



Civic Federation News

June, 2015

Serving the Public Interest since 1925

Official Publication of the
Montgomery County Civic
Federation

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twitter feed, @mccivicfed

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

Peggy Dennis, Editor - Phone: 301-983-9738 - Email: mccfnewsletter@gmail.com

**Reserve Your Place Now (form on page
14) for the
Montgomery County Civic Federation's
2015 ANNUAL AWARDS
BANQUET**

Friday, June 5, 2015

THE SENTINEL AWARD - awarded to an individual or group who makes a significant contribution to good government at the local level:

(Piney Branch) Young Activists Club

THE WAYNE GOLDSTEIN AWARD - awarded to an individual or group for outstanding public service to the people of Montgomery County:

**Save Our Seminary at Forest Glen
(SOS)**

THE STAR CUP - awarded to the MCCF delegate or committee for outstanding public service to Montgomery County:

Planning & Land Use Committee

Federation Meeting

Session 867

Monday, June 8, 2015

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 May 11 meeting
- 7:56 Treasurer's Report
- 8:00 UnProgram: Issues of Concern to our Members
- 9:15 Vote on Slate of Elected Officials (see p. 2)
- 9:20 Committee Reports
- 9:40 Old & New Business
- 9:45 Adjournment

June: The UnProgram by Paula Bienenfeld, President

This month's program is all about our members. While each month the Executive Committee puts together a program with speakers on topics that we hope are of interest to you, the members, the Civic Federation is really run by and for the members. Active involvement in county government comes from all of you. So, this month, we thought it was important to end the Civic Federation 'year' with an open forum discussion of issues of interest. We plan to step aside and, instead of the phone calls and emails to potential speakers on the part of the Executive Committee, we're asking you to

come to the meeting and bring your interests and concerns.

As with the original Mouseketeers 'Anything Can Happen' Day, this 'Unprogram' is open to discussions of any sort on burning issues you have. Questions or concerns about the school system? Planning and zoning? Public Financing? How about the environment and our commitment to reducing greenhouse gases? Is the county government meeting its transparency and open government obligations to your satisfaction? What would you like to see the Civic Fed do during the 2015-2016 year?

So, no top-down program organization; no listening to presentations. For the UnProgram, please just bring yourselves and your commitment.

Please join your fellow members and Executive Committee to discuss our County and Quality of Life, as well as your thoughts on the Civic Federation.

We'll see you June 8th!

Election of Civic Federation Officers for 2015-2016

Election of officers will take place at the June 8 meeting. The following slate has been nominated:

- President – Paula Bienenfeld
- First Vice President – Jim Zepp
- Second Vice President – Alan Bowser
- Treasurer – Jerry Garson
- Co-Secretaries – Danila Sheveiko & Jean Cavanaugh

The **Montgomery County Civic Federation** is a county-wide nonprofit educational and advocacy organization. It was founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. Monthly Federation meetings are open to the public.

The **Civic Federation News** is published monthly except in 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 Civic Federation**".

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Four "At-Large" members of the Executive Committee are named by the President early in his/her term of office. This is a great way for new blood (new delegates or those who have been with us for some time) to become more actively involved. Anyone wishing to serve in this capacity or nominate another delegate should contact our upcoming president, Paula Bienenfeld, at paula_bienenfeld@yahoo.com.

The Birth of the Civic Federation (Part 2)

by Charles Wolff, Past MCCF Historian

The May newsletter told of secretive efforts in 1925 to build the "belt line"---a freight railroad circling most of the District of Columbia inside today's Capital Beltway. It included a sprawling rail switching yard and commercial complex between the Potomac River and River Road north of the D. C. line. What follows is the last half of the story. Square brackets cite Washington's Evening Star newspaper.

-----MAJOR SUPPORTERS-----

To find a unified strategy against the belt line, civic groups in Montgomery County met urgently and sent representatives to two mass meetings. Also in opposition were the Chambers of Commerce of Washington and Silver Spring. Two well situated individuals stood out.

Colonel E. Brooke Lee was born in 1892 in Blair House (across from the White House). He served in France as a U. S. Army major during World War I, receiving several high medals. Later he became a colonel in the Maryland National Guard. At his birth, his family was already prominent and remains so (e. g., his grandsons in Montgomery County: Blair Lee IV, columnist and Bruce Lee, president of Lee Development Group).

Brooke Lee was elected in 1919 as Comptroller of the State of Maryland where he expanded its scope toward the powerful office it is today. Next, Governor Ritchie appointed him secretary of state (1923-1925). Clearly, he was well integrated into the power structure and the Democratic Party by 1925.

Lee's business was real estate development, to which the belt line posed an obvious threat. He strongly favored creating the Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF) and would co-author its plan to obtain zoning authority for the County. He would also chair two MCCF committees, but probably not simultaneously.

Oliver Owen Kuhn was the News Manager of The Evening Star, a perfect position to inform and influence public opinion. He published extensive coverage of the belt line and, especially, of efforts to mobilize the citizenry to derail it. I found 27 of their articles on these matters. In 1925 the Star had the largest daily circulation (100,000) and printed twice as many pages on a typical weekday as the Washington Post. This advantage continued until roughly 1960 when widespread television viewing gradually killed off America's evening newspapers.

Mr. Kuhn's actions as a private citizen were of comparable significance. He was a leading figure in bringing civic groups together, organizing public meetings, and

inspiring their opposition to the belt line. For example, when representing a special committee formed at a mass meeting (below), he told the Washington Chamber of Commerce that the belt line “was one of the greatest menaces which had faced Washington and its development in a long time” [2 Sep 1925, p. 1] After his crucial work, Oliver Kuhn would be elected as the first president of the Montgomery County Civic Federation.

-----THE PETITION-----

The Belt Line and Terminal Co. had simply petitioned the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) in Baltimore to grant it permission to exercise its rights and privileges under its certificate of incorporation. Approval would automatically include the right of eminent domain already in the company’s charter.

When news of the belt line’s petition came out on July 17th and 19th, Brooke Lee immediately asked the PSC to delay the Public Hearing scheduled for July 23rd. He pointed out that southern Montgomery County “is not a commercial area but is entirely devoted to extensive residential development”. He asked the PSC to make no final decision until the people “that may be so vitally affected can determine what the proposal really is, and consequently, their attitude toward the proposal”. [23 Jul 1925, p. 1]

The belt line company responded that “Washington and its environs will be tremendously benefited by the belt line and terminal project”. [26 Jul 1925, p. 16] They repeated that residential values would not be hurt.

Having heard from Lee---such an important Maryland official---the PSC postponed the hearing for “three weeks at least”.

-----THE FIRST MASS MEETING-----

At the height of vacation season, Montgomery County citizens managed to hold a mass meeting at the invitation of the Bradley Hills Community League to decide how to respond. The crowd of 400 filled “a large assembly room” at the Montgomery Country Club. Washington’s Evening Star was a big help by prominently publicizing the meeting in advance [“Maryland Communities Fire First Gun Tomorrow Night”, 6 Aug 1925, p. 2]. Afterwards there was an extremely long, blow-by-blow report of what various speakers had said. [8 Aug 1925, p. 2]

Oliver Kuhn, a colorful speaker, recalled how property values fell due to other belt lines and said history “showed that property owners got out with the first announcement like rats running from a burning building”. He had brought a copy of the railroad’s petition to the PSC and “proceeded to tear it to pieces”. [8 Aug 1925, p. 2] Brooke Lee, by letter, recommended that rail and industrial development be confined to those areas where it had already started. The meeting voted to reject the belt line without a dissenting voice and formed a special committee including Mr. Kuhn to present their views to the Public Service Commission and to others.

In the next two weeks, documents of opposition were being prepared by, at least, the Town of Somerset, Glen Echo, the Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce, Woodside Civic Association, Woodside Park, and North Woodside.

----- MCCF IS FORMED-----

Having found overwhelming public opposition to the belt line, activists assembled in small groups where the idea took hold of a federation of civic groups to address affairs that affect the County as a whole. It should have “a number of standing committees” whose “duty will be to keep an eagle eye on every project” and on legislation so as to promptly handle those meriting federation attention. [11 Nov 1925, p. 11] Walter Tuckerman hosted a meeting at his home that drafted a constitution.

By mid-November they were ready to call a second mass meeting to form a federation to fight “attempts to industrialize the area” and to urge “developing the county into one of the most beautiful residential suburbs of the National Capital”. [17 Nov 1925, p. 22] The constitution was adopted and Maryland’s Secretary of State, Brooke Lee, “spoke highly of the great good “ an MCCF could do. He urged cooperation between farm and town interests and said “the influence which we will have ... will undoubtedly be in direct proportion to the extent and value of our proposal”. [20 Nov 1925, p. 16]

The Montgomery County Civic Federation was fully born on November 30, 1925 when the first official delegates from 18 civic associations assembled and elected Oliver Kuhn of Alta Vista as the first MCCF president and Frank Hewitt of Silver Spring as vice president. The president stressed that MCCF must be nonpolitical and said it was “formed of both Republicans and Democrats, ... acclaimed by Socialists and indorsed by Prohibitionists”. The Evening Star printed pictures of six MCCF officers. [1 Dec 1925, p. 4]

MCCF’s Founding Organizations

Alta Vista Community League	Fort Bayard Hills Citizens’ Association
Battery Park Citizens’ Association	Friendship Heights Citizens’ Committee
Bradley Hills Community League	Garrett Park
Cabin John Park Citizens’ Association	Kensington Home, School & Community Ass’n
Capital View Citizens’ Association	Rockville
Chevy Chase	Silver Spring Citizens’ Association
Chevy Chase Section 3	Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce
Chevy Chase Section 4	Takoma Park
Drummond	Town of Somerset

-----MAIN EARLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS-----

From the start a strong committee structure was built in to fully study issues before presenting them to all delegates for decision. The initial concerns of members were zoning, police and fire protection, and poor road restoration by WSSC after laying pipes. Areas west of Rock Creek had no local fire protection. Magnanimous crews

from D. C. were putting out some of their fires for free. MCCF stimulated Bethesda and others to seek better fire solutions. [13 Jul 1926]

The MCCF prepared an extensive study of the legal basis of zoning. They presented it to the state legislature and obtained enabling authority for zoning in Montgomery County.

Only two years after its birth, the MCCF and the business community achieved the creation of the Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) in 1927. In 1928 the first county zoning law was passed for southern areas.

There's one thing we've lost since then. They had a spirit for making Washington and its suburbs the finest-looking capital in the world. In 1925, that included its "beautiful boulevards leading into and out of the city". [2 Sep 1925, p.1 and p. 2] How sad to see some of our main roads today.

For the last 25 years I've attended MCCF meetings. With the normal ups and downs as officers change, the group still strives to uphold the original standards---a nonpartisan federation of civic groups from all over the county, identifying issues of countywide significance, considering them in committee, deciding their fate in the full assembly of delegates, and then lobbying official bodies to act in the broad public interest.

Renew Your Membership and Update your Contact Information

By Peggy Dennis, Past President & Newsletter Editor

The Civic Federation's fiscal and membership year begins on July 1st. Delegates are asked to print out a Membership Form (see last page) and give it to your association's treasurer or verify that your treasurer has sent in the renewal form and check to pay your dues. Associate members may simply renew using the same form.

Many civic, neighborhood and homeowners associations elect new officers or boards during the summer or autumn. Please remember to provide updated contact information to those who need to be able to reach you. For the Civic Federation, email your changes and corrections to us at mcciviced@gmail.com.

All associations should also send updated information to the Communications Office at Maryland National Capital/ Park & Planning Commission. Your contact is Ms. Arnita Jackson at 301-495-4601 or by email at arnita.jackson@MNCPPC-MC.org or by using the interactive website at www.montgomeryplanning.org/gis/interactive/hoa2/shtm

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

Western County: bethesda.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov

Silver Spring: silver.spring@montgomerycountymd.gov

Mid-County: midcounty.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov

Eastern County: eastco.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov

Up-County: upcounty.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov

A Guide to the Various Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Committees **by Jim Zepp, First Vice President**

Confused about all the different Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Committees? Here is a summary of the various committees, what they do, and when and where they meet along with links to their web pages. All meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend. All dates are subject to change so it is best to check the committees' respective Websites for any updates.

County Executive's Transit Task Force

In April 2015 the County Executive requested that his previous Transit Task Force (TTF) reconvene for the purpose of studying the Executive's previous proposed legislation, (MC 24-15) to enable the County to establish a separate Independent Transit Authority (ITA). This legislation was controversial and was withdrawn after a public hearing.

The TTF has been meeting weekly on Wednesday evenings from 6 – 9 pm. since April 22 in the Executive Office Building. Their meeting schedule and agendas are on their web site:

<http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/cex/transit2015/agenda.asp>

Meetings are open to the public and there are opportunities to comment and ask questions. Discussions are limited to the topic of financing alternatives for BRT and concerns about the proposed ITA. There are two working groups: Finance and Transfer of Government functions to an ITA. The Task Force is expected to issue recommendations about the ITA to the Executive by September 30th.

The TTF will hold **a public forum on June 17th at 6:00 pm in the Council Hearing Room** in Rockville. Residents are encouraged to attend and offer testimony. Questions will be posted on the TTF web site ahead of time. The agenda for the forum is:

1. Call to Order 6:00 pm
2. Part I of Public Forum (Concerning questions presented by Working Group on Organization and Transfer of Functions). Questions to be published on Task Force Website and circulated to public by other means prior to Public Forum. 6:10 to 8:00 pm.
3. Break. 8:00 to 8:10 pm.
4. Part I of Public Forum (Concerning questions presented by Finance Working Group). Questions to be published on Task Force website and circulated to public by other means prior to Public Forum. 8:10 to 10:00 pm.
5. Adjourn. 10:00 pm.

On **August 26th at 7 pm the TTF will hold a public forum on their Draft Report** in the Executive Office Building in Rockville.

BRT Corridor Advisory Commitees

The BRT studies are coordinated by Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) and Montgomery County Department of Transportation. Currently there are five BRT Corridor Advisory Committees (CAC) that will review the studies and provide feedback to the project

teams. The next round of CAC meetings starts next week. All CAC meetings are open to the public and will be from **6:30-8:45 pm**. Residents are encouraged to attend. Each Committee has a web page: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/RTS/cacs.html>

Veirs Mill Road, Wednesday, **May 27**, Executive Office Building Auditorium, Rockville.

Route 29 North (Burtonsville to New Hampshire Ave.), Thursday, **May 28**, East County Regional Services Center, 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring.

Route 29 South (New Hampshire Ave. to Downtown Silver Spring), Tuesday, **June 2** White Oak Community Center, 1700 April Lane, Silver Spring.

Route 355 North (north of Rockville Metro Station), Wednesday, **June 3** Upcounty Regional Services Center, 12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown.

Route 355 South (South of Rockville Metro Station), Thursday, **June 4**, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda.

Corridor Cities Transitway Area Advisory Committees

The studies for the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) are being coordinated by Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). There are 3 Area Advisory Committees (AAC) for the route that have been meeting since April 2014.

AAC Three will meet **June 8th** from 6:30 – 8:30 pm at Ingleside at King Farm, Multipurpose Room 701 King Farm Boulevard Rockville.

BRT Steering Committee

The Steering Committee meets monthly in Rockville and consists of 12 agency representatives and 3 Transit Task Force representatives. They discuss the status of the various BRT studies and are advisory to the County Executive. Their next meeting will be June 24th at 4:00 pm in the Executive Office Building 9th Floor Conference Room.

Planning and Land Use Updates

by Harriet Quinn, Planning & Land Use Committee

The Planning Department has proposed changes to the **Subdivision Regulations**, Chapter 50 of the Montgomery County Code that governs the subdivision of land in the County. This draft represents the most comprehensive rewrite of the Subdivision Regulations in 50 years. The Subdivision Regulations include the application requirements for subdividing property, as well as requirements for adequate public facilities and improvements to lots based on the impact of subdivision. The deadline to submit written testimony to the Planning Board on the **Subdivision Regulations Rewrite Draft** is **May 28th**. The Planning Board will hold work sessions in June of 2015, and then submit the regulations to the Montgomery County Council who will also hold a public hearing and work sessions as needed before voting on the new document.

On May 21st County Council introduced the Planning Department's proposed Omnibus Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) to the recently adopted new Zoning Code. The **Omnibus ZTA 15-09** contains substantive changes to the Code, including proposed changes to the recently adopted

regulations for accessory apartments. The Council's public hearing is scheduled for **June 30 at 1:30 P.M.** .

Proposed Privatization and Reorganization of Department of Economic Development

The County Executive has proposed that the Department of Economic Development be privatized. The County Council [introduced the draft legislation Bill 25-15](#) on May 21 and scheduled the public hearing for **June 9 at 1:30 P.M.**

Bill 25-15 would eliminate the Department of Economic Development (DED) as a principal department of the Executive Branch. These duties would be delegated to a non-profit corporation designated as the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation by the Council. Each of the 11 members of the Board of Directors of the Corporation would be appointed by the Executive and confirmed by the Council, but the Corporation would not be an agency of the County government. Certain duties now performed by DED would be transferred to the Department of Finance and a new Office of Agriculture.

Master Plan Updates

[White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan](#): The County is working on a [General Development Agreement](#) with Percontee of the Gudelsky Group, for disposition and development of the County's 115 acre property in White Oak. There is great concern about the proposed amount of residential development in an area that had been designated for a science employment center.

[Aspen Hill Minor Master Plan Amendment](#): The Council approved the Planning Board Draft with revisions on March 31. The Sectional Map Amendment process begins in May.

[Bethesda Downtown Plan](#): Planning Board has [scheduled public hearing on Bethesda Downtown Plan](#) for **June 24 from 2 to 5:30 P.M. and 7 to 9:30 P.M.** at the BCC Regional Services Center.

[Greater Lyttonsville Sector Plan](#): concepts were discussed at a community meeting on April 29 and presented to the Planning Board on May 7. Staff is preparing the Staff Draft to be presented to the Planning Board on September 24, 2015.

[Montgomery Village Master Plan](#): Planning Staff preliminary recommendations were [presented to Planning Board on April 16](#). Staff is scheduled to present a Staff Draft to the Board in July 2015 after receiving traffic modeling results.

[Westbard Sector Plan](#): After a community charrette process, Planning Staff presented their preliminary concept recommendations to the community on April 22 and [to the Planning Board on April 30](#). The Staff's Draft Plan is scheduled to be presented to the Planning Board on July 16.

[Bicycle Master Plan](#): On July 1st, 2015 the Planning Department will begin working on a comprehensive update to the 1978 Master Plan of Bikeways. The bicycle master plan has been updated numerous times since it was first approved in 1978, with the last major overhaul occurring in 2005 with the approval of the [Countywide Bikeways Functional Master Plan](#).

Minutes of the May 11th, 2015 Meeting

By Danila Sheveiko, Recording Secretary

Call to Order: President Paula Bienenfeld called the 865th session to order at 7:50pm. Introductions followed.

AGENDA: It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: 2nd Vice President Alan Bowser relayed the request of the Silver Spring Regional Services Center Director to urge citizens to call 311 to report graffiti and homeless people sleeping in bus stops. Paula added that 311 can also be used to report potholes. Past MCCF Historian Charles Wolff announced "[The Birth of the Montgomery County Civic Federation](#)" – an article in the May newsletter describing life and politics in Montgomery County at the time of the Federation's founding in 1925.

MINUTES: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the April meeting as they appeared in the Newsletter. The minutes were approved unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jerry Garson reported net income of \$472.33 for the period.

COMMUNITY HERO: Ron Ely, for his tireless work in exposing deficiencies in speed camera programs in Montgomery County and throughout Maryland. Ron submitted dozens of [Maryland Public Information Act](#) requests to jurisdictions, many of which led to exposure of internal problems with speed camera programs. Ron talked about the grudging minimal compliance to MPPIA requests and said that this issue goes far beyond cameras and applies to school systems, environmental protection, and other government functions.

PROGRAM: Lisa Feldt, Director, Department of Environmental Protection; Brent Bolin, Chesapeake Regional Director for [Clean Water Action](#); and Diane Cameron of the [Audubon Naturalist Society](#) and the Stormwater Partners covered a variety of issues starting with polluted runoff reduction requirements under the [MS-4 Permit](#) issued to Montgomery County under the federal Clean Water Act. Director Feldt shared a progress report on MS-4 implementation, work on green infrastructure, and future strategies. Brent Bolin addressed the repeal of the Stormwater Fee ([Senate Bill 863](#)) and its effect on the [Water Quality Protection Charge](#). Diane Cameron talked about accountability principles and answered questions from the floor regarding the use of [artificial turf fields](#) in Montgomery County.

RESOLUTIONS:

In support of Zoning Text Amendment 15-07 on mega gas stations passed unanimously as drafted in the newsletter.

MCCF Transportation Committee resolution on alternative transit solutions passed with four nays and no abstentions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Environment: No commitment from DEP on meetings to address the White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan [environmental concerns](#). Montgomery County to ban smoking in parks. [Bill 18-15](#) will establish a Montgomery County Green Bank. The County Council is considering [Bill 52-14](#) which would prohibit the application of non-

essential (e.g. cosmetic) pesticides on lawns (except golf courses and agriculture) and require the County to adopt an integrated pest management program. Councilmembers Berliner and Leventhal also wrote to the five organizations that operate hospitals in Montgomery County and asked them to voluntarily stop using pesticides on hospital grounds following the example of Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park which stopped using pesticides in 2013. The County's [TreeMontgomery](#) program received 400 requests for free trees.

- Public Safety: The "Free Range Parents" case is gaining [more attention](#) – Council President George Leventhal and Public Safety Committee Chair Councilmember Marc Elrich have initiated an inquiry of sixteen questions. Comments from outside experts on the "Free Range" kids issue cite lack of legal authority for arrest and unsubstantiated charges of neglect.
- Education: The front-runner for Superintendent is rumored to be from Houston.
- Planning & Land Use: [Subdivision Regulations Rewrite](#) public hearing was sparsely attended - public comment deadline extended to May 28th.
- Transportation: Jerry reported on a number of Committee meetings and outreach events.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 10:05pm.

Minutes of the May 21 Executive Committee Meeting, By Recording Secretary, Danila Sheveiko

The Executive Committee (ExComm) convened at the residence of Member at Large Virginia Sheard.

Call to Order: Paula Bienenfeld, President, called the meeting to order at 7:58 PM. Present: Jerry Garson, Peggy Dennis, Jim Zepp, Carole Ann Barth, Danila Sheveiko, Virginia Sheard, Alan Bowser, Jean Cavanaugh, and Harriet Quinn.

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

Approval of Minutes for April 23rd ExComm Meeting: Paula called for and received unanimous approval of the minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Jerry Garson, Treasurer, reported net income of \$747.33 for the period.

Announcements:

- Silver Spring Library [Grand Opening](#): Saturday, June 20th at 11am.
- Montgomery County BRT [Corridor Advisory Committees](#) continue meeting through the summer. The [Transit Task Force](#) Public Forum is on June 17th to discuss the 2015 report and recommendations on financing alternatives for BRT and the proposed Independent Transit Authority. A public hearing is also scheduled for August 26th with the report to be released at least five days prior. The financing options for the transit system will be presented to the County Executive by September 30th.

- Dave & Busters is moving to City Place mall in Silver Spring.
- U.S. Supreme Court rejected Maryland's "[piggyback tax](#)."

Programs: Paula introduced discussion of future programs.

• **June:** Open forum to discuss issues affecting member communities.

• **September:** Development Review Process Part 2, potential changes to [Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance](#)

Issues Discussed

- Logistics and publicity for the [Annual Awards Banquet](#). Archival photos and graphics from the early days of the MCCF are needed.
- MCCF resolution protocols – 2nd Vice President Alan Bowser to draft improvements.
- Friends of Ten Mile Creek – Paula to draft a follow-up letter.
- MCCF Web site refresh and milestones – Virginia sent layout to Utilities Committee Chair Louis Wilen.

Committee Reports

- **Environment:**
 - o Department of Environmental Protection still has not committed to a meeting to discuss environmental implications of the [White Oak Science Gateway Master Plan](#).
 - o Planning Department is pushing for a greener [Bethesda Downtown Sector Plan](#).
- **Education:**
 - o [The search](#) for a new Superintendent cost the taxpayer \$35,000.
 - o [Interim Superintendent Larry Bowers](#) has been asked by the Board of Education to stay for another year as the search for a permanent replacement continues.
- **Planning & Land Use:**
 - o Deadline to submit written testimony to the Planning Board on the [Subdivision Regulations Rewrite](#) draft is **May 28th**.
 - o County Executive has proposed that the Department of Economic Development is to be privatized. Council [introduced the draft legislation](#) on May 21 and scheduled the public hearing for **June 9 at 1:30 P.M.**
 - o On July 1st, 2015 the Planning Department will begin working on a [comprehensive update](#) to the 1978 Master Plan of Bikeways.
 - o On May 21st County Council introduced the Planning Department's proposed omnibus Zoning Text Amendment to the recently adopted new Zoning Code. The [Omnibus ZTA](#) contains substantive changes to the Code, including proposed changes to the adopted regulations for accessory apartments. Council public hearing scheduled for **June 30 at 1:30 P.M.** .

- o The County is working on a [General Development Agreement](#) with [Percontee](#), of the Gudelsky Group for disposition and development of the County's 115 acre property in White Oak. There is great concern about the proposed amount of residential development in an area designated for a science employment center.
- o Planning Board has [scheduled public hearing on Bethesda Downtown Plan](#) for **June 24 from 2 to 5:30 P.M. and 7 to 9:30 P.M.** at the BCC Regional Services Center.
- **Transportation:**
- First Vice-President Jim Zepp has been asked to serve on the [County Executive's Transit Task Force](#) that is analyzing the proposed Independent Transit Authority proposal.
- MCCF Transportation Committee has been meeting to discuss alternatives and resolutions regarding the ITA. They have also been attending the BRT CAC meetings.

Old Business

- Deadline to submit comments on [Zoning Text Amendment 15-07](#) to strengthen protections when siting large gas stations adjacent to sensitive land uses is May 22nd.
- 1st Vice President Jim Zepp submitted a proposed budget for the Civic Summit.
- Paula called for authors for the Sentinel's weekly Federation Corner column.

New Business

- Newsletter deadline and articles – Sunday, May 24th 6pm to Peggy Dennis at mccfnewsletter@gmail.com
- Date and location of next two ExComm meetings:
 - o June 18th – the ExComm at the County's transportation center
 - o July 16th – [Mid-County Regional Services Center](#).

Adjournment: Paula called for and received unanimous approval for adjournment at 10:11 PM.

Banquet Reservation Form

Reserve Your Place Now For The
 Montgomery County Civic Federation's
2015 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Friday, June 5, 2015

Reception 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Dinner 7:00

Awards Presentations 8:15 - 9:30 p.m.

Tony Lin's Restaurant

12015 Rockville Pike, Ste. G

Questions? Call Paula Bienenfeld 240-899-2335

Please print or cut off and fill in this stub. Mail with a **check** payable to the **Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc.** and mail to:

Jerry Garson, MCCF Banquet, 8308 Raymond Lane, Potomac MD 20854-3729

I/We will attend the Reception and Dinner, \$35 per person _____

Reception only from 6:00 - 7:00 \$15 per person _____

(Please print name as you wish it to be on your name badge at the banquet)

(Please print name(s) as you wish them to be on your name badge at the banquet)

Association or Organization (as applicable) _____

Contact information _____
(Telephone) (Email)

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION
Serving the County since 1925
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016

Mail to MCCF Treasurer: Jerry Garson
 8308 Raymond Lane, Potomac MD 20854-3729
 301-765-9470; email: garson@comcast.net

Form updated May 2015

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
Local Association (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	
Umbrella Association (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	
Regional or County-Wide Organization (environmental, transportation, or other civic/community).	50+ (memberships, not households)		\$35	2	Yes
Individual Associate	(not applicable)		\$15	1	No
Associate Group (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.	Name (President)		Phone (H)	
	Street		E-mail	
	City, State, Zip		Put email address in directory: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
			Phone	
2.	Name		(H)	
	Street		E-mail	
	City, State, Zip		Put email address in directory: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
			Phone	
3.	Name		(H)	
	Street		E-mail	
	City, State, Zip		Put email address in directory: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
			Phone	
4.	Name		(H)	
	Street		E-mail	
	City, State, Zip		Put email address in directory: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	