



# Civic Federation News

November, 2014  
*Serving the Public Interest since 1925*

Official Publication of the  
Montgomery County Civic  
Federation

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

## November Program: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: or Everything You've Ever Wanted to Know About Our Solid Waste

by **Peggy Dennis, Past President & Newsletter Editor**

Our program on Monday, November 10, will feature Montgomery County's Bill Davidson, Section Chief for "Northern Operations, Emissions and Strategic Planning" and Eileen Kao, Section Chief for "Waste Reduction and Recycling" (both representing Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Solid Waste Services), together with our own Immediate Past President, Carole Ann Barth.

Mr. Davidson's responsibilities cover two facilities located in Dickerson, MD, – a "yard trim" composting facility where grass clippings and leaves are magically (just like that) turned into LeafGro™ soil amendment, and the County's waste-to-energy facility (a.k.a. Resource Recovery Facility, or RRF). Bill also monitors emissions from the RRF and manages some special projects and studies. He says this means he's now "one of the grey-hairs" and he has kindly agreed to pull together and present an overview of Montgomery County's entire Integrated Solid Waste Management System." Ms. Kao has been in charge of Montgomery County's progressive waste reduction and recycling programs since 1992. This will be an opportunity to learn much and ask all manner of questions. How much of what we put out in our blue bins actually gets recycled? Where does it go? How is it reused? Does the County really

### Federation Meeting

#### Session 860

Monday, November 10, 2014

7:45 1st Floor Auditorium

County Council Office Building,

100 Maryland Avenue

Rockville, MD

#### Agenda:

7:45 Call to Order & Introductions

7:50 Approval of Agenda

7:51 Announcements

7:55 Approval of Minutes of Oct. 13 meeting

7:56 Treasurer's Report

8:00 Program: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Solid Waste

9:20 Committee Reports

9:40 New and Old Business

9:45 Adjournment

## BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

a forum presented by the

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Sunday, November 16

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Western Montgomery County Regional Services Center

4805 Edgemoor Lane

Bethesda, MD 20814

free parking in the underground garage

see article on page 3

give out free composting bins? How many people visit the education room within the recycling facility, and who leads the tours? Is the system cost-effective? Where can we donate items we no longer want or need but which may be of use to others? How can we all act to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem?

Joining Bill and Eileen will be our own Past President, Carole Ann Barth. Carole Ann, a Senior Environmental Planner with Prince George's County Department of the Environment, will provide insights on how Prince George's County handles its solid waste. What can we learn from Prince Georges? Plenty! P.G. makes LeafGro™ too, but as they are moving towards their goal of “zero waste,” they have recently added food waste to make a special formula. Our program, as always, will allow for plenty of lively discussion, questions and answers. So, plan to attend and participate. As always, the public is welcome and the parking is free.

## President’s Message: Updates on the Executive Committee

by Paula Bienenfeld

This month we welcome two new members of the Executive Committee, and bid a very fond farewell to a long-time activist.

Our stalwart Planning and Land Use (PLU) Committee chair, Jim Humphrey, has decided to step down from his position on the Executive Committee. Jim also ran the Civic Federation's website and was our coordinator for the Federation Corner column which appears weekly in *The Sentinel* newspaper.

Thank you, Jim, for so many years of working with communities all across the county, interpreting the zoning code and special exception laws and regulations and carefully monitoring planning and land use issues both at the Planning Board and the County Council. Jim volunteered hundreds of hours of his time working with people, explaining the sometimes

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Byzantine planning issues, and supporting the many fights in which our neighborhoods were forced to engage to protect our quality of life. He chaired an exceptionally successful committee, one which was awarded the Star Cup in 2010, for their outstanding public service on behalf of Montgomery County.

There is no way really to properly say good-bye to someone who had such sustained influence on the life of the county. We are grateful for his activism, and were lucky to have his involvement as long as we did. Best of luck Jim in your new endeavors.

The PLU Committee, coordinated by PLU member Virginia Sheard, will continue to meet and monitor activity in the county, and be involved with our county neighborhoods. If you would like to be a member of the PLU Committee (or any other committee, for that matter), please step up!

While it is impossible to fill Jim's shoes, Carole Ann Barth has stepped up to manage the Civic Federation's website, so look for updates and improvements to the site. If you have suggestions, please let us know.

In looking for new committee chairs we are lucky to now have co-chairs of the Environment Committee, Past President Carole Ann Barth, and new Member At-large Jean Cavanaugh. They will be monitoring and following environmental laws and enforcement and environmental issues in the County, including the IgCC, stormwater issues, stream restoration, greenhouse gas reduction milestones, and the like. Thanks to you both for taking on this task.

And finally a grand welcome to Alan Bowser, newly elected Second Vice President. According to the Civic Fed By-laws, the Second Vice President, "shall be responsible for membership recruitment and retention," so Alan will have his hands full!

## **Sunday Forum on "Building Better Civic Associations"**

**by Peggy Dennis, Past President**

In the October issue I detailed 6 features of great neighborhood and civic associations: recreational facilities; social events and celebrations; kids & youth; groups for seniors; pets; and community gardens and food sharing. These are the fun, sexy, alluring features that give some neighborhoods high property values, community spirit and a strong, positive sense of identity.

In this issue I'll focus on the less sexy but vitally important "nuts and bolts" aspects of community organizations: residents' directories; websites; newsletters; meetings; electronic communications including email groups, Facebook pages, Twitter handles and listservs; and Neighborhood Watch programs. The first five topics all pertain to the facilitation of communications within a community. Ease of communication is essential whether dealing with a missing dog, a land use threat like the Costco mega-gas station, or an upcoming community potluck dinner. And there's nothing like a knock-down, drag out land use fight to unify a community and provide a united voice when going up against developers and the county government.

**Community Directories:** These are the fundamental building blocks of strong communities, the “Who's Who” of our neighborhoods. Print versions used to be difficult and costly to update, but with the internet, electronic directories are relatively easy to maintain and cost nothing to update and distribute. Or they can simply be placed on a community website. A directory may include nothing more than the names and street addresses of the legal owners (matters of public record obtained from the state tax records) or they may include the names of actual residents (adults and children), street addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses, even the names of family pets. Because membership in local civic and neighborhood associations is voluntary, no one may be required to provide their contact information, and information beyond that which is legally available should never be given out without the express consent of the residents.

**Websites.** A growing number of civic associations maintain websites. Some are accessible to the general public which is dandy if you're selling your home and want prospective buyers to know what a great neighborhood your home is in. Also nice if you're a buyer and want to find a home in a neighborhood within a vibrant and welcoming community. Some local associations have websites which are password protected and which can only be accessed by members. Yet others have websites which are open to the public, but which have membership directories which are password protected. In these instances, only residents or members of the associations will have access to the contact information in the Community Directory.

**Meetings.** Meetings may be held monthly, bi-monthly, quarterly or annually depending on the level of commitment and interest of the association leaders and members. Meetings provide opportunities for members to discuss issues and work toward resolving problems. Some local civic associations have committees dealing with some of the same issues the Civic Federation tackles: land use, environment, public safety. Meetings may be large and take place in a local community center or school facility using Roberts Rules of Order, or may be little more than a friendly coffee klatsch in a living room. The important thing is that the meetings be warm, welcoming and foster friendships and cooperation with an eye to keeping or improving the quality of life of all the residents.

**Community Newsletters:** These are important and valued features of some local associations. They may cover news about local residents; articles on law and community policing; calendars of upcoming events; lists of board members; directories of frequently used phone numbers for government officials and services; tips on gardening; endorsements and advertisements for local service providers; feelers for starting up a local group to support stay-at-home mothers or seniors; stuff for sale; advertisements for local babysitters and dog walkers, you name it! Like Community Directories, newsletters are now easier to put out and virtually free to distribute using the internet and email.

**Email Groups, Listservs and Association Chat Rooms:** these internet tools have pretty much replaced the old “telephone tree”, but they serve the same function: allowing all members to be contacted quickly and almost effortlessly whether it's about a local burglary, a lost pet or an upcoming block party.

**Safety and Security:** Communities where the residents know each other, are alert, observant and caring are safer places to live. The Police Department's Neighborhood Watch Program is the most organized form of grassroots public safety program. Even this may vary widely. Some communities may do the minimum of literature distribution, engraving of valuables that would tempt burglars and having the familiar Neighborhood Watch signs put up at major points of entry into the neighborhood. Other communities go further. It's an activity which depends on the interest and dedication of the volunteers who make it happen.

If this list of the many things local civic associations can do makes you want to scream and run away – the “OMG! this is much too much work!” reaction – please remember: civic associations (unlike homeowners associations) are voluntary. What each association does reflects the needs, interests, and abilities of its leaders, and a key part of leadership is getting other people to enthusiastically participate and share in the work. And the fun. And the camaraderie!

The bottom line is: communities that are safe, welcoming, friendly, and wonderful to live in also tend to have sterling reputations, higher property values and faster turnover when homes are put on the market.

As you have read this and last month's issues, I hope you will have started thinking about what your own civic or neighborhood association does and how well it works; what works well that you would recommend to other neighborhood organizations; what doesn't work so well and how might it be improved; how can your group generate interest, enthusiasm and participation?

The purpose of our Sunday Forum on “Building Better Civic Associations” will be to bring civic leaders from all parts of the county together to share their knowledge and experience of what makes their local associations strong, vibrant and enduring. Strong civic associations make for safe, warm and welcoming communities. Let's unite to make all of our associations the best they can be. **Please let me know what you would like to share about your local association at this event. Email me at [mccfnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mccfnewsletter@gmail.com)**

## **Danila Sheveiko's Acceptance Speech**

**by Danila Sheveiko**

The Wayne Goldstein Award is given each year by the Montgomery County Civic Federation to an individual or group for outstanding service to the people of Montgomery County. This year's recipient was Danila Sergeyevich Sheveiko of the Kensington Heights Civic Association. Those of us at the Banquet found his acceptance speech to be one of the most truly moving, inspiring and memorable we have ever heard. I am including it in this newsletter so that those who were not at the Awards Banquet can benefit from its insights and those who were present can enjoy it once again. It deserves to be widely read.

“I have a lot of people to thank, and that would be reading a long list, so allow me instead to spend these few short minutes and explain how Wayne Goldstein taught me about freedom.

“Let’s start with a confession – I did not know Wayne. This is especially embarrassing, because he was the president of my civic association... It is also ironic, because my ignorance of Wayne would end with his death, and the events his passing precipitated would change my life forever.

“You see, I am a Russian-Ukrainian immigrant that came here for freedom and capitalism. Back in the Soviet Union, my great-grandfathers – successful farmers and business owners – were branded enemies of the state and sent to the gulags. Growing up, I got into trouble at school for refusing to wear the Communist lapel pin with Lenin’s face on it... my parents read forbidden books on microfiche using microscopes, and our phone was bugged by the KGB when it was still a big deal.

“So that’s why I came here. I got a degree in Finance, and I could explain capitalism, but knowing what the absence of freedom is did not get me closer to grasping the actual concept. I would quote Malcolm X – “Price of freedom is death,” – without really understanding it. Then I learned that our clothes are made in sweatshops, and our smartphones are made in factories with suicide nets... and, I am ashamed to admit, I got disenchanted with America and started quoting that great Canadian poet Leonard Cohen: “I love the country, but I hate the scene. I am neither left nor right, I am just staying home tonight, getting lost in that hopeless little screen.”

“Don’t get me wrong – I did not completely drop out... I spent years volunteering for local humanitarian causes and defended Americans against unjust criticism in the Russian national media. But I was clueless as to how this place really works until, nearly five years ago, Wayne died on the County Council steps. Weeks after his passing, Costco broke off negotiations with Lee Development in Aspen Hill and, boosted by County waivers and subsidies, headed to Westfield Mall in Wheaton, with a plan to build the busiest gas station in Montgomery County just 118 feet away from my family’s home.

“Despite our best efforts to compromise, and even sacrifice, on the Costco warehouse itself, the project got a blank check and the green light from County government. A small group of neighbors and friends, we were left on our own... to face Costco Wholesale, the nation’s fourth largest corporate retailer, and Westfield Group, the largest retail real estate property holder on Planet Earth.

“That’s when Jane Folsom, who has also passed now... a Certified Weed Warrior and ally of Wayne’s in battles large and small... explained to me Wayne’s role & legacy... and quoted Jefferson: “The price of liberty is eternal vigilance.” That’s when my eyes opened, ladies and gentlemen, and I saw the grass roots – people of all parties, races & creeds engaged in a never-ending non-partisan battle... sacrificing nights and weekends to pour over budgets, watching out for every penny of taxpayer funds... and attending endless hearings to make sure we have clean air to breathe and clean water to drink.

“In my own battle for the right to breathe... as one democratic institution after another failed us miserably, I realized the true meaning of grass roots... the trees are gone, the shrubs and the

flowers destroyed... even the grass itself is gone... and all we have holding everything together are these roots!

“As chances for victory in the Costco gas battle are receding along with my hairline, I am reminded of a saying – “If you sacrifice everything and win, you are a hero. If you sacrifice everything and lose, you are a fool.” So what did I win? I met all these wonderful people. That gave me hope!

“I saw Sophia Maravell fighting to save her father’s farm. I saw Diane Cameron fighting to defend every forest and creek. I saw Manny Garcia, an award-winning journalist, fighting for the right to do his job without fear of arrest and persecution. And I saw Steve Kanstoroom, a friend of Wayne’s and last year’s Goldstein Award recipient, risking arrest to fight powerful development interests that erased from the maps a kinship community’s access road, so a neighborhood of African American descendants of pre-Civil War freed slaves could not get postal addresses and government services in 21<sup>st</sup> century, Maryland.

“That’s when I understood the nature of grass roots – they are very hard to kill, and they refuse to go away, breaking through the asphalt and the concrete that chokes them, developing resistance to the herbicides that poison them. Grass roots persevere and fight back no matter the odds, to give people hope and a reason to live.

“So, thank you to the Civic Federation for keeping the flame. Thank you to Wayne Goldstein for teaching me that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance and death when necessary. And thank you to my family for giving me the values and the skills to defend them.”

## **County Seeks Civic Association Representatives for BRT Corridor Study Advisory Committees**

**by Harriet Quinn, Transportation Committee**

Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is forming Advisory Committees for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridor studies that will be done by the Maryland State Highway Administration. The State has already selected Advisory Committees for the Corridor Cities Transitway (BRT from Clarksburg to Shady Grove). Four additional major corridors will be studied over the next two years: Upper Georgia Avenue (from Wheaton to Olney) Veirs Mill Road, Route 355 and Route 29. The four corridors have been divided into seven segments, with each segment assigned to a Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC). Residents near those new segments may nominate themselves or be nominated by others. Nomination forms should be **submitted to the respective Civic Association President by November 21, 2014**. Civic Associations should select their representative and submit their representative’s contact information to MCDOT **by December 5**.

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

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

MCDOT suggests the following additional guidelines for selecting an individual to represent your association. Individuals should: Have the capacity to adequately represent the residents in your subdivision or neighborhood; Have the leadership ability to clearly address stakeholder issues and to bring together diverse interests; Either be directly impacted by the project or have the capacity to adequately represent residents in your neighborhood who could be; Have the capacity to adequately represent the diversity of those living in your subdivision or neighborhood; be a frequent transit or road user along the proposed BRT route that runs nearest your neighborhood.

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

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

## **Cell Towers on Public School Grounds?**

### **Paula Bienenfeld, President**

Do cell phone towers belong on our public school grounds – or on the grounds of any school, for that matter? So far there are 11 Montgomery County Public Schools with cell towers.

A public meeting has been scheduled in Germantown for that community to discuss the proposed placement of a cell tower at the Roberto Clemente Middle School. The meeting is scheduled for **Nov. 11 at 7 p.m.** inside the school's cafeteria at 18808 Waring Station Road, Germantown. The agenda includes speakers from Verizon, Montgomery County Public Schools, Trinity Church, and Daly Elementary School.

## **Love Where You Live: Hot Tips for Great Places to Go in Mo. Co.**

### **by Peggy Dennis, Past President**

(hot tips for other great places to go and things to do will be gratefully received by [mccfnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mccfnewsletter@gmail.com) )

On our way to climb Sugarloaf Mountain, we stumbled onto the **Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard** at 18125 Comus Road in Dickerson. This is a charming venue in a beautiful location.

I'm no oenophile, but we enjoyed a wine tasting and each had a glass of our favorite along with the picnic we had planned to eat on the top of the mountain. Their patio provides a much more comfortable dining area than the hard rocks on the top of Sugarloaf. The winery does tastings, sells its product direct to the public and you may buy a variety of cheese platters to go with your



wine or to supplement your own picnic. Tours of the winery are given on weekends, and Mike McGarry, the owner is pleased to explain as much as you care to know about how SMV makes their product.

For more detailed information, visit the website at <http://www.smvwinery.com>

While you're in the same area, be sure to check out the wide variety of pumpkins and squash grown by David Heisler and sold at the **Comus Market** at the intersection of Comus Road and Old Hundred Road. The October 29 Food section of the Washington Post has a delightful article on his heritage crops and the best ways to use various types of pumpkins. I thank the Post for featuring a small, local business that further justifies protecting our "Ag Reserve" and helping the Reserve remain a valuable asset to the entire county and region.

And lest you think pumpkin is only for pie, here's a recipe for pumpkin or squash that's really tasty – a traditional Afghan dish called Kadu Challaw.

2 lb Fresh pumpkin or squash  
1/4 c corn or vegetable oil

Sweet Tomato Sauce:

1 teaspoon Crushed garlic  
1 cup Water  
1/2 teaspoon Salt  
1/3 cup Sugar  
4 oz Tomato sauce  
1/2 teaspoon Ginger root, chopped fine  
1 teaspoon Freshly ground coriander Seeds  
1/4 teaspoon Black pepper

Yogurt Sauce

1/4 teaspoon Crushed garlic  
1/4 teaspoon Salt  
3/4 cup Plain yogurt

Garnish:

Dry mint leaves, crushed (optional)

Peel the pumpkin and cut into 2-3" cubes; set aside. Heat oil in a large frying pan that has a lid. Fry the pumpkins on all sides for a couple of minutes until lightly browned. Mix together ingredients for Sweet Tomato Sauce in a bowl then add to pumpkin mixture in fry pan. Cover and cook 20-25 minutes over low heat until the pumpkin is cooked and most of the liquid has evaporated. Mix together the ingredients for the yogurt sauce. To serve: Spread half the yogurt sauce on a plate and lay the pumpkin on top. Top with remaining yogurt and any cooking juices left over. Sprinkle with dry mint. May be served with basmati rice, naan or pita bread.

## Update your Contact Information

By Peggy Dennis, Past President

Many civic, homeowners and neighborhood associations have newly elected officers or boards take over during the summer or autumn. Please remember to provide updated contact information to those who need to be able to reach you, starting with the Civic Federation's Database Manager: Harriet Quinn, at [quinn300@yahoo.com](mailto:quinn300@yahoo.com)

All associations should send updates to the Communications Office at Maryland National Capital/ Park & Planning Commission. Click on the interactive link at <http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/gis/interactive/hoa2.shtm> If this doesn't work for you, contact Ms. Arnita Jackson at [arnita.jackson@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:arnita.jackson@mncppc-mc.org) or call her at 301-495-4600.

Depending on where you live, you should also update your contact information with your respective Regional Services Center:

Western County: [bethesda.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:bethesda.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov)

Silver Spring: [silver.spring@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:silver.spring@montgomerycountymd.gov)

Mid-County: [midcounty.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:midcounty.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov)

Eastern County: [eastco.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:eastco.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov)

Up-County: [upcounty.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:upcounty.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov)

## News you can Use

### Third Annual “Trees Matter Symposium”

The third annual **Trees Matter Symposium** will be held on Wednesday, November 5, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Great Hall, Silver Spring Civic Center, 1 Veterans Place, Silver Spring, 20910. The symposium will focus on the health and welfare of trees in our increasingly developed landscapes. Learn from some of the country's leading experts about innovative efforts to plant, protect and preserve trees in urban and suburban settings. Trees provide many benefits: they cleanse and cool our air, stabilize our soils, provide wildlife habitat and beautify our urban and suburban areas. We encourage all arborists, landscape industry and environmental/green industry professionals, engineers, designers, housing developers and

For full details visit: [www.montgomeryparks.org/calendar/index.php?eID=3105](http://www.montgomeryparks.org/calendar/index.php?eID=3105)

### Community-Wide Yard Sale and Silent Auction To Help Retire the Debt on the Costco Gas Station Fight

By Danila Sheveiko, Kensington Heights C.A.

To help retire the debt incurred by Kensington Heights in fighting Costco's efforts to build a mega gas station in the back yards of our neighborhood, we are holding a Community-Wide

Yard Sale and Silent Auction on **November 15** at Kenmont Swim and Tennis Club, 2900 Faulkner Place, Kensington, from 9 am to 3 pm. We held our first such event in March 2014 and it was a great success, raising thousands of dollars for the cause. The sale now will help us complete payment of the final \$20,000 owed on our legal bills for this five-year fight.

Here's your chance to clear out all those things you no longer need and to find the perfect gifts for the holidays from what someone else donated. Get an early start on your shopping list and help your friends and neighbors at the same time!

WE NEED:

**Donated items** -- good quality saleable clothes, books, electronics, household goods, furniture, jewelry, collectibles, games, sporting goods, etc. You name it, we'll see who wants it! WE ALSO NEED PORTABLE CLOTHING RACKS TO SHOW OFF THE CLOTHES. Do you have ones we can borrow for the sale? Items may be donated on November 2, 8 and 9 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Kenmont Swim & Tennis Club. If you have items but can't make those times, please contact us and we'll make other arrangements. If you can work at the sale or have any questions, contact Karen Cordry ([karenc425@aol.com](mailto:karenc425@aol.com))

**Silent Auction** -- Do you have a special talent that we can auction off? Do you have that unique item to donate that will have others fighting to outbid each other? Do you have a home at the beach or in the mountains that you would be willing to allow to be used for a weekend or a week? Do you own or work for a business that can donate goods or services for the auction? You name it, we'll be happy to put it up for bids!

## More Information on Deer

by Peggy Dennis, Past President

Our website – [www.montgomerycivic.org](http://www.montgomerycivic.org) – now has the documents concerning bow & arrow hunting in suburban neighborhoods that were passed out at our September meeting plus more. Click on Current Issues, then go to the Environment page. There, you will find links to:

- letter from U.S Rep. Chris Van Hollen and Councilmember Roger Berliner requesting management of deer population in the C.&O. Canal National Historic Parks
- Federation Corner Column on the deer overpopulation issue
- videotape of the Federation's September program on Strategies for Managing the Deer Population
- "A Citizens Guide to Safe Bow & Arrow Hunting in Residential Communities in Montgomery County"
- "Guidelines for Retrieving Deer That Run onto Parkland"
- Bowhunter David Berk's Frequently Asked Questions about archery hunting in suburban neighborhoods
- a list of additional resources on Deer Management

## **How the Montgomery County Police Gather Statistics on Injured/Dead Deer**

from Deborah Whims, Deputy Director, IMTD – Records, Montgomery County Police Department

The Montgomery County Police Department keeps statistics on deer-related incidents including all struck/injured deer, collisions between cars and deer, and various other types of incidents that were classified as a “deer complaint”.

There are three sources for deer incidents:

- An officer on patrol sees the incident and stops
- A resident calls 911
- A resident calls the Non-Emergency 311 line

Cases where a resident calls the 911 call center without an officer dispatched to the scene are rare, but can happen if the animal dies on private property. The 911 center tends to err on the side of caution to verify that there is no public safety hazard and to make sure that the animal is dead and not suffering.

If the caller believes that the injured or deceased deer poses an immediate threat to passers by, the caller should call 911. Other injured deer or deceased deer that don't pose an immediate hazard should be reported through the Police Non-Emergency Line : [301-279-8000](tel:301-279-8000). Dead deer on private property should be reported to 311 so that the animal can be retrieved and taken away.

If you have additional questions on “deer complaints” you may contact Ms. Whims at

[240-773-5218](tel:240-773-5218)

## **Update on “Alert Montgomery”**

from The Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management & Homeland Security

Important changes are coming to the Alert Montgomery system in the next few weeks. The new enhancements to our alert system will improve the speed, reliability and customization of alerts you can receive. What this means to you is that you will need to re-register your Alert Montgomery County account in order to take advantage of the enhancements on the new system. We are scheduled to launch the new service on October 15, 2014. On that date you will receive an email from the new Alert Montgomery vendor, Everbridge, with a trusted and secure link prompting you to take the following actions:

- 1) Create a username and password;
- 2) Review current user information and update if necessary;
- 3) Customize the methods in which you wish to receive notifications (choose your devices and prioritization of selected devices); and
- 4) Choose the types of alerts you would like to receive.

For account holders who signed up prior to October 2014, we will transfer your account data to the enhanced version of Alert Montgomery; however, you must log on to create a username and password as well as double check your contact information and alert categories.

For more information, visit the Alert Montgomery Frequently Asked Questions page at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/), call 311 or [240-777-0311](tel:240-777-0311).

## Tree Care

by Carole Ann Barth, Environmental Co-Chair

Autumn is a great time to plant trees. Caring for newly-planted trees is easy, but it's also critically important. The first three years after planting, your tree is busy growing. Roots that were confined in a pot or burlapped ball are spreading out and forming partnerships with Mycorrhizae (from myco meaning fungal and rhiza meaning root) which help the tree absorb phosphorus, nitrogen, and moisture. Give the tree a little bit of help now, and it will reward you for decades to come.

Tree care can be boiled down into three basic tasks: Water, mulch and inspect.

Water	Mulch	Inspect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Learn when to water</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Learn how much to water</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Learn how to water</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Set up a watering plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Learn how to mulch</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Set up a mulching plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Look for damage potential</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Look for injured branches</li> </ul>

When to Water- A newly-planted tree requires 1.5 inches of rainfall a week, especially during the warm weather from May through September. You can get (or make) a rain gauge, keep track of the weather reports, or check the weekly watering advice on Casey Trees' home page (<http://caseytrees.org/>).

How Much to Water- If there is no rainfall, your tree will need 25 gallons of water per week.

How to Water- It's important that the water has a chance to soak in, rather than simply run off. That means delivering the water slowly. If your soil is heavy (full of clay) or compacted, watering too quickly will waste lots of water while leaving your tree thirsty. To test your soil's compaction level, try inserting a screwdriver into dry ground. If it goes in without pushing hard or pounding, your soil is not compacted. (To find out your soil's clay content, see "for More Information" below.)

There are a number of options for water delivery:

Place a 5-gallon bucket with holes in the bottom at the base of the tree. Fill the bucket up five days a week.

Buy a 25-gallon slow-release watering bag. Fill it up just once a week.

Use a soaker hose for a half hour at the base of the tree 2-3 times a week

**Mulch**-Mulching correctly conserves soil moisture and helps control weeds. In addition, organic mulches (such as shredded bark or composted leaves) feed the soil as they decompose.

Mulching incorrectly, however, can encourage pests and damage bark. Do not pile the mulch up around the trunk, instead use the 3-3-3 rule: 3 inches of mulch in a 3-foot ring with a 3-inch space around the tree trunk. Depending on the type of mulch used, you will need to replace it annually, or in Spring and Fall.

**Inspect**- Is your tree potentially at risk from weed whackers, lawnmowers, deer or cars? If so, you will want to put some protection (fencing or stakes) around your tree. Were any branches damaged during planting? If so, prune them cleanly back to a bud, branch, or the main trunk.

**For More Information-**

<http://www.treesaregood.com/>

<http://www.arborday.org/>

[http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/uf/tom/090202\\_tom\\_hr.pdf](http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/uf/tom/090202_tom_hr.pdf)

<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/projects/raingauge.html>

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/mg/gardennotes/214.html>

## **Grass Roots Stormwater Solutions**

**By Carole Ann Barth, Environment Co-Chair**

Does your neighborhood need some sprucing up? Do you have problems with massive amounts of stormwater flooding basements or causing ponding or erosion? Would you like to live in a community free of litter and pet waste? Does your local stream need a helping hand?

Now your civic association, non-profit organization, or faith-based organization, is eligible to apply for funding to reduce stormwater runoff and pollutants through community-based restoration (including RainScapes practices) as well as to implement projects focused on public involvement through education, outreach and stewardship.

Grants of up to \$50,000 are available from the new Montgomery County Watershed Restoration and Outreach Program. Suggested projects include small-scale stormwater practice installations such as those supported through the RainScapes program (including rain gardens, native trees and conservation landscaping); bioretention cells, streamside forest buffers and green roofs; pet waste management and litter prevention and reduction efforts.

Projects must be located in Montgomery County, outside the municipalities of Rockville, Gaithersburg and Takoma Park.

Before applying, contact the Chesapeake Bay Trust to discuss project ideas and partnerships. Applications are due on December 4, 2014 by 5 p.m. To learn more and review the request for proposals, visit [www.cbtrust.org/montcountywatershedgrant](http://www.cbtrust.org/montcountywatershedgrant) or contact Sadie Drescher at 410-974-2941, x103.

Remember, clean water is a gift from neighbor to neighbor - Pass it on!

## Update on LATR Change for White Oak

by Eileen Finnegan, Planning and Land-Use Committee Member

The Subdivision Staging Policy (SSP) Amendment 14-02 for the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan as originally sponsored by Councilmembers Floreen, Rice and Navarro is now “off the table.” However, the idea of a special Local Area Transportation (LATR) procedure for the area is moving forward with a new idea credited to Planning Board Chair Casey Anderson.

Staff from Planning, Council and Department of Transportation is working to “flesh out” the concept of establishing a per-trip LATR payment scheme to replace the current process. The goal is to have an easy method of collecting funds for building intersection improvements that will happen concurrently with, or possibly before, development proceeds. It is expected that a fully-crafted policy will be brought back to the Council’s Planning Housing and Economic Development Committee early in 2015.

There are broad implications for this per-trip LATR payment approach. Since the full SSP will be taken up by Council in the fall 2016, any 2015 SSP change for White Oak may become the proving ground for a countywide policy change beginning in 2016.

## Minutes of the October 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting

By Danila Sheveiko, Recording Secretary

**Call to Order:** President Paula Bienenfeld called the 859<sup>th</sup> session to order at 7:51pm. Introductions followed.

**AGENDA:** It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Sue Schumacher announced A Wider Circle will conduct a free shredding & electronic recycling event Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, 9am-12pm 4315 50<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, Washington, DC 20016. Jim Humphrey announced his retirement from MCCF. Speeches of appreciation followed. Peggy Dennis announced the MCCF Building Better Civic Associations workshop, Sun. Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>. Allan Bowser announced the [Conservation Montgomery](#) Big Tree Tour Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> and grant for home tree care for civic associations. Jim Humphrey announced that on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> MCCF testified before Council in opposition to legislation to amend the Subdivision Staging Policy (SSP 14-02) local traffic test (LATR) exclusively for White Oak. Council [PHED Committee](#) worksession is scheduled Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>.

**MINUTES:** It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 meeting as they appeared in the Newsletter. The minutes were approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jerry Garson reported net income of \$770.29 for the period.

**COMMUNITY HERO AWARD:** Committee to Save Kensington – for years of diligent work on public interest land use and government accountability in the Town of Kensington and adjacent communities.

**PROGRAM:** How to Get Your Neighborhood Project into the Capital Improvements Program (CIP). The CIP is a bi-annual appropriation of funding for infrastructure work. The CIP is required by County Charter. Glenn Orlin, the Council's Deputy Administrator, and Mary Beck, Office of Management & Budget, gave a presentation on the selection and funding process for CIP projects and citizen input opportunities. Current CIP six-year budget is \$4.5 billion. Smaller projects are easier to fit into the budget. Facility Planning is a 3-4 year process. System ranks projects by merit. Delegates brought up the need for Reference Class Forecasting, as well as the issue of funding for artificial turf fields whose economic benefits have been recently put into question by financial mass media organizations like the Wall Street Journal and Forbes Magazine.

**ELECTIONS:** The MCCF general membership unanimously approved Alan Bowser's nomination for Second Vice President. Paula announced appointment of Jean Cavanaugh as a Member at Large of the Executive Committee.

### Committee Reports

**Planning & Land Use:** Jim Humphrey reported that the new [Zoning Code](#) is now available online. Hard copies can be purchased for \$20 at the Park & Planning headquarters in Silver Spring starting last week of October.

**Transportation:** Harriet Quinn reported MCDOT is looking for applicants to serve on the [BRT Advisory Committees](#) for Upper Georgia Ave., Veirs Mill Rd., Route 29 and Route 355. She referred delegates to the MCDOT web site ([www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot)) for details on the nomination process (see newsletter article)

**Education:** Paula Bienenfeld informed about [coalition](#) to oppose cell towers on school grounds.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Emergency Resolution to support Council Bill 41-14 to ban expanded polystyrene (styrofoam containers) passed with one abstention. The resolution states:

*Whereas polystyrene is a petroleum-based plastic which does not break down; is harmful to the aquatic community, and contributes significantly to the waste stream, and*



*Whereas* there are alternatives to polystyrene that are recyclable and/or biodegradable and compostable;

*Therefore*, the Montgomery County Civic Federation supports Bill 41-14, a ban on expanded polystyrene, and we hope the Council will act expeditiously to enact this ban.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

## **Minutes of the October 23rd Executive Committee Meeting**

**By Danila Sheveiko, Recording Secretary**

The Executive Committee (ExComm) convened at the Mid-County Regional Services Center in Wheaton.

**Call to Order:** Paula Bienenfeld, President, called the meeting to order at 7:09 PM. Present: Paula Bienenfeld, Jerry Garson, Peggy Dennis, Jim Zepp, Carole Ann Barth, Danila Sheveiko, Virginia Sheard, Jim Humphrey, Louis Wilen, and Jean Cavanagh.

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

**Approval of Minutes for Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> ExComm Meetings:** Paula called for and received unanimous approval of the minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jerry Garson, Treasurer, circulated the September report.

**Announcements:** Paula Bienenfeld called for announcements.

[Early voting](#) starts October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Building Better Civic Associations workshop, Sun. Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, 1-5 pm.

[Purple Line Community Compact](#) workshop, Sat. Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am-12:30pm

[3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Trees Matter Symposium](#), Wed. Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:30am-4pm

**Programs:** Paula introduced discussion of future programs.

**November:** County's waste management and recycling program.

**December:** Emergency preparedness.

**January:** Street repaving or stormwater management & rain tax

### **Issues Discussed**

**Jim Humphrey transition:** Assignment of responsibilities handled by Jim. MCCF is looking for a volunteer to coordinate the Civic Federation column for [the Montgomery Sentinel](#) newspaper.

**New assignments:** Paula reported on communications with [Committee for Montgomery](#). Jean Cavanagh, Member at Large, agreed to co-chair Environment Committee with Carole Ann Barth.

**Sligo cell tower:** Project is on hold until AT&T applies for conditional use under the [new Zoning Code](#).

**Membership survey:** Jim Zepp presented the draft MCCF membership survey.

**Civic Fed Mailing address:** ExComm decided to ask for a mailing address at the County Council Office building

**DPS use of blanket “confidentiality” notices on their emails:** Jim Zepp presented the draft letter to DPS, receiving ExComm approval.

### Committee Reports

**Public Safety:** Peggy reported MCPD is now issuing tickets for parking on the curb along C&O National Park on MacArthur Blvd. by the Old Angler's Inn.

#### Planning & Land Use (PLU):

- Jim H. to draft Aspen Hill Minor Master Plan Amendment testimony for future Council hearing
- [White Oak Local Area Transportation Review](#) Council worksession Nov 25th. (Note: following ExComm meeting it was learned that the 11/25 PHED session has been delayed until early 2015, when an alternative change to LATR for White Oak area will be presented by Council, Planning Dept. and Dept. of Transportation staff. Please see article on p 15.)
- Community won the BCC Rescue Squad re-zoning issue.

**Transportation:** Funding for [Bus Rapid Transit](#) may include Special Taxing Districts.

**Utilities:** Louis Wilen, Chair, reported that all street lights in the 20832 ZIP code are now operational.

### Old Business

Costco gas update: Hearing Examiner's report expected on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>.

IgCC update: Department of Permitting Services delayed public release of the draft [International Green Construction Code](#) until Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, followed by 30 days of public comment before the bill is submitted to the County Council for an up-or-down vote.

Peggy is drafting resolution on traffic light compliance (or failure thereof) with Americans with Disabilities Act.

Discussion of venue for MCCF 2015 awards banquet.

### New Business

Newsletter deadline and articles – Deadline: Sunday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> 6pm to Peggy Dennis

Date and location of next two ExComm meetings:

- **November 20<sup>th</sup>, 7:45pm, BCC Regional Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Ln, Bethesda.**
- December – TBD.

**Adjournment:** Paula called for and received unanimous approval for adjournment at 8:52PM.

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

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

Form updated August 2014

Name of Organization/Individual \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Households (Approx) \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Dues (see below) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Make checks payable to **Montgomery County Civic Federation**)

Membership Type	Number of Households	PLEASE CHECK	DUES	Max Number of Delegates	Voting Privileges
<b>Local Association</b> (civic, community, homeowner or municipality. Can not be a single local issue group.)	10 to 50		\$20	1	Yes
	51 to 300		\$35	2	
	301 to 600		\$50	3	
	601+		\$65	4	
<b>Umbrella Association</b> (Two or more local associations. Cannot be single local issue group.)	60 to 500		\$35	2	Yes
	501 to 1000		\$50	3	
	1001+		\$65	4	
<b>Regional or County-Wide Organization</b> (environmental, transportation, or other civic/community).	50+ memberships, not households		\$35	2	Yes
<b>Individual Associate</b>	(not applicable)		\$15	1	No
<b>Associate Group</b> (Gov't agency, business, or other organization)	(not applicable)		\$75	2	No

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

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