

June's Program | At the Annual 'UnProgram' on June 13, attendees set the agenda topics | **P.3**

2016 Awards Announced | See the recipients of the Star Cup, the Wayne Goldstein Award, and the Sentinel Award | **P.4**

Buy Tickets Now | This year's Annual Awards Celebration will happen Thursday, June 9th | **P.6**

County Council Approves Multiple Tax Increases on Real Property Owners to Fund FY 2017 Budgets | Here are the highlights | **P.7**

New Officers | See who's been nominated for 2016-2017 | **P.9**

Subdivision Staging Policy to be Updated by Planning Dept. | Public hearings are June 2nd | **P.9**

What's Trending: Per Capita Personal Income | Check out the change from 1995 to 2014 | **P.11**

Big Damage by a Little Bug | The Emerald Ash Borer may kill all ash trees within three years | **P.12**

Easy \$250 Property Tax Credit that Homeowners Overlook | The County offers a credit for energy conservation devices | **P.13**

So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish! | Bienenfeld says bye | **P.14**

TO PRINT, USE "PRINT VERSION"

of note

Annual Awards Celebration

Buy your tickets now for our June 9th reception at McGinty's Pub in Downtown Silver Spring **DETAILS, P.6**

Next MCF Meeting

June 13, 2016, 7:45 p.m. @ the Executive Office Building in Rockville. It's the annual "UnProgram"

AGENDA, P.2 • PROGRAM, P.3

May Meeting Minutes

May 9 Meeting **P.16**
Executive Committee Meeting **P.19**

Membership Application

Join or Renew Now **SEE FORM**

JUNE 2016 • 2

CIVIC
FEDERATION
NEWS

TOP

Federation Meeting 877

Monday, June 13, 2016

7:45 p.m.

Lobby Level Auditorium

Executive Office Building

101 Monroe Street

Rockville, Maryland

AGENDA

- 7:45 Call to Order/Introductions
- 7:50 Approval of Agenda
- 7:51 Announcements
- 7:57 Approval of Minutes, May 9 Meeting [**SEE P.16**]
- 7:58 Treasurer's Report
- 8:00 Program: *The UnProgram*
- 9:25 Committee Reports
- 9:35 Old and New Business
- 9:45 Adjournment

About MCF Meetings

All monthly MCF meetings are open to the public. They are held on the second Monday of each month, September through June, in Rockville.

Please note the change of venue for the June meeting!

Same time as usual (7:45 p.m.), but it will be held in the **Lobby Level Auditorium of the Executive Office Building at 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, Maryland.**

Meetings are usually adjourned at 10:15 p.m. at the latest. For detailed parking directions, visit the **meetings and events calendar** on the MCF website. ■

MCCF 2016 AWARDS CEREMONY
JUNE 9, 2016, SILVER SPRING
LEARN MORE ON PAGE 4

The **Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc.**, is a county-wide nonprofit educational and advocacy organization founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. Monthly MCF meetings are open to the public (agenda and details at left).

The *Civic Federation News* is published monthly except 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 (Md.) Civic Federation."

Civic Federation News

civicednews AT montgomerycivic.org

TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE, **SEE PAGE 21**

It's the Annual UnProgram, Where YOU Set the Agenda for the Meeting

By Paula Bienenfeld, President

Our June program, the last of the season, will be our annual UnProgram. The panel and speakers: You! Please come with your questions, ideas for the coming year, neighborhood news and issues, and anything you'd like to talk about—all things Montgomery County.

For most of the year, the Executive Committee puts together a program with speakers on topics that we hope are of interest to you, the members. But ... the Civic Federation is really run by and for you, the members. Active involvement in county government comes from all of you. So, this month, we thought it was important to end the Civic Fed "year" with an open forum discussion of issues of interest. We plan to step aside and, instead of the

phone calls and emails to potential speakers on the part of the Executive Committee, we're asking you to come to the meeting and bring your interests and concerns.

As with the original Mousekeeters "Anything Can Happen" Day, this "Unprogram" is open to discussions of any sort on burning issues you have. Questions or concerns

about the school system? Taxes? Utilities? Our programs? Planning and zoning? Public Financing? How about the environment and our commitment to reducing greenhouse gases? Is the county government meeting its transparency and open government obligations to your satisfaction? What would you like to see the Civic Fed do during the 2016-2017 year?

So, no top-down program organization; no listening to presentations. For the UnProgram, please just bring yourselves and your commitment.

Please join your fellow members and Executive Committee to discuss our County and Quality of Life, as well as your thoughts on the Civic Federation.

We'll see you June 13th! ■



This Year's Awards Celebration Honors Multiple Groups of County Activists

By Paula Bienenfeld, President

Come join us on Thursday, June 9th, as we come together to celebrate the outstanding volunteers and volunteer organizations who have dedicated time and resources over the past year to make Montgomery County a better place.

This year our celebration will be at McGinty's Public House, 911 Ellsworth Drive, Silver Spring, 6:30–9:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased using the form attached in this newsletter (see page 6).

Our awardees are listed below.

THE SENTINEL AWARD

The Civic Fed is honored to present the Sentinel Award to the **Stop Costco Gas Coalition** and the **Kensington Heights Civic Association** for their work to prevent Costco from

constructing a mega-gas station close to residential neighborhoods and schools. These organizations have worked tirelessly for over five years to present a case to the public, to our elected officials and to the courts, the Hearing Examiner, the Zoning boards, and the Board of Appeals, to successfully (so far!) stop Costco from constructing a mega-station at an inappropriate location. An effort of this size takes an enormous amount of organization, volunteer hours, and volunteer dollars, as well as persistence and the ability to keep at it long after others have dropped out. They represent the best of civic activism.

THE WAYNE GOLDSTEIN AWARD

This year the Wayne Goldstein Award goes to the **Friends of Sligo**

Creek Water Watchdogs. Friends of Sligo Creek is an ongoing organization that worked with the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Montgomery County Park Police to put in place a system to identify and report water pollution in real time to the County. Through their organizational efforts and continued work with county officials, the ongoing "Water Watchdog" system is effective in stopping and slowing water pollution in our most important streams and creeks. The Water WatchDog program is a simple crowd sourcing online system to report water pollution. As you walk, hike, or bicycle near Sligo Creek, if you see a water pollution issue, thanks to the system Friends of Sligo

MORE



Awards Celebration, cont.

Creek have put in place, it is possible to easily contact DEP and report the issue. The website they set up and maintain includes an “Action Log” where real time reports are identified and maintained. These pollution event alerts are received by DEP immediately, allowing them to act on the problem right away.



THE STAR CUP

Nancy Abeles, Jerry Garson, Harriett Quinn and Jim Zepp of our Executive Committee and Transportation Committee will be receiving the Star Cup in recognition of the hundreds of hours they volunteered to evaluate the Independent Transit Authority (ITA) bill and educate others about the implications of the proposal. After being challenged by the County Executive to suggest alternatives to his proposals, the Transportation Committee—led by Chair Jerry Garson, who also does double duty as the Civic Federation’s Treasurer—examined various options and proposed a number of viable and cost-effective solutions and priorities to address the County’s mobility issues.

They also continue to evaluate the proposals to build and operate a County Bus ‘Rapid’ Transit sys-

tem, which is still being pushed at a tremendous cost to the residents of the County, despite data showing the ridership cannot support it, and there is little resident support for the scheme. They published our **Response to County Executive Leggett’s Proposal for an Independent Transit Authority/Bus Rapid Transit System**, providing real data and real solutions. All attended numerous meetings, provided testimony, wrote articles, researched and publicized better options, met with neighbors countywide, gathered and analyzed data, and continue to work for the betterment of Montgomery County. We thank them for outstanding contributions to the Civic Federation and to Montgomery County.

Please join us to recognize the exceptional achievements of our neighbors. ■



**Reserve Your Tickets Now for Montgomery County Civic Federation’s
2016 ANNUAL AWARDS CELEBRATION**

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2016

Reception
6:30 to 9:00 p.m.
Awards Presentations
7:15 to 8:15 p.m.

“THE ROOM” AT
MCGINTY’S PUBLIC HOUSE
911 Ellsworth Drive, Downtown
Silver Spring, Maryland

*Reception includes substantial
hors d’oeuvres, wine, soft drinks.
Beer and cocktails at cash bar.*

**SPACE IS LIMITED
PLEASE RESERVE BY MAY 31ST**

Questions? Call Paula Bienenfeld,
240.899.2335

MCCF Annual Awards Celebration

I/We will attend the Reception on June 9, 2016:
 \$35 per person \$60 per couple
(After May 31st or at the door: \$40 per person)

Name(s): _____

Association or Organization (as applicable): _____

Contact Information: Phone _____

Email _____

Please print or cut off and fill in this form with check payable to:
Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc., and mail to: Jerry Garson,
MCCF Awards Ceremony, P.O. Box 1123, Bethesda, MD 20827-1123

Council Approves Multiple Tax Increases on Real Property Owners to Fund FY17 Budgets

By Harriet Quinn

SUMMARY OF INCREASED EXPENDITURES

On May 26th, the Montgomery County Council unanimously approved the following.

■ The approved County Operating Budget for FY2017 is \$5.3 billion.

■ The approved County Aggregate Operating Budget (AOB) for FY2017 is **\$4.64 billion**.

■ The AOB excludes WSSC, tuition for Montgomery College, specific grants and enterprise funds.

The County Charter requires six Councilmembers to approve the AOB if it exceeds the budget for the preceding year by the rate of inflation. The Charter requires seven Councilmembers to approve the AOB if it exceeds the adopted Spending Affordability Guidelines (SAG). The rate of infla-

tion was 0.32% and the ceiling adopted for the SAG was \$4.58 billion. The adopted AOB of \$4.64 billion exceeded the previous budget by \$209 million for a 4.71% increase, well above inflation and the SAG ceiling.

MCPS approved budget is \$2.46 billion, an increase of \$135 million (6.2%) and \$90 million over and above the State's Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement which will reset the base for next year. Salaries for County government and MCPS will increase 4.5% on top of average increase over last 3 years of 20%. Salaries and benefits are 80% of County budget and 90% of MCPS budget.

The County's second highest expense, annual debt service, will increase 10.7% to \$397,600,850.

The approved Capital CIP

Budget for FY 17-22 is \$4.6 billion, a \$200 million increase over the previous CIP Budget. 50% of the debt finances projects for public schools and the College. 25% of the debt finances transportation projects.

Note that Impact Fees (school fee and transportation fee) charged to developers for infrastructure to support new development, are not collected in multiple areas of the County and only contribute 3% of revenue for the capital budget. The Council so far has declined to implement these fees where they are not being collected. The fees go directly to fund school capacity and transportation projects.

REVENUE SUMMARY – REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASED ABOVE CHARTER LIMIT, OTHER TAXES INCREASED FOR PROPERTY OWNERS

MORE

FY17 Budgets, cont.

1. Proposed overall Real Property Tax yield increase of 10.7% above Charter limit to pay for increased salaries. This is the largest real property tax increase in eight years.

Previous year County yield rate: .723 per \$100 of assessed value.

This does not include the State tax and all the other itemized taxes for services for fire, recreation, storm drainage and park and planning. The state property tax (.112/\$100) will remain constant.

State recommend County yield rate for coming year: .7004 (because assessments up).

County Council Adopted Yield Rate: .7734.

After all services included (except individual municipal taxes) the **total rate will be \$ 1.15 per \$100 of**

assessed value, a new high.

The County Charter requires 9 affirmative votes for the real property tax increase because the property tax revenue in FY2017 from real property that existed in FY2016 increases more than the rate of inflation. The rate of inflation was 0.32% and **the increase in the County yield rate will be 10.7% above the Charter limit.**

The Council approved maintaining the credit of \$692 for owner occupied dwellings.

The Council approved provisions to allow eligible seniors (at least 65 years old with gross household income not exceeding \$80,000) to defer the annual increase in their residential property taxes at 0% interest. See **Expedited Bill 10-16**.

The County Executive and Council have agreed to defer County refunds for two years, to those who

are due income tax refunds under the Supreme Court decision on the Wynne case. They will begin to provide refunds in 2019. Therefore additional real property tax increases may be added in 2019 to cover the Wynne refunds. This would take place after the next election.

2. Recordation Tax increase to pay for school construction and affordable housing projects.

50–60% increase in parts of the recordation tax on sale of homes, buildings and mortgage refinancing. See **Expedited Bill 15-16**.

3. Increase of 5% solid waste/leaf collection fee (collected on property tax bill).

4. Increase of \$6.60 (7.5%) Water Quality Protection Charge (collected on property tax bill)

5. Increase of 3% in WSSC water and sewer rates for increased

MORE

Election of Civic Federation Officers for 2016-2017

Election of officers will take place at the June 13th general meeting. Terms are for one year. We'd like to thank outgoing President Paula Bienenfeld for her work and leadership for the past two years. The following slate has been nominated by the Nominations Committee:

President—*Jim Zepp*

First Vice-President—

Alan Bowser

Second Vice-President—

Bailey Condrey

Treasurer—*Jerry Garson*

Secretary—*Danila Sheveiko*

We are also seeking a co-secretary to share responsibilities with another secretary for meetings.

Also, four At-Large members of the Executive Committee are named

by the President early in his/her term of office. This is a great way to become more actively involved and contribute to the work of the Civic Federation.

If you are interested in serving in this capacity or would like to nominate another delegate, please contact us at [info AT montgomerycivic.org](mailto:info@montgomerycivic.org). ■

FY17 Budgets, cont.

salaries, in addition to 6.5% increase previous 2 years. 50% increase in infrastructure maintenance fee.

All of the above tax and fee increases approved by the County Council affect real property owners.

For more information on budget documents and the 23 resolutions approved by the Council on May 26th see the [Council website](#). ■

Public Hearings June 2nd on Changes to 2016 SSP

By Harriet Quinn

The Montgomery County Planning Department is updating the Subdivision Staging Policy (SSP, formerly called Growth Policy) for review and approval by the County Council by November 15, 2016. The intent of the SSP is to ensure public facilities—particularly schools and transportation facilities—are adequate to meet the needs of new development and growth. The Policy also sets the development fees required to be paid by developers to contribute to the new school and transportation facilities required.

Planning staff is proposing new ideas in transportation and school capacity planning in preparation for the revised regulations. Public

MORE

Public Hearings June 2nd on Changes to Subdivision Staging Policy for 2016, cont.

hearings at the Planning Board are scheduled for June 2nd ([see agenda](#)) in the afternoon and evening. This quadrennial policy includes criteria and guidance for the administration of the County's Adequate Public Facility Ordinance (APFO), which matches the timing of private development with the availability of public services.

In the past, the APFO was designed to ensure that road and school capacity—as well as water, sewer, and other infrastructure—kept pace with growth. Where new areas of the County were developed, infrastructure to support new homes and businesses was needed.

The Planning Department is proposing significant changes to the SSP, so it's important for neighborhoods to follow the progress

and stay informed about how these potential policy changes could affect residents. For example, the planning staff is proposing that transportation adequacy be primarily measured by proximity to transit and proximity to employment opportunities rather than road and



lane capacity. Another metric being proposed is reduction in vehicle miles traveled. In addition, they propose to decrease the impact taxes that developers pay for the school and transportation infrastructure required to accommodate

new development.

For more information about the SSP, the upcoming schedule and previous presentations, please [visit the website](#) and, in particular, the presentations from April 12th and April 14th.

The anticipated schedule at the Planning Board is below:

■ June 2: SSP Public Hearing.

■ June 9: SSP Public Hearing Planning Board Worksession #1 (transportation).

■ June 16: SSP Public Hearing Planning Board Worksession #2 (transportation).

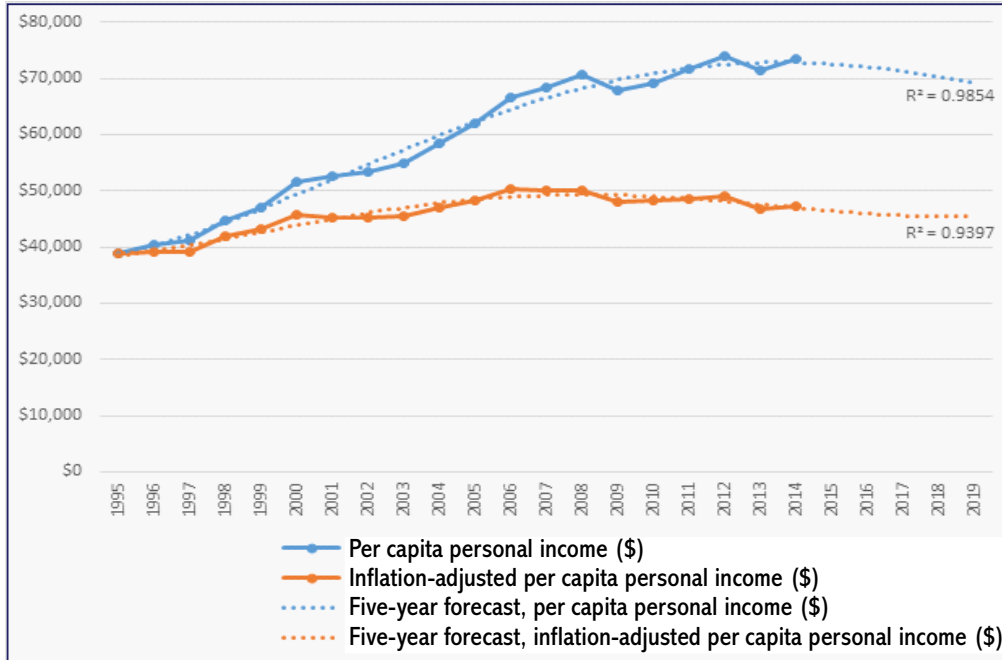
■ June 23: SSP Public Hearing Planning Board Worksession #3 (schools and items).

■ June 30: SSP Public Hearing Planning Board Worksession #4 (finalize). ■

WHAT'S TRENDING IN THE COUNTY

An exploration of data trends in Montgomery County. Each month statistics for a different topic will be reported.

Per Capita Personal Income, 1995 to 2014 with a Five Year Forecast



Personal income is income received by, or on behalf of, all persons from all sources. It includes income from domestic and international sources. Personal income is the income available to persons for consumption expenditures, taxes, interest payments, transfer payments to governments and the rest of the world, or for saving.

Per Capita is calculated by dividing total personal income by total resident population for a jurisdiction.

Inflation adjustment was calculated using the Consumer Price Index-All Urban Consumers.

The five-year forecasts are based on polynomial linear regression trend line. R² value indicates goodness of fit for a statistical model to the observed data. A value closer to 1.0 is a better fit.

Data Sources: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S Dept. of Commerce and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S Dept. of Labor.

Emerald Ash Borer May Destroy Most Ash Trees in County and Nationwide

By Jean Cavanaugh, Environment Committee Co-Chair

The Emerald Ash Borer, a non-native invasive beetle from Asia, has been detected in Montgomery County and is wreaking havoc on ash trees. Ash make up an estimated 20 percent of trees located in stream valleys on local park land. This destructive beetle will take down all ash trees in the county within as few as three years. Montgomery Parks' Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan aims to preserve select historic and significant ash trees through use of treatments; protect the public by removing weakened or dying ash trees; and replant to minimize adverse environmental impacts.

Montgomery Parks is aggressively removing ash trees near roads

and paths. The reasons for removal are twofold: (1) if arborists can identify and remove the trees while the pest is in its larvae stage, they can slow their spread, and (2) unlike many trees that can stand long after they've died, ash trees will fall and create a significant hazard for those in the parks. (See the [Montgomery](#)

[Parks video](#)) and [EAB Management Plan](#) explaining their strategy.

Ash trees are a common landscaping tree. You can identify ash trees by their compound leaves, diamond shaped ridges on bark, and opposite branching pattern as seen in [this online guide](#). White and green ash trees are most common in our area. Ash trees can be proactively protected from the EAB using insecticides. A Maryland certified arborist ([directory here](#)) is the best expert to help determine if an ash tree has been infected and if it can be treated over its lifetime with insecticide, or if it should be removed and replaced with another native canopy tree. [Calculate the value of your trees](#). The County has several tree replacement programs, including [Tree Montgomery](#). ■



An Easy \$250 Property Tax Credit That Many County Homeowners Overlook

By Louis Wilen

Montgomery County offers a credit of up to \$250 per year per property for energy conservation devices installed or used in a home. To get this credit, gather up receipts for anything that you purchased between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016, that you think might qualify for the credit, fill out “Section 2: Energy Conservation Devices” on [the easy form online](#), and submit the form and receipts to the address on the form.

You will receive a credit on your July 2015 tax bill (which covers FY2016), which you have already paid in full (or should have paid in full). The county will mail you a check for the amount of the credit since your 2015 tax bill has already been paid.

The county is quite liberal on what qualifies. According to the form, here are the purchases that qualify.

- “Energy Conservation Device” means a device that:
- (1) Reduces the demands for conventional fuels, or increases the efficiency of these fuels, including:
 - a. Caulking and weatherstripping doors and windows;
 - b. Furnace efficiency modifications;
 - c. A programmable thermostat;
 - e. Ceiling, attic, wall, or floor insulation;
 - e. Water heater insulation;
 - f. Storm windows or doors, multiglazed windows or doors, and heat-absorbed or heat-reflective glazed window

- or door materials;
 - g. Any device which controls demand of appliances and aids load management; and
 - h. Any other conservation device, renewable energy technology, and specific home improvement that is determined necessary to assure that energy conservation measures are effective
- (2) Meets safety and performance standards set by a nationally recognized testing laboratory for that kind of device.

Energy Conservation Device does not include a standard household appliance.

Item H should allow purchases of common items such as LED light bulbs to qualify.

MORE

Easy Prop. Tax Credit, cont.

If you think that you have purchased something that might qualify, submit the form and receipts. The county determines whether your submission qualifies. Even a furnace tune-up might qualify. If you had a window replaced or storm door replaced, it will probably qualify.



The county allocates \$100,000 per year toward these credits, but very few homeowners are submitting the paperwork, so a large amount of the allocation goes unspent each year. ■

So Long and Thanks for All the Fish!

By Paula Bienenfeld, President

This is the last column I will be writing as President of the Montgomery County Civic Federation. It has been an honor to serve the members of the Civic Fed and work with an outstanding Executive Committee over the past two years and I thank you all for the opportunity I was given to lead the Civic Fed.

During the past two years, we tackled numerous issues and supported neighborhood civic federations and HOAs across the county as we worked to improve the quality of life here in Montgomery County. On your suggestions, we provided testimony and monitored bills both at the County Council and in Annapolis. Some of the highlights include moving to an electronic monthly newsletter and a newer website.

Over 2015, we worked on getting out the troops to oppose County Executive Leggett’s ill-advised “Independent Transit Authority,” which would have created an “off-the-books” authority with members appointed by the County Executive and with the ability among other things, to raise taxes with no oversight from residents. As part of that, our Executive Committee delved into data and options and wrote and published the [Response to County Executive Leggett’s Proposal for an Independent Transit Authority/Bus Rapid Transit System](#).

We worked with the Sunlight Foundation to hold several hackathons to better the workings of the county, and received a grant from that Foundation.

MORE

So Long and Thanks, cont.

Internally, our Executive Committee moved to streamline our monthly meetings by agreeing to hold alternating meetings by teleconference. These meetings, of course, are open, are announced in advance, and anyone can call in. By meeting via telecon, we save rush hour travel time for our committee members and save the environment in a small way by not emitting greenhouse gases through auto travel. We also decided to hold retreats each summer to prepare for the year ahead. At last year's retreat, we were able to decide on the year's programs, which shortened our Committee meetings and saved considerable time.

At our Executive Committee meetings, we also make decisions about Community Heroes, and the Executive Committee is always look-

ing for suggestions.

Our monthly newsletter is a group effort, as you see from the bylines. Putting out the newsletter is a tremendous effort and it is thanks to everyone on the Executive Committee that it is full of news you can use and is on time. Again, we welcome contributions.

The monthly programs, too, are tackled by all our Executive Committee members. Again, this is a volunteer effort and each month one or two of us make calls and arrange the informative and topical programs that you all enjoy.

Thanks to an outstanding Executive Committee, too. I want to thank the Board members—Jim Zepp, First Vice President; Alan Bowser, Second Vice President; Jerry Garson, Treasurer; and co-secretaries Jean Cavanaugh and Danila Sheveiko—for all the work to keep the Civic Federation

running. Our Executive Committee members are: Jerry Garson, chair of the Transportation Committee as well as Treasurer; Virginia Sheard and Harriett Quinn (also Member At-Large), of Planning and Land Use; Carole Ann Barth and Jean Cavanaugh (also Member At-Large), who co-chair the Environment Committee; Peggy Dennis and now Jacquie Bokow, editors of the monthly newsletter; Louis Wilen, chair of the Public Utilities Committee; Jim Zepp, who, in addition to being First Vice President doubles as the Public Safety Committee Chair; and Sandy Vogelgesang, who is our public relations and outreach member. All work very hard and put in countless hours to better the Civic Federation and keep it a vital voice in the County.

We hope you will join us in the future as we continue the efforts of the Civic Federation. ■

Minutes of the May 9th, 2016, Meeting #876, at the Executive Office Bldg. in Rockville

By Danila Sheveiko, Co-Recording Secretary

Call to Order: President Paula Bienenfeld called the 876th session to order at 7:50 p.m. Introductions followed.

Agenda: It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ County Council hearing tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. on **raising County taxes** for property, recordation, energy, and home re-financing. Property taxes are projected to increase 6.3% despite very little inflation.

■ June 9th **annual Civic Federation award recipients** are: the Wayne Goldstein Award to Sligo Creek Wa-

ter Watchdogs; the Sentinel Award to the Stop Costco Gas Coalition and Kensington Heights Civic Association; and the Star Cup to Jerry Garson, Harriet Quinn, Jim Zepp, and Nancy Abeles.

■ **Election of MCCF officers** for the 2016-2017 membership year will take place at the June 13th general meeting.

■ A short list of **five candidates for the Planning Board** has been released.

■ Petition for a referendum to impose term limits has amassed 8,000 signatures already.

Minutes: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 11th general meeting as they appeared in the **May newsletter**. The minutes were approved.

Former President Peggy Dennis read the following statement and asked that it be included in the *Civic Federation News* as an amendment to the minutes of the April 21st Executive Committee meeting. The general membership voted aye and so the statement is included here: "Peggy Dennis resigned from her 15-year position as Newsletter Editor in protest to the shabby way she had been treated over the past year and the ongoing and complete disregard for the Civic Federation's Bylaws."

Treasurer's Report: Jerry Garson reported net expenditures over income for period of \$1,046.80.

PROGRAM

The **May program** featured

May Minutes, cont.

presentations on Senior Services and Senior Villages in Montgomery County.

Shawn Brennan, Mobility and Transportation Coordinator for Aging and Disability Services at the County Department of Health and Human Services, spoke about the role of government in healthy aging and priorities for seniors like recreational activities, a healthy environment, transportation, community space, and affordability. Ms. Brennan shared a wealth of information about County resources and programs available to seniors: a County Cable Montgomery TV show “**Seniors Today**,” age-friendly caregiver support and training; special police training; **Ride On senior transportation** program; **Call ‘N’ Ride**, a discount taxi program;

The Beacon newspaper’s **Senior Resource Guide** published annually in partnership with County government; **Connect-A-Ride**, a County partnership with the Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington, Inc.; **Get Out and Stay Active**, a partnership between Montgomery County Recreation and DHHS Aging and Disability Services; Meals on Wheels **Senior Food and Nutrition Program**; and **Senior Connection**, providing volunteer-based programs and services that preserve and foster independence, mobility, and quality of life for seniors.

Pazit Aviv, Coordinator of **Senior Villages** at the Department of Health and Human Services, spoke about the village concept and services provided by County government. In 2001, there was only one senior village in the nation, in Beacon Hill, Mass. There are several hundred

now, with nearly 50 in our region, and 20 in Montgomery County.

Debbie Billet-Roumell, Executive Director of **Silver Spring Village**, said that, since 2013, they have delivered 33,000 volunteer hours to 3,800 households, including 27% below the poverty line. Ms. Billet-Roumell is their first paid full-time employee. The most popular services are transportation, medical note-taking, and Snow Buddies. All volunteers are covered by insurance and pass background checks. Social isolation is a very serious issue. Membership dues cover only 30% of operating costs; the price is \$250 per couple, with reduced fees available.

Anne McHenry, a Board member and Membership Chair for Silver Spring Village, said it took four years to set up the organization. Most important services are trans-

MORE

May Minutes, cont.

portation, social activities, and help around the house and yard. There are two tiers of membership with the lowest dues in the nation—\$150 for an individual/\$250 per couple associate membership, \$350/\$450 for full membership. Reduced fees for qualifying members are \$100/\$200. Membership mainly grew through outreach, word of mouth, information sessions, a great website, and some people even moved to Silver Spring because of the Village.

Gary Klauber, both Board member and Programs Chair at the Village, organizes tours, happy hours, coffee/ice cream socials, and current events discussions monthly, also Scrabble and bridge games, book groups, and **Souper Sunday**. Programs are experiencing a shift toward multigenerational activities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Environment

■ **Danila Sheveiko**, Co-Recording Secretary, reported that the revised draft for adoption of the **2012 International Green Construction Code** was expected from Department of Permitting Services in mid-May, but all quiet so far.

Education

■ Former President **Peggy Dennis** had a spirited discussion with Parkwood delegate **Bailey Condrey** regarding waste in the school system budget. Acting Chair **Paula Bienenfeld** reminded that MCPS is a quasi-state agency.

Planning & Land Use

■ **Danila Sheveiko** reported that the Council’s Planning, Housing and

Economic Development Committee will resume worksessions on the **Subdivision Regulations Rewrite** in June.

Transportation

■ Chair **Jerry Garson** reported that autonomous cars will be on the road by 2020 and are expected to dominate the car market by 2030 with insurance companies pushing for adoption.

■ First Vice President **Jim Zepp** reported that WMATA released its **Safe Track Plan**—three years worth of maintenance packed into one year—with the draft to be finalized next week.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m. ■

Minutes of the May 19, 2016, ExecComm Meeting at Watershed Sustainability Center

By Jean Cavanaugh, Co-Recording Secretary

The Executive Committee (ExecComm) convened at **Pepco's Watershed Sustainability Center** in Rockville. After a tour, Paula Bienenfeld, President, called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. **Present:** Carole Ann Barth, Jacquie Bokow, Alan Bowser, Jean Cavanaugh, Peggy Dennis, Jerry Garson, Harriet Quinn, Danila Shev-eiko, Louis Wilen, and Jim Zepp.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda:

Paula Bienenfeld called for and received unanimous approval of the proposed agenda.

Approval of Minutes for March ExecComm Meeting:

Paula Bienenfeld called for and received unanimous approval of the minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Jerry Garson, Treasurer, reported zero net expenditures over income for the period. Executive Committee discussed candidates to conduct the periodic independent audit of Civic Federation financial statements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

█ Peggy Dennis is taking MCCF newsletter archives to the Montgomery County archives.

█ The free **Silver Spring Blues Festival** will be held on June 18 with two stages—On the Fountain stage and at the Silver Spring Library. Blues Week precedes the festival.

█ Montgomery County is preparing an RFP for the reuse of the old Silver Spring Library on Colesville Rd. Options include affordable senior housing, a community center, and public

space.

█ **County Councilmembers have questioned** why the County Executive has set up separate arts nonprofits that receive grants through the Department of Recreation's budget instead of applying through the Arts and Humanities Council which was set up to review grant proposals and distribute grants.

█ The Housing Opportunities Commission has proposed that Tobytown residents pay to maintain public space currently owned by HOC.

ISSUES DISCUSSED

█ June participatory "un-program" to identify community concerns and initiatives and help plan the agenda for next year;

MORE

May ExecComm Mtg., cont.

█ Logistics surrounding the annual MCCF Awards Ceremony, to be held at McGinty's Public House in Silver Spring on June 9 at 6:30 p.m.;

█ State legislation and MCCF priorities;

█ Next steps on real estate Income Tax Offset Credit (**See Report**);

█ Officer slate for the June election during MCCF general meeting; and

█ Proposals on summer Executive Committee planning meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education

█ Council unanimously approved an 8.7% property tax increase as well as a recordation tax increase. The MCPS budget is \$90M above State required Maintenance of Effort level.

Public Utilities

█ Washington Gas can erroneously bill customers; the Pepco merger with Exelon is still on appeal with the D.C. Public Service Commission.

Planning and Land Use

█ The Council sent the "bed and breakfast" bills ZTA 16-03 and Bill 2-16 to the Planning Department staff to rework by early fall.

Transportation

█ County Executive Leggett and Councilmembers Berliner and Hucker are pushing BRT implementation, including adding funds to the CIP even though planning studies are just underway and significant funds previously allocated for Route 355 and Route 29 still remain. They are also fast tracking Route 29 with a different study process than the

other four corridors under study. The County Executive said he already decided on a BRT alignment for Route 29 even though the study was just getting started.

Environment

█ The County Council, in a 5-4 vote, rejected a request to add a minor Master Plan Amendment process to the Planning Department's work plan to allow sewer expansion into all of Glen Hills, an environmentally sensitive low density area that is in the Potomac Subregion Master Plan area and currently on septic. Although proposed in the context of one neighborhood, this major change in sewer policy could have implications for low-density areas throughout the county. Opponents of the request argued that such a fundamental change in policy

MORE

May ExComm Mtg., cont.

should be done through the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan, not an individual area Master Plan. In March, the County Council had already approved a text amendment to the **Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan** that establishes revised sewer service policies for the study area.

OLD BUSINESS

■ MCCF will pursue enabling membership payment online through PayPal.

NEW BUSINESS

■ The Planning Board will have a **public hearing on the Subdivision Staging Policy** on June 2, afternoon and evening.

■ Jim Zepp proposed a new calendar format for MCCF and other events.

■ The next ExComm meeting will be June 16th by teleconference.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

**THE CURRENT MCCF
MEMBERSHIP YEAR ENDS
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Montgomery County Civic Federation

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Submit contributions for the next issue by the 26th of the month.

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