



Civic Federation News

February 2009

Serving the Public Interest since 1925

Official Publication of
the Montgomery
County Civic Federation
Session 804
www.montgomerycivic.org

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February Program on County's Climate Action Plan By Caren Madsen, Environmental Committee Chairman

The program for our February 9 regular meeting will focus on the recommendations of the Montgomery County Sustainability Working Group (SWG) which delivered a Montgomery County Climate Action Plan on January 15. We have invited Bob Hoyt, Director of the County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Working Group member Diana Conway, and Eric Coffman, director of the county's energy program at DEP. Our guests will focus on working group recommendations for residential energy efficiency which will be most relevant to homeowners and community leaders.

The SWG represented a diverse group of business, government and environmental activists. The climate protection report was transmitted to Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett and the County Council. The report includes measures that are among the nation's

most innovative proposals, modeled in part on the program being implemented by King County, WA and other successful local initiatives. The plan recommends 58 actions that can be effectively implemented to meet the County's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050.

The SWG first met in September and was charged with developing a comprehensive, coordinated and cost-effective strategy to meet the County's climate protection goals. The group met an ambitious deadline of developing a comprehensive action plan of bold initiatives by January 15. Council Vice President Roger Berliner served on the Working Group and played a significant leadership role in the effort. Berliner was the primary sponsor of a package of seven aggressive County energy bills adopted by the Council in April of 2008.

The plan offers recommendations in seven areas: renewable energy; residential building energy efficiency; commercial, multi-family and public building energy efficiency; transportation; forestry and agriculture; long-term planning and education and outreach. The plan promotes clean energy such as wind and solar power; encourages green economic development to spur economic growth and increase jobs; calls for more emphasis on developing and building communities where people can live within walking and biking distance of public transportation and retail stores; promotes bus rapid transit, light rail, and subways; and calls for stepping up tree-planting efforts and conservation of existing trees and open/green spaces in the county. For more information on this program, please call 240-777-7700.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

WILL BE PRESENTING A SEMINAR ON

"SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS"

PRESENTERS:

FRANCOISE CARRIER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY HEARING EXAMINER

MARTIN KLAUBER, PEOPLE'S COUNCIL of MONTGOMERY COUNTY

ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 14

POSTPONED UNTIL MARCH

DATE & VENUE TO BE ANNOUNCED

Last Call for Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee for elected officers to serve the Civic Federation during the 2009-2010 year will be co-chaired by Sandy Vogelgesang and Luella Mast. Chuck Lapinski and Dan Wilhelm will also serve. Our bylaws require a minimum of 5 members for this committee, so

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Mark Your Calendar Now

for the

Montgomery County Civic Federation's

2009 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Friday, May 15, 2009

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Historical Preservation	Wayne Goldstein
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we still need just one more civic-spirited soul. This is another committee of short duration so, if you can help, please call Sandy Vogelgesang at 301-365-2347 or Luella Mast at 301-384-4178.

Awards Committee by Peggy Dennis, Chair

May is just around the corner, freezing temperatures not withstanding. The Awards Committee, so far composed of myself, Jim Humphrey and Cary Lamari, is looking for any additional delegates or associate members willing to serve with us. This is the last call for volunteers. Our work will be of short duration and should not require more than one face-to-face meeting. We would also appreciate getting recommendations and suggestions for individuals and groups to receive the awards at the Annual Awards Banquet in May. Here are the descriptions of the awards and the justification for which each is awarded.

The Gazette Award - sponsored by the Montgomery Gazette newspapers and to be awarded to **an individual or group for outstanding service to the people of Montgomery County.**

The Sentinel Award - sponsored by the Montgomery Sentinel newspaper and to be awarded to **an individual or group for a significant contribution to good government at the local level.**

The Star Cup - sponsored by the Federation and to be awarded to **a Delegate or Committee of the Federation for outstanding public service on behalf of Montgomery County**

If you can help us with the selection process or have suggestions about award recipients, please contact me - Peggy Dennis - at 301-983-9738 or by email at hotyakker@comcast.net.

Civic Federation Supports Bill 37-08 by Peggy Dennis, First Vice President

On January 15 the Montgomery County Council held a hearing on Bill 37-08, a bill co-authored by Council President Phil Andrews and Councilwoman Duchy Trachtenberg, to reform the county's disability retirement system. I testified on behalf of the Civic Federation which had voted unanimously (29 to 0) on January 12 to support the bill.

Passage of this bill is a "no-brainer". After an extensive study of the county's Police Disability Retirement System, the County Inspector General recommended that the Council amend the laws governing disability retirement to both strengthen controls and provide better oversight of the process. No wonder! With nearly two thirds of Montgomery County Police receiving full disability benefits

when they retire compared to only 3% of Fairfax County's police, something is clearly amiss. It is the Council's responsibility to put the brakes on union contracts and the processes and systems they create when the processes and systems are clearly being abused and "gamed" for the financial advantage of some retirees. Their advantage, when the system is being gamed, is our loss - a loss for all county residents and taxpayers who expect good government and taxes that are spent wisely and fairly, not squandered extravagantly.

The bill provides for increased oversight of the disability retirement process, increases slightly the amount of the full disability benefit for those employees who truly merit the full benefit, establishes the option of partial disability for those who are not fully disabled, and prevents officers who commit felony offences from collecting the tax-free payments. Every aspect of this bill seems entirely fair and reasonable.

The shocking thing about the Council's hearing was the reaction from the union leaders and uniformed police officers in attendance. As opined in the Washington Post's editorial on Friday, January 23, "...most residents agree that unions play a vital role in labor relations and that collective bargaining is essential to that process. But the disability retirement system has fundamental flaws that the council must correct. There's nothing anti-police about wanting to close loopholes. In fact, we'd say it is anti-police to suggest that the bulk of police officers, who are honest and hard-working, would oppose fair reform." As the hearing concluded, Gino Renne, president of the Montgomery County Government Employees Organization, berated the bill's co-authors. His language went way beyond disrespectful and abusive. Worse, the uniformed police in attendance piled on, yelling and shouting - conduct all together unbecoming in uniformed police officers - and creating a feeling of threatening pandemonium. This behavior was only lightly hinted at in the Post's editorial.

This is not the first time our elected councilmen have been threatened and bullied by union leaders or their union members. Public employee unions have become, in fact, the next big, powerful and all-demanding "interest group" driving the explosion of our county budgets and the ever increasing property taxes required to keep the budget balanced. Our elected leaders - Andrews, Trachtenberg and Praisner - need to hear that we appreciate their efforts to fix aspects of the government that are broken. Those who are reluctant to support Bill 37-08, who fear the wrath of the unions and the loss of their support at election time, need to be reminded that their primary responsibility is to the overall commonwealth and the long-term financial health of the entire community, and not to any one special interest group.

Is Your Park's Recreation Building in Danger?

By Carole Ann Barth, Parks Chairman

Recently, Park Department staff presented the Planning Board with the following recommendation: "*approve future disposition/demolition of park buildings authorization at the Director of Parks level or designee.*" If adopted, this process change would have meant that Mary Bradford (or her designee) could sell or demolish any park buildings without a hearing and without a Planning Board vote. This proposal was not publicized. In fact, it was lumped in with an item specific to Westmoreland Hills Local Park.

At the January 12, 2009 MCCF meeting the following resolution was passed in opposition to this process change. "Be it resolved that the Montgomery County Civic Federation opposes the MNCPPC staff's recommendation to grant authority for approval of demolition/disposition of park buildings to the Director of the Montgomery County Department of Parks or his/her designee. Instead, the Montgomery County Civic Federation, in order to promote maximum transparency, accountability and citizen inclusion in the process, favors a process whereby the Planning Board must hold a public hearing and conduct a vote on such matters. "

On January 15, I presented that resolution along with the following testimony to the Planning Board.

This recommendation is troubling for several reasons. First, the recommendation (as currently worded) gives the Department Director carte blanche to demolish or dispose of public assets with no public notice, public input or oversight of any kind. The accompanying staff memo suggests that this new authority would only be used "Following proper public notice, and in the absence of significant community concerns..." but does not actually commit the Director to anything.

What will constitute proper public notice and who will be notified? Adjacent property owners? Surrounding civic associations? Seasonal permit holders? Park volunteers? In my own community, we have found the only reliable way to get adequate notice of pending actions and decisions is to regularly interrogate staff.

Similarly, what qualifies as significant community concerns? Does a community have to sue? Get front page coverage in the Post above the fold? In my experience, a community can literally overflow the meeting room with citizens unanimously opposing a proposal, only to have Parks staff report that "a few families do not support the recommended alternative."

How then will the Director weigh the role these buildings often play in a community's history, identity, and sense of place? (Some of them are constructed of locally-sourced materials which speak to a sense of place.) The older, neighborhood-scale recreation/activity buildings have been the setting for many milestones from "mommy and me" exercise classes to scout meetings, weddings, and wakes. When a parent brings

their son or daughter to a scout meeting held in the same place they were a scout, it deepens their sense of community. Will this be considered significant?

In addition to local community concerns, all Montgomery County taxpayers have an interest in these asset management decisions. The memo continues, “. . . Commission owned park buildings that have no potential use as a park facility or require substantial expense to maintain. . .” This is also potentially dangerous because lack of lifecycle planning and routine maintenance often artificially increase the cost of restoration and repair.

In other words, if you don't plan for the inevitable deterioration of a tennis bubble's fabric, then you need emergency funding to shore up the bubble once it deteriorates. Similarly, when routine maintenance and repairs are postponed, things get worse. This seems to be an unofficial policy of the Parks Department—instead of the “stitch in time” Parks prefers to buy new cloth or throw the whole garment out.

Inappropriate or poorly executed maintenance also adds to the cost. For example, the building in North Four Corners Park had a large hole in the door. The door was replaced, but the new door automatically locks every time it closes. Thus, when the facility is in use, renters must prop the door open letting the conditioned air escape, wasting both dollars and energy.

The original proposal was not adopted. Instead Parks Director Mary Bradford indicated that she will come back with an altered proposal. She suggested another approach would be to present the Board with a package of proposed demolitions. The Board could then either choose to accept the whole group or consider some or all of them individually.

So, is the building in your local park in danger? That depends. According to M-NCPPC's Draft 2007 Functional Plan for Recreation and Ancillary Buildings, seven buildings should be continued and improved (Glenmont, Indian Springs, Kemp Mill Estates, Meadowbrook, Norbeck-Muncaster, and Tilden Woods) 18 buildings should be evaluated and marketed (see list below), 5 buildings should be demolished or transferred (Hillandale, Randolph Hills, Garrett Park Estates, Clarksburg, and Camp Seneca) and one (Animal Industry building in Norwood Park) should be assessed as an historic property.

In addition, the plan considered a sampling of nine ancillary buildings, calling for new lease agreements for 6 (Adventure, Ednor, Maydale, Norwood Pre School, Norwood Over 60s, Westmoreland Hills.) (Note, notwithstanding the functional plan, the Board voted on January 15 to demolish the Westmoreland Hills Ancillary Building.) According to the plan, three of the ancillary buildings (Arylawn, Takoma Langley, Wheaton Community Center) are to be transferred to other governmental entities.

Recreation Buildings to be Marketed and then Reassessed:
Capitol View-Homewood Local Park. Colesville Local

Park, Ken-Gar Palisades Local Park, Lynnbrook Local Park, Maplewood-Alta Vista Local Park, Nolte Local Park, North Chevy Chase Local Park, North Four Corners Local Park, Owens Local Park, Pilgrim Hill Local Park, Pinecrest Local Park, Quince Orchard Valley Neighborhood Park, Sligo Avenue Neighborhood Park, Sligo-Dennis Avenue Local Park,

Spencerville Local Park, Stoneybrook Local Park, Veirs Mill Local Park, Wheaton-Claridge Local Park

IMPORTANT: Are You Ready for Digital TV?

The federal government is requiring all over-the-air broadcast television stations (such as WJLA, WUSA and WRC) to convert to all-digital television broadcasting by February 17, 2009. If your TV is hooked up to your local cable system or another subscription video provider, your service will not be impacted. However, **if you own an “analog” TV set that is not connected to cable and functions with the help of “rabbit ears” or an antenna, you will not be able to watch broadcast TV channels as of February 17, 2009.**

Consumers with an analog television set who watch over-the-air broadcast television, via a roof-top or “rabbit ear” antenna must either: 1) Connect all television sets to cable or another video service, 2) Purchase a new television set with a digital tuner, or 3) Obtain a digital set-top tuner that will convert digital TV signals back to analog.

Coupons are available from the federal government to help pay for digital-to-analog converters. Help your friends and family prepare for the upcoming Broadcast Digital Television Transition. Let them know that the DTV Transition is coming and they need to make plans now. You can find more information on the broadcast DTV transition by visiting www.dtvtransition.org, by calling 1-888-DTV-2009.

Civic Federation Meetings

If you haven't yet put these dates in your new calendar, please do so now.

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETINGS

February 9
March 9
April 13
May 11
June 8

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

February 18
March 18
April 22
May 20
June 17

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting, January 12, 2009

By Virginia Sheard, Acting Recording Secretary

Meeting called to order at 7:45 pm by 1st Vice President Peggy Dennis (Acting President)

Introduction of Attendees

Approval of Agenda with modification to add 4 emergency resolutions

Community Hero Award presented by Wayne Goldstein to Sandy Spring-Ashton Rural Preservation Consortium represented by Michelle Layton and Donna Selden. Their success and effectiveness was attributed to the diversity of participants and stakeholders in the Consortium

Announcements: Luella Mast noted two pre-filed bills in Annapolis dealing with begging on street corners and Adrienne Lees wants activists to support these bills. She can be contacted at dyalees@verizon.net.

Treasurer's Report: 43 membership organizations are paid up but membership is down from projected totals.

Approval of Minutes of December Regular Meeting by acclamation with one abstention

Program — Historic Preservation in Montgomery County moderated by Wayne Goldstein. Presenters: Guests: Scott Whipple, Park and Planning Historic Preservation Supervisor; Cory Kegerise, Administrator of Local Preservation Programs, Maryland Historical Trust.

Scott Whipple's presentation provided overview of the Master Plan for Historic Preservation as created by Chapter 24A of the county ordinance in 1979.

Cory Kegerise described Maryland's first state level program, its 47 jurisdictions and responsibilities.

Lively Question and Answer period followed including:

Emergency Resolutions:

By Carole Ann Barth, Chair, Parks Committee. Emergency Resolution on Park Buildings Disposition: "Be it resolved that the Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF) opposes the MNCPPC staff recommendation to grant authority for approval of demolition/disposition of park buildings to the Director of the Montgomery County Department of Parks or his/her designee. Instead, the Montgomery County Civic Federation, in order to promote maximum transparency, accountability, and citizen inclusion in the process, favors a process whereby the Planning Board must hold a public hearing and conduct a vote on such matters."

Approve: 26 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 1

By Marvin Weinman, Chair, Public Finance Committee. Emergency Resolution on Bill 37-08: "Whereas the Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) has found numerous problems with the way the county's Retirement Disability Program for police officers is being administered . . . Be it resolved that the MCCF supports, in principle, Bill 37-08, introduced by Councilmembers Berliner and Andrews, to create a body and process to better administer this program."

Approve: 29 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

By Dan Wilhelm, Chair, Legislation Committee. Emergency Resolution on County Council Audit Function: "Be it resolved that the Montgomery County Civic Federation supports the resolution to expand the County Council's audit function."

Approve: 25 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 1

By Dan Wilhelm, Chair, Legislation Committee. "Be it resolved that MCCF opposes the recommendation in the December 22, 2008 Purple Line Planning Staff report that the County undertake a transit infrastructure funding committee. A County appointed committee will absolve the state of its responsibility to find funding for not only the Purple Line but also other transit projects. If such a committee is needed, it should be a state effort appointed by the Governor.

Approve: 21 Opposed: 2 Abstain: 3

Committee Reports

Environment Committee – Caren Madson, Bill 37-07 information

Legislation Committee – Dan Wilhelm, See council audit authority above

Public Finance – Marvin Weinman, Phil Andrews is now president of the council; the Retirement Disability Bill noted above (37-08) will be discussed on the 15th with worksession scheduled for the 27th

Parks Committee – Carole Ann Barth, Lux Manor and White Flint Sector Plan

Education Committee – Wayne Goldstein, school fees discussion is taking place

Planning and Land Use – Wayne Goldstein for Jim Humphrey who was testifying at the Planning Board hearing on the Draft White Flint Sector Plan Revision.

Historic Preservation – Wayne Goldstein, Goshen/Damascus Sector Plans need to follow the law with regards to historic sites within their boundaries

New Business

Home assessments are being received, some are down 4% which reduces county tax income and impacts budget line items

Marilyn Piety – Flower Avenue neighborhood in Silver Spring has a problem with Department of Permitting Services review of renovation plans for Flower Avenue Shopping Center where number of

required parking spaces has been reduced, concern is about spill over parking in neighborhood

Clarksburg – Planning Board approved Newland Properties revised parking garage design and size contradicting specifications of approved compliance plan and was not part of the public discussion; plans for parking on narrow streets was disapproved

Motion to adjourn presented and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:10pm

Minutes of the January 21 Executive Committee Meeting By Luella Mast, Recording Secretary

Attendance

First Vice President Peggy Dennis, Carole Ann Barth, Wayne Goldstein, Jim Humphrey, Luella Mast, Bill Schrader, Virginia Sheard, Marvin Weinman, Dan Wilhelm.

Call to Order, Secretary and Treasurer's Reports

Ms. Dennis called the meeting to order at 7:55 PM at Mr. Wilhelm's home. Mr. Schrader presented the mid-January Treasurer's Report with little change from the report made at the January 5 meeting. January 21 balance: \$10,947.42. Discussion of a possible dues increase was informally tabled until the next Executive Committee meeting. The December 17 Executive Committee meeting minutes were approved.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee: Ms. Vogelgesang and Ms. Mast will co-chair with Mr. Lapinski and Mr. Wilhelm also serving. An additional volunteer will be requested at the February regular meeting to bring the membership to the bylaws required minimum of five.

Awards Committee: Ms. Dennis will chair with Mr. Humphrey and Mr. Lamari also serving. The committee is actively seeking nominations for this year's awards.

Planning and Land Use: The committee is looking into the master planning process as the master plans we have discussed continue revisions. Twinbrook has been approved. Twinbrook, White Flint, Germantown and Gaithersburg West together could add 30,000 new housing units plus enough commercial square footage to add 120,000 new jobs. The problem is that no one can answer why this level of growth is needed. The current zoning applied to properties throughout the county, or recommended in already approved master plans, would allow construction of 80,000 to 90,000 dwelling units and about 40 million square feet of non-residential space. [Note: 90,000 housing units at current standards of 2.6 persons per household results in the equivalent of 234,000 more people.] Looking at the Council of Governments (COG) 2030 projection for Montgomery County, our

share of the regional future population growth is about 225,000. In actuality the COG projection for the county is nothing more than a simple addition of what growth is currently planned, either on the ground or proposed, in county master plans. There is, in fact, no real, rational COG "projection."

As the county planners continue to push for master plans focused on transit-mixed use development (TMX), one goal seems to be protection of the agricultural reserve at all costs. AgReserve land owners continue to have the right to sell Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs) for their property. In addition, now Building Lot Termination rights (BLTs) can be sold. BLTs will bring a much higher price than "excess" TDRs since each extinguishes the right to build a house on a 25 acre parcel in the AgReserve, and because they can be used to increase commercial or residential density on a receiving site, depending on master plan recommendation. Authority to designate transit centers previously rested solely with the State but, under legislation sponsored by Councilmember Berliner and passed by the Council, originally with regard to the Ourisman Ford property on Westlake Terrace opposite Montgomery Mall, the county can designate a transit center any place where three bus routes converge and a minimum daily ridership is met. This then, in effect, might allow the transit center designation and the TMX zone to be applied through master plan revision to many areas in the county.

White Flint is a test case for looking at what is possible. Since no height limit is proposed for the TMX Optional Method of development, the master plan recommended building height limit of 300 feet [ca. 25-30 stories] can actually be increased to 400 to 500 feet [ca. 33-50 stories] to accommodate Workforce Housing and MPDU bonus density and allowed density transfers. White Flint will be approved by the Planning Board this spring and sent to the Council, which will hold a public hearing 30 days or so after receipt. White Flint will be the poster child for transit oriented development, possible for instance then at any stop along the Purple Line: Chevy Chase Lake on Connecticut Avenue, Lyttonsville, Silver Spring, Piney Branch and Flower Avenue, and Langley Park. It will be our job to find a way to educate people on the potential densities coming to their neighborhoods with TMX based zoning.

The Committee continues work on recommendations for modifications to the growth policy.

Parks: Ms. Barth provided copies of her January 15 testimony before the Planning Board on the proposed staff recommendation which would "approve future disposition/demolition of park buildings authorization at the Director of the Parks level or designee" without public input, per the emergency resolution passed at our January 12 meeting. The January 15 hearing concerned the proposed demolition of the Westmoreland Hills Local Park recreation building. The Board voted to demolish

that building in 90 days unless the community comes back with a compelling engineering study (within 45 days) that changes their minds. Staff agreed to review their proposed recommendation that disposition of park structures be done at the Director of the Parks level without public input. One proposal is to bundle recommended building changes with a single public hearing as opposed to having an individual hearing on each building. There is no set time table for the staff review. Ms. Barth's testimony will be printed in the February newsletter.

The Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO) report on the overlapping responsibilities of the Department of Recreation and the Department of Parks is out. Executive Committee members discussed the ability and willingness of the Department of Parks to oversee and adequately manage buildings on park property. Needed changes to a system that appears to be completely broken at this time include simple software as well as more substantive changes in departmental management and philosophy.

Members discussed the lack of "Friends of" programs for the parks. The only public/private partnerships we are aware of are Friends of Norwood Park and Friends of Brookside Gardens. Generally where there is a public/private partnership, as with the Westmoreland Hills Local Park building, where the community has taken responsibility for handing the building use schedule, the Department of Parks seems to operate not cooperatively but adversarially.

Ms. Barth's January newsletter article received two responses. She is following these up now.

Public Finance: Mr. Weinman reported on the January 15 public hearing on the Council's Expedited Bill 37-08 that would amend the disability retirement process for public safety employees. [Ms. Dennis testified for MCCF.] Among egregious abuses of the system currently in place: annual disability retirement payments of \$27,000 and \$36,000, of which 2/3 is tax free, paid to two felons; \$88,000 annually to an individual working full time in a similar capacity to that from which he was retired on disability. The unions argue that changes to the retirement system are a part of their labor agreement and therefore can only be done by the County Executive who is their "employer" under their contracts.

Councilmembers Andrews, Trachtenberg and Praisner support the bill. Three are believed to oppose it: Elrich, Ervin and Leventhal; three seem undecided: Berliner, Floreen, and Knapp. The bill will be sent to both the Council's MFP and Public Safety Committees. It is important that we communicate grass roots support for the bill to all Council members. Ms. Dennis will provide an article for the newsletter. The Council will hold a budget priorities community forum on January 27 at 7:30 pm.

Legislation: Mr. Wilhelm reported that the Committee for Montgomery (CFM) will be sending a letter to the federal government supporting the Maryland State Government's request for economic stimulus funds from the federal government. Federal funds for job training would probably go to counties in Maryland facing job cuts. Montgomery County is not. CFM Advocacy Day in Annapolis will be February 10.

Education: Mr. Goldstein reported on his testimony on the 2010 Operating Budget before the Board of Education. It included the need for greater transparency in MCPS's operations.

Historic Preservation: The transcript of the Council's brief discussion and decision not to hold a public hearing or worksession on the Perpetual Bank Building in Silver Spring is now on line. The Council will take up the Damascus-Goshen properties [a total of about 25 individual sites] on January 27 along with a review of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC).

Sentinel Column: Mr. Goldstein's next two columns will be on WSSC.

Transportation: Ms. Dennis reported that the Orphan Roads policy is moving along.

Ist Vice President's Report Ms. Dennis reviewed the programs for February through April. February will be a multi-faceted forum including information on the county's Climate Action Plan, sustainability, LEED, solar and wind energy, and green programs in general. The March program is on WSSC; April on the FY10 Operating Budget. The Committee agreed that May's topic would be on storm water control, rain gardens and similar water-focused topics. The June program will be held open for a possible program relating to planning and land use.

Adjournment There being no old or new business, Ms. Dennis adjourned the meeting with all in agreement at 9:45 pm.

Federation Meeting

Monday, February 9, 2009
7:45 1st Floor Auditorium
County Council Office Building.
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD

Agenda:

- 7:45 Call to Order
- 7:46 Introductions and Announcements
- 7:50 Adoption of Meeting Agenda
- 7:55 Treasurer's Report
- 7:58 Approval of January 12 Minutes
- 8:00 Program
- 9:15 Committee Reports
- 9:30 Old Business
- 9:50 New Business
- 10:00 Adjournment

The **Montgomery County Civic Federation** is a county-wide nonprofit educational and advocacy organization. It was founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. Its monthly Federation meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Monday of each month September through June at 7:45 p.m. in the First Floor Auditorium, County Office Building, Rockville, MD.

The **Civic Federation News** is published monthly. It is mailed to Delegates; associate members; news media, and local, state, and federal officials. Permission is granted to reprint any article provided proper credit is given to the "**Civic Federation News of the Montgomery County Civic Federation.**"

Submit contributions for the next issue by: **Midnight, Saturday, February 21.** Prepare submission as an MS Word, Word Perfect or text-only document, **attach** it to an e-mail, and send it to:
hotyakker@comcast.net

Please send all **address corrections** to Dan Wilhelm, 904 Cannon Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904, 301-384-2698, or djwilhelm@verizon.net.

NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, February 18, 7:45 p.m.

At the home of Arnie Gordon
7 Minuteman Court
Rockville (almost Olney) 20853



**Official Publication of the
Montgomery County Civic Federation**

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