



Civic Federation News

September 2012
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

September Program: Moving Toward Reliable Electricity in Montgomery County

By Carole Ann Barth, President

Our program on Monday, September 10 will focus on concerns about the reliability of electricity in the county and how we, as residents, can move forward. What are our options? How can we move towards renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power? Speakers will include Robert Loube, Vice President, Rolka Loube Saltzer Associates. Mr. Loube is an economist who provides technical assistance to state and Federal government agencies in utility matters. He has also helped the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA); and held the position of Director of the Office of Economics of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia. Additional presenters have been invited, but have not yet confirmed at time of printing.



How Do You Do?

By Jim Zepp, Public Safety Chair

This is the inaugural edition of a new column for the MCCF monthly newsletter. All of our member organizations face common challenges in building and

retaining membership, disseminating information and meeting notices, collecting dues or other revenue to pay for association expenses and activities, and recruiting and developing new leadership. Some have found creative and innovative ways for doing these tasks. Sharing our collective experience and wisdom will benefit us all.

The purpose of this column is to ask questions of the MCCF membership or offer solutions that have worked to build better and stronger civic associations. So, any member can answer questions such as, How do you communicate and do outreach to residents? How do you increase meeting attendance? How do you successfully conduct a neighborhood survey?

If you have a question or would like to share an idea that has worked for your association, please send them to me at: jzepp@mindspring.com

How Do You Publicize and Increase Attendance at Civic Association Meetings?

Although my neighborhood's civic association, the Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association, distributes a newsletter (with the next meeting information prominently featured) to all of the 1,500 homes in our neighborhood, we would still have residents who would forget or not bother to note the date. As a visual reminder, a set of yard signs are put at the community's main intersections a week before each meeting.

Contents

September Program: Moving Toward Reliable Electricity in Montgomery County	1
How Do You Do?	1
President's Message.....	2
Time to Renew Membership.....	3
Mark Your Calendars.....	3
Where Do You Want to Hold the 2013 Awards Banquet?	3
Update your Contact Information.....	4
Position on 2012 Subdivision Staging Policy.....	4
Amending Our Position on ZTA 12-11: Accessory Apartments	6
Resolution in Support of Bill 21-12, to Ban Coal Tar Pavement Products	6
County Council Bill 23-12, Administration – Open Government	6
Education Committee Report.....	7
Transit Task Force Report	7
Meeting on proposed North Branch Hiker-Biker Trail.....	9
Minutes of the June 11, Meeting.....	9
Minutes of the June 21 Executive Committee Meeting.....	11
Minutes of the MCCF Executive Committee Meeting, August 23, 2012 .	11
Executive Committee Members.....	13
Proposed FY 2013 Budget.....	14
Membership Application or Renewal	15



The signs are 1.5' H x 2' W with metal stands, which cost \$400 for 20 signs. An 11" H x 17" W portion has a white background with black lettering for the day, time, and location of regular Association meetings. The corners of this section have Velcro strips for attaching notices of special community events such as our National Night Out celebration. The signs were printed on both sides with one side having the fabric Velcro strip attached and the opposite side with the hook and loop Velcro strip. This way an equal amount of Velcro strips are used on the special event sign inserts to attach them. These special event notices can either be printed on a large format computer printer or taken to a commercial print shop such as Kinkos which costs about \$.20 a sheet (with 40 copies needed). Rolls of Velcro can be purchased at hardware and other supply stores. Ideally, the need for the Velcro strips would be eliminated if a clear plastic envelope could be attached for holding the special event notices. None of the sign makers contacted for bids offered such an option.

The signs have improved meeting attendance and reduced the embarrassed excuses afterwards. Local public officials have commented about them when driving through the neighborhood which has raised the association's public profile.

President's Message

By Carole Ann Barth, President

The Civic Federation is a not-for-profit, county-wide umbrella group designed to promote cooperation, education and effectiveness of civic and community associations in Montgomery County. What does that mean? It means being a resource for neighborhood, homeowner, and condominium associations. The MCCF monitors county and state policies and legislation affecting our communities and quality of life. It also conducts in-depth studies of critical issues.

This means when a hot issue erupts in your neighborhood, there is usually someone in the Federation who is knowledgeable about the relevant rules, policies, and governmental procedures. That can make a huge difference since opportunities for citizen input are fleeting, and affected residents are often the last to hear about them.

The Federation also means strength in numbers. Too often, citizen activists are dismissed as "NIMBYs". However, that is much harder to do when a County-wide organization speaks on those citizens' behalf. Another tactic employed by those who attempt to run roughshod over communities is to try and play one

group against another. While Federation discussions can at times get heated, they do at least provide a mechanism for cooperation among communities.

So, how can the Federation do a better job? How can we better serve our membership? I posed this question at our July potluck, and the resulting suggestions are listed below. Please send your ideas to me at cbarth@mindspring.com. Also, if you're willing to volunteer some time to help us make improvements, organize an event, or serve on a committee, I really want to talk with you.

Suggestions from July 2012 Potluck

- Expand representation; it's a big County and not all regions are well-represented
- Do a "First Year Free" membership promotion
- Share good ideas on the web page and through a list serve
- Reach out to other jurisdictions; MOCO doesn't know everything
- Ask local association newsletter editors to forward stories with broader appeal
- Do outreach to the wider community
- Overcome the "insider" vocabulary and use fewer acronyms
- Continue the newsletter
- Support the master plans
- Increase attendance (plus specific suggestion, more pot lucks)
- Move the location of meetings and events around the County



Donna Savage of Kensington Heights



Summer Potluck: time for civic leaders to hang out with friends and share great food.

Time to Renew Membership

The Federation's membership year began on July 1. If your association is not on the following list, please print or cut out the Membership Form on the penultimate page of this newsletter, fill in the form and pass it to your treasurer so it can be mailed in with the dues check as soon as possible. And we thank those "johnny on the spot" groups listed below who have already taken care of this boring little administrative chore.

Allanwood-Gayfields-Willson Hills-Gaywood Estates Civic Association
 Battery Park Citizens Association
 Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights
 Congressional Forest Community Association
 Coquelin Run Citizens Association
 East Silver Spring Citizens Association
 Garrett Park Estates-White Flint Park Citizens Association
 Greater Colesville Citizens Association
 Grosvenor Park Condominium Citizens Association
 Kenwood Condominium
 Layhill South Citizens Association
 North Bethesda Neighborhoods
 Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association
 Seven Oaks-Evanswood Citizens Association
 South Four Corners Citizens Assn.
 Stonegate Citizens Association
 Twinbrook Citizens Association

Ben Petree
 Stan Schiff

Mark Your Calendars

MCCF Monthly Meeting Dates for 2012-2013

September 10
 October 8
 November 12
 December 3*
 January 14, 2013
 February 11
 March 11
 April 8
 May 13
 June 10

*Because the County Office Building auditorium is not available on the second Monday, the December meeting will be a week earlier than usual.

Monday, October 8: Dedication & Plaque Unveiling of the "Wayne Goldstein Center for Responsible Government", 10:00 A.M. at the CountyStat Office, 255 Rockville Pike, Suite L-10.

Wednesday, October 10: Forum for Candidates for the Board of Education, Organized by Safe Silver Spring with MCCF co-sponsoring, 7:00 PM at the Social Hall, Long Branch Community Center, 8700 Piney Branch RD, Silver Spring.

Wednesday, October 17, MCCF Forum for Candidates for the Board of Education, 7:00 p.m. at the Rockville Library,

MCCF Annual Awards Banquet is tentatively scheduled for May 10 at a location to be determined.

Where Do You Want to Hold the 2013 Awards Banquet?

By Peggy Dennis, Awards Committee Chairman

It is difficult to find venues suitable for our Annual Awards Banquet. We look for restaurants with a minimum seating capacity of 120 with open space large enough to handle wedding receptions, anniversary parties and the like. Because such venues tend to be booked many months in advance with May weddings, we must choose our venue and place our deposit in the autumn.

Price per person is important. We have never used the Banquet as a fundraiser. Instead, we seek to maximize attendance by keeping our ticket prices just high enough to cover our costs. On the other hand, no one wants to go to a "banquet" and eat mediocre or boring food such as that endured by candidates on the "rubber chicken" circuit. Close by and free parking is

also an important criteria. Public spaces such as the large event rooms in the Conference Center at the Universities at Shady Grove, the Silver Spring Civic Center and Brookside Gardens are an option but require a caterer. This creates a more difficult logistics and pricing juggling act.

Please contact me with your suggestions by September 15th at 301-983-9738 or hotyakker@gmail.com if you have a favorite restaurant that you would like us to check out, or a favorite caterer that we should consider if using a public event space.

Also, Jesse Cantrill and I would love to have several people join us in forming a true Awards Committee. And start thinking now about individuals and groups whom you would like to nominate for an award next year.

Update your Contact Information

By Peggy Dennis, Editor

Many civic, homeowners and neighborhood associations have newly elected officers or boards take over during the summer or autumn. Please remember to provide updated contact information to those who need to be able to reach you.

All associations should send updates to the Communications Office at Maryland National Capital/Park & Planning Commission. Your contact is Ms. Arnita Jackson at 301-495-4601 or by email at arnita.jackson@mncppc.org

Depending on where you live, you should also update your contact information with your respective Regional Services Center.

Western County:
bethesda.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov

Silver Spring: silver.spring@montgomerycountymd.gov

Mid-County:
midcounty.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov

Eastern County:
eastco.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov

Up-County:
upcounty.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov

Position on 2012 Subdivision Staging Policy

by Jim Humphrey, Chair, PLU Committee

In late July the Planning Board adopted a recommended 2012 Subdivision Staging Policy (SSP) for the county, formerly called the Growth Policy, and transmitted it to the County Council for consideration and approval. The Board's draft Policy can be accessed via a link on the MCCF website homepage. The Council public hearing will be held Tuesday, September 18 at 7:30 p.m.

One of the changes made in the last cycle was to change Council approval from once every two years to every four years, so the SSP approved this year will be in place until 2016. The following is a list of the 18 recommendations made to the Council by the Planning Board (can be found starting on page XX of the Board's SSP online document), and the PLU recommended position on each. Delegates will consider and vote on this position at the September 10 MCCF meeting.

Transportation Policy Area Review (TPAR)

1) Adopt the TPAR methodology for determining adequacy of transit and roadway facilities. Establish Adequacy standards for transit service and roadways in the SSP resolution.

PLU: Strongly support splitting of tests for roadway and transit adequacy, but think targets are set too low to insure adequate roadway level of service.

2) Determine TPAR fees to be paid by private development based on cost of transit improvement needed in each policy area by 2022 divided by the number of new trips projected in each policy area by 2022, and the cost of roadway improvements needed in each policy area by 2040 divided by the number of new trips projected for each policy area by 2040, setting the public/private contribution rate at 50 percent and setting the minimum payment at \$600 and the maximum payment at \$12,000 per new trip-end.

PLU: Support setting private contribution rate of at least 50%, but urge a single countywide average TPAR contribution payment be charged per trip-end.

3) As TPAR revenues are collected, they should be applied to the improvement of transit service and roadway construction on a proportional basis to the transit and roadway deficiencies.

PLU: Support, but if no road or transit projects are on an area's priority list then all fees in that area should go to improvements in the other mode.

4) Update the TPAR test every two years starting in 2012 to assess transportation adequacy, to assist in incorporating new transportation strategies and data, and to assist in fine-tuning the priorities for the CIP.

PLU: Support but believe if a mid-cycle update (every two years) is so desirable then the Council should go back to a 2-year SSP cycle.

5) Remove the ability to offset TPAR payments through developer-funded projects.

PLU: Support.

6) Remove Special Mitigation Standards.

PLU: Support.

7) Remove existing exemptions from the regional transportation test, and add Affordable Housing as an exemption.

PLU: Support with amendment to not add Affordable Housing exemption, since there are adequate incentives for AH in zoning.

8) Develop and implement a monitoring program that would periodically report on the implementation and adequacy of TPAR to the Planning Board and the County Council.

PLU: Strongly support, but might be unnecessary if Council went back to 2-year cycle.

Local Area Transportation Review (LATR)

9) Incorporate the 2010 Highway Capacity Manual (2010 HCM) methodology at intersections in urban and suburban policy areas where the Critical Lane Volume (CLV) is greater than or equal to 1600.

PLU: Mildly support but believe this recommendation merits further discussion and education of Council and public on 2010 HCM methodology.

10) Add 2010 HCM volume-to-capacity standards for intersections where queuing and delay are being analyzed.

PLU: Oppose; believe further discussion and education of the Council and public should take place on proposed 2010 HCM standards and "more sophisticated analysis" to be applied, before Council considers approving (e.g.; does "up-to-date analytical software" include SYNCHRO and CORSIM, currently used by the State?).

11) The Planning Board will explore modifying the LATR guidelines to allow developers to provide for new or improved transit service as a means of mitigating trips in the computation of LATR requirements.

PLU: Support.

Annual School Test

12) Retain the threshold for a school facility payment at school utilization greater than 105 percent and less than or equal to 120 percent.

PLU: Support.

13) Retain the threshold for school moratoria on new residential subdivisions and construction when school utilization is greater than 120 percent.

PLU: Support.

14) Update the school facility payment rates to reflect the most recent school construction costs available. Update the school facility payment rate based on current construction costs as part of the quadrennial Subdivision Staging Policy.

PLU: Support.

15) Allow the Planning Board to make a mid-cycle finding of school adequacy.

PLU: Oppose--if a mid-cycle finding is so desirable, we suggest the Council go back to a 2-year SSP cycle.

16) Retain the current de minimis exemption, which allows the Planning Board to approve a subdivision in any cluster where public school capacity is inadequate, provided the subdivision consists of no more than three housing units and the applicant commits to pay a school facility payment as otherwise required.

PLU: Support

17) Modify exemption for senior housing such that the Planning Board may approve a subdivision in a cluster where school capacity is inadequate, provided the subdivision consists entirely of housing and related facilities for elderly or handicapped persons or housing units located in an age-restricted section of a planned retirement community. Currently this exemption is restricted to only those units that are multifamily units.

PLU: Support.

18) Retain all current waivers of the school facility payment as currently regulated under Chapter 52 of the Montgomery County Code, which includes a waiver for projects located in an enterprise zone (Wheaton CBD and Long Branch) or former enterprise zones as well as a waiver for moderately priced dwelling units (MPDUs) and other dwelling units built under Chapter 25A, and a waiver for any other dwelling unit built under a government regulation or binding agreement that limits for at least 15 years the price or rent charged for the

unit in order to make the unit affordable to households earning less than 60 percent of the area median income, adjusted for family size.

PLU: We understand rationale behind these waivers, but we oppose them. All reduction, waivers and exemptions from impact taxes and school facility payments or TPAR fees are a concern to existing property owners, especially homeowners, who feel that they are being asked to shoulder too large a portion of the burden to build the necessary infrastructure to accommodate new development.

Amending Our Position on ZTA 12-11: Accessory Apartments

by Jim Humphrey, Chair, PLU Committee

At the May 14 Federation meeting, delegates adopted a seven point position on ZTA 12-11 (zoning text amendment) being proposed by the Planning Department to change the standards and approval process for accessory apartments. (This position can be found on the MCCF website, filed by the May date on the "Resolutions" webpage.)

Since our May meeting a slightly different version of the ZTA was introduced in the County Council. (Text of the introduced ZTA 12-11 can be accessed via a link on our website homepage.) The Council public hearing will be held Tuesday, September 11 at 7:30 p.m.

As a result of the changes from the earlier version that were made to the introduced ZTA, the Planning and Land Use Committee recommends two points be added to the original Federation position. The MCCF Executive Committee agreed to present the additions at the September 10 meeting for consideration and vote of the delegates.

The recommended additions to the Federation position are:

- 1) to support not permitting detached accessory units in the R-60 and R-90 "small lot" zones; and,
- 2) to urge retention of the requirement that a single family detached dwelling in which an accessory apartment is to be created, or to which it is to be added, be at least 5 years old on the date of application for special exception.

Resolution in Support of Bill 21-12, to Ban Coal Tar Pavement Products

By Paula Bienenfeld, Vice President

Whereas coal tar pitch is known to consist of at least 50 percent polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) by weight; and

Whereas PAHs are known to cause cancer in humans; and

Whereas coal tar pavement products contain this known health hazard; and

Whereas dredging studies of Lake Whetstone in Montgomery Village and Gunners Lake in Germantown found elevated levels of PAH, which, according to the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, are likely caused by runoff from these tar sealants;

Therefore the Montgomery County Civic Federation supports Bill 21-12, which would prohibit the use and sale of these coal tar pavement products in the County and require enforcement by the Department of Environmental Protection.

County Council Bill 23-12, Administration – Open Government Recommendation by Jim Zepp, Public Safety Chair

Purpose – This proposed legislation (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/pdf/bill/2012/Packets/20120731_5.pdf) would locally emulate an initiative by the Obama Administration which issued a directive to all Federal agencies on Dec.8, 2009 to make government datasets publicly and freely available through a central Website for information dissemination and analysis. More information about the Federal initiative can be found at: www.whitehouse.gov/open. These efforts are intended to promote greater openness, transparency, and accountability in government. The bill defines basic terminology, sets an annual deadline for publishing data sets and reporting on related activities, and outlines a basic administrative structure for this purpose, including the public tracking of the handling of MD Public Information Act requests by County agencies.

Legislative Background – The bill's lead sponsor is Council Member Riemer with Andrews, Berliner, Leventhal, and Floreen co-sponsoring. It was introduced on July 31, 2012 and a hearing is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 18, 2012 at 1:30 PM.

Recommendation – This bill would expand the public’s ready access to data being collected or generated by County government agencies. Consequently, I believe the MCCF should testify in support of its adoption, but our support should also offer technical amendments that would broaden its applicability to government information-related activities; establish incentives for agency participation in this data publication effort; encourage measures to improve the data quality and utility of the information being disseminated; and provide citizen feedback on the priorities, subject matter, and data quality of the information so released. These amendments would draw on the lessons learned from the previous experience of Federal, state, and other local governments in developing similar data openness projects. I will provide draft amendments for discussion along with a resolution on our support for the September meeting.

Education Committee Report

Paula Bienenfeld, Education Committee Chair

Welcome Back! to all our students, as the public school year began on Monday, August 27th.

The Civic Federation will hold a **Board of Education Candidates’ Forum** on Wednesday, October 17, 7:00 p.m. at the Rockville Library. Mark your calendar now and attend this important event. The BOE is responsible for over half of our entire county budget, with an annual budget that exceeds \$2 Billion. Even if you do not have children in the schools, this enormous amount of money and how it is spent affects every aspect of county life.

Pearson Curriculum aka ‘Curriculum 2.0’ The Pearson curriculum continues its rollout, and will be in all kindergarten through third grade classes this year. Report card grades will be changed to better align with the new curriculum.

Mathletes challenges: Last week the Washington Post ran an article about our Montgomery County Math Team Mathletes, those best and brightest who work hard and long hours to excel at competitive math. These kids compete at the highest levels and many will be going on to colleges and universities like MIT and Yale. Yet, MCPS funding for these students is...wait for it...\$0. Out of a budget of \$2.1Billion it is odd that the County Council and Board of Education cannot find this amount, or raise this amount of money, through private donations, to sponsor these children.

It is odder still that in a county with so many millionaires and even a few billionaires, and home to

businesses like Lockheed Martin and J.W. Marriott, the county government cannot persuade any of our wealthy individuals or businesses to throw a few thousand dollars in the direction of our best students. In contrast, according to a recent story in the Washington Post, “New York City’s [mathletes team] is sponsored by global investment firm D.E. Shaw and Lehigh Valley’s (with a budget of about \$14,000) by a local entrepreneur, a matching grant from Google and Lehigh University, while Phillips Exeter’s has a generous stipend from the private school and is able to recruit from all around the world. It is also coached by the professor who oversees the U.S. team going to the International Mathematical Olympiad.” The complete Washington Post story is at <http://tinyurl.com/wpmathletes>

Montgomery County’s Mathletes Team’s coach is Eric Walstein, a math professor at Montgomery Blair High School. He is due to retire soon. According to the article, the future of the Math Team is unknown.

Transit Task Force Report

by Dan Wilhelm, Transportation Chair

The Transit Task Force (TTF) created by County Executive Leggett provided its report to the Executive on May 22. The full report is available on the county’s web site at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/cex/transit/reportfinal.asp. The TTF recommended a 160 mile network of corridors along many of the existing 4 and 6-lane roads in the urban and suburban areas of the county. The rapid transit vehicles (RTV) that will use these corridors will add substantial people-moving capacity and provide a true alternative to driving for many people and for many trips. I provided a presentation for MCCF members on July 9, a copy of which is on the MCCF web site. Some of the highpoints follow.

We are all painfully aware of the road congestion in the Washington DC area and we have all heard reports that we live in the most congested major metro area in the country. According to the Texas Transportation Institute, the average commuter wasted \$154 annually in fuel in 2008 (at \$3.50 per gal). In addition, employees who travel on the roads for work also wasted an average of \$2000 for fuel and labor in 2008. This business cost is surely passed on to consumers. The recession has reduced these “congestion taxes” some since 2008 but the long-term upward trends are certain to continue as the recession ends. The annual wasted fuel cost has progressively increased since 1982 when it was \$34 (assuming the same price per gal).

The 2010 census found that Montgomery County lost 5000 jobs in the prior decade while Fairfax, other counties in Northern Virginia and Washington DC gained employment. There are surely multiple reasons for the loss in jobs but I think the primary one is road congestion which limits the amount of growth allowed in the county. The loss in jobs impacts us in Montgomery County in several ways. First, those of us who live here must drive further to jobs and some people who live in neighboring jurisdictions (such as Howard or Fredrick Counties) drive through our county to jobs in other neighboring jurisdictions (such as Fairfax County or Washington, DC). The extra driving adds to our congestion, creating a catch 22 situation. In addition, the reduction in jobs also means that there will be fewer taxes from business. As a result, residents will need to pay more taxes or settle for reduced services.

How do we address the road congestion? Many people think more roads are the answer. In 2000 the Planning Board formed a task force known as the Transportation Policy Report (TPR) that looked at what could be done to address the congestion. The TPR looked at over a hundred roads projects (just about every possible one that could add capacity) and several transitway projects that together would have cost over \$10B in 2002. The study concluded that even if all the projects were built in a timely manner, road congestion would continue to get worse. The number of congested vehicle miles traveled was projected to increase from 19.1% in 1998 to 32.2% in 2050. The number of projects actually built over the last decade has been few because of limited available funds.

Since roads don't address the problem by themselves, that leaves transit. The 1964, 1969 and 1993 General Plans stated the same conclusion. Contained in the TPR report was a concept that needed further study that would substantially improve and restructure bus service to form a network of rapid and fast routes along the most major 4 and 6 lane roads in the county. In this concept local buses would be used as feeders to collect people from employment, retail, and residential areas and take them to the major bus routes. The TTF investigated what would need to be done to build such a network.

Let's turn to what the TTF report does recommend. You surely have seen some articles in the newspaper about bus rapid transit (BRT). Since the word bus has a bad connotation, the TTF chose to instead use the term Rapid Transit Vehicle (RTV). The idea is that the RTV should be viewed more like Metrorail but on rubber

tires and running on existing roads. The key attributes identified in the report for the RTV system are:

- Dedicated lanes to the maximum extent possible. The TTF wants travel time to be similar to driving autos, especially during peak periods.
- Stations must be safe, wide and weather-protected.
- RTVs must be sleek and stylish so people will consider using them
- RTVs will be articulated and carry about 120 people.
- RTVs must have doors on both sides with access at elevated platforms to allow quick and easy access, even for people with limit mobility.
- RTVs will operate frequently: 3-5 minutes during peak periods and 5-7 minutes at non-peak times. RTVs will operate late into the night and on weekends, with no more than 15 minutes between RTVs. (Many buses today operate only during peak periods and then operate every 15 to 30 minutes.)
- Routes must be integrated with local bus, pedestrian movement, bicycles, zip cars etc. The local bus routes will be changed so they become feeder buses into employment, shopping, residential and to access other activity centers.

The TTF proposed a 160 mile network consisting of 21 corridors. No other metro area in the country has such a system – they have at most only a few routes. The frequent service will allow people to transfer from one corridor to another or to local bus as needed to reach their destination in a timely manner. The actual design of the routes requires substantial engineering analysis and creativity to work within congested roads and that often have limited or no space to widen. Five basic configurations and other criteria were identified for the design. One alternative for some six lane roads is to re-purpose one lane for sole use by the RTVs. RTVs operating every five minutes and only 60% full carry the same number of people as cars in one lane. If the RTVs were to operate every minute and they were 80% full, it would be the equivalent of 5 auto lanes.

The TTF estimated the cost of the RTV system to be \$1.8B in today's dollars, which included the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) in the Gaithersburg and Germantown area. The cost covered corridor construction, stations, RTVs (at over \$1M each), and maintenance facilities. The TTF recommended the first phase be operational in about 5 years and the entire

system be built in 10 years., which is very fast for transportation projects

The TTF concluded that at best limited federal funding would be available but we should still request it. The state has had no construction funding for any new projects anywhere in the state for the last 3-4 years. They are hard-pressed to maintain what we have and undertake studies for future projects. (There has been a push in Annapolis but without success to increase the gasoline tax or raising taxes or fees in some other way in order to provide more funding for transportation.) Nevertheless, the TTF felt the state should at least pay for the CCT corridor and that the Purple line needs to be funded. The limited federal and state funding means that the majority of the funds must come from Montgomery County. The County doesn't have that level of funds available today and thus there must be a new source of funds.

The TTF considered different taxing sources and there have been many discussions about how much of the typical Capital Improvements Program (CIP) funding can be devoted to the RTV system. I think the source of funding should consider the above funds being spent on the "congestion tax".

The County Executive held a public hearing on the report on July 12. The TTF is starting to develop a document that addresses those comments.

County Executive Leggett indicated on May 22 that he would consider the many alternatives identified in the TTF report and then present his recommendation to the Council for their consideration and action. I expect the Executive will make his recommendation to the Council in early September, about the time you receive this newsletter. I expect the Council will be taking this subject up over several months this fall. Depending upon what is finally decided, there may need to be state legislation to authorize some of the proposals. That may happen with the 2013 session in Jan-April. I don't expect final council decision until next spring. Approval would just mean the hard engineering or coordination will get underway.

On a personal note, this is the first proposal I have seen in my 32 years of being involved with the civic community that I think will address road congestion and at the same time start to address a number of other issues, including global warming. I recall in 1980 objecting to the transit serviceability premise in what became the 1981 Eastern Montgomery County Master Plan because there was no plan or commitment for the

necessary transit. Many have been calling for such a plan and commitment ever since.

Meeting on proposed North Branch Hiker-Biker Trail

From Peggy Dennis, Transportation Committee

M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks invites the public to participate in a meeting to discuss the design of the North Branch Hiker-Biker Trail. The trail will be located in upper Rock Creek Regional Park and the North Branch Stream Valley Park. This trail is proposed to connect the Lake Frank Lakeside Trail to Bowie Mill Park.

The purpose of the meeting is to obtain input and ideas from the public. At this meeting, possible alignments and alternatives will be presented. For more information on this project and to find a site map, go to <http://www.parkprojects.org> and click "Project Status". Then select "Profiles of Major Park Projects" and scroll down to "North Branch Hiker-Biker Trail". Or you can contact project manager Marian Elsasser at Marian.Elsasser@MontgomeryParks.org or (301) 495-3597.

WHEN: Wednesday, September 19, 2012 at 7-9 pm

WHERE: Shady Grove Maintenance Yard Training Room, Building B, 16641 Crabbs Branch Way, Rockville, MD 20855

Note: After entering into the maintenance yard driveway, park in the main parking lot on the left. The training room is located in the adjacent building.

Minutes of the June 11, Meeting By Sue Schumacher, Secretary

Call to Order: President Peggy Dennis called the meeting to order at 7:45 pm. Introductions followed.

Agenda: The agenda was approved with the understanding that there may be friendly amendments to proposed resolutions.

Announcements: It was announced that Parks Committee is dealing with park commemorations and dedications. It was also announced that the Planning Board will have hearings and allow testimony on revised text of proposed Accessory Apartments ZTA, after which it will be introduced in Council. President Peggy Dennis announced new productions by the Victorian Lyric Opera Company.

Minutes: It was moved and seconded to approve the May 14, meeting minutes. The motion was duly approved.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Schrader reported that currently the Civic Fed is running a modest profit on the Awards Dinner.

Program: Jim Humphrey, Chair of the Planning and Land Use Committee, introduced the speakers for the program on the Zoning Rewrite Project. The first part of the program was given by Rose Krasnow, Acting Director of Planning and Josh Sloan of the planning staff. They started by giving a history of the county's zoning. The current version of the re-write project started in 2009 with suggestions by consultants to simplify the commercial zoning codes. Josh Sloan explained that another consultant was hired in 2010, Code Studio. They have been working on the draft rewrite of the entire zoning ordinance. The staff plans to bring the staff draft to the Planning Board by this September and with the target submittal to the County Council by winter of 2012/13. (In the historical review of zoning identified in master plans, it was pointed out that the County does not have enough land to house everyone for the new jobs anticipated in the County. To accommodate the projected population, the staff is projecting that 81% of the new housing will). Rose Krasnow indicated that she understood the lack of citizens' trust in the process, but felt that the Planning staff had looked at it all sensibly. There was an intensive question and answer session.

Jim then introduced Diana Conway and Leslie Marks who were residential members of the Zoning Advisory Panel (ZAP), and former Planning Commissioner, Meredith Wellington. Diana Conway's concerns dealt with protecting the Agriculture Reserve. Ms Wellington urged everyone present not to wait till September. She also suggested that everyone look at the comparisons of the changes at the Planning Department's web site as well as Neighborhood Montgomery's website. (Meredith Wellington is one of the founders of Neighborhood Montgomery). She went on to say that to re-write the entire zoning code for the county is very hard to do all at once. In addition, she pointed out that politics has affected the process. She went on to give the example of Accessory Apartments being pulled out and being brought up separately. She expressed concern about the changes, especially the urbanization of the county. She urged the Planning staff to leave the R 60 and R 90 zones alone. The next speaker of this panel was Leslie Marks from the Commission on Aging. She was looking out for seniors in the zoning re-write.

She is an advocate for the Accessory Apartments, but it was pointed out to her by Jim Humphrey, that what she wanted in zoning for seniors –accessory units to house caregivers—is already allowed “by right”. Next there was a very spirited Question and Answer period. Most of the questions were concerned with density, especially in the lower county.

Resolutions

ZTA 12-07 Special Exception – Automobile Filling Station as printed on page 2 of the June newsletter was introduced by Virginia Sheard, Planning and Land Use Committee. It was moved and seconded. All supported the motion except one opposed and one abstention.

Proposed Resolution on the Transit Task Force Report as presented on pages 2 and 3 of the June newsletter was introduced by Paula Bienenfeld. There was a motion from the floor to table this resolution which was seconded. The vote on the motion to table was for 15, opposed 21, abstentions 1. The motion to table did not pass. The Proposed Resolution was seconded and the vote was for 10, opposed 16, abstentions 4. The proposed resolution did not pass.

The **Alternative Resolution on the Transit Task Force Report** was introduced by Jim Humphrey. This resolution had been widely distributed before the meeting by email. It was moved and seconded, after which an amendment was accepted to add a new introductory clause. The vote was for 23, against 5, abstentions 4. The motion that was approved is as follows:

The Montgomery County Civic Federation urges that a public hearing be held and testimony and all public comments be published as an Appendix to the Transit Task Force Report, that other funding mechanisms than just the Special Taxing District model receive serious consideration by the Executive Branch, and that community residents be engaged in dialogue regarding alignment of proposed routes through their area, prior to any RTV projects being considered for inclusion in the CIP (Capital Improvements Program).

Election: It was moved and seconded to elect by unanimous consent the slate for the new board that appeared on page 3 of the June newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55pm.

Minutes of the June 21 Executive Committee Meeting

By Peggy Dennis, Acting Recording Secretary

The Executive Committee met at the home of Dan Wilhelm.

Call to Order. President Carole Ann Barth called the meeting to order at 8:03 p.m. with Peggy Dennis, Dan Wilhelm, William Schrader, Jim Zepp, Chuck Lapinski, and Paula Bienenfeld present.

Adoption of Agenda. The agenda emailed out in advance was approved.

Minutes of the May ExComm meeting were discussed. Approval was tabled as the minutes need paring down and further editing.

Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Bill Schrader reported that some member associations have already renewed or joined for the coming year, and we appear to have made a modest profit on the Annual Awards Banquet. Copies of his report were handed out.

Programs for September and October: discussion deferred until later this summer when we will have a better idea of what issues are heating up.

Community Hero. Decision on September deferred until Chuck can check on leadership of "Eyes of the Paint Branch".

Discussion Topics

Transit Task Force/RTV Proposal: It was agreed that there is much misunderstanding of both the background of the TTF Report and the actual proposals on the table. Ike Leggett has said that there will be a public hearing in July. Dan Wilhelm would like to have MCCF run several informational meetings on the TTF Report in advance of the public hearing. He proposes that the 1st meeting should be on the "10,000 foot perspective," background and long term need and a 2nd on the cost-benefit analysis and various funding alternatives. Dan will request Tom Street and Ike Leggett to postpone the Exec's public hearing until late September or early October. He will try to find a venue for a first meeting the week of July 23-27. Dan & MCCF will decide on presenters and possibly a facilitator. He will email the content he thinks should be covered to ExComm members.

July Potluck Supper: Friday, July 20. Carole Ann will research a venue – possibly Brookside Gardens.

Brickyard Road: Peggy Dennis will continue to work on this issue.

July ExComm Meeting will be on Monday, July 16 by teleconference (Dan to arrange).

Committee Reports.

Public Utilities: Chuck Lapinski, Chair, reported on the Public Service Commission's discussion on electrical issues: new regulations on coal-fired generating plants will have little effect on older plants. Abundant natural gas coming from "fracking" will cheaply power new plants, but will deter investment in renewable energy sources like wind, solar and tides. Greatest disruptor of power is still tree limbs.

WSSC reports encroachment of mature trees and roots into major distribution lines is biggest maintenance problem.

Public Finance: The Council is expected to increase property tax rates. Unemployment and underemployment rates are up. MCPS pensions will continue to be problematic. BoE is expected to give teachers salary raises which will increase pension costs and structural deficit. The state is expecting 600-800 Million in uncovered structural deficit.

Chuck will request and send a document to us from Steve Farber.

Old and New Business. None. The meeting adjourned at 10:15.

Minutes of the MCCF Executive Committee Meeting, August 23, 2012

By Sandy Vogelgesang, Acting Recording Secretary

The Executive Committee met in the second floor conference room at the Bethesda Chevy Chase Regional Services Center. Thanks to Jesse Cantrill for making meeting arrangements and providing refreshments!

Call to Order. President Carole Ann Barth called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM. Present: Carole Ann Barth, Paula Bienenfeld, Peggy Dennis, Dan Wilhelm, Jim Humphrey, Virginia Sheard, William Schrader, Jim Zepp, Max Bronstein, Ann McDonald, Jesse Cantrill, and Sandy Vogelgesang.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda. Carole called for and received approval of the proposed ExComm agenda.

Approval of Minutes for May and June ExComm Meetings. Paula Bienenfeld agreed to prepare a

shortened version of the draft minutes for the May meeting for ExComm review. The minutes for June, as amended, were adopted unanimously. Carole Ann circulated proposed “Guidelines for MCCF Meeting Minutes.” ExComm members suggested some additional points to include in guidelines.

Treasurer’s Report. Bill Schrader presented a written report which indicated a checking account balance of \$9677.48. It was proposed and agreed that, in order to conserve paper, the Treasurer will provide future reports via email to ExComm and make oral reports to monthly Delegates’ meetings. The Treasurer agreed to provide a proposed budget for FY 2012-13 (see page 14) via email to ExComm so that it can be presented and voted on at the September meeting.

Announcements. None.

Programs

September: Program on issues of electric power distribution in Montgomery County. Carole Ann Barth to organize.

October: Program giving factual review of the seven referendum issues (4 State and 2-3 County) that will appear on the November 2012 ballot. Dan Wilhelm, Chair for Legislative Committee and Paula Bienenfeld to organize with Dan to find a lawyer to speak to the County bills.

November: Program on Forest Conservation Law. Ginny Barnes, Environment Chair, to organize

Community Hero. Action deferred.

Issues for Discussion

Subdivision Staging Policy: Jim Humphrey, Planning and Land Use Chair, presented a summary of the PLU Committee’s recommended MCCF position on the 2012 Draft Subdivision Staging Policy (SSP), formerly the Growth Policy, which the Planning Board transmitted to the Council on August 1. The SSP, previously approved every two years, is now approved every four years in the second year of each Council. The Council public hearing is scheduled for September 18. ExComm approved unanimously the Committee’s recommendations on 18 points, as amended. For more details, see article in this Newsletter.

Schedule for future ExComm Meetings. ExComm agreed to hold meetings on rotating Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings each month in order to include maximal number of ExComm members. Jim Humphrey will send out proposed dates. Dan

Wilhelm will host next ExComm meeting on September 19.

Location for Annual Banquet. Peggy Dennis agreed to chair Banquet Committee. She will solicit suggestions for venue in the next Newsletter.

Countystat Wayne Goldstein Memorial Dedication.

ExComm agreed unanimously to notify MCCF membership of planned recognition by County Executive Leggett.

Council Bill 21-12. ExComm approved motion supporting bill which would prohibit the use and sale of coal tar pavement products in the County and require enforcement by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Co-Sponsoring School Safety Candidates/ Forum.

ExComm approved motion for co-sponsoring Board of Education Candidates’ Forum with Safe Silver Spring, a community anti-crime group. The Forum is scheduled for October 10 at the Silver Spring Regional Services Center.

Rapid Transit Vehicle (RTV). Jim Humphrey has sent MCCF position to the County Executive who will, in turn, present his proposal in September.

Committee Reports

PLU: Jim Humphrey, Chair, offered committee recommendation for two additions to the MCCF position on the Zoning Text Amendment on accessory apartments, which was adopted at the delegates’ meeting on May 14. For more details, see article in this Newsletter.

Education: Paula Bienenfeld, Chair, reported that arrangements are underway for MCCF-sponsored Board of Education Candidates’ Forum to be held at the Rockville Library, October 17.

Old Business. None

New Business:

Peggy noted deadline for Newsletter assignments and Jim Zepp, Public Safety Chair, offered to organize a new column for the Newsletter that would “ask questions of MCCF membership or offer solutions that have worked in building a better and stronger civic association.”

Jim Zepp offered to analyze the County Council’s bill on open government and to prepare a draft MCCF position before the scheduled hearing, September 18.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM.

Executive Committee

Position	Name	Phone	Email
Elected Officers			
President	Carole Ann Barth	301-593-7863 (H)	cbarth@mindspring.com
1st Vice President	Paula Bienenfeld	301-984-2944 (H) 240-899-2335 (C)	paula_bienenfeld@yahoo.com
2nd Vice President	Open		
Treasurer	Bill Schrader	301-946-6545 (H)	schraderw@erols.com
Recording Secretary:	Sue Schumacher	301-654-1334 (H) 202-422-5503 (C)	sschumacher@mcnearney.com
Immediate Past President			
Immediate Past President	Peggy Dennis	301-983-9738 (H)	hotyakker@gmail.com
Appointed Officials (President Nominated and Confirmed by the Membership)			
Member at Large	Max Bronstein	301-460-3117 (H)	sumax@verizon.net
Member at Large	Ann McDonald	301-718-0986 (H)	akwmcdonald@yahoo.com
Member at Large	Judy Higgs	301-884-3395 (H)	djones4747@aol.com
Member at Large	Virginia Sheard	301-949-3372 (H)	boots3303@aol.com
Member at Large	Jesse Cantrill	301-718-7286 (H)	jtcantrill@aol.com
Public Relations Officer	Sandy Vogelgesang	301-365-2347 (H)	everest.associates@erols.com
Newsletter Editor	Peggy Dennis	301-983-9738 (H)	hotyakker@gmail.com
Database	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698 (H)	djwilhelm@verizon.net
<u>Committee Chairs (Appointed by the President and Confirmed by the Membership).</u>			
<u>Education</u>	Paula Bienenfeld	301-984-2944 (H) 240-899-2335 (C)	paula_bienenfeld@yahoo.com
Environment	Ginny Barnes	301-762-6423 (H)	ginnybarnes@juno.com
Legislation	Jay Harding Dan Wilhelm	301-438-0229 (H) 301-384-2698 (H)	ilomai@aol.com djwilhelm@verizon.net
Committee for Montgomery	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698 (H)	djwilhelm@verizon.net
Parks and Recreation	Carole Ann Barth	301-593-7863 (H)	cbarth@mindspring.com
Planning and Land Use & Housing	Jim Humphrey	301-652-6359 (H)	theelms518@earthlink.net
Public Finance	Chuck Lapinski	301-384-0392 (H)	charles.lapinski@yahoo.com
Public Safety	Jim Zepp	301-593-7863 (H)	jzepp@mindspring.com
Public Utilities	Chuck Lapinski	301-384-0392 (H)	charles.lapinski@yahoo.com
Transportation	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698 (H)	djwilhelm@verizon.net

Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc.

Proposed FY 2013 Budget

	FY 2012 Budget	FY 2012 Actual	FY 2013 Budget
Income			
Membership dues	3,640.00	4,040.00	3,595.00
Local Associations	3,000.00	3,555.00	3,000.00
Umbrella Associations	65.00	65.00	65.00
Regional/County-wide Assn	90.00	45.00	45.00
Associate Groups	85.00	85.00	85.00
Individual Associates	400.00	290.00	400.00
Donations	50.00	15.00	25.00
Awards Dinner	2,200.00	2,605.00	2,250.00
Miscellaneous	25.00	0.00	25.00
Total income	\$5,915.00	\$6,660.00	\$5,895.00
Expenses			
Member Communications	2,300.00	1,104.79	1,850.00
Newsletter Printing	1,450.00	808.39	1,200.00
Newsletter Mailing	500.00	177.00	300.00
Website	350.00	119.40	350.00
Civic and Social Betterment	3,510.00	2,845.00	3,080.00
Federation Meetings	900.00	900.00	900.00
Foundation Meetings	150.00	120.00	120.00
Awards Dinner	2,400.00	1,765.00	2,000.00
Federation Membership	60.00	60.00	60.00
Organizational Support	180.00	108.48	180.00
Officers	130.00	108.48	130.00
Committees	50.00	0.00	50.00
Miscellaneous	25.00	69.66	0.00
Total expenses	\$6,015.00	\$4,127.93	\$5,110.00

Respectfully submitted,
 William H. Schrader
 Treasurer

MCCF By-Laws, Article XVII. Financial Management, Section 1. Annual Budget. An operating budget for the Membership Year shall be adopted to plan and manage the Federation's fiscal affairs. A proposed budget shall be prepared by the Treasurer and submitted to the Executive Committee for approval in August. The budget as approved shall be printed in the September Newsletter and included in the September Agenda for action by the Membership. The budget shall include all planned and expected expenditures and revenues. Federation officials shall assist the Treasurer as requested in developing the budget.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Serving the County since 1925

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013

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
301-384-2698 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 Members	Voting Privileges
Local Association (civic, community, homeowner or municipality. Must represent at least 10 households - not paid members. Can not 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.** Organizations can also select less than the allowed number of members and pay according to that number. Please provide all the information below no matter the newsletter delivery method.

1.	Name (President)		Phone (H)	
	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)	
	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)	
	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)	
	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 839

Monday, September 8, 2012
7:45 1st Floor Auditorium
County Council Office Building.
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD

Agenda:

7:45 Call to Order & Introductions
7:50 Approval of Agenda
7:52 Announcements
7:53 Approval of Minutes of June 11 meeting
7:55 Treasurer's Report & Vote on Proposed Budget
8:00 Program: Electrical Distribution & Generation
9:15 Votes on Planning & Land Use Positions
9:20 Vote on Resolution to Support Bill 21-12
9:30 Vote to support Bill 23-12
9:31 Committee Reports
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. 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/emailed 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: **Saturday September 22** . Prepare submission as an MS Word, Word Perfect or text-only document, **attach** it to an e-mail, and send 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: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 7:45 P.M.

At the home of Dan Wilhelm

904 Cannon Road, Colesville, MD 20904



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

Dan Wilhelm, Database Manager

904 Cannon Road

Silver Spring, MD 20904

DJWILHELM@VERIZON.NET

First Class Mail

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