



CIVIC FEDERATION NEWS

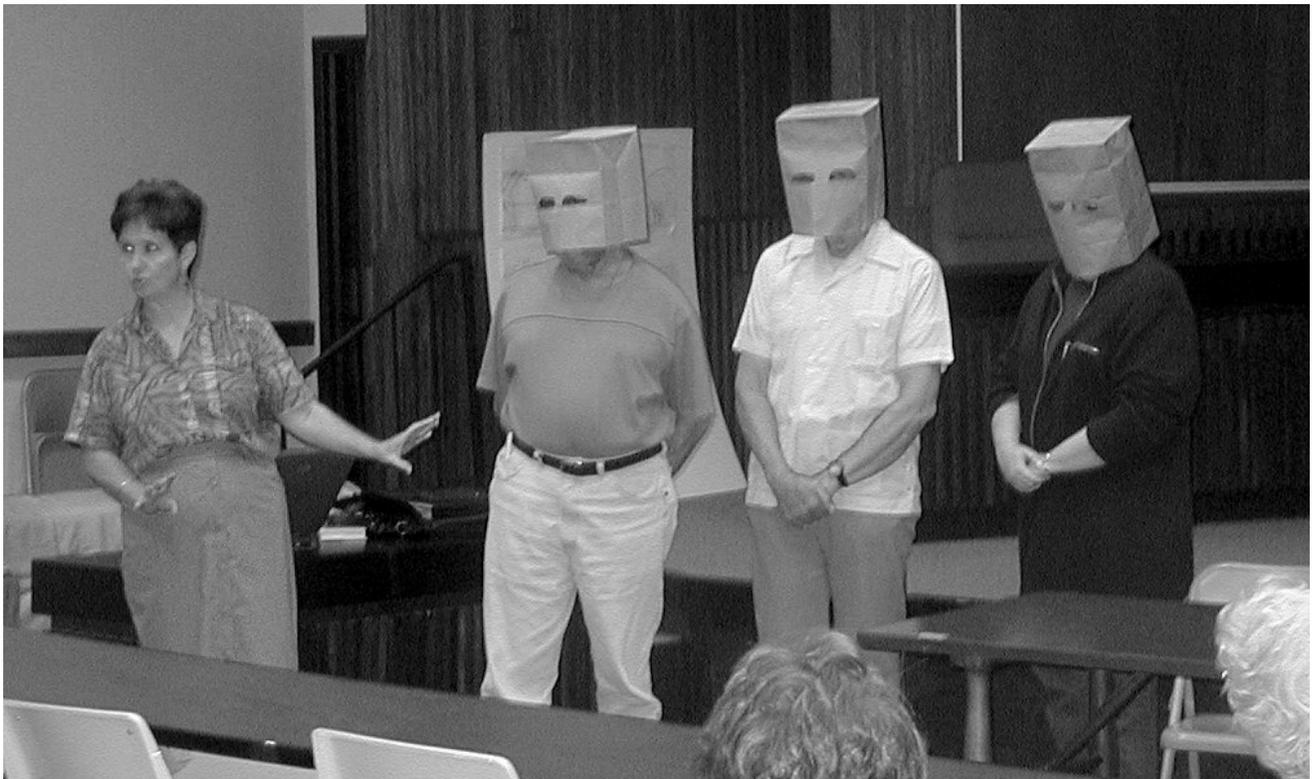
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Serving the Public Interest Since 1925

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October 2000



Peggy Dennis recognizes our community heroes at the September meeting, the anonymous whistle-blowers on the cheating at Potomac high school, represented by three stand-ins, at right.—Photo by I. Dean Ahmad

Charter Amendments

—by George Sauer, Legislation Comm. Chair

There are three county charter amendments and two state constitutional changes on the ballot. The state questions are numbered and the county questions are lettered.

Question (1) would allow Cecil County to stagger the terms of elected officials. You are reminded that Our School Board was elected this way for years until it was discovered to be unconstitutional at which time the constitution was hastily amended.

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I suggest that we not vote on this question thereby giving more weight to the voters in Cecil County.

Question (2) would allow the PG county council to QUICK TAKE some property for redevelopment. This is SPINACH and I say we won't eat it.

Question (A) would amend the County charter to make supplemental appropriations in the first six months of the fiscal year subject to a two-thirds vote and they would no longer need to be misnamed "emergency" appropriations. Frank Vratovic has agreed to explain this.

Question (B) would exempt temporary, probationary, and term employees from the Merit System. At press time I am still trying to pin down an authority on this.

Question (C) would limit the Executive and Council to two consecutive terms. This would force professional politicians to move up or out. Bill Skinner will be speaking for this and Howard Denis will be speaking against.

Term Limits for the County Executive and Council Members?

—by Richard Zierdt and Dick Strombotne

A Case for Term Limits

Voters will decide a question on the November ballot whether to enact term limits for the County Council and Executive, limiting each office to two terms.

The condition of this County is in such a state that I wonder what else can be done to save it from over-development, poor schools, and just bad decisions (incinerator, Clarksburg Jail, Conference Center, schools needed by MCPS sold and leased). Term Limits is an old proposal that has been around at least since our first president, whose time has come.

While bad policy decisions make it easier to support them now, term limits have always been a good idea. Yes, the public can remove any incumbent at her/his next election, but the reality is that the power of incumbency overwhelms most challengers. Yet the most compelling reason why civic activists should support them is that we should practice what we preach, i.e.,

most civic, church, and clubs of all kinds have term limits and so should public offices. I firmly believe in the 'citizen legislator' rather than the 'career politician.'

It is time for the citizens of Montgomery to enable a system of regular, new blood that will represent us in the future. At the October 9 delegates meeting I will move that the MCCF support term limits for the County Council and County Executive.

—Richard Zierdt

Term Limit Ballot Questions:

Section 105: In no case shall a Council Member be permitted to serve more than two consecutive terms. Any Member of Council who will have served two or more consecutive terms at noon on the first Monday of December 2002 shall be prohibited from commencing to serve a successive term of office at that time.

Section 202: In no case shall a Council Executive be permitted to serve more than two consecutive terms. Any County Executive who will have served two or more consecutive terms at noon on the first Monday of December 2002 shall be prohibited from commencing to serve a successive term of office at that time.

The Case Against Term Limits

The ballot proposal on term limits would take effect in December 2002. It would prohibit anyone from taking office who by that time has served two consecutive terms as County Executive or on the County Council. The basic argument against term limits is that it takes away the voters' right to choose who will represent them be it County Executive or Council member. It is antidemocratic at its core. If it passes it will take away the right of Montgomery County voters to keep in office respected and effective council members who have already served two consecutive terms.

One argument made for term limits is that it would remove entrenched politicians. Where is the evidence that Montgomery County needs this? Phil Andrews defeated long time councilman Bill Hanna in the Democratic primary in 1998. Neal Potter defeated incumbent County Executive Sid Kramer in 1988. The voters decide who stays and who goes.

A second argument for term limits is that other jurisdictions have done it. That is hardly a reason for Montgomery County to adopt term limits. Just because some other jurisdiction has chosen to limit the rights of

their voters to choose their representatives is no reason for Montgomery County voters to be so foolish. You don't walk off a cliff just because the person ahead of you has done it.

–Dick Strombotne

Delegate Meeting Minutes Sept. 11, 2000

–by Richard Zierdt, Recording Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:50 PM by I. Dean Ahmad, MCCF President, 721st session of the MCCF.

Announcements were made and attendees introduced themselves.

Agenda Changes: By unanimous consent two items of old business were added: to authorize an alternative web address and to call for legislation on campaign contribution disclosures at the time of zoning reclassification requests.

Minutes from the June meeting accepted as published in the newsletter.

Guests. Delores Milmoie, For a Rural Montgomery, and Judy Daniel (MNC/PPC Planning Officer). Discussed, among other things, subjective language vs. specific language in regulations. Trying to avoid suburbanization of the agricultural preserve. Distributes two maps of proposed development in the agricultural preserve.

Q&A follows:

Stan Schiff: What is a viable farm size? Ans: Some giant horticulture farms. Five dairy farms are left in Montgomery County. 30 to 50 acres can be enough for a viable farm. The land should preserve its rural feel. Steve Howie: Farmers of smaller sites often have other jobs. RZ: what is largest farm in MC? Ans: about 2200 acres, as a working farm. Jean Goldstein: The agricultural preserve is a valuable county asset for many reasons. Q: What effect will the proposed second crossing have? Cary Larami: Could an owner own horses, for example? Ans: Yes. 50,000 acres locked up in TDRs. Call Judy at P&P who will give info about TDRs (301-495-4559).



Judy Daniel, (MNC/PCC Planning Officer) and Delores Milmoie (For a Rural Montgomery) assess the status of farmland in the county

–Photo by I. Dean Ahmad

Old Business.

Civic Federation WEB site. Dean Ahmad proposes to register a new name for the MCCF at \$10 per year. Proposed name: MontgomeryCivic.org. Existing name is MCCIVICFED.ORG. Richard Zierdt moves that the **MCCF authorize Dean Ahmad to reserve the name mongomercivic.org for \$10/year the first year.** Cary Lamari seconded. Motion passes on a voice vote.

Cary Lamari. Sale of County land to private developer. Maryland state's Attorney (Frank Maloney) proposes that MCCF study and make recommendations regarding disclosures of affiliated and related corporations. Cary moves that **the MCCF ask our State's delegation to rewrite the legislation regarding campaign finance disclosure at the time of zoning reclassification requests, to cure the problems identified by the State's attorney in his letter of Aug 28, 2000 so as to meet the original legislative intent.** Seconded. Passes unanimously on voice vote.

New business.

Affordable housing. George Sauer. Three motions moved by the MCCF ExCom: **that MCCF oppose the proposed ban on non-attorney representation at Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (CLTA) (continue the practice where tenants may be represented without licensed attorneys); oppose weakening the retaliatory eviction language (keep the present language pertaining to retaliatory evictions, an important legal defense for tenants challenging evictions in court); oppose restrictions on powers of CLTA (keep the present language that allows the**

Commission to investigate violations in the absence of a formal complaint. Second. Motion passes on voice vote 14-3-6. George moves **that the MCCF oppose the elimination of voluntary rent guidelines.** Seconded. Motion fails, 10-9-6.

Holton-Arms School request for a special exception for an access road. Jack Sando, president of BBCA speaks. MCCF ExCom recommended **that the MCCF oppose the granting of a special exception to build an additional access through neighborhood streets.** Passes on a voice vote with no objections and one abstention.

Preservation of the agricultural zone. Delores Milmo. Moves **that the MCCF endorse the mandatory conservation design for the agricultural zone.** Seconded. Passes 18-1-1.

Election for Vacant Offices. Dick Kaunfunger moves to table the election for the two vice-presidential vacant offices. Amendment to separate the two passes. Motion to **table the election for the district five vice-president** passes on voice vote. Motion to **table the district four vice-president election** fails, 5-12-1. Floor is opened for district four nominations. Bob Creager and Bob Abrams are nominated. Nominations closed by voice vote. **Bob Creager is elected,** 13-3.

Motion to **approve the president's appointments of officers and committee chairs (see p. 7)** passes without objection, other than Dr. Ahmad's comment that he was uncertain of the legality of appointing committee co-chairs, but did not intend to raise the issue at this time.

Newsletter Policies. Motion to adopt newsletter policies on listed on page 14 of September's newsletter:

All articles **MUST** be received by noon on the second Saturday preceding the delegate's assembly to be announced in the newsletter. (Thus, articles for the October newsletter must be received by noon on Saturday Sept. 23, 2000). Unless an article is mandated by the Bylaws or by the Executive Committee, the Editor has complete discretion as to whether or not it is published. Unless submitted by the Executive Committee, articles advocating only one side of an issue must either conform to a position taken by the Federation or be accompanied by a balancing article. The Editor may make spelling and grammatical corrections. Further, the editor may make changes for space, stylistic, or other reasons

unless the author appends a request "Please make no major changes without consultation" to the article. Any such request will be honored, but may reduce the article's chances of appearing. Where space prohibits an article from appearing in the current issue, but the article is of continuing interest, it may be deferred to a future issue.

Seconded. Passes unanimously on voice vote.

Restriction on Tobacco Products in Retail Settings. Montgomery County bill 23-00. Dick Kaunfunger moves **that the MCCF support this bill that would require certain retailers to keep tobacco products away from the immediate reach of minors.** Seconded. Motion passes, 14 - 0 - 3.

Meeting is adjourned at 10:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Zierdt, Recording Secretary



MCCF officers Dean Ahmad, Peggy Dennis, and Jean Goldstein reflect on issues brought to the Sept. 21 ExComm Meeting.

—Photo by I. Dean Ahmad

Ex-Comm Meeting Minutes Sept. 21, 2000

—by Winifred Klein, Corresponding Secretary

President Ahmad convened the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Agenda was amended to add item on Cloverly issue.

Minutes were approved as submitted without objection.

Mr. Suzich, Treasurer, reported balance of \$1823 and estimated current paid-up memberships at 10 associations. Report was accepted as delivered without objection.

Deborah Cooper, Exec. Director of Community Vision at Progress Place, Silver Spring, reported on their programs for homeless people, e.g., job programs & computer training, and their success in reducing numbers of people on the streets from 200 or 300 down to about 60 now. Allison Miner expanded the report and announced that their "Swinging at the Savoy" will be held again next year.

Dr. Ahmad announced that the MCCF web site is now active. Address: www.montgomerycivic.org. Member associations can have links or space of no more than one page by sending their addresses or we pages to Dean.

Ms. Dennis, Program Chairwoman, announced that George Sauer is organizing the October meeting. November will cover legislation to be dealt with in the state legislative session, including funding for school renovations. January meeting will include a Transportation Policy Task Force report. February meeting will be on Capital Budget; March on libraries & media.

Mr. Skinner proposed that MCCF should support term limits for county executive and council. There was consensus that delegate assembly time should be allowed to discuss this. Motion was approved that, on any charter amendment issue, there will be a discussion in the delegate assembly, provided that both pros and cons are represented.

Mr. Wilhelm, Land Use & Planning, noted that three council members propose to open up the Cloverly master plan to change it now.

Dr. Goldstein, Membership Chair, brought up the problem of locating council districts in which associations belong. It was agreed that this could be accomplished through use of the county street directory, combined with reference to Park & Planning list of associations, in order to facilitate membership recruitment and related matters.

Mr. Wilhelm, Transportation, stated an urgent need to write letters and to talk to council members. He reported that the committees of the Transportation Policy Review Task Force have been holding meetings during the past weeks. One group deals with public outreach, another with development of transportation /land-use scenarios, and the third deals with measurements of effectiveness (MOES). The task force is now setting up a list of criteria.

Mr. Creager, Public Relations, noted difficulty in securing information regarding previous committee activities. Mr. Skinner agreed to fax a list of contact people in various agencies.

Mr. Howie reminded of the Civic Federation Community Forum on the state of Mental Health Care in Montgomery County, October 28, County Council building. It will be a three-quarter-day session, and the panel is pretty well fleshed out. He may try to get the Surgeon General to take part. Organization has been a collaborative effort, with the President of the Maryland Psychiatric Association being very active and also Blair Ewing.

Mr. Suzich volunteered in response to Mr. Wolff's request for assistance in folding, stapling, labeling newsletters for mailing the next issue.

Dr. Ahmad announced October 10 as the next delegate assembly meeting and December 3 as the Annual Reception for Elected Officials. Ms. Dennis' motion to **set dates for Executive Committee meetings in November 16 & December 14** was approved on a voice vote. Mr. Kauffunger's motion to hold a delegate assembly meeting on December 11 failed.

Ms. Dennis moved that **a subcommittee be appointed to write an article on the Cloverly issue for the Civic Federation News**. Motion approved on a voice vote, and Dr. Ahmad appointed Mr. Strombotne as chair, and Ms. Dennis and Mr. Wilhelm. Mr. Kauffunger agreed to do some background checking.

Newsletter assignments were made as follows: Mr. Viner, Making the Annual Growth Policy Effective; Mr. Strombotne, article and resolution on master plan/Cloverly issue; Mr. Howie, Forum on mental health care; John Viner & George Sauer, charter amendments for ballot; Dr. Goldstein will include a reminder about the December reception.

Dr. Ahmad nominated as **Community Hero Tony Caffrey**, the man who sued Montgomery County for keeping secrets from the public and brought the fact that the Council had voted to weaken the county's anti-secrecy laws. Motion passed without objection.

Announcement was made that newsletter material must be in Dr. Ahmad's hands by 5 pm on Monday, 25 September.

Civic Federation Community Forum on Mental Health Issues in Montgomery County

Saturday, October 28, 2000, 9:00 AM – 3 PM

(coffee and doughnuts at 8:30 a.m.)

**in the 3rd Floor Conference Room/3rd Floor Hearing Room
of the County Council Building**

This will be an open and public discussion about issues involving mental illness. We will have panels composed of mental health care experts and persons who have been receiving mental health care services. We will talk about how stigmatization hampers adequate public response to needs. We will hear from people who are involved in different aspects of mental health care services, including in our schools, in accessing housing, and in accessing basic services, and from persons involved in the public process, including elected and appointed officials. We will talk about what we can do to improve things in our county. You will be able to participate through questions and answers to the panelists.

We will start off with a nationally recognized keynote speaker. Dr. Rex Cowdry, past Acting Director of NIMH and current Medical Director and Deputy Executive Director for Research for NAMI will speak. We have invited, but subject to their schedules, the current Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher, and best-selling author Kay Jamison.

(For more information see article on p. 6).

Ms. Dennis' motion to extend time by two minutes for Mr. Lapinski's report was passed. He discussed the buildup of development in the Howard County watershed area and water use. He reported that septic systems are failing, and that there is need to move Glen Elgin high school. The Dept. of Environment was said to be failing to do its job. A brief "heads up" article will be prepared for the newsletter.

Mr. Lapinski spoke to budget matters by stating that county officials have lost any sense of discipline in developing budgets. He further noted a major problem at the state level, saying that the county does not have sufficient operating support funds.

Respectfully submitted,
Winifred Klein, Acting Secretary

Election for District 5 VP

—by I. Dean Ahmad, President

One elected position in the association remains open: District 5 Vice President. By a motion passed at the previous meeting, an election will be held to fill this position at the Oct. 10 general assembly. Obviously, this election can only be held if eligible candidates are found willing to accept the nomination for this position. The Bylaws on the filling of vacancies read as follows:

6. *Vacancies.* The unexpired term of a vacancy in an elected position shall be filled by a special election at a Regular Meeting.

Annual Reception for Elected Officials

Sunday, December 3, 2000

7 - 9 p.m.

Aspenwood Retirement Center
14400 Homecrest Road, Silver Spring
(intersection of Bel Pre and Homecrest Roads)

For more information: call Myrna Taylor at 301-869-449.

montgomerycivic.org: C'est Nous!

—by I. Dean Ahmad, President

It wasn't easy, but we met our self-imposed deadline of having our web site up and running by the end of the summer! Please check us out at www.montgomerycivic.org. Think of all the advantages:

Tired of the post office delivering your newsletter after the meeting? The newsletter will always be posted at least a week BEFORE the meeting on the web site!

Want to renew your membership in the Federation, but can't remember what you did with the application form? Download it from the site!

Can't find an old issue of the newsletter? Starting with last months issues, the newsletters will be archived on the site.

Want to get a quick update on upcoming Federation events? Our front page includes an up-to the minute calendar. Want to see who our association members are? A list is on the site, including web addresses when known.

Want to contact a Federation officer or committee chair? An up-to-date version of the list that is often printed on the next-to-the-last page of this newsletter is ALWAYS available on site. It includes e-mail addresses (when available) so you can just click to contact!

Does your organization want a link from our web site to yours? Just e-mail us your web address and we'll add it to the directory. (And PLEASE add a link to www.montgomerycivic.org from YOUR site.)

Does your organization need a web site? We'll give you a page on our site for FREE as long as you're a paid-up member of the Federation.

Want our web site to be better? Volunteer to enhance it with your web skills! Happy surfing!

Community Forum on Mental Health Issues

—by Steve Howie, 2nd V.P.

On October 28th of this year the MCCF will sponsor a community forum on mental health issues in Montgomery County. The forum was announced in last

month's newsletter, and we now can provide details. The forum will begin at 9 AM and run to 3 PM, and will be held in the 3rd floor conference room at the County Council Building, with the option of moving to the 3rd floor hearing room if attendance requires the larger space.

Please take time to mark your calendar for this event. This forum addresses issues that are close to home for all of us.

Blair Ewing, chair of the County Council Health and Human Services Committee sees our care provision system as facing a crisis, if not already in one. He actively supports what the Civic Federation is doing with this forum and will be a panelist.

Dr. William Legat, president of the Maryland Suburban Psychiatric Association, is taking a leading role in the forum. He will help introduce the forum and be a panelist. His professional contacts, understanding of the issues, and deep personal commitments have been invaluable in planning this forum.

Key government officials, including Mildred Holmes-Williams, Chief of Adult Mental Health & Substance Abuse with the county's Department of Health and Human Services, and Arthur Wallenstein, Director of the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation, have also taken an active role in planning and will be panelists.

We will have other professionals in education, community service, medicine, economics, and law. The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill is actively involved with two panelists. Dr. Rex Cowdry, who is currently NAMI's Medical Director, will be a featured keynote speaker. We have also invited the Surgeon General Dr. David Satcher, and best-selling author on mental health issues Kay Jamison, though we have not been able to confirm their attendance at this writing.

But our most important guests and panelists will be persons who are the active consumers of mental health services. Our panels will include no fewer than four persons who have first hand experience of dealing with mental illness. Their testimony is the key to this forum.

So please make time on October 28th. Come early at 8:30 for morning coffee and doughnuts, and a chance to talk to some extraordinary people. As is the practice with such forums, there is no need to call ahead in order to attend. Just show up. If you can, stay for a light lunch and an afternoon session addressing what can be

done to improve things in Montgomery County. This forum is free and open to all members of the public.

If you have questions please contact Cary Lamari, Peggy Dennis, or Steve Howie of the Civic Federation. We hope to see you October 28th.

Does the Council Support the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance?

*–by Dan Wilhelm
Transportation Comm. Co-Chair*

The County Council will decide on Sept 26 whether or not to take up an amendment to the Annual Growth Policy (AGP) concerning county traffic congestion standards. The Staff Memo from Glenn Orlin provides three options: take up this issue now, next year or not at all. Leggett as sponsor of the proposed amendment is also proposing the effective date of this change to be November 1, 2001 more than a year from now.

In short, a technical change in the way the County calculates traffic congestion was made in April 1998 dealing what we have talked about before as the Lane Use Factor. This change caused a VERY MAJOR de-facto degradation in the County's traffic congestion standards. As a result, for the last 2 1/2 years developers have been able to get new projects approved with less mitigation of traffic than was ever intended by the AGP traffic congestion standards put into place the County Council.

The change did NOT affect Policy Area Transportation Reviews, which determine if area is in moratorium. Rather the change affects the Local Area Transportation Review, which only comes into play when one or more intersections near a proposed development fail the congestion standard applicable for that area. When such a failure occurs, the developer has two choices: (1) wait for the County to make some transportation improvements that eliminate the failing intersections, or (2) take some action to remove as many vehicles from the intersection that the development would add.

The proposed amendment to the Annual Growth Policy (AGP) corrects this de-facto degradation in standards in all areas of the County except the METRO Policy areas. The revision is necessary to achieve the Council's stated

intent that development proceed only when transportation infrastructure exists to support it.

You might ask why this action has not been taken before. The MCCF Transportation Co-Chairs have been working to get this technical change to be reflected appropriately in the AGP standards since we discovered the change in the summer of 1998. We have had lengthy presentations and dialog before the Planning Board several times, the Council T&E Committee at least three times, and before the full council once. At each step of the way, professional transportation consultants (who typically represent developers) presented the opposing view.

Council member Leggett raised the question of timing for amending the AGP and what other actions are also necessary. Specifically, he indicated that

in the coming months, additional studies and reports will be coming forward that could have an impact on this issue. We will be receiving the final report from the Commission on the Future at the end of the year that will include valuable information on the future of transportation in the County. In addition, we will also receive the Transportation Policy Report from the Park and Planning Commission next summer which could also add to our analysis of this issue. The Council should consider how these and other related studies could potentially interact with the policy changes being proposed by this resolution.

In addition this to resolution, I have prepared a number of amendments that could address some of the related Council policy priorities. I feel these options should be part of the debate because this resolution could impede some other policies the Council has supported in the past and could affect some of our recently adopted priorities.

The Transportation Co-Chairs feel that this issue that has been in front of the County for over two years needs to be resolved now. The proposed change is NOT setting new policy, but JUST returning the AGP to its prior level. We believe that the above noted issues raised by Council member Leggett are not directly related to the issue at hand. Other issues can be taken up next year as part of the regular AGP Policy Element.

Said another way, IT IS TIME FOR THE COUNCIL TO CORRECT THIS MAJOR UNINTENDED DEGREDEDATION IN THE ADEQUATE PUBLIC FACILITIES ORDINANCE!

Community Hero: Tony Caffrey

-by I. Dean Ahmad, President

I doubt Tony Caffrey had any intention of heroism when he decided to sue the County over its failure to make public the scoring guidelines by which a \$7.5 million management contract was to be awarded. He was just wanted to know why his bid had not won. But when the County reacted by attempting to smuggle through a Charter amendment to bring more secrecy to the County government, Tony jumped into the waters to save the whole county from the regressive act.

Section 505 of the Charter says "Any person shall have the right to inspect any document, except confidential police records, personnel records, or records of a confidential private nature as defined by law." The County's move to water down this provision should not have affected Mr. Caffrey's case since it had already been filed, but would have been a disaster for Montgomery's open system of government. Tony alerted the press and the Civic Federation and took the lead in the successful fight to have the offensive proposal taken off the November ballot.

The Montgomery County Civic Federation is pleased to name Tony Caffrey as our Community Hero for October in recognition of his pivotal role in keeping government in Montgomery County in the sunshine.

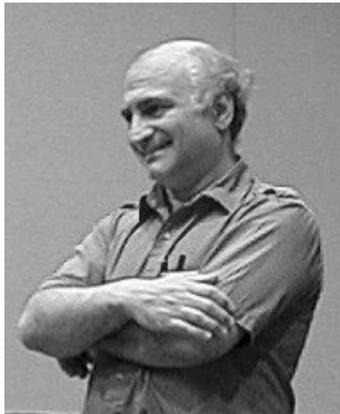
Renew Now!

Please help us to have a successful year by renewing your association's membership now. Use the application form enclosed in last month's newsletter (or download a copy from www.montcomercivic.org) to renew your association's membership to the Civic Federation. The Civic Federation is your means to effectively enhance and protect the quality of life in Montgomery County.

From the President

Already, the Civic Federation year is off to great start. First, we stopped the move to increase secrecy in County government. Now, our recognition of the whistleblowers at the Potomac Elementary School has in itself received recognition. There were pictures or mentions of the stand-ins for the anonymous heroes who exposed the encouragement of cheating that appeared in local papers, and in her Sept. 21, 2000 "Homerom" column in *The Washington Post*, Karin Chenoweth commented that the "award is an example of the community at large expressing how important integrity and truthfulness is, particularly in the schools.... The whistle-blowers haven't been universally celebrated in the Potomac community, and it is nice that the civic federation honored them."

Don't think for a moment that the Charter amendments on the ballot in November will be dull just because more secrecy in government isn't among them. No siree! Proposal to institute term limits for county council and county executive are on the ballot. The Civic Fed has



—Photo by Winnie Klein

not taken a position one way or another on this in the past. This time we are going to discuss the issue. The discussion begins in this newsletter with the debate between MCCF delegates Richard Zierdt and Dick Strombotne. The climax will be an oral debate at our October 10 meeting between delegate-at-large Bill Skinner and County Council member Howard Denis. (As of press time we are still waiting for Mr. Denis to accept our invitation to participate.) You will be the judge, so make sure to be at the meeting.

Speaking of the meeting, it is scheduled for a Tuesday this month because of the Columbus Day holiday.

Finally, I invite you all to take a look at the sidebar. It is the text of an article I wrote in response to an invitation from the a county organization of which I have been a longtime member, with the name of the organization deleted and with a few wording changes to update to account for events subsequent to the printing of the original article. Although the original article happened to appear in the publication of a partisan organization,

[Fill in the Blank] Needed as Civic Activists

Upon my recent election to the presidency of the Montgomery County Civic Federation an organization to which I had a longstanding membership recently asked me to write an article on the importance of getting involved in civic activism. Everything I said in that article applies to _____ as well.

People become civic activists for any of a number of reasons. Some see it as a stepping-stone to political office. Others see it as a valuable venue for advancing their own favorite causes. Some have a strong desire to serve their community. For others it is a way to be part of the community and be good neighbors and to network with other important people in the community. Any and all of these are good reasons for _____ to be involved in their local civic associations. I myself would welcome more _____ in the Civic Federation, as I need the help.

I want to strongly urge all _____ members to get involved in your local civic associations. 129 of those associations are members of the Civic Federation. It is often hard for those associations to find volunteers willing to serve as their reps to the Civic Fed. I'm in need of hard working, sound thinking volunteers to serve on committees, even as committee chairs. We have no rep at all willing to be District Vice President from Councilmanic District 5. If you live in one of that district and have toyed with the idea of running for county council from there, why not become a Civic Fed VP instead?

To learn the name of the civic association in your area, call the county Planning Board at 301-495-4600. Get the name and number of your local association's president or secretary and ask to join. Attend the next meeting and see if they have any open committee and see if you can be of help to them in any way. Ask if they have their full contingent of civic fed reps. If there is no civic association in your area, you can join together with your neighbors to form a new one or revitalize a defunct one.

The Civic Federation also allows individual "associate members." These are not allowed to vote, but may serve as committee chairs. Call me at 301-951-0539 for more information.

—I. Dean Ahmad, Ph.D.

Fill in the blanks above with the name of an organization with which you have influence, be it a political party, a religious group, a social group, or a garden club, and ask them if they will print it in their organization newsletter. Thank you!

2000-2001 MCCF Officers and Committee Chairs

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President:	I. Dean Ahmad	301-951-0539	301-656-4714	301-656-4714	deanahmad@yahoo.com
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1st Vice-Pres.:	Peggy Dennis	301-983-9738	same	<not available>	hotyakker@aol.com
2nd Vice-Pres.:	Stanley D. Schiff	301-530-6455	same	<not available>	<none>
2nd Vice-Pres.:	Jeanne Goldstein	301-652-3064	same	<not available>	<none>
2nd Vice-Pres.:	Steve Howie	301-972-2736	same	<not available>	stevehowie@aol.com
2nd Vice-Pres.:	Dan Wilhem	301-384-2698	same	<not available>	djwilhelm@erols.com
Treasurer:	Chris Suzich	301-417-9522	same	<not available>	jcsuzich@juno.com
Rec. Secretary:	Richard Zierdt	301-881-0283	703-464-1617	<not available>	richard.zierdt@landmark.com
Corres. Sec.:	Winnifred Klein	301-654-8084	same	<not available>	<none>
Dist. 1 V.P.:	Fifa Northrup	301-984-9424	<not available>	<not available>	<not available>
Dist. 2 V.P.:	Dick Strombotne	301-540-9597	<not available>	<not available>	<not available>
Dist. 3 V.P.:	Myrna Taylor	301-869-4499	same	<not available>	<not available>
Dist. 4 V.P.:	Robert Creager	301-890-4326	<not available>	<not available>	<not available>
Dist. 5 V.P.:	<Vacant>				
Historian:	Marcella Petree	301-384-1776	same	<not available>	<none>
Newsletter Ed.:	Peggy Dennis	301-983-9738	same	<not available>	hotyakker@aol.com
Parliamentarian:	George Sauer	301-762-7260	same	<not available>	<none>
Public Relations:	Robert Creager	301-890-4326	<not available>	<not available>	<not available>
Education:	Susan Sellers	301-762-1160	<not available>	<not available>	<not available>
Environment:	Charlie Pritchard	301-593-1781	same	<not available>	erc69434@aolcom
Legislation:	George Sauer	301-762-7260	same	<not available>	<none>
Membership:	Jeanne Goldstein	301-652-3064	same	<not available>	<none>
Pl. & Land Use.:	Stan Schiff	301-530-6455	same	<not available>	<none>
Pub. Fin. & Util.:	Chuck Lapinski	301-384-0392	703-506-4600	<not available>	clapinsk@mcri.com
Transportation:	Dan Wilhem	301-384-2698	same	<not available>	djwilhelm@erols.com
	John Viner	301-881-4576	same	<not available>	jviner@erols.com

you can see that the sentiments are perfectly general and I urge you all to fill in the blanks with the names of various organizations (partisan, non-partisan, and apolitical) and get them published in as many different organizations as possible. We need more quality civic activists. No organization or individual should be excluded from this invitation for their political affiliation, religion, ethnicity, race, or national origin. We only ask that they share our concern for what our bylaws state is the sole objective of this organization: "to protect and enhance the Quality of Life for current and future residents of the County."

–I. Dean Ahmad

that has included Myrna Taylor, Chris Suzich, Jorge and Sharon Ribas, Dick Kauffunger, Cari Lamari, Maureen Lambe, Jeanne Goldstein, Brian Gifford, Dan Wilhelm, George Sauer, Richard Zierdt and Charles Pritchard. Thanks to Jeanne Goldstein for performing the thankless task of cracking the whip on people to get their submissions in on time. And thanks to you, the readers for your appreciation, kind words and encouragement. I know you'll extend the same assistance, courtesy, and consideration to Peggy.

–I. Dean Ahmad

Editorial

Goodbye!

As I put the last issue of this newsletter that I shall edit to bed, I start my long list of people I have to thank for its success with the mention of my predecessor Sharon Ribas for the quality product that she produced and that formed the base upon which we have built. Thanks to Peggy Dennis for offering to pick up where I'm leaving off. Thanks to Charles Wolff and his staff of assistants

Think about it...

You have just read one of the most thorough and accurate newsletters in the County. For 75 years, elected officials, community leaders, citizens and journalists have relied on the Civic Federation News as an authoritative source of citizen's concerns and expectations.

Whether it is environmental issues, traffic congestion, ethics in government, unmet social needs, schools or land use, the **Civic Federation News** provides you with timely and accurate information. Join the Civic Federation today. With the exception of giving your own time and energy, it is the best investment you can make for your community.

Call Dean Ahmad at 301-951-0539 for more information.

Delegates Meeting

Tuesday, October 10–7:45 p.m.

First Floor Auditorium

County Council Office Building, Rockville, MD

AGENDA:

- 7:45 Call to Order, I. Dean Ahmad, presiding
7:46 Announcements, Introductions
7:52 Adoption of agenda
7:55 Approval of Minutes, Officers' Reports (p. 3)
8:00 Community Hero: Tony Caffrey
8:10 Program: Charter Amendments (p.1)
- George Sauer (Legislation Committee Chair)
 - William Skinner (former president)
 - Howard Dennis (County Council)
- 8:40 Question and Answer
9:05 Old Business
9:10 New Business
- District 5 V.P. Election (p. 7)
 - Charter Amendments (pp. 1, 2)
- 10:00 Adjourn

The **Montgomery County Civic Federation**, a nonprofit, educational, and advocacy countywide group, was founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. The monthly Delegates Meeting is open to the public and it is held on the second Monday of each month (except for holidays, July, August and December) at 8:00 p.m. in the First Floor Auditorium, County Office Building, Rockville, MD.

The **Civic Federation News** is published monthly. It is mailed to Delegates; associate members; news media, and local, state, and federal officials. Permission is granted to reprint any article provided proper credit is given to the "*Civic Federation News* of the Montgomery County Civic Federation." Deadline for submissions is the last Monday of the month before publication. Attach submission to e-mail to: deanahmad@yahoo.com

Please send all address corrections to Steve Howie, P.O.Box 325, Clarksburg, MD 20871, 301-972-2736, stevehowie@aol.com.

Next Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, Oct. 19, 2000, 7:45 p.m.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Services Center

4805 Edgemoor Lane in downtown Bethesda

(Note: there are two entrances to the parking garage—one on Edgemoor Lane and another on Woodmont Avenue.)

Montgomery County Civic Federation

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