



Civic Federation News

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Serving the Public Interest since 1925

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Montgomery County Civic
Federation

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Recipients of the electronic version are encouraged to forward it widely

October Program: Current Issues in Public Safety

By Peggy Dennis, President

The program for our October 10 meeting will address current issues in public safety. The “hottest” issue at present is Bill 25-11, the proposed Teen Curfew Bill [see following article]. If time permits, we will also cover the county’s Neighborhood Watch Program and gang violence.

Our principal presenter will be Chief J. Thomas Manger who has served as the 16th Montgomery County Police Chief since 2004. The Montgomery County Department of Police (MCPD) is one of the largest police departments in the State of Maryland, with more than 1,150 sworn and 550 non-sworn members serving nearly one million residents in the greater Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area. Chief Manger spoke with us in October, 2009, and those who were with us that evening will remember him as one of our most engaging and interesting public figures.

Joining Chief Manger will be Dr. David Wilson, Chair of the Criminology, Law and Society Department at George Mason University. His research interests focus broadly on issues related to changing the criminal behavior of juvenile and adult offenders, and crime prevention. Dr Wilson is currently involved in a systematic review of the research on curfews. With thank Dr. Wilson for being willing to come north across the great divide and share his insights with us. Please spread the word about this timely and important program, and encourage others in your neighborhood associations to attend.

October Community Hero: Marvin Weinman

By Max Bronstein, Member-at-Large

The Montgomery County Civic Federation will honor Marvin Weinman as our Community Hero at our monthly meeting on October 10. As President of the Montgomery County Taxpayer’s League for 8 years, Marvin strongly and repeatedly advised Montgomery County’s leaders that their financial decisions were unsustainable. The decisions that were criticized dealt primarily with year-to-year wage and benefit packages awarded to the county’s employees, bearing in mind that personnel costs represent 80% of the county’s budget.

Unfortunately, Marvin’s advice was ignored, and only during the last year have steps, albeit belatedly, been taken by the council and the executive to begin to right the county’s fiscal course. It is evident, of course, that financial problems are widespread throughout the country and indeed the world. However, if Marvin Weinman’s advice had been heeded even 6 years ago, Montgomery County would be in much better financial shape today. In fact, a subtitle to the Community Hero award could be the “I Told You So Award”.

Marvin retired from his professional career in 1991 after 34 years with IBM as a Systems Engineering Manager. But long before that, Marvin was lending his time, interest, abilities and energy to many causes for the good of the greater community. Let us note just a few of them.

- Member, coach, director, and sports commissioner of the Wheaton Boy’s Club, 1970 –79
- Volunteer since 1991 at the Montgomery County Office of Community Affairs
- Thirteen year member of the Montgomery County Recreation Board; 4 years as chair countywide and 3 years as chair of the Eastern Area.
- Member in 2004 of the Inspector General Selection Review Board
- Long time member of the Civic Federation’s Executive Committee and Chair of its Public Finance Committee.

We feel all will agree that Marvin Weinman has been an outstanding citizen and Community Hero for the entire county.

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Update on Proposed Teen Curfew Bill

By Peggy Dennis, President

Bill 25-11-1 was introduced on behalf of the County Executive after our June meeting to create a “teen curfew” similar but not identical to teen curfew laws already in effect in D.C. and P.G County. The Montgomery County Police Department had been having increasing problems with groups of teenagers, young adults and (allegedly) gang members coming into Silver Spring from the jurisdictions with curfews and using social media to organize rumbles and other mob-like activities. The immediate catalyst was a fight that resulted in a young woman being stabbed.

The MCCF was asked by one of our member organizations to support the bill. The issue was discussed in Executive Committee, and it was agreed that I should testify in support of the bill but spell out specific reservations and changes we would like to see. Links to the bill and my testimony can be read on the Currents Issues/Public Safety page of our website: www.montgomerycivic.org. I confess to going off script at the public hearing on July 26 in order to compliment the many intelligent and thoughtful testimonies presented by concerned teenagers. It was evident from the comments and questions posed by councilmembers that the bill will need considerable revisions if it is to go forward and win passage.

Since July the bill has been taken up in the Public Safety Committee chaired by Councilmember Phil Andrews. The meeting was attended by all 9 councilmembers indicating the keen interest among all our elected officials. A “Youth Town Hall Meeting” is scheduled for Wednesday, October 12, 7:30 p.m. in the 3rd Floor Hearing Room of the Council Office Building. The Public Safety Committee will then hold an additional meeting on November 3. It is expected that the bill will be substantially rewritten before it goes back to the full Council for further discussion and a vote.

Spread the Word – Share the Newsletter

By Peggy Dennis, Newsletter Editor

We were recently asked by one of our member associations to add additional board members to the electronic distribution list for the newsletter. We are delighted to have the newsletter go out to as many people as possible, but we ask that our delegates use their email to forward the e-newsletter to their members. This will actually allow far more people to learn about the Civic Federation, the issues we're

covering, and the actions we're hoping many residents will take. So, please – be proactive and help spread the word

MCCF Members Directory

By Peggy Dennis, President

The last time the Civic Federation put out a “Members Directory” was in 2000. Since then, our *Membership Form* has included a check box where delegates and individual associates could indicate if they wanted their names and contact information in the Directory, but there has been no Directory. We'd like to change this! But paper directories are time consuming and costly to produce and distribute, and they are out of date almost immediately as delegates change or revise their contact information.

Like some of our member associations, we are going to try having an electronic “Members Directory” on our website. It will not be accessible to the general public, nor will we sell or release the information to anyone outside the Civic Federation. It will be a secure page that only MCCF delegates and associate members can access using a password. We propose including all the contact information on each person unless that individual “opts out” and asks that we not show their email address

The membership form provided a place where a person could opt out. If you want to change that designation, please contact Dan Wilhelm at djwilhelm@verizon.net.

Once placed on the web site, an email will be sent to members with the password. When the password is changed, it will be distributed via email. There is a single password for all members.

Please Renew Your Membership

As of September 26, the following groups and individual members have yet to renew their memberships for the 2011-2012 year which began on July 1. Delegates, because association treasurers rarely receive the newsletter, please print or cut out the Membership Form from page 11, fill in the information needed and mail it to MCCF Treasurer William Schrader with a check for the dues.

Groups Yet to Renew

Bannockburn Civic Association
 Bradley Boulevard Citizen Association
 Burnt Mills Hill Civic Association
 Edgemoor Citizens Association
 Fox Hills West Citizens Association
 Greater Olney Civic Association
 Greenwich Forest Citizens Assn
 Kensington Heights Citizens Association
 Kensington View Civic Association
 Kenwood Park Citizens Association, Inc.

Luxmanor Citizens Association
 Manor Lake Civic Association
 McKenney Hills Carroll Knolls Civic Assn
 Parkview Citizens Association
 Parkwood Residents Association
 Rock Creek Palisades Citizens Association
 Snowdens Mill Homeowners Association
 South Tuckerman-Inverness Citizens Association
 Southeast Rural Olney Civic Association
 Tulip Hill Citizens Association
 Twinbrook Citizens Association
 Woodmoor Pinecrest Citizens Association

Individuals

Diana Conway	Julie Davis
Jenny Sue Dunner	Jennifer Fajman
Timothy J French	Jordan (Jay) Harding
Agnes Jones Trower	Norman Knopf
Caren Madsen	Ben Petree
Helen A. "Andy" Reed	Beverly Sobel
Maria Stephens	Evan Stephens
Dale Tibbitts	

Forum on Zoning Code Rewrite

A public forum sponsored by the Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board, the President's Council of Silver Spring (Prezco), civic associations and the Silver Spring Regional Center will be held on Sunday, Oct 2 from 2-4 pm in the Silver Spring Civic Building. The goal of the forum is to educate the public about the huge changes coming to Montgomery County as the Planning Department rewrites the zoning code and creates and implements new types of zoning. Our speakers will be Pam Dunn from the Planning Department and Julie Davis, Neighborhood Montgomery, a neighborhood network promoting sensible growth that monitors the zoning rewrite process closely and provides information on developments.

Zoning Advisory Panel Dates

We encourage those who are following the rewriting of the County's Zoning Code to sit in on one or more of the meetings of the Zoning Advisory Panel (ZAP). Typically, the Zoning Advisory Panel meets the third Wednesday of the month in the auditorium at the Planning Department, 8787 Georgia Ave. from 7:00-9:00pm. The October meeting date is tentative, based on coordination with Code Studio, the professional consulting firm rewriting the code. The list of our fall/winter meeting dates is as follows.

October 19th (possibly 25th)
 November 16th
 December 21st
 January 18th
 February 15th
 March 21st

Questions? Contact Pam Dunn at Park & Planning: Pamela.Dunn@montgomeryplanning.org

Civic Fed's Positions on Proposed Zoning Code Changes
By Jim Humphrey, Planning and Land Use Chairman

The following positions have been presented to the Council regarding the proposed changes to our Zoning Code. Thanks to PLU Committee members for your help on this.

- CR Town Zone should not be applied to properties adjacent or confronting properties zoned for single-family residential use

MCCF is aware that CRT zoning is being recommended for a property abutting an R-60 single-family zoned property in the Kensington Sector Plan. While this Council may deem it appropriate to apply the CRT Zone at a 70 foot height in this situation, we believe it will set the precedent for another Council in another master plan applying CRT, at the full FAR or 110 foot height allowed, adjacent to a single-family zoned property. We believe this would be grossly incompatible in scale, and should be prevented.

- CR Neighborhood Zone should be capped at a maximum 1.0 FAR and 45 foot height limit (Sec.59-C-15.121).

While the Planning Department has repeatedly stated CRN would only be applied in commercial areas beyond the borders of residential neighborhoods, MCCF is aware that R-60 zoned properties in the Kensington View neighborhood are recommended for CRN zoning in the Wheaton Sector Plan. As a result, we strongly believe that lower limits to the mass and height in the CRN Zone are necessary to insure compatibility of buildings with nearby single-family homes. This is especially important if multiple CRN zoned lots are assembled, resulting in a structure with a large footprint.

- While we do not think it appropriate at present to discuss the means of applying the CR Zones as part of the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite Project (possibly by means of a District Map Amendment), we believe an effort should now be made to inform County residents of the intent to replace all current commercial zones with CR in the near future.
- MCCF still has concerns about the "Special regulations for optional method of development" (formerly, the "Incentive density provisions"), namely that the points allowed some public benefits exceed the effort required to provide the benefit or the actual long term value of the

benefit to the County or the community (Sec.59-C-15.9)

For example, regarding recommended points for Transit Proximity (59-C-15.952), we believe that if the categories for "Adjacent or Confronting" and "Between ½ mile and 1 mile" were deleted, this would result in fewer points being awarded to projects merely for the location of the property, allowing other significant public benefits to be provided instead.

We greatly appreciate Council members taking into account the views of the Civic Federation and trust you will seriously consider making these few changes to ZTA 11-01. They are designed to protect existing residential neighborhoods, and to insure the County receives appropriate economic benefit from Optional Method CR projects in return for providing increased infrastructure and services to accommodate the allowed density. Thank you.

European Countries Embrace “Multi-modal Transportation”

By Peggy Dennis, President

Two things filled me with envy during my recent trip to Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland: (1) power and utility lines are rarely above ground and (2) governments long ago made commitments to multi-modal transportation that we would do well to emulate. These two features are related.

In all three countries we were impressed by the fact that every primary road we traveled had a well-engineered and well maintained pedestrian/bike path running beside it. The ped/bike paths are parallel and close to the roads so motorists coming out of driveways and cross streets can easily see all types of travelers. The paths follow the same grades as the roads, unlike so many of our “hiker/biker” paths which are set back 40 to 50 feet from the road and follow the natural contours of the land resulting in many more steep hills to discourage use by bicyclists. The German bike/ped paths were also built with street trees planted either in the narrow strip between the road and the path, or close to the path on the side away from the road. These trees are now mature and they offer all travelers a beautiful, shady, green passage that is much cooler and more inviting for summer bicycling and walking than our hiker/biker paths. The paths are used by many local people – walkers and bikers – of all ages, even in the rural areas. They are sufficiently appealing to also be a draw for vacationers wanting to take bicycling holidays in the countryside.

I compare the German roadside paths to the hiker/biker path constructed along Seven Locks Road between River Road and the Beltway during the early 1980s. I circulated a petition in advance of the

construction among my neighbors (my first attempt at civic activism) asking the State Highway Administration to spare more of the trees within the public right-of-way so that the hiker/biker path would be shaded. Our petition was ignored and all trees were cleared from the wide right-of-way. To this day this stretch of Seven Locks Road is covered with thin, half-hearted grass which the county must mow at regular intervals. Visually, it's an ugly no-man's land, and the unshaded path is too hot during the summer to be a pleasant or inviting public asset. We did a little better with trees planted more recently along the hiker/biker path at the western end of Falls Road. But the selection of trees there left much to be desired. The hollies and evergreens would never have grown up and over to shade the path, and the local deer have munched them into horribly misshapen forms anyway. The few deciduous trees were similarly unprotected and rarely watered, so most have died or struggle to merely survive. One must wonder why our county DOT planners cannot select better trees for our public paths, and plant, protect and water them well enough to get them off to a good start. A job poorly done and without the necessary follow up, ends up wasting the taxpayers' money.

Back to the first point: power and utility lines. We rarely saw them anywhere in our travels. For many decades power lines in Europe have been routinely buried underground. The result? The Europeans rarely experience electrical outages. And the trees along their roads are permitted to grow up into their beautiful, natural forms without the kind of radical and bizarre pruning and topping that PEPCO and the Asplundh Company have perpetrated on our street trees. I think it's time our elected officials require PEPCO to start on a prioritized schedule of undergrounding. If we have to pay somewhat higher rates for our electricity, I think it would be well worth it.

Europeans in the cities we visited - Rostock, Luxembourg, Bern and Lucerne – routinely travel their streets less by car and more by buses and trams, by foot, by bicycle, by in-line skates, by scooters and skateboards. It's a rich and eclectic mix. Mail, for instance, is delivered via specially equipped bicycles. We rarely saw safety helmets, but motorists, cyclists and all the other forms of muscle-powered transport seem to go along slowly, carefully and considerately. Our 35-year old former foreign exchange son in Bern owns several bicycles for different purposes but no car. He uses the local equivalent of Zipcar when he must have an auto. McDonalds (yes, the fast food chain vilified in “Supersize Me”) is funding a low cost bike rental program in Bern. Naturally, we had to give that a try, and it is a winner! The bikes were great and easy to handle, the paperwork minimal, and the price unbeatable: the first three hours are free and after that you pay one Swiss franc per hour. [Note:

D.C. already has BikeShare up and running – a very similar and very popular program]

Children are taught street and safety skills from a very early age. We saw bicycles for toddlers that have no peddles or brakes, but which allow even the tiniest tots to push themselves along by their feet and learn to keep their balance and mind what's going on around them before they graduate to regular two-wheelers. We watched for fifteen minutes as a local village policeman in Habkern, Switzerland took a group of 10 children through their paces in an on-the-road bike safety course as part of their school curriculum. Our "Safe Routes to School" is on the right track, but it needs to be expanded and included in every school to help us catch up with our European counterparts. And we have so much catching up to do!

Education Report

By Paula Bienenfeld, Education Chair

Update on New Superintendent, Josh Starr

In August MCPS held a meet-and-greet at which our President, Peggy Dennis, welcomed and hand delivered an invitation to Superintendent Starr to be our program presenter at the September monthly meeting. Despite repeated follow-ups, we never received a response. There are, however, a number of events at which you can meet Josh Starr beginning with a series of evening 'Listen and Learn' events, which began in September. The remaining 'Listen and Learn' events are as follows:

- Oct 3: Watkins Mill High School, 10301 Apple Ridge Rd., Gaithersburg
- Oct 10 Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, 4301 East-West Hwy., Bethesda
- Oct 18 Long Branch Community Center, 8700 Piney Branch Rd., Silver Spring
- Nov 1 Damascus High School, 25921 Ridge Rd., Damascus
- Nov 7 Wheaton High School, 12601 Dalewood Dr., Silver Spring
- Nov 21 Sherwood High School, 300 Olney-Sandy Spring Rd., Sandy Spring

All events are scheduled from 7 pm to 8:30 pm, except for the Bethesda-Chevy Chase event, which will be held from 7:30 pm to 9 pm.

Book Club

There will be three book clubs to which the community at large is invited. The first is on November 29th, at the Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, and will also be available via webinar. Mindset: The New Psychology of Success by Carol Dweck will be discussed at the November book club. Dr. Dweck is the Lewis and Virginia Eaton Professor at the

Department of Psychology, Stanford University. While the book is available for purchase, Dr. Dweck's articles are available for free at her website, at <https://www.stanford.edu/dept/psychology/cgi-bin/drupal/cdweck>. The book is a popular version of her research and professional articles, so familiarity with some of the professional articles would be sufficient for an interesting conversation.

The two other book clubs are to be held on January 31st, 2012 and April 24th, 2012 but locations and books haven't been announced yet.

Town Hall Meetings for Students

Starr will hold two Town Hall-style meetings for students, on October 12th and November 9th. Locations have not yet been determined, so please monitor the news and MCPS websites for additional information.

Update on Deutsche Bank Spending

As I have been reporting, the Board of Education holds a Master Lease agreement with Deutsche Bank. To date taxpayers have paid \$22million, and now an additional \$16million for lease/purchases under this Master Lease agreement. We have learned that the Master Lease agreement is not only for Deutsche Bank, but also for First Southwest Leasing Company, the Carlyle Group, and Bank of America. Thanks to Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) efforts by Janis Sartucci of the Parents Coalition, the Master Lease is now available at the Parents Coalition blog, at <http://tinyurl.com/masterlease>. So the first step, getting a copy of the Master Lease, is complete, we think. The next step is to find out what items were purchased/leased under this Master Lease agreement.

Update on Artificial Turf Report

The final version of the Artificial Turf Report, "A Review of Benefits and Issues associated with Natural Grass and Artificial Turf Rectangular Fields" was issued on September 14th. All comments are in a very large appendix. The report is available at both the Parks Department and MCPS websites. For some reason, even though it was the Council T&E committee that requested the 'Work Group' be formed, the report is not available on the Council's website. The report was supposedly prepared by a Work Group consisting of staff from MCPS; the Parks Department; the Department of the Environment; and the County Council. However, we have no documents to show that this is true and no documents other than the draft and final report itself to show that the "work group" ever met. I have been trying for months to get answers to some questions concerning the work group:

- when were the work group meetings held
- who attended the meetings
- where are the minutes and notes from the meetings
- how many labor hours were spent on this report;
- how much did the work group process cost taxpayers;

So far we have not gotten any answers to these basic questions.

The report still has a number of half-truths, confused misrepresentations and basic lies about artificial turf and in particular the FieldTurfTarkett material used in Montgomery County. Briefly, the artificial turf is composed of tons of ground-up used truck and auto tires that would otherwise go into a hazardous waste landfill. This material includes lead, heavy metals, and known carcinogens.

It appears the approach taken by the Work Group under the aegis of the County Council is the same approach taken by groups that seek to confuse the issues and facts of global warming, or evolution; to wit, that we don't really know if this is really happening, and the science doesn't bear out the statements by scientists that it exists. Don't be confused, though. Artificial turf is hazardous and expensive. It creates heat islands that can be seen from outer space and has been documented as such by NASA. The crumb rubber degrades and seeps into stormwater runoff; children trek it home in the form of the 'black sticky gunk' that adheres to their clothes and shoes. It is not safe. It is not even needed. Well maintained natural turf fields are better for the environment and they are safe. Period. And here's an added plus: the turf grass for those natural turf fields is grown right here in Montgomery County's Ag Reserve. So, we could be supporting our local farmers while doing the best thing for the environment as well as our children's health and safety.

National History Day Curriculum

As the school year is starting, I want to put in a plug for the wonderful National History Day (NHD) Curriculum, which is used at some schools in the County. Some teachers follow the curriculum provided, others act as sponsors for children who strike out on their own. The curriculum is also used by home-schoolers and those children turn out in large numbers at our county's NHD competition day. NHD requires critical thinking, writing, reading of primary and secondary sources, and a deep understanding of the topic chosen. Our Montgomery County Historical Society sponsors and organizes NHD in MoCo, and generally does the heavy lifting for the day. This year the NHD theme is Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History, and the competition day is Saturday, March 17th, at Richard Montgomery High

School. Judges and volunteers are needed, so if you would like to volunteer for one day, please contact Taylor Baltzer at the Montgomery County Historical Society and let him know. Contact information is: email: Tbaltzer@MontgomeryHistory.org, or phone: 301-340-2871.

Committee for Montgomery **By Dan Wilhelm, MCCF Delegate to CFM** **and CFM Vice President**

MCCF is one of five civic groups represented on the Committee for Montgomery (CFM). CFM is a coalition of forty leaders representing a broad cross-section of Montgomery County business, labor, education, civic, and other community-based organizations. One of CFM's missions is to advocate in Annapolis on issues of importance to Montgomery County and the State, including the state budget.

While its membership is diverse and reflects a broad spectrum of political views, CFM members unite in support of its priorities, which include: education, health and human services, economic and workforce development, fiscal responsibility, transportation and the environment. CFM shapes its state legislative and budget priorities based on its goal of preserving and strengthening Montgomery County and Maryland as a great place in which to live, work and learn.

MCCF participates in CFM for two primary reasons:

To be more effective. If CFM supports positions of interest to MCCF, it carries more weight because CFM represents a wide cross section of groups in Montgomery County. A number of the CFM members from other organizations are paid to publically represent their group and in some cases are registered lobbyists.

To share information and the workload. There are well over a thousand bills introduced in Annapolis each session. It is a huge effort to scan that many bills and identify those of interest to MCCF. It is also hard to have enough background to understand what they are attempting to achieve. Working with the CFM Issues Committee and Executive Committee allows me to learn about information that others have learned and also share MCCF's views with them.

The Committee for Montgomery kicks off the start of the January-April legislative session with a breakfast attended by approximately 600 people, including most county, state and some federal politicians. This year the breakfast will held on Friday December 16, 2009 at 7:00 AM at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. The keynote speaker will be Maryland Senate President, Mike Miller; the County Executive and Council President will also speak. The cost for individuals is \$60. I urge as many as possible to attend.

If you have any questions about the Committee for Montgomery, log onto their website at committeeformontgomery.org, or contact me, Dan Wilhelm, at 301-384-2698 or by email at djwilhelm@verizon.net.

Stormwater Still a Cloudy Subject for Most Citizens

By Carole Ann Barth, Parks & Recreation Chair

Montgomery County citizens have the reputation of being environmentally savvy, but I wonder if we would have done any better than our Baltimore neighbors did on Upstream, Downstream, a study of public attitudes about stormwater. The study was conducted in 2007 by an opinion research firm (OpinionWorks) at the behest of the Baltimore Stormwater Action Coalition. Although the study was specific to Baltimore, I think it also holds valuable information for us.

Here are some of the key findings:

- Only one resident in six knows for sure that stormwater is not treated before it re enters our waterways. Most people see no connection between a spilled garbage can in Towson and floating trash in the Inner Harbor. They are more apt to think the trash comes from thoughtless tourists in paddleboats.
- Twice as many Baltimore area residents see the health of local waters getting worse (34%), rather than better (16%). The rest said the condition of the waters is not changing, or they were not sure.
- Nearly three quarters (72%) believe that trash is having a negative economic impact on the City of Baltimore—a number nearly as high as the 82% who said crime was hurting the city economically.
- Almost one quarter (22%) of the residents interviewed were not able to picture a storm drain near their home.
- In the focus groups, very few people could define a watershed, let alone name the watershed in which they live.
- A total of 83% agree with the statement “If I knew what to do to help clean up local waters, I would do a lot more.” A solid majority of 52% strongly agree with that statement.
- Once people feel personally connected to their local storm drain, they will be ready to hear a more complex message about nutrients and contaminants.
- We tested both print and electronic media to evaluate how effective different approaches might be in the greater Baltimore area. The research tested both well known and lesser

known campaigns and materials that have been used elsewhere in the Bay region, as well as other parts of the country.

Respondents were clear that they found the ads most effective when they:

- Asked them to take one, simple action.
- Told them why the action was important.
- Gave them local contact information or a Web address if they wanted to know more.
- In general, the most visual concepts drew the strongest response. The most effective campaigns used uncomplicated messages, colorful graphics, and focused chiefly on the core health concerns of residents.

These findings suggest that we probably have a lot of public education to do in order to meet the new water quality requirements of the county’s stormwater management permit and the new Chesapeake Bay pollution diet (Bay TMDL or total maximum daily load.) See the complete Upstream, Downstream study at <http://tinyurl.com/updownstream>

“Tour du Port”

Is your bicycle as rusty as your bicycling confidence? Got cabin fever and need to get out and about to see a new locale? Join 2500 experienced and novice bicyclists on Sunday, October 9th to tour Baltimore City and surrounding rural areas. The “Tour du Port” organized by Bike Maryland, our statewide bicycle advocacy organization, is a superb way to safely tour Baltimore's historic neighborhoods, waterfront areas and beautiful parks in a way that can't be experienced from the seat of your car. A variety of rides are offered from 13 to 65 miles. This fully supported tour includes lunch, refreshments at rest stops and a post-ride celebration with live music at Tour's end. Information and advance registration are at: www.bikemd.org.

Free Movies for Seniors From the West Montgomery County Regional Services Center

Senior Forum, a program of the Montgomery County Police Department, offers seniors free monthly movies on Wednesday mornings, beginning at 9:30, at Montgomery Mall from June to December. Even better, there are door prizes. Before the movies start, there is a brief safety information presentation by a police department officer.

The schedule for the remainder of this year is as follows: October 5, "Morning Glory," with Harrison Ford; November 2, "What's Up, Doc?," with Barbra Streisand; and December 7, "Water for Elephants," with Robert Pattison.

Minutes of the September 12 Meeting

By Sue Schumacher, Secretary

Call to Order: Vice President Carole Ann Barth called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm with introductions all around. Agenda was approved.

Minutes: it was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 13 meeting as printed in the September newsletter. The minutes were duly approved.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bill Schrader announced that there was a list of paid associations (to date 37 associations and 10 individuals) and copies of the proposed 2012 Budget which was also printed in the September newsletter.

Community Hero: Carole Ann Barth introduced the Washington Revels, represented by Greg Lewis. Mr. Lewis, the founder of Washington Revels, explained that the group, now headquartered in Montgomery County, stages celebrations of cultures from all over the world.

Program: Sustainability. Paula Bienenfeld introduced the panel: Jennifer Bitting an environmental engineer with the Department of Homeland Security, Doug Weisberger and Eric Coffman, both Senior Planners with Montgomery County Department of the Environment, and Roger Berliner, County Council District 1. Ms. Bitting started the program by defining Sustainability, using the UN definition "Sustainability development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". She explained that this involves the three pillars of Social, Economic and Environmental Development.

Councilman Berliner spoke on the fact that Montgomery County has been very pro-active on this subject. The Council has passed legislation to reduce greenhouse gases by 20% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. Other actions that the County Council has taken include Solar Energy Tax Credits, and Home Energy Loan programs. However, Councilman Berliner did add that due to the current financial situation in the County, the County's Energy Credits program will probably be suspended; the Home Loan program has been suspended because banks had won a court injunction against it.

Eric Coffman is in charge of the Energy Activities and Residential Rebate Program for the County. This includes green buildings and lots of solar. There will be a new, one-stop shopping page for living green in the County website ready in October
www.mcenergyfunding.com

Doug Weisberger heads the Green Business Certification Program which is for the day-to-day operations in the workplace. There are currently 32 businesses in the county in the program including Marriott, Lockhead-Martin, lots of accounting firms, law offices etc. He also works with community based environmental groups such as Bethesda Green, Focus and government, business, civic and residential groups.

There was a question and answer period.

2012 Budget: It was moved and seconded to adopt the proposed 2012 budget. Budget adopted.

Committee Reports

Education: Paula Bienenfeld, Chair announced that the new Superintendent is having meetings at high schools around the County. In addition, he is starting a book club. The first book is Mind Set, by Dweck. Paula also addressed redistricting by the Board of Education and the equitable distribution of resources, and that State law 3-901 singles out Montgomery County as the only county in the state of Maryland that is not allowed to have 9 members on the Board of Education.

State Legislation/CFM: Dan Wilhelm, co- Chair, reported that the State Legislature would have its special session on October 17 to deal with Congressional re-districting and Board of Education re-districting. Dan also said that if the Federal Government does not continue the Federal Gas Tax, Maryland stands to lose \$45 million a month.

Planning and Land Use: Jim Humphrey, Chair announced that the County's Planning Department will be presenting its semi-annual report to the County Council on October 4t. He also stated that he believes the PHED Committee of the County Council will have its last meeting on ZTA 11-01, dealing with CR Neighborhood and CR Town Zones, on September 19. Lastly he said that the Kensington Sector plan will have a public hearing before the Council on October 11.

Parks: Carole Ann Barth reported on the Department of Parks wanting an "expression of interest" for under-utilized buildings on park land. Businesses that can demonstrate proof of running a business that meets Park goals may apply by September 23. This is geared towards daycare centers, nature groups etc. Of particular note, there will be no support for maintenance.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:55p.m.

Minutes: September 22 Executive Committee Meeting

By Ann McDonald, Acting Secretary

Call to order at 7:53 by President Peggy Dennis at the home of Dan Wilhelm. Attendees: Bill Schrader, Ann McDonald, Dan Wilhelm, Jim Humphrey, David Shaw, Paula Bienenfeld, Chuck Lapinski. The agenda for the September ExComm meeting was approved.

Announcements: Any posts sent into the MCCF web site must include a brief description of any links included. As any issue on the web site is completed, it will be moved to an archive page. As MCCF resolutions are passed, exact wording on the web site will include a link to newsletter where it was approved. Dan Wilhelm was congratulated on being named Vice Chair of the Committee for Montgomery. President Dennis confirmed next annual MCCF Awards Ceremony: May 11, 2012 at New Fortune Restaurant.

Minutes: The Minutes of the last meeting were approved, once a quorum was present.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Schrader reported two more local associations joined MCCF.

Programs: Organization of the October program on Public Safety Issues will be done by Peggy Dennis. Four of 5 Regional Services Center directors have agreed to participate in November program. Dan Wilhelm suggested inviting the new Inspector General as back-up program if October program falls through. Paula Bienenfeld reported MCPS Superintendent Starr's office still has not responded to requests to address MCCF.

Community Hero: Neighborhood Montgomery (Meredith Wellington) was approved for a Community Hero award at either October 10 or November 14 meeting, depending on whether Max Bronstein has arranged for October award to Marvin Weinman. Anyone who sponsors a Community Hero must advise awardee(s) in advance to stick to the 3-minute time limit for any remarks.

Discussion Topics: Reaction to September program on Sustainability very positive. President Peggy Dennis requested Max Bronstein to ask State Senator Madaleno (at the September 22 Taxpayers' League meeting) how to get more accountability and transparency from the school board.

Committee Reports

Legislation: Dan Wilhelm reported that 17 October is the date for special session of the state legislature to enact changes to district boundaries congress and school board based upon the 2010 census.

Transportation: Dan Wilhelm reported County Executive's Transit Task Force is working hard. A list of proposed routes in addition to the 16 routes identified in the MCDOT Bus Rapid Transit Study have been submitted to Planning Board for their consideration in the Master Plan of Highways amendments they are working on. The task force is thinking that no Federal funds will be used but has not yet started work on how to fund the system. Rockefeller Foundation is paying contractor to study how local bus routes will get restructured.

Jim Humphrey said new Transportation Area Review tests for road and traffic capacity are needed, as part of Subdivision Staging Policy (formerly Growth Policy), because PAMR inappropriately balances transit with road capacity. County Exec. Leggett supported new tests, but Council hasn't found time this year to consider it. President Dennis announced Bike Share program may be expanding to Montgomery County and MCCF will assist DOT & MNC-PPC in geographically specific bike conferences in future.

Planning/Land Use: Jim Humphrey reported 3 Master/Sector Plans are waiting for new CR zones to be approved under ZTA 11-01 (Kensington, Wheaton, Takoma -Langley). Kensington will have a separate hearing. CR-Neighborhood recommended to be mapped in the Wheaton Sector Plan in an R-60 Kensington neighborhood. Jim wrote to Council saying CR-Town zone should not be applied next to residential properties, and asking that CR-Neighborhood buildings next to residential neighborhoods be limited to same height as houses, for compatibility.

Education: Paula Bienenfeld said final Artificial Turf report has come out. There will be a Sept. 26 County Council hearing. Lots of parents have commented in favor, but Paula considers the report a white-wash. It denies any problems with artificial turf, e.g. powder wash-off, that people have observed. She is trying to find out what the report cost to prepare. She is trying to get details of MCPS' payments to Deutsche Bank (\$22 million last year; \$16 million this year) for equipment leasing. Janis Sartucci got the master lease agreement (which includes school buses, computer equipment) through FOIA, (It is available on the Parents' Coalition blog). Paula is trying to find out disposition of this equipment, because there is no legislative requirement that MCPS account for it. President Dennis suggested checking with Taxpayers' League which is supposed to have someone familiar with MCPS budget. Because parents don't want their kids bused to Tilden Middle school while Farquhardt School is being renovated, MCPS is now considering a land swap. They would use a 17-acre parcel next to the school which is now designated for a subdivision park to build a new

school. They would demolish the old school and turn over that land for the community park. The PTA likes this option but neighbors aren't happy. The School Superintendent's Transition Report, just out, says they talked to community leaders and local government people. So far, Paula has not found anyone who was interviewed for the report. The Special Education community is upset because Superintendent Starr has said some disparaging things about Special Ed programs.

Public Safety: President Dennis' testimony on new Teen Curfew Bill is on MCCF web site (July 26 meeting video is on County Council web site). President Dennis reported there will be a 12 October youth town hall meeting on the bill, which goes back to Council's Public Safety Committee on 3 November (Andrews said all 9 Councilmembers will attend). County Exec. Leggett may propose making curfew violation a misdemeanor without fine. They will drop language calling for teens to carry employer letters, if going to and from jobs after curfew. No further action needed.

Finance: Chuck Lapinski reported that Madaleno talked to the Taxpayers' League. The State budget is feeling the loss of Federal stimulus money. One issue is whether State will replace money taken from Transportation Trust Fund, to make up for budget shortfalls. State may consider raising the gas tax and has already increased tolls. Also the state is considering transferring 50% of the cost of schools teacher pensions back on counties. Local governments are against the Governor's proposed Plan Maryland. Although imminent domain was supposed to be used for government functions, a Supreme Court decision could give the State the ability to use it for general development under Plan Maryland. Madaleno said he would bring this up in next legislative session. Another issue is what the school system does with the personal information it collects on students and families.

Newsletter Assignments: Deadline for submissions to President Dennis is Sept. 28. Jim Humphrey will provide something on ZTA 11-01. President Dennis asked Dan Wilhelm to send her a list of all MCCF members in arrears.

Next ExComm Meeting: Thursday, October 20, at Sandy Vogelgesang's

Adjournment: 10:15 pm



Transportation for four: outside the city offices in Wismar, Germany.

Montgomery County Civic Federation

Serving the County since 1925

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

Mail to: William H. Schrader (Treasurer)
 12824 Middlevale Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20906
 301-946-6545; schraderw@erols.com

Inquiries: Dan Wilhelm (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 civic/community)	50+ memberships, not households		\$45*	2	Yes
Individual Associate	(not applicable)		\$20*	1	No
Associate Group (Gov't agency, business, or other organization)	(not applicable)		\$85*	2	No

***A \$5 discount may be taken for each person who elects to receive the newsletter via email – please check e-mail box below.** Organizations can also select less than the allowed number of delegates and pay according to that number. Please provide all the information below no matter the newsletter delivery method.

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

Federation Meeting

Session 830

Monday, October 10, 2011
7:45 1st Floor Auditorium
County Council Office Building.
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD

Agenda:

7:45 Call to Order & Introductions
7:50 Announcements
7:52 Approval of Agenda
7:53 Approval of Minutes of September 12 meeting
7:55 Treasurer's Report
7:55 Community Hero: Marvin Weinman
9:00 Program: Current Issues in Public Safety
9:15 Committee Reports
9:40 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 Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD.

The **Civic Federation News** is published monthly, except in July and August. 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, October 22, 2011.** 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

DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20

At the home of Sandy Vogelgesang

9009 Charred Oak Drive

Bethesda, MD 20817



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

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