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MCCF Nominating Committee Needs Your Help | **P. 10**

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Shovel That Snow! It's Montgomery County Law | You must remove 36" in width, too | **P. 13**

TO PRINT, USE PRINT VERSION

of note

Next MCCF Meeting

Monday, January 8, 2018, 7:45 p.m. @ the Executive Office Building in Rockville. "What's In the MCPS Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Budget?" Guests include MCPS Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jack Smith and Mont. Co. Taxpayers League President Joan Fidler

★ *Social Hour Begins at 7:00 p.m.* ★
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Meeting Minutes

December 11 General Meeting **P. 16**
December 14 Meeting of the Executive Committee **P. 18**

Membership Application

Join or Renew Now **SEE FORM**

Federation Meeting 891

Monday, January 8, 2018

7:45 p.m.

Lobby Level Auditorium
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland

AGENDA

7:00 Social Time for Members

7:45 Call to Order/Introductions

7:50 Approval of Agenda

7:51 Announcements

7:57 Approval of Minutes, #890
December 11 Meeting **P.16**

7:58 Treasurer's Report

8:00 Program: MCPS' FY19 Oper-
ating Budget **P.3**

9:25 Committee Reports

9:35 Old and New Business

9:45 Adjournment

About MCCF Meetings

All monthly MCCF meetings are open to the public. They are held on the second Monday of each month, September through June, at 7:45 p.m.

The January meeting will be held in the **Lobby Level Auditorium of the Executive Office Building at 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, Maryland.**

Walkers can enter by buzzing security at the door. You can park for free either in the lot at E. Jefferson and Monroe Streets or in the lowest level of the EOB. Drive onto the ramp in the front of the building (ignore "permit parking only" sign), turn left at the second, lower level; use the intercom at the gate to the parking garage and at the door to the elevators to inform security you're attending the MCCF Meeting. ■



The **Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc.**, is a county-wide nonprofit educational and advocacy organization founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. Monthly MCCF 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 19**

January's Program: MCPS' Recommended FY19 Operating Budget—What's In It?

By Alan Bowser

The Recommended Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Budget of the Montgomery County Public Schools will be the featured topic of the January 8th meeting of the Montgomery County Civic Federation. Our guests will be Dr. Jack Smith, MCPS Superintendent of Schools since 2016; Joan Fidler, President of the Montgomery County Taxpayers League; as well as several members of the Montgomery County Board of Education. Everybody is invited and welcome to attend this important presentation.

The Superintendent's Recommended Operating Budget includes an increase of \$67,304, 349 and 166.2 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) positions compared to the FY18 budget. This represents a 2.7% increase over the FY 2018 MCPS operating

budget, at the same time that the Montgomery County Executive has directed County Departments to reduce their budgets by 2% due to revenue shortfalls.

The projected enrollment for the 2018–2019 school year is 163,774, or 2,472 more students than budgeted for the 2017–2018 school year. FY 2019 will be the tenth consecutive year that MCPS enrollment has increased by at least 2,000 students, a trend expected to continue.

While most of the student enrollment growth in recent years occurred in elementary schools, currently, MCPS is experiencing a dramatic increase in secondary school enrollment, a trend also expected to continue in the coming years as elementary students move into middle and high schools. By

the 2023–2024 school year, enrollment is expected to reach 169,012 students, an increase of more than 7,500 students from the current fiscal year.

In order to manage the anticipated student enrollment in FY 2019, the budget recommendation adds 193.8 FTE positions, including 84.5 general elementary/secondary FTE positions, 77.4 FTE positions for special education services, and 32.0 FTE positions to serve the growing population of students who receive English for Speakers of Other Language services.

According to the Superintendent's December 19, 2017, letter to the Board of Education, the Recommended FY 19 budget highlights several areas, including (1) increasing

January's Program, cont.

access to strong academic and career opportunities for all students to prepare them for college and career; (2) improving programs including mathematics and computer science; (3) extending learning opportunities for students most impacted by poverty; (4) providing language opportunities for students; (5) focusing on the social, physical, and psychological well-being of students; (6) hiring and retaining a highly effective and diverse workforce; and (7) strengthening operational excellence throughout the district and effective business systems that support operations.

The Superintendent says that his top priority with the budget is “to maintain the high levels of achievement that we have for many of our students and eliminate those opportunity gaps that most heavily impact our

African American students, our Latino students, children who live in poverty, English language learners, and our students who have Individualized Education Program services.” He said, “MCPS cannot and will not be satisfied until we have eliminated disparities in opportunities and performance among our student populations.

The Superintendent's Recommendation does include program efficiencies and reductions totaling \$10,751,420 and 72.6 FTE positions. Reductions affect K-12 schools, the Office of School Support and Improvement, the Office of the Chief Academic Officer, the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Programs, the Office of Special Education, the Office of Student and Family Support and Engagement, the Office of the Chief Operating Officer, the Office of the Chief Technology Officer, the Office of Human Resources and

Development, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer and the Office of the Chief of Staff.

With 204 schools, MCPS is the largest school district in Maryland and the 16th largest in the United States. Last school year, the district had 12,673 teachers serving 159,242 students at 208 schools. The county spends approximately half of its annual budget on its public school system. Montgomery County Public Schools had an approved annual budget of \$2.517 billion for the 2018 fiscal year, a 2.6% increase from the 2017 annual budget of \$2.46 billion.

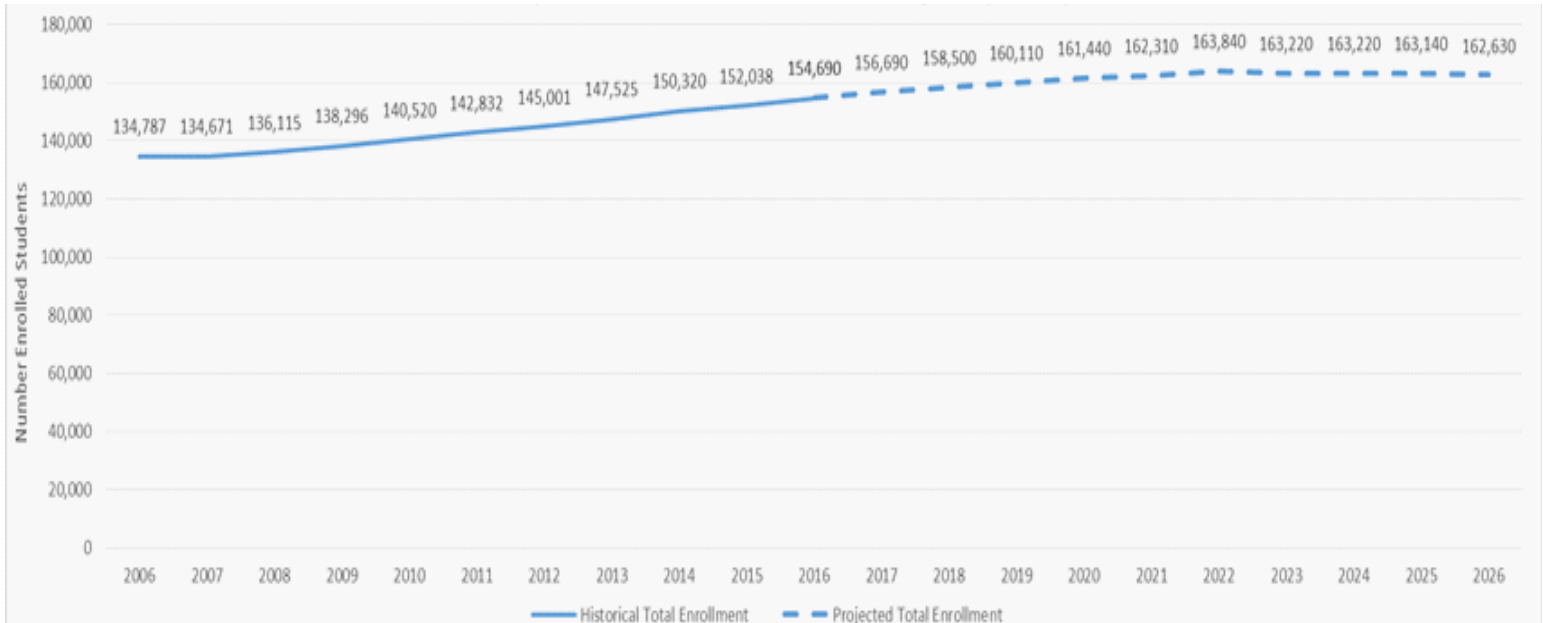
FMI, visit: [MCPS Budgets](#) or [Montgomery Co. Taxpayers League](#).

The “public” can [comment on the FY 2019 Recommended Operating Budget online](#). Comments will be shared with the Board of Education, superintendent and school district administration. ■

WHAT'S TRENDING IN THE COUNTY

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

Historical and Projected Public School Enrollment, Montgomery County, 2006–2026



Data Source: Public School Enrollment Projections 2017–2026, Maryland Department of Planning, Sept. 2017.

Federation Calls on Superintendent of Schools to Lift Veil of Child Sex Abuse Secrecy

By Danila Sheveiko, Second Vice President

The following resolution was unanimously adopted on December 11, 2017, by the Montgomery County Civic Federation at its 890th General Session:

RESOLUTION ON COVER-UP OF CHILD SEX ABUSE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (MCPS)

Whereas principals and top MCPS administrators have repeatedly failed to report child sex abuse by teachers and staff to the proper authorities;

Whereas MCPS leadership and the Montgomery County Board of Education have failed to develop, implement, and enforce reasonable policies to protect children from

sexual abuse by staff; and

Whereas the Civic Federation has worked to make Montgomery County government more transparent and accountable since 1925;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Montgomery County Civic Federation calls on Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jack R. Smith to:

1. **DISCLOSE** the number of lawsuits MCPS settled and total amount paid, and list the lawsuits it is currently facing due to abuse of MCPS students by staff;

2. **POST** a list of all MCPS employees and contractors who have been criminally charged and/or have had their license suspended or revoked due to the mistreatment of children, including a complete accounting of any and all schools, programs, sports and other activi-

ties that person has engaged in with students;

3. **INFORM** every MCPS parent with a letter containing an overview of scope of the problem (dozens of arrests and convictions over the past ten years), an apology for knowingly leaving our children in harm's way, and a commitment to changing the culture of cover-up and deceit in Montgomery County Public Schools.

The Civic Federation's October newsletter covered the **lack of transparency and accountability surrounding the heartbreaking stories of child sex abuse** in Montgomery County's Public Schools system. At the 890th general session held on December 11th, the Civic Federation honored the leading advocate fea-

Lift Veil on Abuse, cont.

tured in the story, Jennifer Alvaro, with a Community Hero award for the **five years of advocacy and activism** she has selflessly given to protect our children from sexual predators employed by the school system.

Three months ago, **even *The Washington Post* had to admit** that another child sex abuse “case appears to be the latest of several in which a Montgomery County school system employee was admonished for repeated incidents of inappropriate behavior with students but stayed on the job and allegedly crossed the line again.” The mandated reporters—principals and MCPS administrators—repeatedly failed to report incidents to Child Protective Services or the Montgomery County Police Department. Board of Education Members and County

Councilmembers are not holding MCPS accountable for these failures to report sex abuse of students to the proper authorities.

Only two States **have no penalties for failing to report child sex abuse**, and Maryland is one of them. Under current law, reporting is required, but the State does not have the power to prosecute when someone does not follow the law. Efforts to introduce criminal penalties in Maryland have failed for the last 13 years in large part due to **public and private opposition from certain State legislators** from Montgomery County. Instead of real reform, the **State Legislature passed House Bill 642**—“a stealthy and significant win to the **Archdiocese of Baltimore**—and any other employer that has allowed perpetrators under their purview to persist in terrorizing children.”

In this culture of secrecy, MCPS

continues to be in flagrant *prima facie* violation of both the State Law’s spirit and mandate in a systemic and public fashion; to this day, the **official MCPS website does not list** Child Protective Services and MCPD as the points of contact for child victims of sexual abuse. Instead, students that have been **sexually assaulted by their teachers** or other staff are directed to contact “Your school principal, counselor, teacher, or other identified staff.” This policy appears to be very convenient for MCPS as these “identified” **staff and top administrators with no requisite clinical training whatsoever** in turn **fail to report these chilling incidents of child sex abuse** to Child Protective Services and MCPD as mandated by State Law. Time and time and time again.

To make matters worse, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals

Lift Veil on Abuse, cont.

viscerated reporter's privilege four years ago, and the Maryland Court of Special Appeals recently ruled that **MCPS teachers are not covered by State whistleblower laws**, thereby making it impossible for MCPS staff with a conscience to blow the whistle



publicly or anonymously without sacrificing their careers. Gone are the days when the Civic Federation gave out Community Hero awards to **volunteers wearing paper bags on their heads** as stand-ins to represent anonymous MCPS whistleblowers.

A response to the Federation's resolution is expected from **MCPS Superintendent Jack R. Smith, Ph.D.**, on January 8th when he will be a featured speaker at the Federation's annual education program. **Montgomery County Board of Education** members Dr. Judy Docca, Patricia O'Neill, and Rebecca Smondrowski have also confirmed they will be attending.

The Montgomery County Civic Federation's 891st general session will be held on January 8th, 7:45–9:45 p.m. at the Lobby Level Auditorium of the Executive Office Building at 101 Monroe Street, Rockville. ■

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT?

Need to share a community concern?

Want to know how to do something for your own civic association?

Would like to meet your fellow civic activists?

Come early to the January 8 meeting. From 7:00 to 7:45 p.m., members of the MCCF Executive Committee will be available to talk in the EOB Auditorium. Light refreshments will keep you from going hungry. Be social, be a part of the civic movement, and be here.

Draft Bicycle Master Plan Approved By Planning Board

By Peggy Dennis, Transportation Committee member

The Montgomery County Planning Board has approved the Working **Draft Bicycle Master Plan** as the Planning Board Draft. Hard copies are also available at each of the county libraries.

I strongly urge everyone to review the Plan and specifically see what recommendations are made for your neighborhood. Does the Plan recommend useful signage, “sharrows” [standard shared lane markings], “neighborhood greenways” [streets with low motorized vehicle traffic volumes and speeds, designed and designated to give walking and bicycling priority], or “sidepaths” [parallel to the road]? Does it include “Safe Routes to Schools” for children to use? Does

it create safe, low-stress routes to your local library, your community or recreation center? Would it be likely to get you onto a bike to access your local grocery store, doctor, or cinema? As the representative of the MCCF on the Working Group, I'd love to hear your views, also, so send me an email at hotyakker@gmail.com.

The Planning Board's public hearing will be Thursday, January 25, 2018, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Planning Board auditorium (8787 Georgia Ave, Silver Spring).

Comments can be submitted to the Planning Board in two ways:

■ Beginning on January 15, the public can **sign up online to testify at the hearing**.

■ Written comments may be made to mcp-chair@mncppc.org. ■

Volunteers Needed for May 18th MCCF Awards Event

The Civic Federation's Annual Awards event will be held on Friday, May 18, 2018. More details on the event will follow in future newsletters.

We need volunteers to help coordinate the event as well as volunteers to serve on the Awards Selection Committee [Wayne Goldstein and Sentinel Awards and Star Cup]. The work of the Awards Selection Committee includes accepting nominations for award recipients, evaluating those nominations, and making final recommendations on the awardees. The work should be of short duration and may be done largely by phone.

If you can help with the Event or Selection Cmte. or have a award nomination, contact Jim Zepp, president AT montgomerycivic.org. We cannot do this without your help! ■

Big Reveal in the MCPS Synthetic Turf Fraud Cover-Up

By Danila Sheveiko, Second Vice President

After two years of attempts to verify claims made by Montgomery County Public Schools officials as to the safety and cost-efficiency of synthetic turf playing fields installed at County schools, volunteers from the Civic Federation obtained a shocking MCPS admission by Chief Operating Officer Andrew M. Zuckerman: apparently, they don't have any records of the concussion safety tests required to be performed annually on these synthetic fields.

It appears that the few tests, known as G-MAX reports, that were actually done by MCPS and the Parks Department M-NCPPC (the agency that owns and operates the Blair High School field) were performed only after years of ad-

vocacy by local activists concerned about the use of synthetic turf fields that are made of toxic tire crumb rubber, **contain lead** and twelve **known human carcinogens**, and are manufactured by a company whose fields from **the same product line were failing prematurely all over the country**. These few G-MAX reports showed deadly hazardous conditions and were only made available to the public after MCCF Environment Committee members made repeated inquiries and filed official Maryland Public Information Act requests. [See **Concussion Risk On County Football Fields Confirmed**: “Newly uncovered documents show school system knew synthetic turf fields were dangerous.”]

So MCCF Delegates continued

MORE

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!

Please volunteer for MCCF's Nominating Committee. The MCCF will only be effective with good leadership.

Recommendations are needed for:

President
1st Vice President
2nd Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

A report will be due by May. Contact Jim Zepp at jzepp1953@gmail.com to volunteer or ask questions.

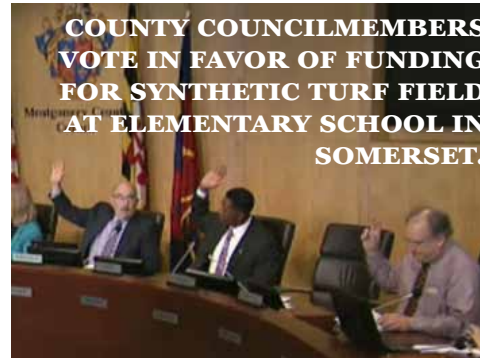
Syn Turf Cover-Up, cont.

digging to find out exactly when MCPS and the Parks Department learned that these fields were deadly and why they continued to let children play sports on these hazardous defective fields without warning the parents.

After two years of stonewalling and “sheepdogging” by MCPS, the Parks Department, the Park and Planning Commission, the Board of Education, and the County Council, we finally have an admission that MCPS simply does not have any of the prior G-MAX reports! In response to an e-mail from County Councilmember Marc Elrich, MCPS COO Andrew Zuckerman admitted they “do not have detailed, consistent testing practices or records” and can’t produce the prior G-MAX reports. An explosive claim to be

sure, since these synthetic fields did not become deadly overnight.

The fields used by MCPS and Parks had **nationwide failure rates** high enough to warrant investigations that resulted in numerous jurisdictions joining in **a federal class action law suit against the manufacturer**, FieldTurf, alleging that **the Canadian corporation knew as far back as 2006 that the fields were defective** and is, therefore, guilty of misleading marketing and sales



practices, false and **deceptive advertising, bribery, and fraud.**

So despite **nationwide news coverage** and years of advocacy by local activists, MCPS did not even bother to see what the G-MAX concussion reports had to say? Did MCPS perform the tests and then cover up the results? Or did MCPS not even bother to conduct these required annual safety tests before folks started filing MPIA requests? Is it fraud or child endangerment or both? Apparently we will never know, because not a single Board of Education Member or County Councilmember is interested in finding out the truth.

This shameful lack of accountability at all levels of County government has emboldened MCPS even further. Not satisfied with providing FieldTurf political cover by **declining the offer to join the nationwide class**

CIVIC FED TONIGHT!

SEEKING POSSIBLE SPEAKERS FOR YOUR CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETINGS?

Members of the MCCF Executive Committee have extensive experience in issues such as transportation, land use and zoning, schools, parks, environmental concerns, taxes, and public spending. Plus, they have a community-oriented perspective on these matters. If you would like an executive committee member to speak at a meeting, contact President Jim Zepp at *president at montgomerycivic dot org*. Include topics/possible dates.

Syn Turf Cover-Up, cont.

action suit, MCPS refused to file warranty claims on the defective fields and **allowed the warranties to expire** well after the deadly hazardous G-MAX reports publicized by Civic Federation delegates received both **local and national media coverage**.

Corruption spreads like a virus, and so the Parks Department also failed to file a warranty claim against FieldTurf on its Blair High School field, choosing to instead **replace the deadly surface entirely**—paid for by the taxpayer, of course, by **defunding other Parks projects and infrastructure improvements** around the County.

When this Parks Department ploy succeeded without challenge, MCPS decided to go even further: they kept their deadly fields in operation and MCPS students play

sports on them to this day. How was this impressive feat to turn defective fields safe accomplished by MCPS? They **“went and maintained”** them! Magic! To this day the **MCPS Website insists their synthetic fields are cost-effective**, “safe,” “high quality,” and “professional-level,” all despite **industry experts quoted** by *Bethesda Magazine* saying the fields can’t be fixed and that, “If I dump crumb rubber on a parking lot, I can get it to pass a G-Max test.”

So there you have it: one of the most affluent jurisdictions in the nation is content to **needlessly blow millions of taxpayer dollars** to subject a whole generation of its children to toxic, defective, and deadly synthetic turf fields because, apparently, we can’t have natural grass playing fields—cost-competitive, cool, fragrant, and safe. Why MCPS

Syn Turf Cover-Up, cont.

can't grow grass in a moderate climate is a question Civic Federation delegates will put to **MCPS Superintendent Dr. Jack R. Smith** at our annual education program on January 8th. **Montgomery County Board of Education members** Dr. Judy Docca, Patricia O'Neill, Janette Dixon, and Rebecca Smondrowski have also confirmed they will be attending. BOE President Michael A. Durso is a "maybe." ■



Shovel That Snow! It's Montgomery County Law

By Linda S. Perlman, Secretary, Northwood-Four Corners Civic Assn.

Although it's unlikely that there will be a repeat of December 2009's "snowpocalypse," Montgomery County residents should be aware of the snow shoveling requirements imposed by the Pedestrian Winter Safety Act (Montgomery County Code, Sec. 49-17). This law requires all property owners to clear snow and ice from public sidewalks on or adjacent to their property within 24 hours after the end of a snowfall. The cleared pathway must be wide enough for safe pedestrian and wheelchair use.

The County's "Wide Enough for Wheels" program states that a single shovel width is not enough. People who use walkers, wheelchairs, baby strollers, rolling briefcases, etc., all

should have 36" wide sidewalks and curb ramps for safe travel, especially when the walks are slippery or wet. Most sidewalks are 46" wide, so you'd need to shovel most of it anyway.

If ice or hardpacked snow is impossible or unreasonably difficult to remove, then residents are responsible for applying sand, salt, or other abrasives in order to provide safe pedestrian passage.

In the event a snowplow redeposits snow or ice on the walkway after the sidewalk has been shoveled, then residents have an additional 24 hours to clear the sidewalk or other walkway.

There is no obligation to clear private walkways (i.e., up to the house) or driveways or unpaved walkways on the property of a single-

Shovel That Snow, cont.

family house or townhouse. And individuals who live in multifamily residential properties (i.e., apartment houses) are not responsible for removing snow and ice from common walkways or from the common parking area. In such cases, snow plowing is the responsibility of the landlord or property manager.

SNOWPLOW SAVVY

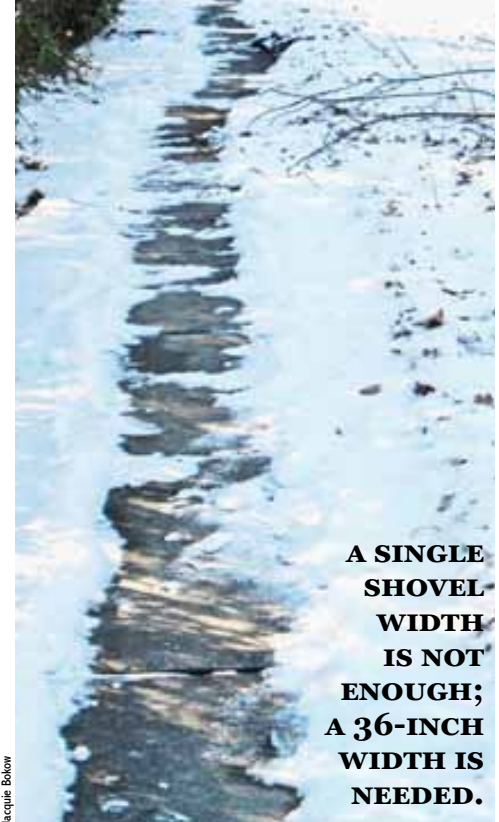
Montgomery County recommends you park your vehicles in your driveway before a snow storm. If you do not have a driveway, park as close to the curb as you can. Park your car on the even-numbered side of the street, if possible. Move your vehicle to the other side of the street after the plow has cleared it.

Another idea is to share your driveway during the storm: let your

neighbor without a driveway park behind your car in yours. Once the road's been plowed on both sides, you can both dig your cars out and your neighbor can park on a completely cleared street, which helps everyone in the neighborhood.

The enforcement process for residential properties is complaint-based. The Montgomery County website includes an online form to report sidewalks that have not been shoveled more than 24 hours after the end of the snowfall or you can call 311; reports must have an exact address of the unshoveled sidewalk. There is a similar form to report streets that have not been plowed 36 hours after the end of a 3"-5" snowfall, or call 240.777.7623. Remember, however, that state-maintained, numbered roads in the County are cleared by the Maryland

MORE



**A SINGLE
SHOVEL
WIDTH
IS NOT
ENOUGH;
A 36-INCH
WIDTH IS
NEEDED.**

Shovel That Snow, cont.

State Highway Administration, so call 301.948.2477. After a complaint is received, the County will send a written warning notice advising the homeowner to clear the walkway of snow and ice within 24 hours. If the violation remains unabated, then a citation with a \$50 fine may be issued. The County also may clear the snow or ice and charge the property owner for the cost.

USEFUL SNOW EMERGENCY NUMBERS

■ To report “hot” or sparking wires, especially those across roads, call 911.

■ Report downed wires and life-threatening emergencies to PEPCO at 202.872.3432.

■ PEPCO’s 24-hour outage report line is 877.737.2662 (or www.pepco.com).



Jacquie Bakow

com).

■ The non-emergency Montgomery County Police number is 301.279.8000.

■ For downed trees on Montgomery County property, call the County DOT at 311 or the police non-emergency number. Trees that have fallen on utility lines should be reported to PEPCO or the appropriate local utility company. Trees that have fallen on private property are the responsibility of the property owner (call your homeowner’s insurance company).

Please be good neighbors: clear the sidewalk in front of your house of snow and ice and assist neighbors who may not be physically able to do so. Let’s take care of each other.

[Adapted with permission from the [Northwood News](#), newsletter of the [Northwood-Four Corners Civic Association](#), February 2011.] ■

Minutes of the December 11, 2017, General Monthly Meeting #890 Held in Rockville

By Bailey Condrey, First Vice President

Call to Order: President Jim Zepp called the 890th session to order at 7:50 p.m. Introductions followed.

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

Minutes: The November 13, 2017, general meeting minutes were approved by affirmation.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jerry Garson reported on income and expenses and a bank balance of \$11,048. Copies of the Treasurer's report are available upon request.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Maryland Department of Trans-

portation is holding the International Industry Forum on Transformative Traffic Relief Plan next Wednesday, December 13. [See press release for details.](#)

COMMUNITY HERO

The [October MCCF newsletter](#) covered the lack of transparency and accountability surrounding the heartbreaking stories of child sex abuse in Montgomery County's Public Schools. Jennifer Alvaro has been on the front lines of this battle to protect Montgomery County children for over five years.

In 2012, Ms. Alvaro began searching for information regarding the prevention of child sexual abuse in MCPS, a school system she graduated from and where her children are currently enrolled. She has

fought to force MCPS to enact policies, codes of conduct, information on background checks, and basic prevention tools during this time. In the process, she has been maligned, labeled, and dismissed.

Due to her work and perseverance, Ms. Alvaro got MCPS to create a Child Abuse and Neglect Work Group to begin to address these issues. In February of 2015, the group was changed from Work Group to Advisory Group and, since that time, MCPS has retrenched on bringing the issue to light and taking concrete steps to protect children.

Jennifer Alvaro continues the fight and, for her work and ongoing efforts, the MCCF presented her with the December Community Hero Award.

December Minutes, cont.

▮ [Read the *Civic Federation News Article*.](#)

▮ [Read the Resolution on Cover Up of Child Sex Abuse in MCPS.](#)

Following remarks by Danila Sheveiko and Jennifer Alvaro, the MCCF delegates unanimously passed the resolution.

PROGRAM

Gwen Wright of the Montgomery County Planning Department provided the December program and discussed at length the county's approach to growth, jobs, income, housing, development, and many socioeconomic factors that influence planning implementation. It was a spirited discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislation

▮ State Democratic Delegate Ben Kramer (D-19) is working on a bill to create an Office of Inspector General for the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, a bicounty agency. The current OIG does not have jurisdiction for bicounty agencies—such as WSSC and the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission—or state agencies such as MCPS.

NEW BUSINESS

▮ Victoria Leonard of [LIUNA](#) discussed draft legislation introduced by Councilmember Marc Elrich known as the “Displaced Service Workers Act” that would allow sanitation workers to retain their jobs

when contracts change between different vendors for services. Workers at several contract trash haulers in Montgomery County have gone on strike in as many years. The bill is expected to be formally introduced in January. The spokesperson seeks MCCF support for the legislation and noted that Progressive Maryland, CASA, and Jews for Justice already support the legislation.

OLD BUSINESS

▮ The January and February MCCF general sessions will be held at the same location: Executive Office Building Lobby Auditorium in Rockville, 101 Monroe Street.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:51 p.m. ▮

Minutes of the December 14th, 2017, Executive Committee Meeting, MCCF

By Bailey Condrey, First Vice President

The Executive Committee (Ex-Comm) convened at the Mid-County Regional Services Center.

Call to Order: Jim Zepp, President, called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Present: Jerry Garson, Harriet Quinn, Jacquie Bokow, Danila Sheveiko, Carole Ann Barth, and Bailey Condrey.

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

Treasurer's Report: Jerry Garson reported all accounts in good shape. MCCF has roughly \$11,050

in the bank. There was discussion of membership status.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

█ The deadline for appealing property tax assessments is December 31, 2017.

█ Alan, Danila, Jerry, Shruti, and Bailey attended the **Committee for Montgomery Annual Legislative Breakfast**. At our table was Board of Education Member Judy Docca.

MONTHLY PROGRAM TOPICS

█ **January:** Education, Speaker MCPS Superintendent Jack Smith.

█ **February:** Government Transparency and Accountability.

█ **March:** State of the County Environment.

█ **April:** County Budget.

█ **May:** Friday, May 18th: MCCF's

Annual Awards Ceremony.

█ **June:** The unPROGRAM.

ISSUES DISCUSSED

█ Next year's annual awards event to be held May 18th @ New Fortune Chinese Restaurant in Gaithersburg. Volunteers are needed. Bailey volunteered to work with Tony at the restaurant to finalize the menu. Ticket price is \$50/person, \$75/couple. If you buy three tickets, the fourth is free, but you must pay in advance. We will publish the menu beforehand.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education

█ Danila will coordinate with Janis Sartucci and Jennifer Alvaro on media coverage of child abuse @ MCPS meeting.

Dec. ExComm Mtg., cont.

Environment

■ **Synthetic Turf:** We continue to wait for an answer from Mike Riley at Parks on how much the Blair High School syn-turf field replacement cost and whether any of the costs were paid by Field Turf for field failure under warranty. Syn-turf fields at Walter Johnson and Richard Montgomery HSs remain dangerous.

Transportation

■ **Discussion of Governor's proposal to widen I-495, I-270, and MD-295.** He has invited private developers to submit proposals to design, build, operate, and maintain four new lanes on each of these highways. Estimated cost is \$9 billion. Responses to the state's Request for Information are due Dec. 20, 2017.

■ Over \$70 million has been spent

on consultant BRT studies for Montgomery County.

■ **Carole Ann** has information on the issue of driveway culverts in the Olney area becoming the sole responsibility for homeowners to maintain.

NEW BUSINESS

■ **Newsletter deadline and articles** Saturday, December 30, to Jacquie Bokow.

■ **Discussion about allowing those ExComm members running for office to take a leave of absence.**

■ **Date and location of next General meeting:** January 8th, 7:45–9:45 p.m., at the County Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville in the main level meeting room.

Adjournment: Jim called for and received unanimous approval for adjournment at 9:00 p.m. ■

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Submit contributions for the next issue by the 26th of the current month. Send to CFN at [civicfednews AT montgomerycivic.org](mailto:civicfednews@montgomerycivic.org).

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