



Civic Federation News

December, 2012

Serving the Public Interest since 1925

Official Publication of the
Montgomery County Civic
Federation

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Recipients of the electronic version are encouraged to forward it widely

December Program: Rainscapes

By Carole Ann Barth, President

Our December program will feature Montgomery County's Rainscapes program. This program encourages citizens, institutions, and businesses to install conservation landscaping, rain gardens, rain barrels and other techniques designed to help capture, infiltrate and cleanse stormwater. The Rainscapes program provides both technical assistance and rebates to help County residents slow the flow of stormwater, spread it out, and let it soak into the ground.

This is important because stormwater damages aquatic life by carrying pollutants into our waterways, scouring out streams, and raising water temperatures. Encouraging stormwater to soak into the ground also helps recharge stream flow during the dry summer months.

Our speaker will be Ann English, Rainscapes Program Coordinator for the Department of Environmental Protection. Ann will give us an overview of the impact the Rainscapes program has had to date and describe how our member organizations can get involved.

In preparation for the program, be sure to check out the rainscapes website,

<http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/dectmpl.asp?url=/content/dep/water/rainscapes.asp> and take a look around your own property for rainscaping opportunities.

Community Hero: Sophia Maravell

By Peggy Dennis

It is rare that we have a young person whose vision, passion and energy have created a new and exciting resource for the county and particularly for our children. So it was with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I nominated Sophia Maravell, the founder of the

Brickyard Educational Farm in Potomac to be our Community Hero for December.

Sophia attended Colorado College, where she earned her BA in Sociology, and became

passionate about promoting sustainable agriculture. By her sophomore year she was co-manager of the Colorado College Student Farm. It was there that Sophia gained experience teaching preschoolers in an outdoor farm setting.

Sophia went on to earn a post-graduation certificate in animal husbandry and organic vegetable production from The Farm School in Athol, Massachusetts. The Farm School is a non-profit, working educational farm that teaches both children and adults the art of growing sustainable food, and why organic agriculture is important for the health of our nation. After graduating from The Farm School, and with five seasons of hands-on experience on organic farms under her belt, Sophia returned home to the family farm to enact her dream of starting an educational farm.

The idea for this agro-educational initiative grew out of a grassroots community movement to preserve the fertile, organic soil on land held in trust for educational needs. The county's proposal to bulldoze Nick's Organic Farm and turn the Brickyard Road school site into four privately controlled soccer fields outraged the local community. This outrage led to the creation of Brickyard Educational Farm spearheaded by Sophia Maravell with the support of hundreds of local volunteers.

During its first year, the Brickyard Educational Farm has served over 1600 children in public and private schools,

NOTE THE DATE FOR OUR NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, **DECEMBER 3**
(not the 2nd Monday of the month)

Contents

December Program: Rainscapes	1
Community Hero: Sophia Maravell	1
HIGH on DENSITY, LOW on SMARTS	2
Bad Place for a Mega Gas Station.....	3
Submit a Federation Corner column.....	3
Membership Renewals.....	4
Maryland's Fiscal Outlook.....	4
An Update on the 2012 Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan	5
2013 Annual Awards Banquet.....	5
Minutes of the November 12 Meeting	5
Minutes of the November 15 Executive Committee Meeting	6

homeschooling cooperatives, civic organizations and religious institutions through its on-farm programming, family farm volunteer days, and in-class presentations. It has brought a community together around healthy food, vibrant local food economies and improving environmental, outdoor and farm-based education for our children.

Sophia's vision for Brickyard Educational Farm is to simultaneously expand the farm-to-school program to serve 5400 students annually, grow 90,000 pounds of fresh, locally grown, organic produce for school cafeterias, continue saving rare varieties of organic, heirloom, and GMO-free seed stock, and help train the next generation of young farmers. This vision would be a national model for agricultural education as it would be the only center in the country that synthesizes organic food production, hands-on agricultural education, food security through seed saving, and young farmer incubation in one location under the same not-for-profit umbrella.

For her vision, passion and energy in creating and growing the Brickyard Education Farm and expanding its use by many different community groups and organizations, we are pleased to honor Sophia Maravell as our Community Hero in December.

HIGH on DENSITY, LOW on SMARTS

by Carole Ann Barth, President

Many of us in Montgomery County feel like our communities are under attack from the County's push to massively increase densities while failing to maintain basic infrastructure and services for existing developed areas. In turn, planners and public officials criticize citizens for being resistant to change. We are admonished to give up our outmoded ideas of neighborhood and embrace the current one-size-fits-all "vision" of the future.

"Densify or Die" seems to be the message. Dump your kids, car, dogs, and other impedimenta so you can move into that loft or micro-efficiency in the town center. Quit the career you spent a decade training for, the business you've been building, or the public service you devoted your adult life to so you can get a job in the commercial space attached to your new building. (Can you say tall, venti, grande?)

"What's that I hear you say? What about your spouse's career teaching disadvantaged kids in a blighted neighborhood in a neighboring jurisdiction? Sorry, our

vision does not encompass complexities such as families with commutes in different directions or even single people whose jobs and homes are not located along a simple straight line down a single transportation corridor."

My point is not that the fashion for high-density mixed use is necessarily bad; my point is that too often our approach to this model of development is shallow, simplistic, and ultimately impractical. I'm reminded of classic science fiction illustrations where everybody in the city of the future sports the same haircut and identical lycra bodysuits. Real people and communities, however, tend to be much messier and more complex.

Nobody expected the sci-fi visionaries of the 1950's to actually create faster-than-light propulsion or reliable personal jet packs. Montgomery County residents, however, do have the right to expect our planners and officials to thoroughly consider the impacts of their decisions. They should also be able to answer our questions without resorting to magical thinking. (E.g. If we approve all this mega development, a reliable electric grid and source of clean, potable water with sufficient capacity to support it all will magically appear).

A great place to start would be to have a growth management policy that actually manages growth. But as Jim Humphrey pointed out in his excellent August 23 2012 Federation Column *Lost: One Growth Policy*: "The county process for deciding the appropriate amount of growth is non-existent. It's a little like throwing darts at a blank wall and telling everyone you're hitting the target. We don't have a clue what goal we are aiming at, or whether the amount of growth that's planned is sustainable."

In his November 1, 2012 Column, *Time for Growth to Pay for Itself*, Humphrey also notes: "Another problem is that the Council did away with development moratoriums in 2003. Until then, if the infrastructure in any given area of the county--especially the schools, road and transit capacity--could not accommodate additional growth, then a moratorium was placed on new development approvals until the county could fund the needed additional infrastructure."

It's hard to see how we can ever come close to the shiny future depicted by the advocates of high-density mixed-use development without considering these fundamental questions.

Bad Place for a Mega Gas Station

Mark R. Adelman, SCGC

The Stop Costco Gas Coalition (SCGC) was formed recently to strengthen and expand the long (soon to enter its fourth year) battle to prevent Costco from building a “mega gas station” in Westfield's Wheaton Plaza, immediately adjacent to homes, a community swim club and a public school for medically fragile special needs children. Our website (www.stopcostcogas.org) has background material, including links to public domain information and a synopsis that, while brief, has much more information than we can include in this newsletter article.

The battle has been going on since early 2010 when citizens of the Kensington Heights community (KHCA) learned of an agreement, involving the County Executive, Westfield Corporation, and Costco, to facilitate the construction, in the southwest quadrant of Wheaton Plaza, of a Costco Warehouse Store and a VERY large Costco gas station (mega gas station). From the outset, this has been a case of corporate decisions, supported by government entities, to force an unjustifiable project down the throats of a neighborhood. And of the neighborhood fighting back, against apparently overwhelming odds. The citizens never opposed the Costco store, nor did they object to the gas station. The objection was, and remains, that the mega station is planned to be built in a location that is inappropriately close to homes, a swim club, and a public school; the proposed citing will expose citizens to unacceptable risks to health from air-borne pollutants, increased traffic, and various other factors that diminish quality of life.

An initial attempt (supported by the County Executive) to have the County Council pass a site specific ZTA (10-04), to allow the construction, was blocked by vehement citizen protest. Costco then began the normal process (which it had sought to avoid) of filing for a Special Exception for the gas station. Citizen activists then pressured the County to pass a county-wide zoning text amendment - ZTA 12-07 - that requires a buffer zone separating any such facility from sensitive land uses. The protective buffer zone was originally proposed to be 1000 feet, but intense lobbying lead to a compromise of 300 feet.

Even though the compromise 300 foot buffer allowed Costco to meet the new requirement by moving the proposed site very slightly and, in fact, placing it even

closer to the school and homes, it has caused Costco too have to file a new application for a Special Exception. After a long delay, that application has been filed (S-2863) and hearings are expected to take place in spring, 2013. Citizen resources are again required to fight yet another stage of the battle.

The SCGC was formed by a group that recognized this as not simply a neighborhood issue, but one of widespread potential impact. “Mega gas stations” are roughly 10 times the size of a standard gas station. They bring large numbers of cars to one location and many sit idling in long queues, making the problems associated with exhaust pollutants much worse than with smaller stations. SCGC is reaching out across the County and State. We are expanding the battle. We need the continued support of those who argued in favor of ZTA 12-07 (like MCCF, via the testimony of Jim Humphrey). In our presentation to MCCF we will review the details of the citing, citizen concerns, and the reasons why the Stop Costco Gas Coalition has been formed.

We have two objectives:

1. To prevent the immediate threat of Costco placing a mega gas station at Wheaton Plaza in close proximity to homes and other sensitive land uses; and
2. To advocate for statewide legislation that will establish a safe buffer around any potential mega gas station site so as to "protect everyone's backyard".

We ask that you pass the following motion at the meeting on December 3:

The Montgomery County Civic Federation supports the objectives of the Stop Costco Gas Coalition and urges Costco to withdraw Special Exception application S-2863. The Civic Federation urges the County Executive, the County Council, Westfield Corporation and Costco to work together to find a site for the proposed gas station that is at least 1000 feet from homes, schools and outdoor public recreation facilities.

Submit a Federation Corner column

Want to let others know about a problem affecting your community, or comment on an issue impacting the entire county? The Montgomery Sentinel publishes a weekly column entitled the "Federation Corner",

providing us with a platform to educate the public about MCCF and the issues of concern to our members. As the disclaimer on each week's column states, "The views expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect formal position adopted by the Federation." To submit an 800 to 1000 word column for consideration, send as an email attachment to Jim Humphrey, column coordinator, at theelms518@earthlink.net

Membership Renewals

As of November 17, the following groups and individual members have yet to renew their memberships for the 2012-2013 year which began on July 1. We want to keep you as members so please renew your membership. For those not renewing, the December newsletter will be the last one delivered. Delegates: because association treasurers rarely receive the newsletter, please print the Membership Form from our website or cut one out from a previous newsletter, fill in the information needed and get it to your treasurer so he/she can mail in the form and dues check.

Groups Yet to Renew

- Bannockburn Civic Association
- Bradley Boulevard Citizen Association
- Clarksburg Civic Association
- Darnestown Civic Association
- Edgemoor Citizens Association
- Glen Echo Heights Citizens Association
- Hillandale Citizens Association
- Kensington View Civic Association
- Kentlands Citizens' Assembly
- Kenwood Park Citizens Association, Inc.
- Manor Oaks Neighborhood Association
- McKenney Hills, Carroll Knolls Civic Assn
- Montgomery County Taxpayers League
- North Bethesda Neighborhoods
- North White Oak Civic Association
- Rock Creek Hills Citizens Assn
- South Tuckerman-Inverness Citizens Association
- Tivoli Community Association
- Tulip Hill Citizens Association
- Wildwood Manor Citizens Association

Individuals Yet to Renew

- Donna Baron
- Julie Davis
- Marie De Maria
- Jenny Sue Dunner

- Jennifer Fajman
- Jordan (Jay) Harding
- Agnes Jones Trower
- Robert E. Redding
- Joan Snow
- Beverly Sobel
- Dick Strombotne
- Dale Tibbitts
- Richard Zierdt

Maryland's Fiscal Outlook

by Dan Wilhelm, Legislation Chair

Committee for Montgomery (CfM) focuses on our state legislature and proposed legislation with primary focus on the budget. We are provided information regularly by Senator Madaleno and Delegate Anne Kaiser. They reported that the Spending Affordability Committee recently meet and produced a report, which can be found at

http://mlis.state.md.us/other/spending_affordability/2012-spending-affordability-briefing-November-13.pdf

On the positive side, the state's revenue picture continues to improve. With the passage of Question 7 and a revision to state borrowing forecasts, the state's projected general fund deficit for FY14 is only \$27 million. Two years ago the state was facing a \$2 billion dollar deficit. The structural deficit has also declined substantially and is below \$200 million in the out-years. The state has benefited from an improved economy and from state actions to constrain spending growth. Of course, these forecasts could all change depending on what actions the federal government takes.

Now for the bad news: transportation revenues have not rebounded in the same positive way. The current spending plan for transportation is \$5.7 billion during the next six years, which is overwhelmingly slated for system preservation. The report estimates current revenues will total only \$3.7 billion during the same period. Thus, the plan must either be cut back substantially or new revenues must be needed. It is important to note that this spending plan does not include funding for construction of the Purple Line, CCT, or Baltimore Red Line. See also the Transportation Committee report in the November 15 minutes.

It is important to keep in mind the state expenditure estimates for the Purple Line, CCT, or Baltimore Red Line, which are shown in the table on the next page:

Project	Distance	Planning and Engineering Cost	Construction Cost	Operations Cost (annual)
Red Line	14 miles	\$243.8M	\$2,100M	\$27.8M
Purple Line	16 miles	\$237.8M	\$1,900M	\$28.5M
CCT	15 miles	\$35.2M	\$ 545M	N/A

As a reference point, the 162 mile RTV system was estimated to cost \$1,800M and that included the CCT.

An Update on the 2012 Park, Recreation & Open Space Plan

By Carole Ann Barth, President

The 2012 Park Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Plan estimates future (i.e. over the next decade) parks and recreation needs and presents strategies for meeting those needs. On November 8, the Council’s Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) Committee were briefed on the 2012 PROS plan. In preparation for that briefing, the Civic Federation’s Parks and Recreation Committee transmitted to the Council the testimony on the PROS plan we had previously submitted to the Planning Board. In a cover email, we noted that the concerns expressed in the testimony grew out of a thorough review of both the 2012 PROS Plan and the 2005 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) which preceded it; many discussions with Parks staff over the past 11 years, as well as following the Parks CIP proposals and observing the maintenance and management of Montgomery Parks facilities.

From that perspective, we urged the PHED Committee to carefully consider the affordability and financial sustainability of constructing all the new park facilities outlined in the PROS plan. In the CIP process, we reminded the committee, the question is whether or not to fund construction of a particular project based on available funds and competing needs and desires during that CIP cycle. However, we asked the PHED to look beyond the individual facility types and consider the plan’s totality.

We further suggested that in these tough financial times it’s important to develop consensus on what is really needed and what is affordable. What is the aggregate impact of this plan? Is the County obligated to provide state-of-the-art facilities for every

conceivable sport and hobby? Is it more important to have convenient, nearby facilities or to have regulation-sized facilities? Should the County pursue an aggressive program of facility construction when many existing facilities are not being adequately maintained?

Lastly, we expressed the hope that the PHED would continue to monitor these issues and re-visit them in future PHED Committee meetings.

2013 Annual Awards Banquet

Got your 2013 calendar yet? It’s time to organize for the coming year, so be sure to mark down the date for our 2013 Annual Awards Banquet, Friday, May 3. This coming year we’ll be trying out a new venue, the Golden Bull Grande Café in Gaithersburg.

Minutes of the November 12 Meeting

By Sue Schumacher, Secretary

Call to Order: President Carole Ann Barth called the meeting to order at 7:47 pm. Introductions followed.

Agenda: The agenda was approved.

Announcements: A representative from Goshen announced that the Goshen Historical Society was having an event on November 15.

Minutes: It was moved and seconded to approve the October 8, meeting minutes as they appeared in the newsletter. The motion was duly approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Bill Schrader reported there are fewer paid members to date than there were at the same time last year. Currently 42 associations have paid and 7 individuals.

Program: President Carole Barth announced that tonight’s program was an Open Forum. Member associations could tell all present what is currently a problem for their area. Carole led it off as a representative for Northwood Four Corners Civic Association. Brought up the Rachel Carson Meadow where the County’s Parks Department wants to put in a \$6 million soccer field. Jim Humphrey, Chair of the Land Use Committee urged that the Federation write a white paper on the estimation on the need for ball fields.

Dan Wilhelm talked about the county wasting money continually rebuilding sidewalks and the handicapped accessible curb slopes on the corners of the sidewalks.

He said that right now they are redoing these corners for the 3rd time on some streets in his area. Jim Humphrey noted that snow plows seem to destroy the mats. It was noted that several new schools including the new Seven Locks Elementary School have no sidewalks. Jim will follow up on the Seven Locks E.S. sidewalk issue.

Goldie Rivkin indicated in the 1960's and 1970's the county published maps showing where CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) were going to be located. She further added that these maps indicated where there would be street interruptions due to construction. She said there is a need to coordinate developer efforts along a road so they are not all blocking the road at the same time. Maybe the CIP map system could also be used in this situation.

A representative from Goshen asked if the county is sticking with the Master Plans. Carole Barth recommended that if Goshen is looking for a resolution to send it in. It was mentioned that in the case of the First Baptist Church of Wheaton site in Olney the Circuit Court ruled that the Planning Board approval of the project must conform to the Master Plan. Others said that the only part of the Master Plan that is enforceable is the zoning; everything else is just a suggestion. Jim added that the state Smart and Sustainable Growth Act of 2009 requires county's policies, rezoning development patterns, land uses and densities or intensities to be "consistent" with comprehensive plans, except in state designated Priority Funding Areas (PFA) where consistency with land use and densities is not required. Approximately two-thirds of the land in Montgomery County is a PFA.

Other topics of concern to the membership were, emergency preparedness and if the DC Metropolitan region would be able to deal with a storm such as Hurricane Sandy; the zoning re-write process; the lack of transparency about crime in Silver Spring; increasing residential density without increasing school and road capacity; etc. It was suggested that there are several ways to get these issues out to the public. Articles can be written for the Civic Federation's monthly News and weekly for the Federation Corner column in The Montgomery Sentinel.

Resolution: Dan Wilhelm presented the resolution as it appeared on page 3 of the November Newsletter. This resolution was to support County Council President Roger Berliner's proposal to have the state give

Montgomery County the authority to have a gasoline tax and to use the funds from that tax for transportation projects within the county. The resolution was moved and seconded. Discussion ensued. The vote was 1 for, 16 opposed, 3 abstentions. The resolution did not pass.

Committee Reports

Parks and Recreation: Carole Barth reported that the PHED (Planning, Housing and Economic Development) committee of the County Council had a briefing on the 2012 PROS (Parks, Recreation, and Open Space) plan which estimates parts and recreation needs for the next decade and explains the strategy for meeting these needs. She also reported that she sent the PHED committee a copy of the PROS Plan testimony which she had submitted to the Planning Board previously on the Federation's behalf.

Planning and Land Use: Jim Humphrey addressed ZTA 12-15 guest houses. He explained that the guest houses' owners must live in their home at least 6 months a year and that it be their principal residence. In addition, the owner may not rent out anything else, such as a room or an accessory apartment. He then discussed ZTA 12-16 which will allow one family dwellings on pre-1928 recorded lots, which are much smaller in size than today's building lots. PLU did not recommend MCCF adopt a formal position on either ZTA, and no motion was made from the floor.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:43pm.

Minutes of the November 15 Executive Committee Meeting

Dan Wilhelm, Acting Recording Secretary

Call to order at 7:55 by President Barth at the home of Bill Schrader. Attendees: President Carole Ann Barth, Jesse Cantrill, Bill Schrader, Dan Wilhelm, and Jim Zepp. The agenda for the meeting was approved.

Minutes: There was a disagreement over modifying the published October Excomm minutes. The agreed upon solution was to show the minutes with the text in contention crossed out. The affected paragraph follows:

"The PHED Committee vote on the subdivision staging report regarding transportation. Carole Ann reported that Colesville Road (Rt 29) would be exempt from TPAR. There was a lot of discussion about whether this included all of Route 29 or just the area north of New

Hampshire Avenue. Carole insisted it was the entire road. (It has since been learned that it is 29 in the Fairland/White Oak area [Northwest branch] to the Howard County line, which is a 4-6 lane limited access highway). Carole also indicated that the Percontee attorney had provided an consultant's opinion report to the Council that indicated that 80% of the AM peak traffic on US 29 consists of commuters from Howard County. Carole felt that the amount of through traffic couldn't be anywhere close to such a high number. Both Dan and Chuck Lapinski indicated the amount has been in the 70% to 80% range for decades. Other items out of the PHED Committee included that no area would be allowed to have a \$0 payment for development, except Damascus, every community will require a payment of \$282,500. It was moved and seconded that President Barth would draft a letter regarding the exemption for Route 29 and circulate it for comment. The motion was based upon statement that the TPAR exception applying to the entire length of US 29 and that the amount of through traffic was much less than 80%. (Both of these conditions were found to be incorrect on October 19th."

Treasurer's Report: Bill reported one new membership had been received since Monday's meeting.

Programs: The program was changed several times during the course of the meeting. By the end of the meeting, it was decided that if the Parks Ball Field Study program for December did not come together, the program would be on the Costco gas station issue in Wheaton. It was decided to move the program on Economic Development to February and have the January program be on the staff draft Highway and Transitway Master Plan. Carole Barth will arrange the December program and Dan Wilhelm the January and February programs.

Community Hero: Sophia Maravell will be presented the award in December for her involvement with the Brickyard Education Farm. It was also decided to give the award to Naomi Spinrad, Marilyn Piety and Jean Cavanaugh in February when all their work on the accessory apartment bills is completed and after the issue has been decided by the Council.

Awards Banquet: The location will be at the Golden Bull (a new venue for us) in Gaithersburg on May 3.

Public Safety Committee: Nothing to report

Legislation Committee: Dan Wilhelm reported that the Delegation's Priorities Hearing was held the night before. (The purpose of the hearing allows people tell the delegation what they would like to have approved in the upcoming legislative session.) Dan testified for Committee for Montgomery (CfM). Almost all the speakers indicated that additional funding for transportation is critically needed. County Executive Leggett indicated it was needed for economic growth. Council President Berliner quoted George Leventhal saying our county's future is built on Transit Oriented Development (TOD), but without the "T" we have no "D". The mayors of Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Takoma Park all indicated additional transportation funding is critical to their towns. Funding is needed this year for the Purple Line and Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) in order to have a chance of getting federal funding. Other major themes were the business climate and capital funding needed for education (MSPS: \$147.3M, Montgomery College: \$18.3M, and Universities at Shady Grove: \$5M)

Transportation Committee: Dan said the Planning Staff was holding the third forum on their preliminary conclusions for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors that would be put in the staff draft of the Master Plan, which will be available by the end of December. Dan also pointed people to an article in the November 14 Examiner that commented on a report from the General Assembly's Office of Policy Analysis and a separate analysis by the Maryland Department of Transportation. While they disagreed on the amount that would be available and the date, they both indicated that by 2018 at the latest, 100% of the State Highway funds will be used for preservation and after that there will not be enough to even cover that.

Next ExComm Meeting: Thursday, December 13 and Jesse Cantrill will determine whether the Bethesda Government Center is available.

Adjournment: 9:40 PM.

Federation Meeting

Session 842

Monday, **December 3, 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
7:56 Approval of Minutes of November 12 meeting
7:58 Treasurer's Report
8:00 Community Hero: Sophia Maravell
8:15 Program: Rainscapes
9:15 Resolution on Costco Mega Gas Station (pg. 3)
9:25 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.

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Submit contributions for the next issue by: **Sunday, December 16.** 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: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 7:45 P.M.

BCC Regional Services Center at 4805 Edgemoor Lane,
Bethesda, Executive Conference Room C on the second floor.

Paid parking in garage accessed from Woodmont Avenue



**Official Publication of the
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First Class Mail

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