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of note

Next MCCF Meeting

Monday, October 14, 2019, 7:45 p.m.
@ the Executive Office Building in Rockville. "Revisions to the County's General Plan"

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Meeting Minutes

September 9 Meeting #905 **P. 21**
Executive Committee Teleconference Meeting on September 19 **P. 23**

Membership Application

Join or Renew Now **SEE FORM**

TO PRINT, USE PRINT VERSION

Federation Meeting #906

Monday, October 14, 2019

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
- 7:56 Approval of Minutes, September 9 Meeting **P.21**
- 7:57 Treasurer's Report
- 8:00 Program: "Revisions to the County's General Plan" **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 October 14 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 East 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. ■

mccf

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 26**

October 14th Program: Revisions to the County's General Plan

By Harriet Quinn

The program for the October 14 MCCF meeting is an important opportunity for MCCF to provide feedback and vision to the Planning Department on the ongoing process of developing revisions to the County's General Plan. The General Plan is the foundation of all planning in Montgomery County and this vision has guided all plans and policies for more than five decades. The current **General Plan on Wedges and Corridors** was adopted in 1964 and refined in 1969 and 1993. Its organization of "wedges and corridors" comes from the idea of channeling growth along major roads while preserving wedges of open space, farmland, and low density residential uses.

A General Plan is a policy docu-

ment that guides, over multiple decades, how a jurisdiction will develop and change over time, maintain its important assets, and respond to future opportunities and challenges. The Plan is continually revised with amendments and through local master plans, sector plans, and county-wide functional plans. Unlike a sector plan, master plan, or functional plan, a General Plan does not provide specific land use guidance to address short-term issues in targeted geographic areas; it does not change zoning; and it addresses multiple topic areas, rather than just one. *A General Plan is a long-term vision with broad policies that will guide future, more detailed land use planning, public investments in infrastructure and communities*

amenities, and private development.

The Planning Department has named this General Plan revision "Thrive Montgomery 2050" and it will ultimately result in an update to this General Plan, which informs the shape and character of every neighborhood in Montgomery County, the types of community facilities and amenities that serve residents and businesses, and the ways we travel throughout the county. Thrive Montgomery 2050 is about the policies and ideas to carry our community forward to 2050. It's the long-term vision of where we want to go and it drives every decision made, including what types of investments the county government makes.

October Program, cont.

WHAT IS THE UPDATE PROCESS?

The Planning Department is asking for your help to envision Montgomery County in 2050. To think about what's going to be different about the world when you're 30 years older, and when the kids in your life are your age. To question assumptions so that they can address the evolving nature and impacts of technology, societal shifts, and lifestyle and demographic changes on employment, retail, transportation, education, housing, health, infrastructure, culture and recreation, social equity, and environmental resilience. From now through October of 2019, they will develop visioning to imagine what life in Montgomery County can and should be like

Project Timeline

- **PRE-PLAN**
July 2018-May 2019
- **VISIONING**
June-October 2019
- **ANALYSIS**
November-December 2019
- **DRAFT PLAN DEVELOPMENT**
January-September 2020
- **PLANNING BOARD REVIEW AND TRANSMITTAL**
October 2020-March 2021
- **COUNCIL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**
April 2021

in 2050 and what we need to put in place to allow us to thrive in the decades to come.

Then, with your input—along with consultation with county officials, trends data, expert analysis and best practices—the Department will develop a draft of the Thrive Montgomery 2050 General Plan Update for community review and feedback beginning January 2020.

Your insight will inform the plan that goes to the Planning Board in October 2020 and eventually to the County Council in spring 2021. The Planning Department Staff will discuss the process and framework with us on October 14 and we look forward to seeing everyone and getting your feedback. For more information, [visit the Thrive 2050 website.](#) ■

New Inspector General Megan Limarzi at October 16th Taxpayers League Meeting

By Harriet Quinn

Following the retirement of County Inspector General Edward Blansitt, who served from 2011-July 2019, the County Council appointed Megan Limarzi as the new County IG, to complete the remainder of Blansitt's second term from September 1, 2019, through June 20, 2021. *Ms. Limarzi will be the featured speaker at the October 16th meeting of the Montgomery County Taxpayers League at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Office Building Conference Room.*

The Office of Inspector General's (OIG) was created in 1997 as a watchdog to prevent waste, fraud, and abuse in government and to increase productivity.

Prior to her appointment, Ms. Limarzi served as the Clerk of the

Montgomery County Council and Inspector General for the Maryland Department of Health. She began her career as a criminal prosecutor and worked on both the State and local levels. As an Assistant Attorney General, she focused on large-scale economic crimes and public corruption cases.

Ms. Limarzi received her juris doctorate from the University of Maryland School of Law and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Maryland, College Park. She is a member of the Maryland Bar.

BILL 11-19 TO EXPAND OIG

In related news, the County Council has proposed a Bill to expand the OIG responsibilities. **Bill 11-19** would require the IG to conduct a risk analysis of the County's

internal controls and processes and, based on the risk analysis, conduct a systematic rotating group-by-group review of the internal accounting and contracting processes and controls used by each department and principal office in the Executive Branch. The Bill would also require the IG to audit large County contracts funded in the operating budget. Ms. Limarzi estimates that the Bill would require a four-year phase-in of 19 new FTEs.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR MCPS INSPECTOR GENERAL

MCCF has been supportive of establishing OIG oversight for County agencies as well as independent and bi-County agencies such as The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)

MCPS IG Resolution, cont.

and WSSC. The remaining agency without any oversight by an Inspector General is the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). The MCCF Executive Committee recently drafted the following resolution that will be voted on at the October 14 meeting.

MCCF PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON AN MCPS IG

Whereas, historically the Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc. (MCCF) has supported the creation of Inspectors General for public agencies as appropriate, and

Whereas, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is a quasi-state agency not under the jurisdiction of the Montgomery County Inspector General or any other Office

of Inspector General,

Therefore be it resolved that the MCCF supports the establishment and sufficient staffing and funding

of an independent Inspector General (IG) specifically for the oversight of the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). ■

County Launches 4Business Benchmarking Initiative

By Harriet Quinn

County Executive Marc Elrich and Council Vice President Sidney Katz are embarking on a multi-pronged joint initiative: **4Business—Benchmarking to Be the Best for Business.**

The objective is “to engage the local business community in a grassroots campaign to assist businesses to locate, grow, and prosper in Montgomery County.”

Six Listening sessions were held across the County to receive input from businesses about what they need to succeed, and to engage them to share their experiences in locating and growing their businesses in Montgomery County. The County will continue to seek feedback on what can help businesses to be successful. The **4Business Climate Survey** was available online until September 30. ■



I-270 Improvements Reduce Traffic Congestion

By Jerry Garson, MCCF Transportation Committee Chair

The Maryland State Highway Administration has started the implementation of innovative congestion management tools to reduce congestion on I-270, including the east I-270 and west I-270 spurs. Improvements will include a series of roadway and technology-based improvements. Two of the 14 parts of the program have been finished.

The current estimated cost of this program is \$111,812,000.

The first major component has been the widening of the I-270 Northbound Western Spur between Democracy Boulevard and the main line exit to Falls Road. One additional lane was added to the Spur and the main lanes of I-270 to the exit to the local lanes of I-270 just

before the exit to I-270. This has increased the traffic volume by about 50% during the Afternoon Peak Hours from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. and has reduced the congestion in Northern Virginia and the American Legion Bridge along I-495 to the western spur. Many afternoons the traffic is free flowing, often approaching the posted speed limit of 55 miles per hour and reducing the number of accidents.

All the additional lanes were constructed within the existing Right of Way.

The second major component was the addition of one lane southbound between the Falls Road entrance to the Montrose Road exit in the local lanes. This has reduced slightly the morning congestion between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. The ad-



ditional lane was constructed within the existing Right of Way.

There will be a total of 14 roadway improvements that will increase capacity and vehicle throughput and address safety deficiencies by strategically eliminating existing bottlenecks (the key element limiting vehicular throughput along the corridor), coupled with the impact of crashes and other incidents. The strategy takes a “right-sized,” practical design approach focused on minimizing impacts to maximize the improvements that can be provided throughout the corridor. ■

MCCF Treasurer's Report, September 19, 2019

	FY 2020	FY 2019	FY 2019	FY 2020
			Budget	Budget
	7/1/18	7/1/18	7/1/18	7/1/19
	9/19/19	6/30/19	6/30/19	6/30/20
REVENUES				
Membership Dues	485.00	1,725.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
Awards Dinner	0.00	875.00	2,700.00	1,500.00
Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Revenues	485.00	2,600.00	5,200.00	4,000.00
EXPENSES				
Member Communications				
Post Office Box/Postage	0.00	96.00	100.00	100.00
Website	214.80	310.80	200.00	200.00
Civic and Social Betterment				
Federation Meetings	255.00	1,374.05	1,200.00	1,200.00
Awards Dinner	0.00	1,100.94	2,400.00	1,200.00
Membership	0.00	350.00	0.00	0.00
Organizational Support				
Officers Supplies	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00
Committees	0.00	171.0	350.00	350.00
Insurance	0.00	590.00	650.00	650.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
Total Expenses	469.80	3,992.79	5,200.00	4,000.00
Net Income (excess expenditures)	15.20	(1,392.79)	0.00	0.00
Bank Balance as of September 19, 2019	10,425.87			

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 October 14 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.

Global Youth Climate Strike Includes Montgomery County Students in Public Protests

By Bailey Condrey, MCCF President

On Friday, September 20, Montgomery County's youth participated in a global event, the first international "school strike" to focus attention on the unprecedented changes to the world's climate that greenhouse gases are producing and the need for federal politicians to enact meaningful policy to stave off the worst of the coming disasters, which the citizens of other nations already face.

I had been asked to participate by groups supporting the school strike, and groups supporting solutions-based public policy to address climate change, to hand out flyers at the Bethesda Metro Station during the morning commute and to be on hand for remarks delivered by the student speaker, Rosie, a sixth-grade



student at Pyle Middle School. She delivered her comments flanked by Nicholas and Andrew, fellow middle schoolers.

According to www.350.org, the protests were the beginning of a week of nearly 5,800 actions to take place in 163 countries. **Nearly 4 million people globally participated in climate actions on that Friday and**

Saturday.

Rosie had this to say:

Hi, my name is Rosie C-C.

Thank you for coming to the Climate Strike! I'm proud of every one of you for being here.

The fires in California and the floods in the Midwest and the hurricanes in Texas and Puerto Rico and the Bahamas are waking people up to climate change.

Our oceans are filled with trash, and the sixth mass extinction will destroy life as we know it.

The earth has warmed by 2 degrees in the last century. And the greatest impact will be on the people who are the most vulnerable—poor people, indigenous people, people of color, and children.

The government does almost

Youth Climate Strike, cont.

nothing, the schools don't teach us, our parents are silent, and the people in charge are part of the problem.

But scientists say that we only have 11 years to avoid a climate catastrophe. They say we have to have zero carbon emissions by 2030. If we don't get to zero emissions in 11 years, scientists say we will have started an uncontrollable chain reaction that will lead to the end of our civilization as we know it.

So we are here to strike! We have a long history of striking in this country and we won't stop now. Strikes show our power through unity.

Our strike is in solidarity with the kids of Flint, Michigan, dealing with polluted water, and the Dakota

Oil Pipeline protestors at Standing Rock, and the striking auto workers who want good paying jobs. Because any fight for justice is our fight too.

Today, we are asking you to fight for the future of children here and around the world.

I want to make sure that everyone here has signed our student petition to limit MCPS carbon emissions and teach kids the science of climate change. Come and find me and I'll show you the petition. We need everyone's voice.

And join me next Friday, 9/27, at 4:30 p.m. at the flagpole at MCPS's Carver Center when we present our petition demands to the Board of Education.

Fight for children by demanding that we get to zero carbon emissions by 2030.

Fight for children by listening to

the voices that usually get ignored. Fight for children by joining your local climate change groups.

LET THE CLIMATE STRIKE BEGIN!

Youth and adults participating in the climate strike then boarded the subway to Judiciary Square where thousands of young people assembled before they marched to the United States Capital to present their demands. Some of the most thought-provoking messages of the day were penned to the myriad creatively composed and blunt protest banners and signs that the youth carried. Those messages included the following:

■ "You'll die of old age. I'll die of climate change."

■ "If you had done your job, we'd be in school."

Youth Climate Strike, cont.

■ “I’m studying for a future that’s currently being destroyed.”

■ “Science is not a liberal conspiracy.”

There were lots of moving parts to this event and I was impressed by how smoothly it all ran but, being a working stiff, I had to leave the protest at Judiciary Square and return to my job.

Make no mistake, the oldest of the youth participants will soon be voters and they intend to target all politicians whom have denied that climate change poses a threat and have worked to prevent meaningful legislation and public policy from being enacted to reduce future downside risks. In the simplest of terms it becomes a moral question: Do you care about the future quality of life of your nation’s own children? The

Trump administration and its allies have provided ample proof that they do not care about the lives of children from other nations, but what about our own?

America’s youth have now placed

both feet squarely in the cauldron of climate change and they intend to turn up the heat in the crucible of public policy debate to drive solutions. “May the Force be with Them!” ■



Photos by Bailey Condfrey

**YOUTH PROTESTORS AT JUDICIARY SQUARE
BEFORE MARCHING TO THE U.S. CAPITOL**

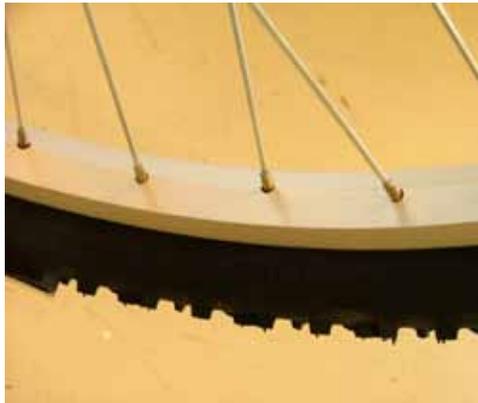
Countywide Bicycle, Pedestrian Plans Now Online Give the Public Opportunities for Input to Planning Dept.

The approved and adopted **Bicycle Master Plan** is now available online. On this webpage you will also find the online Approved Bicycle Network Map that shows the plan's bikeway recommendations. Additionally, it contains the companion Bicycle Facility Design Toolkit which

identifies the various types of bike-ways.

As previously reported, the Planning Department is now turning its attention to the **Pedestrian Master Plan**, which is kicking off with public meetings in October. The MCCF November 11 Program will discuss Pedestrian Safety and the Pedestrian Master Plan. More information will be provided soon about the November meeting.

Note that the Master Plan page has a link for signing up for the Planning Department's email list for the Pedestrian Master Plan electronic newsletter to stay informed about development of the plan, and you may also apply to be a member of the Pedestrian Master Plan Community Advisory Group. ■



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 Bailey Condrey at *president at montgomerycivic dot org*. Include topics/possible dates.

'Arrive Alive' Forum Brings Stakeholders Together Oct. 19 to Ensure Student Safety

The community is invited to attend "Arrive Alive: A Safe Routes to School Forum" for parents, students, neighbors, and officials to discuss how to make walking and bus routes safe for Montgomery County students. Hosted by the Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations (MCCPTA) and the Montgomery County Pedestrian, Bicycle, and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee (PBTSAC), the forum will be held Saturday, October 19, 2019, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Northwood High School, 919 University Blvd., W., in Silver Spring.

This free event will bring together stakeholders determined to ensure the walking and busing routes for students are safe. Sidewalks, cycling paths, bus stop locations, and parent drop-off loops are all impor-

tant components of keeping kids safe as they walk and ride to school.

This forum will also provide tips and advice to teens and parents on topics related to teen driver safety, in advance of National Teen Driver Safety Week, October 20-26, 2019. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for teens 15 to 18 years old in the United States, ahead of all other types of injury, disease, and violence.

Community members, parents, students, teachers and principals, MCPS Departments of Transportation and Curriculum staff, MCPD, staff from the Montgomery County Planning Department, Montgomery County Department of Transportation, members of the Board of Education, Councilmembers, and the County Executive will have an

opportunity for direct engagement and feedback.

To register go to [Eventbrite](#). Interactive workshop topics include (tentative):

- Building a Better Bus Stop System with Tracking Software
- The Montgomery County Pedestrian Plan
- Optimizing Elementary School Patrols
- Cycling Curriculum: Learning to Ride a Bike at School
- Mass Transit 101 for Students
- How to Get (Better) Sidewalks Added to Your Neighborhood
- Impaired Driving Prevention: Combat Underage Impaired Driving Among Peers
- Start a Walking School Bus at Your School
- Traffic Gardens ■

We Have Opened the Doors of Hell; Our Children Would Like Them Closed

By Bailey Condrey, MCCF President

On September 24, 2019, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere had risen to more than 408 parts per million. Just five months earlier, the concentration was roughly 405 ppm.

The official death toll in the Bahamas in the wake of Hurricane Dorian stands at 50, but more than 2,500 people are missing.

Dozens of people in the United States have perished this year due to weather-related events worsened by the atmosphere's rising temperature, and a mere tropical depression named Imelda dropped a 1,000-year flood on Houston in September that claimed another five people. It's the second 1,000-year flood to hit Houston in the last two years. Deaths climb and the economic toll on the

A MAN WALKS THROUGH
WHAT A CAT 5 HURRICANE
DOES TO CIVILIZATION
AND NATURE



nation mounts and American youth have taken to the streets to place the crosshairs of responsibility squarely upon political leaders and adults prone to denial and excuses for inaction on climate change.

Last year the Fourth National

Climate Assessment outlined scientifically how the nation's economy would suffer huge losses to GNP from worsening climate change driven weather disasters, and the Trump administration and con-

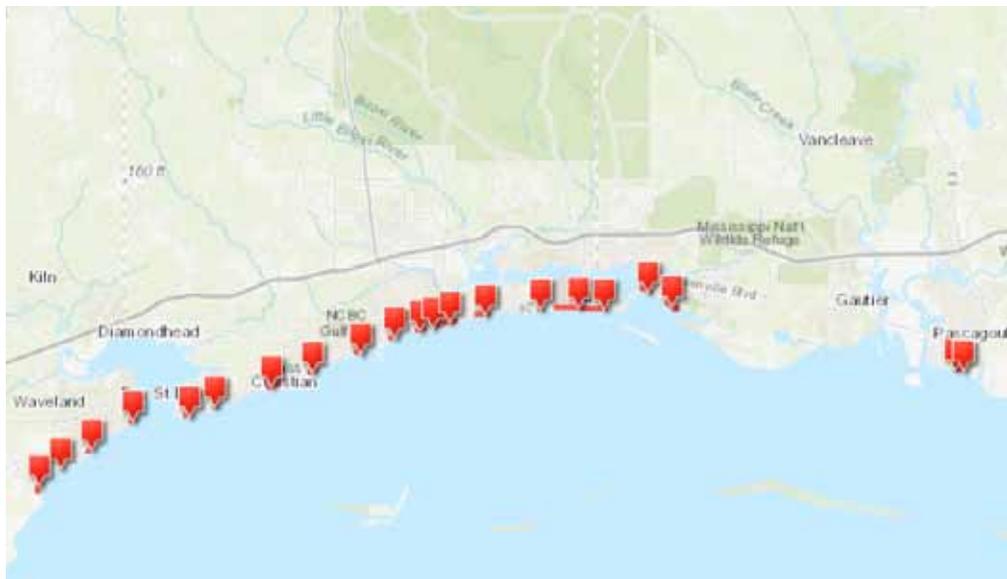
Doors of Hell, cont.

servatives shrugged it off. Within four months of the report's release, bomb cyclones followed by flood-

ing rains in the upper Midwest and throughout the Mississippi River drainage caused billions of dollars of economic loss. The floodwaters had economic repercussions along the

entire length of the great river, but it didn't end there. The pollutants and fertilizers flowed into the Gulf of Mexico where it fueled an enormous toxic blue-green algae bloom that closed all of the beaches on Mississippi's coast. Hotel and motel revenue losses along the state's coast exceeded \$4 million as of August's end. Retail sales related to the beach closures are down 33 percent for beachfront communities.

As a nation, we have to come to terms with the fact that climate change has imposed staggering loss of life and severe economic impacts on the United States in just the last decade alone. According to *National Geographic*, "Extreme weather, made worse by **climate change**, along with the health impacts of burning **fossil fuels**, has cost the U.S. economy at least \$240 billion a year over



BEACH CLOSINGS ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI COAST IN 2019

Doors of Hell, cont.

the past ten years, a new report has found.”

According to the report, *The Economic Case for Climate Action in the United States* by the **Universal Ecological Fund**, “In the coming decade, economic losses from extreme weather, combined with the health costs of air pollution, spiral upward to at least \$360 billion annually, potentially crippling U.S. economic growth.”

National and international insurers cannot continue to pay out for this level of natural destruction and the economic losses that ensue.

On September 25, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released the third in a series of reports on climate change. The report, titled “The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate,”

confirms the data and trends presented last year at an MCCF program on the environment. The presentation focused on how anthropogenic climate change is reversing water flow on the planet. Our fresh water resources (in all of its forms) are flowing unfettered to the sea as temperatures rise and the oceans are flooding our coastal plains as a result. Salt has begun to rise in agricultural fields along our coastal plains as seawater infiltrates water tables.

The full U.N. Report can be found here. Elements of the report can be found here. The **press release can be found here.**

On a positive note, a bipartisan bill has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and our local Citizens Climate Lobby has had a hand in making it happen. The bill contemplates whether a corporate

tax on carbon emissions is the best way to reduce America’s greenhouse gas emissions. Bipartisan supporters of **H.R. 763, The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019**, believe so.

For those of you with climate change denialist friends, I would urge you to share the following with them: The planetary physics driving climate change don’t give a damn whether you believe it’s happening or not!

The following sources were also used to write this article:

■ **West Antarctica’s Crumbling Ice Sheet to Redraw Global Coastline**

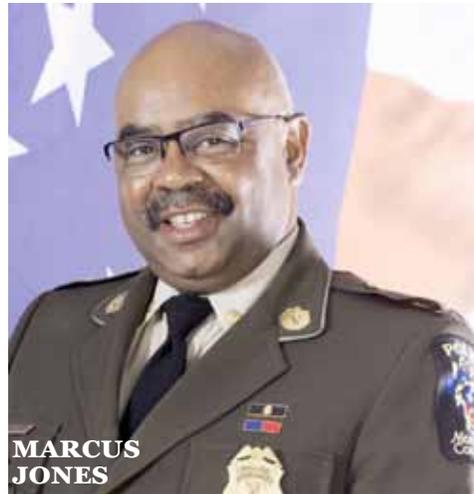
■ **‘Opening the Door to Hell Itself’: Bahamas Confronts Life After Hurricane Dorian**

■ **Trump Skips U.N. Climate Summit That Could Be ‘Slingshot’ Toward Global Goals** ■

Marcus Jones to be Nominated by County Executive to Lead County Police Department

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich will nominate Acting Police Chief Marcus Jones to serve as Montgomery County's new police chief. Jones has been with the Montgomery County Police Department for 34 years and served as the acting police chief since June 2019.

Prior to taking over as acting police chief, Jones served as the assistant chief of the Investigative Services Bureau. He also served as the 3rd District commander, Director of Major Crimes, Drug Enforcement Commander, and created an award-winning diversity training program. He is on the board of the Governor's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, the Montgomery County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council, and the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Advi-



sory Council.

Jones is an adjunct instructor for the Leadership in Police Organizations three-week training course sponsored by the International Association Chiefs of Police. He is a former chair of the National Black

Police Association and served on the Board of Directors for the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund and the Task Force on Mentoring in Montgomery County. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from the University of Maryland University College, is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, and is currently enrolled in the National Executive Institute.

The County Executive will formally submit Acting Chief Jones' name to the County Council as his nominee for Chief of Police. If approved, Jones will become Montgomery County's 17th police chief and the third African American to hold the position.

[Source: Montgomery County Office of Public Information] ■

Community Workshop October 7 on Update to Subdivision Staging Policy

By Harriet Quinn

The Montgomery County Planning Department will host a community workshop on the Update to the Subdivision Staging Policy (SSP). The meeting will be held in the Silver Spring Civic Building on October 7 at 7:00 p.m. This Policy, formerly known as the “Growth Policy,” is adopted by the County Council and helps to ensure the County’s public facilities, particularly its school and transportation systems, keep pace with development and growth patterns. The policy, last revised in 2016, tests whether the county has adequate infrastructure based on projected capacity, growth, and future development. It includes criteria and guidance for the administration of Montgomery County’s Adequate Public Facility Ordinance

(APFO), which matches the timing of private development with the availability of public services. The MCCF December Meeting Program will be a discussion of the SSP Update.

The policy is updated every four years to ensure that the tools used for evaluating the impact of development on essential public facilities—such as a delay-based transportation test or student generation rates—reflect the latest growth patterns of the County.

In the past, the APFO was designed to ensure that road and school capacity—as well as water and sewer and other infrastructure—kept pace with growth. Where new areas of the county were developed, infrastructure to support new homes and businesses was identified and built. Today, growth is occurring through

infill development and redevelopment, including the resale of homes in many established neighborhoods. This type of growth creates pressure on public school facilities. The 2020 SSP update provides the opportunity to examine the evaluation tools currently used to measure the impact of development within the context of these changing growth patterns.

As part of the 2020 SSP update, Montgomery Planning is forming a Schools Technical Advisory Team (STAT) that includes Community Members who will provide input on draft recommendations. We greatly appreciate MCCF Delegate Brian Krantz volunteering to serve as MCCF’s representative on the STAT.

STAT members will serve as links between their communities and

SSP Workshop, cont.

Planning staff, sharing knowledge of neighborhoods, diverse perspectives, and relevant information. The STAT will meet regularly from October 2019 through February 2020. Meetings will be held approximately once every three weeks on Tuesday evenings at the Planning Department (8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring). The tentative dates of the Tuesday meetings from 7–9 p.m. are: Oct. 22, 2019; Nov. 12, 2019; Dec. 3, 2019; Jan. 7, 2020; Jan. 28, 2020; and Feb. 18, 2020.

Additional information about the SSP and the 2020 update, along with an online form to submit comments, are available on the [Montgomery Planning website](#). If you have any questions, please contact Jason Sartori at 301.495.2172 or Jason.Sartori@montgomeryplanning.org. ■

Baking the Kids on Plastic Football Fields in Potomac

By Bailey Condrey, MCCF President

On Sunday, September 29, 2019, around 2:30 p.m., with an ambient air temperature in the mid-80s, an intrepid individual recorded the temperatures from the surface of asphalt, and the playing surfaces that adults have chosen for youth athletes, at a school in Potomac. From the upper left corner, moving clockwise, the graphic shows the day's temperature forecast, the temperature of asphalt, the temperature of the scalding synthetic turf, and the temperature of the painted crumb rubber running track. The readings were taken with an infrared thermometer so impugning the readings is disingenuous.

Climate youth activists would be stunned to learn that synthetic turf (ST) fields are baking their athlete



friends, off-gasing methane and ethylene (both potent greenhouse gases), dumping micro-plastics pollution into our watershed, and creating intense heat islands. The ST fields in the county also contain

Baking the Kids, cont.

lead, a potent neurotoxin.

More than a decade ago, the Safe Healthy Playing Fields Coalition asked the Montgomery County Council to build a top-of-the-line grass athletic field that could be used to make performance and maintenance comparisons with synthetic turf. It has never happened. Instead, it doubled-down on allowing Montgomery County Public Schools, private schools, and private soccer groups to build more synthetic turf athletic fields and crumb rubber tracks.

The hot truth about this unsustainable product gets buried by its supporters. Nearly into the month of October, ST field temperatures hover around 150 degrees F in our region. As the mercury rises in the first week of October, those same

fields will approach 160–170 degrees, and using them at dangerously high temperatures becomes child endangerment.

The county has launched a planning process to develop prioritized actions and strategies to meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals of 80 percent by 2027 and 100 percent by 2035. Why should MCPS, private schools, and private soccer organizations be allowed to push the county's emissions, water pollution, and heat signature in the wrong direction? If the county is going to meet its GHG reduction goals, no group should be given a pass.

When will county leaders force MCPS and private schools to become responsible about their huge carbon footprints and their blatant disregard for environmental stewardship? ■

New 2019–2020 Officers

Officers for the coming fiscal year are usually elected at the June meeting. Since MCCF's Annual Awards Celebration was held in June in lieu of the general meeting, elections were moved to the Sept. 9 meeting.

The following slate of officers was elected in September:

- President: Bailey Condrey
- 1st Vice President: Alan Bowser
- 2nd Vice President: Sue Schumacher
- Treasurer: Jerry Garson
- Recording Secretary: Karen Cordry

Chairs are still needed for both the Education and Legislation Standing Committees. If you have questions, please contact President Bailey Condrey at *president AT montgomerycivic DOT org*.

[See other positions online.](#) ■

Minutes of the September 9, 2019, MCCF General Meeting #905 in Rockville

By Harriet Quinn

The General Meeting convened at the Montgomery County Executive Office Building.

Call to Order: President Bailey Condrey was traveling. First Vice-President Alan Bowser called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. and attendees provided introductions.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda: Alan called for approval of the proposed agenda. A motion to amend the agenda from the newsletter copy was made and seconded in order to have the election of officers which had been postponed to the September meeting since the Awards Event was held in June. A list of the nominees was in the newslet-

ter. The agenda was unanimously approved as amended.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ The Planning Department is seeking volunteers for the upcoming SSP review of the school adequacy tests. A School Technical Advisory Committee is being formed. Those interested should contact Harriet who can provide additional information, which is also in the September newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Jerry Garson reported on recent transactions and account balance for the year. Jerry will be submitting a proposed budget for this year which will be published in the October newsletter (see page 8).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Harriet presented the Nomination Committee's slate of nominations for officers for 2019-20: Bailey Condrey, President; Alan Bowser, Vice-President; Second-Vice President is open for nominations; Karen Cordry, Secretary; Jerry Garson, Treasurer. Harriet asked if there were any nominations from the floor. Sue Schumacher offered to serve as Second Vice-President which was open and her nomination was seconded. The nominations for these officers were approved unanimously.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

The topic was the Maryland General Assembly (MGA) upcoming legislative session. State Sena-

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tor Craig Zucker (Dist. 14), Chair of the Montgomery County Senate Delegation, and State Delegate Marc Korman (Dist. 16), Chair of the Montgomery County House Delegation, the largest delegation in the State, summarized their upcoming priorities and then answered questions from attendees. Senator Zucker currently serves as the Deputy Majority Leader and Capital Budget Chair. Delegate Korman was recently appointed by Speaker Adrienne Jones as the Chair of the Subcommittee on Transportation and the Environment.

The deadline for local bills is early October. The State “Road Show” is 11/3/19. Dates for the Delegation hearings in Rockville: Priorities hearing is 11/20; local and



bicounty bill hearings are 12/2 and 12/7.

Topics discussed included capital funding for education, the Kirwan Commission, establishing Offices of Inspectors General (especially for Education), proposed bill for transparency and accountability in development application sub-

mittals, deer control, artificial turf, stormwater, planning for effects of climate change, ADA accessibility in Annapolis, funding for WMATA, update on I-495/I-270 proposals, small cell towers legislation, and voter registration.

MCCF thanked the delegation for streaming their weekly meetings

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during the session. There will soon be gavel-to-gavel video coverage of all MGA proceedings, but it may not be fully ready until the 2021 session.

NEW BUSINESS

■ There was a discussion of proposed median fencing in Wheaton, which would be incompatible for the area and its designation as an Arts and Entertainment District. The neighborhood Delegate agreed to draft a letter for the Executive Committee to review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning and Land Use

■ Harriet reported on the schedule for the Planning Department's upcoming plans for SSP review, General Plan review, and new Countywide Pedestrian Master Plan.

■ The Council is taking up a bill with minor changes to licensing for the accessory apartments changes they passed in July. Details are in the September newsletter.

Adjournment: Alan called for and received unanimous approval for adjournment at 10:00 p.m. ■

MCCF Executive Committee Meeting September 19, 2019

By Karen Cordry

Attendance: Bailey Condrey, Harriet Quinn, Alan Bowser, Jerry Garson, Jacquie Bokow, Sue Schumacher, and Karen Cordry.

Call to Order: Bailey called the meeting to order at 7:48 p.m.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda: Moved, seconded, all yeas.

Treasurer's Report: Jerry reported balance \$10,425.87. Since last report: \$485 in dues receipts, \$469.80 in expenses. Net Income \$15.21 for period. Expenses: annual web hosting \$214.80 and \$255 for food for meetings. Draft budget for

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the upcoming fiscal year will go into the next newsletter (see page 8) and be voted on at the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Montgomery Hills Festival, 1 p.m., 9/21 at Seminary Road.

■ Night Hawks at Sligo Creek Golf course 9/21.

■ Burtonsville Day, Parade 9/21, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

■ Kensington Heights Meeting, 2–4 p.m. on 9/21: visit to Danila Sheveiko's property that he is turning into an urban farm. County support for tree planting and water management.

■ Climate Strike Gatherings for 09/20/19.

■ [Link to MD DOT mailing on 495/270 expansion updates.](#) Public hearing on the EIS targeted for

spring 2020.

■ Bailey has sent his résumé to try to join the County Climate Advisory Group on Resiliency Efforts.

PROGRAMS

■ The General Plan will be the October meeting topic.

■ Pedestrian Safety moved to November to accommodate Eli Glazier from the Planning Department.

Alan and Karen will ask Kristy Daphnis from the MoCo PBTSAC and others to also speak. It was noted that the Pedestrian Master Plan is scheduled to be transmitted to Council in July 2021.

■ SSP will be December topic.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

■ **Pedestrian Safety:** Ideas for getting member assoc. buy-in on efforts in this area: meet with PTA group to get word to school commu-

nities; buy plastic signs for resale to member associations, such as “Drive Safe, Walk Safe”; contact existing “Safe Routes to School” program. Alan will report on cost of signs and at future meeting.

Concerns expressed by members at General Meeting about SHA plans to place iron fence in median of Georgia Avenue as part of pedestrian safety revamping. Residents in the area want landscaping used to ensure safety as done in other communities.

■ **PayPal Online Membership Form:** Jerry and Jacquie will meet soon to implement and there will be an announcement in the newsletter.

■ **Committee Chair Appointments:** Bailey will do a piece for the next newsletter on what we're working on, who we need, and what the job entails.

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■ **Development Impact Taxes:** Reports on the County's annual collections will be posted to web site.

■ **New Members:** New online membership renewal options will be placed on website. Alan will draft letter for new members. Letter to be sent using CA/HOA list.

■ **SSP:** Brian Krantz will be MCCF representative on the Planning Department's School Technical Advisory Team (STAC) during the 2019–2020 quadrennial review of the Subdivision Stating Policy (SSP). See article within newsletter ([see page 18](#)).

■ **CfM:** The dues for the Committee for Montgomery are \$350/year. Exec. Committee discussed whether to renew and degree to which we wanted to be active. MCCF was a founding member. The Executive

Committee approved the expense.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education

■ Discussed ongoing efforts of Safe Playing Fields Coalition to deal with use of artificial turf.

■ Kirwan Commission meeting in closed session to discuss funding options.

Public Utilities

■ New WSSC rates have gone into effect; questions about wisdom of their spending priorities.

Planning and Land Use

■ See General Plan and SSP articles within newsletter.

Transportation

■ While Amazon plans to add 100K electric vehicles, MC still using diesel for new school and BRT buses.

■ State is already moving forward with \$100 million of work on I-270. The portion of Northbound I-270 from Democracy Blvd. to Falls Road has already had an additional lane added to it, now 7 lanes at the split. Much of the work has been done, but some other I-270 work is behind schedule, such as changing the lanes between Shady Grove Road and I-370 Northbound I-270. With the drop in congestion, parts of the P3 projects may be less profitable and especially so since work on some of issues about I-270 is eliminating some bottlenecks already.

■ Loudoun has proposed new bridge on Potomac River.

■ Purple Line is now not due to open until 2023.

Environment

■ Climate Strike actions not going

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away any time soon.

Legislation

■ Proposed IG oversight for Montgomery College which was approved by the General Assembly has to be approved by County Council.

ACTION ITEMS

■ Bailey will do articles on call for volunteers and the other on climate action.

■ Alan will write about Committee for Montgomery, Harriet on the program.

■ Membership Renewal Notices to be sent to unpaid members. ■

Montgomery County Civic Federation

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