Civic Federation News** is published monthly. It is mailed to Delegates; associate members; news media, and local, state, and federal officials. Permission is granted to reprint any article provided proper credit is given to the "**Civic Federation News of the Montgomery County Civic Federation.**"

Submit contributions for the next issue by: **Midnight, Saturday, August 28.** 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.

NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, June 23, 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

Silver Spring, MD 20904

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