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Update on the PEPCO Shared Use Recreational Trail | Michael Zelaski from the County's Parks Department gives us a status update | **P. 4**

D.C. Streetcar Service to End March 31, 2026 | Transportation Committee Chair Jerry Garson supplies the details | **P. 5**

County Executive Candidates Forum

Saturday, November 15, 2025
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Newport Mill Middle School
11311 Newport Mill Road
Silver Spring, MD 20902
Doors open at 2:30 p.m.

Forum Moderated by
Lou Peck, Contributing Editor
of Bethesda Magazine

Seating Will Be Limited

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TO PRINT, USE PRINT VERSION

of note

Next MCCF Meeting #968

November 10, 2025, 7:00 p.m. *online via Zoom*. Topic: "Hot Issues in Education."

Join the Zoom Meeting Here
[See further instructions on page 2. No password is required.]
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October Meeting Minutes

General Meeting #967 **P. 6**
Executive Committee Meeting **P. 7**

Membership Application

JOIN ONLINE | MAIL-IN FORM

Federation Meeting #968

Monday, November 10, 2025
7:00 p.m.
Online Zoom Meeting

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes: October General Meeting **P.6**
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Announcements
6. November Program: Hot Issues in Education **P.3**
7. Committee Reports
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. 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 July.

The November meeting will be held online via Zoom (see page 3 for program) at 7:00 p.m.:

■ To be part of the video conference, first **visit the Zoom website** to download the program for your phone or computer.

■ Date and Time: Monday, November 10, 2025, 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

■ To **join the Zoom meeting from your browser, use this link.**

■ To participate by phone (audio only), call 301.715.8592. The meeting ID is **829 8169 0215**. No password is required.

We hope you will join us! ■

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 8

Dear Delegates and Members,

■ The MCCF will sponsor a **forum for County Executive Democratic candidates** on Saturday, November 15, 2025, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Newport Mill Middle School. Confirmed attendees as of press time: Councilmember Friedson, Councilmember Glass, Councilmember Jawando, and Mr. Mithun Banerjee. The event will be open to the public so please come a little early to get a good seat. This is an “all hands on deck” event as it is important that the Civic Fed have a good showing at the event. Please plan to attend if you are able, bring a family member or friend, and feel free to post the announcement to your neighborhood. Doors will open at 2:30. We have asked the candidates to stay from 4:30-5:00 and mingle with

attendees. This is your chance to speak directly to candidates and briefly ask a question or make a comment about what’s on your mind or just introduce yourself and your neighborhood. We need you and your voice!

■ Please mark your calendars for **our November 10 meeting**. The topic is **hot issues in education**. Our speakers are two experienced and well-informed PTA leaders (Lyric Winick and Ricky Riberio) who will discuss the hot topics in the schools today, including school boundary discussions. Please feel free to invite members of your community who may be interested in school issues. This is an important opportunity to involve more residents in our discussions and provide an educational service to resi-

dents. Zoom link will be emailed to delegates and posted on our website and Facebook page. You are welcome to share the Zoom link publicly to your Civic Association.

■ In other news, the MCCF letter to the Council asking for more open and transparent process in selecting a Councilmember to replace Councilmember Alborno was covered by *Bethesda Magazine*. The letter was distributed by email to our members and **has been posted to our website**.

■ I testified the last week in October alongside our member civic associations before the Council on the University Blvd. Corridor plan, zoning changes, ZTA 25-12. My testimony focused on the analysis by the county Racial Equity and So-

MORE

Dear Delegates, cont.

cial Justice review that “anticipates ZTA 25-12 could have a negative impact on racial equity and social justice (RESJ) in the County. Given the high rates of homeownership of Black and Latinx community members in the... Plan area, the proposed rezoning that is inherent to ZTA 25-12 could disproportionately displace existing Black and Latinx homeowners for the development of market-rate housing units that primarily benefits White, Asian, and Pacific Islander community members.” **See links to these on our website.**

I also covered the conflict between this plan and the More Housing N.O.W., which has not even taken effect yet, and the anticipated problems with traffic, stormwater management, and a host of other

issues that may arise from putting multifamily housing in single-family neighborhoods. The testimony has been posted **on our website under the Planning and Land Use Com-**

mittee.

See you on the 10th! As always, thank you for all you do for your community.

—Cheryl Gannon ■

Update on the PEPCO Shared Use Recreational Trail

By Peggy Dennis, Past President and Member of the Transportation Committee

Michael Zelaski from the County’s Parks Department reports on the status of the Shared Use Path for which the Civic Federation was a major instigator:

“The contractor was selected for the north trailhead (north of Cabin John Regional Park); construction was slated to begin this October but is now starting to look like November.

“The south trailhead (south of Cabin John Regional Park) stormwater management is partially being redesigned to reduce impacts to significant trees. To that end, a second site had to be coordinated with the Dept of Permitting Services, surveyed and designed, that effort is on-going.

“The crossing of Cabin John Creek has been designed, along with the associated stream stabilization. This is in the permitting stage.” ■

Washington, D.C., Streetcar Service to End March 31, 2026

By Jerry Garson, Transportation Committee Chair

The District of Columbia streetcar service is scheduled to end on March 31, 2026. The D.C. Streetcar was launched in March of 2016 as a single line along H Street that runs 2.2 miles between Union Station and the edge of the RFK Stadium Campus. Riders who used the streetcar line are encouraged to plan and explore alternate travel options, including WMATA's D20 bus.

District of Columbia Department of Transportation officials said the decision comes after years of low ridership. They also cited the system's operational challenges because it ran in mixed traffic, and it also racked up higher costs to maintain and extend the system. The system averaged

about 1,300 riders in each direction. The system never charged fares because it was not set up to collect fares.

The District Department of Transportation said in February 2018 that there have been problems already with getting spare parts to complete repairs in a timely manner. One manufacturer is out of business and the other is overseas, so the issues are likely to continue.

"Long-term parts availability will likely require reverse engineering parts," DDOT officials wrote to the council's Committee on Transportation and the Environment. The agency said it is exploring a strategy of acquiring vehicles in the future that "considers the feasibility of disposal of the current fleet."

Federal Transit Administration guidelines set a streetcar's typical lifespan at 31 years. Even if the current fleet runs for another five years, it would still have only been in service for seven. The cars arrived a few years before the line opened for passenger service.

They also announced service adjustments prior to closure, effective January 4, 2026: elimination of Sunday service and revised operating hours with 20-minute headways:

■ Monday–Friday: 6:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.

■ Saturday: 8:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.

The Purple Line service in Maryland is scheduled to start in two years. Maybe they will want to use the D.C. streetcars. ■

MCCF General Meeting #967 Minutes for October 13, 2025, 7 pm. Via Zoom

By Alan Bowser, Secretary

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Gannon at 7:03 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda. The Agenda was approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes. The minutes of the September 2025 General Meeting were approved.

4. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Jerry Garson reported a bank balance of \$6,266.00.

5. October Program. 1st Vice President Joyce Gwadz introduced Amanda Farber—President of the East Bethesda Citizens Association and Co-Chair of Conservation Mont-

gomery, Inc.—who discussed Montgomery County Tree Laws. [Video of the presentation is online here.](#)

In her presentation, she discussed the loss of tree canopy in the County and the County's major tree laws: Forest Conservation Law, Tree Canopy Law, and the Roadside Tree Protection Law. She also described what residents can do to protect tree canopy and support tree planting programs.

She encouraged members to take advantage of Conservation Montgomery's Home Tree Care 101 program that provides a licensed arborist to help residents learn about best practices involving tree care. [Learn more online here.](#)

6. Members' Questions.

Members asked a broad range of questions related to the protection of trees in Montgomery County, such as enforcement of tree laws, County tree planting programs, removal of trees related to new development, fees in lieu of planting, sidewalks versus trees, lack of canopy in the eastern part of the County, and Purple Line construction.

7. University Boulevard Corridor Plan Update. President Gannon reported on recent developments related to the University Boulevard Corridor Plan. Members asked questions about proposed changes in zoning as they would affect properties owned by religious institutions, shopping centers, and

October Minutes, cont.

neighborhoods adjacent to University Boulevard.

8. MCCF Legislative Agenda. President Gannon discussed a proposed 2025–2026 agenda on transparency and accountability issues at the state and local level.

9. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m. ■

MCCF Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, October 23, 2025, 7 p.m., via Zoom

By Alan Bowser, Secretary

1. Members Present: Cheryl Gannon, Jerry Garson, Joe Harkins, Alan Bowser, and Jacquie Bokow.

2. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Jerry Garson reported a bank balance of \$6,226.

3. November 2025 General Meeting. The November meeting will focus on Montgomery County education issues.

4. November 15, 2025, County Executive Forum. The Forum will take place on November 15th at the Newport Mill Middle School in Kensington. Bethesda Beat Contributing Editor Lou Peck

will be the moderator. Members discussed arrangements for security. Cheryl Gannon will send out an invitation to all MCCF members. Local media will be invited.

5. In-Person Meeting. Members discussed a possible in-person holiday meeting in December or January. There was a consensus to hold the holiday meeting on Sunday, January 11, at a place to be determined.

6. Awards Committee. President Gannon said that members of the Executive Committee will serve as members of the 2026 Awards Committee.

MORE

Oct. ExCom Minutes, cont.

7. Newsletter. Articles for the newsletter are due by November 26th.

8. Executive Committee Meetings. Members discussed changing the regular date of the Executive Committee meetings to Mondays, from the currently scheduled meetings on Thursday, the week following the General Meeting. Other Committee members need to be consulted.

9. Thanksgiving Parade. MCCF has been accepted into the 2025 Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade and will participate.

10. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. ■

Montgomery County Civic Federation

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Submit contributions for the next issue by the 26th of the current month. Send to CFN at civicfednews@montgomerycivic.org.

Send all address corrections to membership AT montgomerycivic.org.

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