



Civic Federation News

December, 2014

Serving the Public Interest since 1925

Official Publication of the
Montgomery County Civic
Federation

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Please forward this e-newsletter to all association members, friends and neighbors. Share! Please.

December Program: Emergency Preparedness

by Jerry Garson, Treasurer

Our program on Monday, December 1 will feature Chris Voss, the Director of the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. Mr. Voss will discuss the role of civic associations in emergencies

Whether you are part of a neighborhood, or a civic group, community organizations play an important role in emergency preparedness. To help your community better prepare for emergencies, take the following steps:

- Determine how specific hazards will affect your community.
- Determine which members of the community may need extra assistance during an emergency.
- Take an inventory of skills and other assets within your community that could be useful in an emergency.
- Educate community members about the need for family preparedness during meetings or through newsletters and listservs.

The most likely events to occur in Montgomery County include major snow storms, loss of electricity to major parts of Montgomery County, and the loss of water supply to large areas of the county.

Planning in advance for these types of events will help the residents when these events occur.

President's Message

by Paula Bienenfeld

This month sees the inaugural ceremony for our elected county officials, coinciding with the date of our December general meeting, Monday December 1st. While most of the representatives are incumbents, we will see two new Councilmembers, Tom Hucker (D-District 5); and Sid Katz (D-District 3). We look forward to working with both members.

Federation Meeting

Session 861

Monday, December 1, 2014

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
- 7:51 Announcements
- 7:55 Approval of Minutes of Nov 10 meeting
- 7:56 Treasurer's Report
- 8:00 Program: Emergency Preparedness
- 9:20 Committee Reports
- 9:40 New and Old Business
- 9:45 Adjournment

Mr. Katz stated in his campaign literature that he would push to hire an inspector general for the school system, and undertake management audits of the school and county portions of the budget. He also focused on the environment, stating that it would be important to review the milestones and measure our progress, in both the county and the private sector, of goals set forth in our County's Climate Protection Plan. Finally, he wrote that he would focus on traffic signalization, a topic near and dear to my heart, as a pedestrian who crosses dangerous county roads on a daily basis. Poor traffic signalization is not only a cause of pedestrian injuries and deaths, but increases our greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint by forcing needless idling at intersections. According to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), "Each year, U.S. passenger cars, light trucks, medium-duty trucks, and heavy-duty vehicles consume more than 6 billion gallons of diesel fuel and gasoline—without even moving. **Roughly half of that fuel is wasted by passenger vehicles.**" Mr. Katz wrote that "vehicles that are stalled in traffic...are bad for the environment, cost us too much time, and detract from our quality of life." New traffic signalization technology is available now, and so is technical support from DOE and the U.S. Department of Transportation, for its implementation and operation.

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. The **Civic Federation News** is published monthly except in July and August. It is emailed to delegates, associate members, news media and local, state, and federal officials. Recipients are encouraged to forward the **Civic Federation News** to all association members, friends and neighbors. Permission is granted to reproduce any article provided that proper credit is given to the "**Civic Federation News of the Montgomery County Civic Federation**".

If Mr. Katz can focus on these causes and create the will and a coalition to move his suggestions forward in the Council, we would be much closer to reducing GHG emissions in the county. His focus on measuring progress rather than merely talking about it without providing real measures is welcome, as is his statement that he will push for independent audits of both the school system and county programs.

Similarly, Mr. Hucker has focused on the environment during his career. If he combines the same focus, with an emphasis on fiscal responsibility and objectively measuring progress, and a move to government transparency and true citizen involvement, the county will be much better off.

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As many of you know, the Civic Federation was one of the prime movers to the current Charter system of government that occurred in the 1940s. The intent was to have a truly representative government rather than a top-down government rife with appointed cronies, and with legislation dictated by the state legislature.

The Civic Federation will continue to push for less cronyism and more transparency as we move through what appears now to be a difficult fiscal period. We anticipate that the new Councilmembers will work with us on those efforts, which are so important to all the residents of the County.

December 5 Deadline for Civic Association Nominations for BRT Advisory Committees

Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is forming Advisory Committees for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor studies that will be done by the Maryland State Highway Administration. Four major corridors will be studied over the next two years: Upper Georgia Avenue (from Wheaton to Olney) Veirs Mill Road, Route 355 and Route 29. The four corridors have been divided into seven segments, with each segment assigned to a Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC). **Civic Associations adjacent to one of those corridors should select their representative and submit their representative's contact information to MCDOT by December 5.**

To be eligible for a CAC, your civic association representative must:

1. Be willing to regularly attend your area meetings. It is anticipated that the meetings will be held at least quarterly, with potentially more frequent meetings in the beginning.
2. Reside in your community as your neighborhood is located along one of the proposed BRT corridors (within 150-500 feet of a proposed corridor).

For more information and to download the nomination form please visit:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/RTS/CACS.html>

Membership Renewal Updates

By Harriet Quinn, Database Manager

The Civic Federation welcomes our newest association member, Crestberry Homewoners Association.

As of November 24, the following organizations and individual members have not yet renewed their memberships for the 2014-2015 year which began on July 1. We want to keep you as members and want to keep you informed on civic related issues and activities, so please renew your membership today. For those not renewing, the December newsletter will be the last delivered. Delegates, please check with your Treasurer to see if your renewal was sent. The Membership Form is available on the last page of this newsletter. We look forward to your continued participation.

Organizations not yet renewed:

Bannockburn Civic Association
Battery Park Citizens Association
Bradley Boulevard Citizens Association

Brooke Manor Estates Homeowners Association
Burnt Mills Civic Association
Cabin John Citizens Association
Cherrywood Homeowners Association
Chevy Chase West Neighborhood Association
Clarksburg Civic Association
Conservation Montgomery
Coquelin Run Citizens Association
Darnestown Civic Association
Edgemoor Citizens Association
Glen Echo Heights Citizens Association
Glenmont Forest Neighbors Civic Association
Greater Goshen Civic Association
Grosvenor Park Condominium Citizens Association
Kensington View Civic Association
Kentlands Citizens Assembly
Luxmanor Citizens Association
Manor Lake Civic Association
McKenney Hills Carroll Knolls Civic Association
Norbeck Meadows Civic Association
Park Hills Civic Association
Parkview Citizens Association
Riverhill Homeowners Association
Rock Creek Hills Citizens Assn
Rock Creek Palisades Citizens Association
Sacks Neighborhood Association
Sandy Spring Civic Association
Section 3 of the Village of Chevy Chase
Shady Grove Woods Homeowners Association
Sligo Park Hills Citizens Association
Snowdens Mill Homeowners Association
South Tuckerman-Inverness Citizens Association
Southeast Rural Olney Civic Association (SEROCA)
Strathmore-Bel Pre Civic Association
Tivoli Community Association
Tulip Hill Citizens Association
Twinbrook Citizens Association
Village of Drummond
Villages of Bethesda
Westmoreland Citizens Association
Wildwood Manor Citizens Association
Wood Acres Citizens Association

Individuals not yet renewed:

Diana Conway
Luella Mast
Fife Northrop
Lydia Sullivan

Clean Water Town Hall Meeting December 9

organized by the Sierra Club, Montgomery County Chapter

Come help fight water pollution, revitalize our communities, and create climate resiliency. Come to our Town Hall Meeting and learn more about the tremendous resources and tools available for greening our communities and cleaning our rivers.

Over the next decade, Montgomery County will spend \$500 million dollars on local projects to reduce storm water flooding, filter polluted runoff, and green and revitalize our neighborhoods.

Citizens will learn about this HUGE opportunity to clean up our rivers and streams, restore forests and habitat, green our infrastructure and revitalize our communities and the part we can play to make sure these funds are properly used.

If we wisely invest these storm water upgrade funds which are once-in-a-generation investments we can make a huge difference in protecting our environment – and respond to the increased flooding that we are seeing as the climate changes.

Tuesday December 9th, 2014

Refreshments at 6:30. Meeting from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The Great Hall, Silver Spring Civic Center at 1 Veterans Place, Silver Spring, MD 20910.

Park in the Wayne Avenue Garage across the street.

R.S.V.P. <http://tioga.sierraclub.org/oars-activity/pages/activity.jsf?activity=68147>

For more information, contact: Linda.Schade@mdsierra.org Cell 202-422-5780

Speakers

State Senator Jamie Raskin (invited)

Stan Edwards, Department of Environment (invited)

Danila Sheveiko, Civic Federation, Former Chair, MC Water Quality Advisory Group

Kit Gage, Friends of Sligo Creek

Pablo Blank, Latino Environmental Awareness and Direction (invited)

County's Clean Water Program Delayed

by Danila Sheveiko, Recording Secretary

A major step forward in implementing the [Clean Water Act](#) for Montgomery County is facing delays at the state level. Issued by Maryland Department of the Environment on behalf of EPA, the [Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System](#) permit has to be renewed and revised by February 15th but, according to government sources, the deadline will not be met.

An enforcement mechanism commonly known as the MS-4, the permit has to be revised every five years and governs everything that flows through storm drains into the County's rivers and

streams with the primary goal of restoring and maintaining chemical, physical, and biological integrity. Stormwater is the MS-4's focus – the largest contributor to degraded state of water bodies in Montgomery County – that becomes polluted runoff when it falls on impervious surfaces and picks up contaminants such as lawn chemicals, pet waste, car oil, sewage, sediment, and trash. In turn, development and sprawl convert more forests and farms into impervious surfaces like roofs, concrete, and pavement which, in turn, generate more stormwater runoff.

Fortunately, technologies exist to combat polluted runoff by [using nature to improve our local streams](#) and meet regulatory mandates in a cost-effective way. Instead of using conventional concrete and steel, non-structural vegetated devices like [green roofs](#), [bioswales](#) and [rain gardens](#) can be used to intercept, slow and treat the stormwater. The MS-4 requires Montgomery County to use this suite of [low impact development](#) technologies – known regionally as [Environmental Site Design](#) – to treat impervious surfaces with the ambitious goal of trout darting and children playing in our streams at some point in the hopefully not-too-distant future.

While these technologies do exist, the task at hand is herculean in scope, as [modifying](#) the County's regulatory mechanisms and changing the culture of big developers are no small feats. The paradigm shift in stormwater management from concrete and rebar to [Black-Eyed Susans](#) and [engineered soil](#) has taken years of County staff time and taxpayer funds in the hundreds of million. [Department of Environmental Protection](#), the agency responsible for MS-4 compliance, is seeing their hard work behind the scenes begin to pay off – the culture shift is gaining momentum, and the County is [numerically close](#) to meeting the permit's five year deadline of February 15th.

Unfortunately, there is also bad news: MDE is [falling behind](#) on approving permit applications, so Montgomery's permit renewal is stuck in bureaucratic limbo, and it will take a ground swell of grassroots organizing and political advocacy to move the process along.

The shift [from grey to green](#) stormwater infrastructure will be discussed at the [town hall](#) sponsored by Maryland Sierra Club on December 9th (see previous article).

Grants Available for Community Water Restoration Projects

by Sadie Drescher, Chesapeake Bay Trust

A new grant program is being offered by the Montgomery County Government and administered by the Chesapeake Bay Trust to support watershed restoration and outreach throughout Montgomery County.

Proposals are currently being accepted! The **deadline for submitting proposals is December 4, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.** Please note that this is a completely new funding opportunity that is available for Montgomery County only with grant awards of up to \$50,000.

The goal of this program is to reduce stormwater runoff and pollutants through community-based restoration implementation as well as projects focused on public engagement through education, outreach, and stewardship. More information is available below and on the Chesapeake Bay Trust (Trust) website and we encourage you to contact the Trust to discuss any project ideas. A list of potential project ideas and helpful hints for a successful project are provided in this email.

The Montgomery County Watershed Restoration and Outreach Grant Program-encourages on-the-ground restoration including RainScapes practices as well as outreach and engagement activities that reduce stormflow and pollutants and engage Montgomery County residents in the restoration and protection of the local rivers and streams of Montgomery County.

Visit the grant's website for information and for the online application at www.cbtrust.org/grants/.

Potential project ideas could include:

Projects to support the MS4 Permit Public Outreach and Stewardship Strategy:

- Pet Waste Pick up
 - Priority in the Anacostia, Rock Creek, and Cabin John because of the population density and bacteria TMDLs there; Lower Monocacy is a secondary priority
 - Develop new partnerships to increase awareness and proper disposal of pet waste (e.g. veterinarians, pet stores, groomers, kennels, and animal shelters)
 - Increase number of pet waste stations on HOA or other privately-owned properties and reporting to DEP on amount of material collected
- Anti-Littering Outreach and Stewardship Campaign
 - Priority in the Anacostia because of the trash TMDL, but other Potomac tributaries are secondary priorities
 - Develop new partnerships and programs to create behavior changes to reduce litter (e.g., among faith-based organizations, businesses, athletics organizations, other youth, neighborhood, and community groups)
 - Increase number and maintenance of proper disposal receptacles or operational changes on private property where litter is a documented problem
- Stream Stewards Outreach and Stewardship
 - Develop new partnerships to increase diversity in environmental stewardship programs for DEP, both culturally and socio-economically
 - Increase participation in Stream Stewards Watershed Speakers and BMP Keepers program

- **Watershed Speakers:** Speakers represent DEP at speaking engagements throughout the County. Volunteers will also seek out speaking engagements to further DEP's mission
- **Watershed Keepers:** Watershed keepers help DEP by adopting projects on public property, such as tree plantings, or trash clean ups. Adoption of a project may require routine visual inspection, removing trash or debris, and weeding as necessary

Projects to support the RainScapes Program, which would assist in meeting goals for roof runoff reduction, parking lot runoff management, and/or more environmentally friendly lawn care:

- Faith Based Organization Outreach
- Increased installations in the Breewood Manor and Wheaton Woods Neighborhoods
- Pools and Private Parking lots
- Private Schools Outreach
- Sub-Watershed based outreach and approaches
- Reaching out to, engaging and partnering with self-organized communities (e.g., HOAs)

Increase awareness of innovative stormwater management:

- Public attitude surveys associated with public property retrofits (e.g., permeable pavement, roadside LIDs, etc.)
- Working with real estate professionals (e.g., on-lot ESD practices, determine expectations for homeowners)
- Increasing participation by County residents in educational activities (e.g., a) Geocaching and b) Walking, running, or biking trails that include a stormwater management facilities and educational signs).

For questions, please contact the Grant Manager: [Sadie Drescher](#), Senior Program Officer [Chesapeake Bay Trust](#), at 410-974-2941, ext. 103

Plastics are Forever

by Carole Ann Barth, Immediate Past President & Environment Committee

Scene from the 1967 movie *The Graduate*--

Mr. McGuire: I want to say one word to you. Just one word.

Benjamin: Yes, sir.

Mr. McGuire: Are you listening?

Benjamin: Yes, I am.

Mr. McGuire: Plastics.

Benjamin: Exactly how do you mean?

Mr. McGuire: There's a great future in plastics. Think about it. Will you think about it?

Forty-seven years later plastics are still the future – but it's a grim future. The crux of the problem is this: most objects made of plastic are designed to be thrown away, but plastic lasts forever. Now you may be thinking, "So what? I recycle my plastic bottles every week, I bring my own grocery bags, and when I have a large rigid plastic item (like a kid's playhouse) to dispose of, I take it out to the transfer station."

Unfortunately, most plastic does not get recycled, yet plastics are an ever-increasing part of the waste stream. Currently, plastics make up almost 13 percent of the municipal solid waste stream, a dramatic increase from 1960, when plastics were less than one percent of the waste stream.

In 2012, only 9% of the plastic waste generated in America was captured for recycling. Since 32 million tons of plastic waste were generated in 2012, that means almost 30 million tons of plastic didn't get recycled. Instead, roughly half the waste gets landfilled, leaving about 15 million tons unaccounted for.

So where does the rest go? Stormwater runoff carries the plastic waste (and other contaminants) off the land and into our creeks and rivers. In my watershed, it becomes part of the 20,000 tons of trash entering the Anacostia River *each year*.

Let's look at one component of this plastic tide: plastic bags. The Alice Ferguson Foundation which coordinates cleanups throughout the Potomac watershed reported a 50% decline in plastic bags in Montgomery County in the first year after the Montgomery bag fee went into effect. In DC, plastic bag use decreased 60% after implementation of the DC bag fee. So, the bag fees obviously help.

Still, in this year's Potomac River Watershed Cleanup, 14,766 volunteers collected 35,600 plastic bags from 671 sites around the watershed. Of course, that includes bags from jurisdictions without bag fees. The bottom line is, there are still lots of bags that make it out to the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic, where endangered sea turtles mistake the bags for jellyfish, an important part of their diet. Turtles that ingest bags can die from gastric obstruction.

What else gets swept out to sea with the bags? Lots and lots of plastic bottles and containers along with lids, balloons, strapping, flip flops, cigarette filters, lighters, toys, nurdles¹ and microbeads².

¹Nurdles are the pre-production plastic pellets used in manufacturing and packaging. Ovals about 5mm long, they can easily be spilled during transport and can cling to surfaces. Nationwide, about 60 billion pounds of nurdles are produced annually.

²Facial scrubs, soaps and toothpaste contain thousands of polyethylene and polypropylene microbeads, ranging from 50-500 microns, or ½ mm in diameter. These particles are small enough to go right down the drain, through the treatment plant, and out into rivers and streams.

Once out into the ocean, plastic can travel great distances. Remote island beaches become littered with plastic trash. Albatross chicks die with bellies full of plastic bits, fed to them by their parents who mistook it for food. In all, 663 species of marine wildlife are harmed by plastic pollution through ingestion or entanglement.

Trash also collects in gyres (giant circular oceanic surface currents). The North Pacific Gyre, the most heavily researched for plastic pollution, spans an area roughly twice the size of the United States - though it is a fluid system, shifting seasonally in size and shape.

The Pacific Gyre garbage patch was discovered by racing Captain Charles Moore in 1997 while sailing from Hawaii to California after competing in a yachting race. Crossing the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre, Moore and his crew noticed millions of pieces of plastic surrounding his ship.

The key word here is "pieces". While Moore observed many identifiable fragments of plastic objects, he was only seeing a fraction of the plastic swirling around in the vortex. This is because sunlight eventually makes plastic brittle, and the action of the waves breaks the plastic up into ever smaller pieces, until it becomes microscopic.

These microplastics (2 millimeters or less in length) can go unnoticed. But just because we can't see it, doesn't mean it's gone. There is six times more plastic than plankton (by mass) in the North Pacific Gyre. This increasingly dense plastic soup may pose a great risk to the food chain.

Plastics are *very* good at adsorbing persistent organic pollutants such as PCBs, DDT, and PAHs. A single plastic particle can absorb up to 1,000,000 times more toxic particles than the water around it. Other toxic chemicals (such as phthalates, used to keep plastics pliable) are released as plastics age. Thus, microplastics could deliver toxics into the tissues and blood of fish that we consume.

This problem is not limited to the Pacific. There are five major gyres around the world, and plastic soup has been found in the North Atlantic Gyre, the Great Lakes, and Baltimore's Inner Harbor. However, until very recently, there was no information on plastics in Chesapeake Bay.

In November, Trash Free Maryland and the Five Gyres organization spent five days trawling the Chesapeake for microplastic. Sampling was difficult due to rough weather, but one sample they pulled contained about 10 times as much plastic as a typical ocean sample. Further analysis and a report of the results will be forthcoming, so stay tuned. In the meantime, You can read about the trawl here: <http://www.trashfreemaryland.org/> and see photos from the trawl at #chesbay #trashtrawl.

2015 Awards Committee

The Civic Federation's Annual Awards Banquet in May may seem a long way off, but truly, there is much to be done within the coming months. The work of this committee – soliciting and accepting nominations for award recipients, evaluating those nominations and making final recommendations on the awardees -- should be carried out during the winter, and much of the work may be done by phone.

First, we need an Awards Committee. This group will be confirmed at the January Executive Committee meeting. Volunteers, please step forward! Contact our President, Paula Bienenfeld at paula.bienenfeld@yahoo.com to let her know that you're willing to serve.

All of our delegates and members should also start thinking about individuals and/or groups you would like to nominate. Here are the descriptions of the awards and the rationale for each award:

The Wayne Goldstein Award: awarded to an individual or group for outstanding service to the people of Montgomery County.

The Sentinel Award - sponsored by the Montgomery Sentinel newspaper and awarded to an individual or group for a significant contribution to good government at the local level.

The Star Cup - sponsored by the Federation and to be awarded to a Delegate or Committee of the Federation for outstanding public service on behalf of Montgomery County.

Civic Federation Nominations Committee for 2015-2016

We need volunteers including a chairman to serve on the MCCF Nominating Committee. There is no better way to help highlight shared County concerns and provide a bigger voice for residents and their civic associations. The Committee will be responsible for filling the elective positions for the year 2015-2016: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. No travel! No meetings! Most work will be done by email and telephone. Please contact President Paula Bienenfeld at 240-899-2335 or paula.bienenfeld@yahoo.com to volunteer to help with this important task.

Follow-Up to Last Month's Program

by Peggy Dennis, Newsletter Editor

Our November program covered Montgomery County's solid waste disposal programs with an emphasis on reducing, reusing and recycling. It was compared to that of Prince George's County which is distinguished from ours by providing the recycling and composting of kitchen/food waste in addition to yard waste.

For those in Montgomery County who would like to eliminate food waste from your trash and recycle it, this can now be done through a private company, Veteran Compost. Veteran Compost is a Maryland based, veteran-owned business focused on turning food scraps into high quality organic compost. Veteran Compost provides food scrap collection in residential

neighborhoods, and owns and operates their own permitted composting facility where they create finished, organic compost. Complete information can be found at: veterancompost.com and at vcresidential.com.

Minutes of the November 10th Meeting

By Sandy Vogelgesang, Public Relations Officer

Call to Order: President Paula Bienenfeld called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

Introductions of attendees followed. Included in introductions were suggestions for MCCF program focus such as more programs on transportation and the environment.

AGENDA: Paula called for and received approval of the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Peggy Dennis reminded delegates of the upcoming Forum to be presented by the Civic Federation, entitled "Building Better Community Associations," to be held on November 16, 1:00-5:00 PM, at the Western Montgomery County Regional Services Center in Bethesda.
- Paula announced that Carole Ann Barth is taking over the MCCF website and that Harriet Quinn has assumed responsibility for organizing membership data. Paula reported that she will be representing the Civic Federation at monthly meetings of the Committee for Montgomery. Finally, she noted the recent proposal by MCPS Superintendent Starr for changing the MCPS calendar to omit reference to Jewish holidays and urged delegates to weigh in before the imminent School Board vote.
- Alan Bowser reported that he had attended the dedication, Nov. 10, of the new Memorial Plaza to commemorate veterans, located on the Government Complex Center Terrace in downtown Rockville.

MINUTES: Paula called for and received approval of October 13th minutes as published in the latest newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jerry Garson, Treasurer, provided update. The Federation's bank balance is \$14,420.68.

PROGRAM: Peggy Dennis, Past President, introduced the speakers for the evening's program entitled "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: or Everything You've Ever Wanted to Know about Our Solid Waste." The speakers were:

- Bill Davidson, Section Chief for Northern Operations, Emissions and Strategic Planning, Montgomery County. He summarized the award-winning work done by the "yard trim" composting facility in Dickerson and the Resource Recovery Facility, also in Dickerson, that results in dramatic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions – all with full-cost recovery financing. Collections are done entirely by contractors, including fleet of 125 vehicles with one-stop curbside service.
- Eileen Kao, Section Chief for Waste Reduction and Recycling, Montgomery County. She emphasized that waste reduction is her department's highest priority and said that the goal is 70 percent waste reduction by 2020. She summarized ways for homeowners and businesses to reduce waste and noted the dramatic increase in recycling since the

program began in the 1970's. She said that dealing with the issue of food waste is the "next frontier" for solid waste management in Montgomery County.

- Carole Ann Barth, Past President and Senior Environmental Planner with the Prince George's County Department of the Environment. She provided insights into how that County handles its solid waste and what Montgomery County could learn from their commitment to achieving Zero Waste. She emphasized the County's focus on thinking outside the box, using new technology and building new partnerships.

Committee Reports

Transportation: Harriet Quinn reported that the County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is forming Advisory Committees for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor studies that will be done by the Maryland State Highway Administration. In addition to selections already made for the Corridor Cities Transitway, four other major corridors will be studied: Upper Georgia Avenue, Veirs Mill Rd, Route 355 and Route 29. Residents near those new segments may nominate themselves or be nominated by others. Civic associations along the study corridor must submit their nomination contact information to MCDOT by December 5. More information and nomination forms can be found at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rts/cacs.html> Harriet also provided an update on the Planning Department Working Group review of the Local Area Transportation Review (LATR) process that is part of the Subdivision Staging Policy (SSP). This test measures adequacy of local intersections and the requirements may change. Peggy Dennis provided an update on the proposal for shared use paths along Pepco right-of-way areas. There is some indication of support from the County Council and County Executive as part of the Pepco/Exelon merger negotiations.

Environment: Carole Ann Barth, Co-Chair, expressed concern about apparent weakening of the Green Construction Code by Montgomery County and Jean Cavanaugh, Co-Chair, suggested that MCCF discuss and formulate a position on the County's recently introduced pesticide bill. Peggy Dennis urged delegates to help disseminate material on bow and arrow hunting as part of broader deer management program in the County.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Minutes of the November 20th Executive Committee Meeting

By Recording Secretary, Danila Sheveiko

The Executive Committee (ExComm) convened at the BCC Regional Services Center.

Call to Order: Paula Bienenfeld, President, called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM. Present: Paula Bienenfeld, Jerry Garson, Peggy Dennis, Jim Zepp, Carole Ann Barth, Danila Sheveiko, Virginia Sheard, Alan Bowser, Sandy Vogelgesang, Jean Cavanaugh and Harriet Quinn.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda: Paula called for and received unanimous approval of the proposed agenda.

Approval of Minutes for Oct. 23rd ExComm Meeting: Paula called for and received unanimous approval of the minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Jerry Garson, Treasurer, circulated the FY2015 budget and report for period July 1 – November 20, 2014. Net income for period is \$1,051.21.

Announcements: Paula Bienenfeld called for announcements.

- Sierra Club Clean Water Town Hall w/ Sen. Jamie Raskin Dec. 9th, Silver Spring Civic Building, 7-9pm – Clean Water, Green Jobs, Climate Resilience.
- Next MCCF General Meeting is December 1st.

Programs: Paula introduced discussion of future programs.

- **December:** Emergency preparedness.
- **January:** Street repaving and infrastructure.
- **February:** Suggestions – historic preservation, transit
- **March:** County budget
- **April:** Stormwater, Green Retrofits, Rain Tax, etc.

Issues Discussed

- Membership survey: Jim Zepp is compiling the MCCF membership survey.
- Membership communications: Harriet and others are evaluating software.
- Committee for Montgomery: A delegation from MCCF will attend the annual breakfast.
- DPS use of blanket “confidentiality” notices on their emails. No response from DPS to MCCF letter. Danila Sheveiko will draft article.
- Bill MC/PG 105-15: ExComm members expressed opposition to proposed loosening of term limits for Planning Board Commissioners.
- Council committee assignments: ExComm voted to oppose removal of Councilmember Elrich from the Planning, Housing & Economic Development committee.

Committee Reports

- **Transportation:**
 - o Deadline for Civic Associations to apply for [Bus Rapid Transit](#) advisory groups is December 5.
 - o The Planning Dept is now working on updating the [Master Plan of Highways](#). This is the first comprehensive update since 1955. Some County roads may be reclassified.
- **Education:**
 - o New MCPS religious holiday policy is generating controversy.
 - o MCPS Capital Improvement Program FY2016 budget is [available online](#).

Old Business

- Twitter feed updates: MCCF account has 265 followers.
- Costco gas update: Hearing Examiner's report delayed until Nov. 26th.

- IgCC update: [International Green Construction Code](#) is being reviewed by numerous environmental groups. Department of Permitting Services draft bill expected on Dec. 1st.
- Sunday Forum "Building Better Community Associations" was a success with 27 attendees with many new faces. Much useful information was shared which will form the basis for an expanded Community Toolkit
- MCCF 2015 awards banquet: Danila will follow up on the venue.

New Business

- Media relations: ExComm members will work together to compile an updated media list.
- Subdivision Staging Policy amendment to the White Oak policy area is off the table.
- Newsletter deadline and articles – Deadline: Sunday, Nov. 23rd 6pm to Peggy Dennis mccfnewsletter@gmail.com
- Date and location of next two ExComm meetings:
 - o December 18th, 7:00pm, Mid-County Regional Services Center.
 - o January 22 – 7:45pm, BCC Regional Services Center.

Adjournment: Paula called for and received unanimous approval for adjournment at 9:54PM.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Mail to MCCF Treasurer: Jerry Garson
8308 Raymond Lane, Potomac MD 20854
301-765-9470; email: garson AT comcast.net

Form updated August 2014

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. Can not be a single local issue group.)	10 to 50		\$20	1	Yes
	51 to 300		\$35	2	
	301 to 600		\$50	3	
	601+		\$65	4	
Umbrella Association (Two or more local associations. Cannot be single local issue group.)	60 to 500		\$35	2	Yes
	501 to 1000		\$50	3	
	1001+		\$65	4	
Regional or County-Wide Organization (environmental, transportation, or other civic/community).	50+ memberships, not households		\$35	2	Yes
Individual Associate	(not applicable)		\$15	1	No
Associate Group (Gov't agency, business, or other organization)	(not applicable)		\$75	2	No

The newsletter is no longer mailed. Email is the only way to receive it. Organizations can also select less than the allowed number of delegates and pay according to that number.

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