

March Program: A Conversation with Marcus Jones | Come hear from and meet the new Chief of the Montgomery County Police Department | **P. 3**

MCCF Resolution Opposing Proposed WMATA Service Reductions | This resolution will be voted at the March 9 meeting | **P. 4**

Both Taxpayers and the Environment are on the Hook for Disposal Costs for Synthetic Turf | For the second year in a row, nothing has happened to deal with the burgeoning waste crisis | **P. 5**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
MCCF AWARDS EVENT
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2020

Call for Nominations and Volunteers for Awards Event | The big night is Monday, June 8 | **P. 11**

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TO PRINT, USE **PRINT VERSION**

of note

Next MCCF Meeting

Monday, March 9, 2020, 7:45 p.m. @ the Executive Office Building in Rockville. "A Conversation with New MCPD Chief Marcus Jones"

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Meeting Minutes

February 10 Meeting #910 **P. 20**
February Executive Committee
Teleconference *Unavailable*

Membership Application

Join or Renew Now **SEE FORM**

Federation Meeting #911

Monday, March 9, 2020

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
- 7:55 Approval of Minutes, February 10 Meeting **P.20**
- 7:56 Treasurer's Report
- 8:00 Program: A Conversation with Marcus Jones **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 March 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 23**

March: A Conversation with MCPD Chief Marcus Jones

By Alan Bowser, 1st Vice President

Chief Marcus Jones of the Montgomery County Police Department will be our guest for the March 9th meeting of the Montgomery County Civic Federation.

At the meeting, Chief Jones will discuss his work in MCPD and answer questions about a broad range of issues of community interest, including pedestrian safety, traffic enforcement, use of force, mental health issues, the opioid crisis, new technologies, and community engagement.

Chief Marcus Jones was appointed the 17th Police Chief of the Montgomery County Maryland Department of Police in November 2019. He is a 34-year veteran of the department and recently served as the Assistant Chief of the Investiga-

tive Services Bureau. He has also served as the Commander of the 3rd District (Silver Spring), Director of Major Crimes, Drug Enforcement Commander and a variety of other assignments. Chief Jones currently is a board member for the Governor's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and serves on the Maryland Violence Intervention and Prevention Advisory Council. Other responsibilities also include a board member of the Montgomery County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

Chief Jones helped to create an award-winning Diversity Training program for the Police Department which he has taught to numerous Academy classes. He is an adjunct instructor for the Leadership in Police Organizations three-week train-



ing course sponsored by the International Association Chiefs of Police.

March Program, cont.

He is a former National Chairman of the National Black Police Association and held several leadership positions in the NBPA and its chapters. He has also served on the Board of Directors for the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund and the Task Force on Mentoring in Montgomery County.

He has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from the University of Maryland University College and he is a graduate of the FBI National Academy- Session #267 and the National Executive Institute. Chief Jones is a member of the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the Maryland Chief's Association, the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) and the International Association Chiefs of Police (IACP). ■

Resolution of the Montgomery County Civic Federation

Whereas, the Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc., (MCCF) has long advocated for safe, reliable, and regular transit services for the County's residents; and

Whereas, access to reliable and affordable transit service is a key foundation of strong neighborhoods and the County's economic development; and

Whereas, many Montgomery County residents are transit-dependent; and

Whereas, MCCF notes with concern the recent proposals of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (in its proposed FY 2021 operating budget) to reduce bus service—notably including the Q,

J, L, and Z lines—in the most transit-dependent areas of the County;

Therefore, be it resolved, the Montgomery County Civic Federation opposes the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's proposed service reductions in Montgomery County; and

Calls upon WMATA to support and expand affordable and reliable bus service in the County, particularly in the most transit-dependent areas of the County.

[Approval of this resolution will be called for a vote on the 9th of March 2020 at the 911th General Meeting of the Montgomery County Civic Federation.] ■

Both Taxpayers and the Environment on the Hook for Disposal Costs for Synthetic Turf

By Bailey Condrey, MCCF President

During the 2020 legislative session in Annapolis, a bill was introduced to bring accountability to how post-consumer synthetic turf would be handled in Maryland and who would be given responsibility for paying for its handling, purported “recycling,” and, in reality, *disposal*. That bill, **HB 1547, Environment—Synthetic Turf and Turf Infill—Producer Responsibility**, was sponsored by Delegate Mary Lehman. The hearing was held February 19th before the House Economic Matters Committee. The bill was reported unfavorably roughly 48 hours later, which means nothing happens for the second year in a row on creating plans to logically deal with what will become a burgeoning waste crisis.

A ZEMBLA documentary from



LIFTING THE INFILL AND COLLECTING IT TOOK MUCH LONGER THAN PLANNED.

Holland has created a compelling record of what has occurred in Europe surrounding discarded synthetic turf. Mountains of plastics, carpeting, and contaminated sand sit illegally on the ground, contaminating ground water and spewing greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

Facts matter.

At least, they used to matter. In the world of synthetic turf,

they matter not a whit. The entire industry was predicated on a scheme that the Environmental Protection Agency, the tire and plastics industries, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission cooked up in 2007 to make the nation’s piles of waste tires disappear under the feet of children, on their playing fields and playgrounds. It was never regulated, especially as a children’s product, even though the vast majority of the users are children. Had it been, things may have been much different today.

There were no human health or environmental toxicologists included in the discussions back in 2007 because they would have gotten in the way of the big scheme.

Synthetic turf has become one of

Synthetic Turf, cont.

the most insidious corporate welfare programs ever foisted on United States taxpayers. The feds forced the disposal burden and costs for waste vehicle tire management upon the States by changing the law in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act so that vehicle tires could lose their hazardous waste classification, if they were turned into “other” products. It only took a little marketing savvy to create synthetic turf with crumb rubber infill and suddenly the grass upon which generations of athletes excelled, and the grass with which humans evolved was no longer good enough. The industrialization of children’s sports play commenced and the mountains of used vehicle tires disappeared.

The states have now placed this disposal burden upon towns, coun-



THE FIELD DRAIN APPEARS AT LEFT, RUNNING PARALLEL TO THE EDGE OF THE PHOTO, FOR THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE FIELD.

ties and localities because they’re all hooked on the drug that is synthetic turf. In the process, the nation’s children get exposed to a noxious soup of toxins and the environment becomes the dumping ground for microplastics pollution and used petroleum products. The mountains will again begin to form, they will only change composition, and they can still burn like the gates of hell.

A decade ago, the synthetic turf industry began floating the lie that

ST could be recycled. They used this lie as a selling point with all of the unsuspecting parents that were told this was the solution to the horribly maintained grass fields at their children’s schools. The tires had to go somewhere. When the industry was challenged on the recycling lie, they used the fallback position that, when the fields reached the end of their useful lives, the recycling infrastructure would be in place. A representative from Montgomery Parks told this lie at a Solid Waste Advisory Committee meeting a decade ago. Zack Franz, the Field Turf representative testifying on HB 1547, could not identify a single industrial company in the United States recycling syn turf.

You have to ask, were public school playing fields purposefully allowed to fall into disrepair to open

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MORE

Synthetic Turf, cont.

the door for this industry?

Just exactly how many times will legislators ask taxpayers to open their pockets to pay for managing vehicle tire waste? Americans pay fees when they both buy and dispose of tires. Now we get to buy back the tires to place under the feet of children for playing fields. Finally, we'll get to pay the **tipping fees and transportation costs to landfill this junk**



when it finally gets disposed after it's spent a decade emitting greenhouse gases.

The only people who believe that ST is cheaper than top-of-the-line grass are those who have never looked at the data with any degree of analysis.

Recently, Montgomery County Public Schools announced that Walter Johnson High School would be receiving another ST field, free of crumb rubber infill, but first they had to deconstruct the old, defective Field Turf installation. The old infill consists of silica, crumb rubber, and shredded plastic from the defective carpet. It would take too much time and cost too much money to try and remove the millions of plastic fragments that have become part of the infill so they just leave it in there in the hope that an unsuspecting buyer may need some, sight unseen.



MCPS created a schedule for the replacement that assigned *seven* working days to remove the infill and take the plastics carpeting apart.

For those unfamiliar with the infill removal process, this involves using two John Deere tractors and a Bobcat. One tractor pulls a sweeper behind it to lift the infill. The other tractor then goes behind the first,

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MORE

Synthetic Turf, cont.

pulling a vacuum sweeper and conveyor belt that lifts the infill from the field and deposits it into a super sack carried beside it on the Bobcat's forklift mount. This operation runs three pieces of heavy equipment for eight to ten hours each day. The infill is lifted and collected on hundreds of equipment passes crisscrossing the field.

The scheduled *seven* days turned

THE BLACK LOOKING MUD ON THE ROADWAY IS TIRE CRUMB.



into *three weeks* that also overlapped with two heavy rain events. While this work was done, the field storm-water-drains were full of crumb rubber, microplastics, and silica. How much of this material entered the watershed during the process?

In the end, the contractor filled roughly 230 Field Turf-labeled super sacks, each weighing approximately 2,000 pounds, bringing the total weight to roughly 460,000 pounds



AN UNPROTECTED STORM DRAIN SITS DIRECTLY ACROSS FROM THE TURF ROLLS JUST PAST THE MUDDY AREA ON THE LEFT.

of infill. The super sacks are also made out of plastic. They sell for between roughly \$17 each wholesale to \$30 each retail, bringing the total cost for the sacks from roughly \$4,000 to \$7,000. If this material is landfilled, at a \$40 per-ton tipping fee, Montgomery County taxpayers get to shell out another \$9,200.

The public relations document cooked up to cover as a plan for getting rid of the tire and plastics waste gives new meaning to the word far-fetched. MCPS will use Target Technologies International, Inc., based in Canada, and another company, PolyPacific, Inc., based in Malaysia, to purportedly “recycle” the carpet into various post-consumer products. The 40,000 pounds of defective WJHS plastics carpeting will be sent roughly 9,000 miles around the globe to Malaysia. PolyPacific is

Synthetic Turf, cont.

then supposed to provide proof that the carpeting was made into other stuff, and MCPS will share the chain of custody letters later “proving” that it was. No one in Maryland will be able to prove any such thing.

This is what you get with a completely unregulated product. None of the players in the solid waste management of this industrial material has to care about what happens to it because no requirements have been set. It’s a polluter’s dream come true. This particular defective field has been shedding broken plastic grass blades to the watershed for years.

The “recycling” track record for the synthetic turf industry has been a complete failure for the simple reason that it doesn’t exist, and now we’re supposed to believe that



a Canadian outfit and a Malaysian company are suddenly going to pull recycled plastic rabbits out of their hats 9,000 miles from Maryland. If this junk can be recycled, why hasn’t the world’s preeminent plastics industry figured out how to do it right here at home? Now would be the time to require the buyers and sellers of these materials to deal with the management nightmare that looms.

Back to Walter Johnson’s old infill. Field Turf was going to use it on an ST field at a small school in East Machias, Maine, close to Nova Scotia. Washington Academy,

however, had no idea that Field Turf was planning to sell them used infill containing defective plastic grass blades. Nor did they know that it contained crumb rubber until an intrepid reporter for the local newspaper in East Machias learned of it. Both the plastic contamination and the CR posed an issue for the small town and the local watershed as the school lies upslope from local fishing grounds. The headmaster at Washington Academy has told Field Turf that the school will not accept the used infill. East Machias is roughly 762 miles from WJHS.

Imagine that—Field Turf was going to sell an unsuspecting school the contaminated infill from a defective field that they sold to MCPS a decade earlier, profiting yet again, from material that has been paid for at least six-times already.

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MORE

Synthetic Turf, cont.

Fraudulent behavior stems from a completely unregulated industry. Fraudulent behavior stems from a completely unregulated industry.

The flatbed tractor trailer at right held 16 bags of infill when it left WJHS. That's roughly 32,000 pounds. To relocate the entire mass of infill from the WJHS field to Maine would have required at least 14 eighteen-wheelers. What would the carbon footprint have been for these diesel, tractor trailers driving nearly 10,000 miles to deliver it?

Now that Washington Academy has said no, where will it go? And what about economic development in Maryland and Montgomery County, specifically? Are there no local companies that could have dismantled this field price competitively with a Massachusetts company?



Hard to believe, since **Turf Prep Synthetic Turf Solutions** doesn't send its employees home for the night.

Supporters of ST should consider that their continued embrace of this product creates global environmental challenges helping to drive the climate crisis and species extinction. Australia is still burning and Mississippi is flooding again. Montgomery County has a self-declared climate emergency. Petroleum-derived playing fields have nowhere to go to be

recycled (Malaysia anyone?) and the sooner we stop lying to one another about it, the sooner we can move to better options and figure out how to realistically deal with waste tires. The corporate welfare program that exists for ST has made the tire and plastics industries richer and it's time they rose to the challenge of taking responsibility for managing these materials. Highway asphalt offers possibilities.

Anyone who has studied the data on synthetic turf knows that its costs far surpass the costs of great grass fields, especially when you add the externalities of what has been witnessed so far with the deconstruction of just the field at WJHS. The carbon footprint for this project has been immense and continues to grow. It is time to require that the producers of this product shoulder

Synthetic Turf, cont.

the costs for its disposal or prove that its post-consumer life can actually add value to the economy, but a verified third-party will have to provide this certification. Short of this, we will return to the era when days-long blazes fill the sky with acrid black smoke as piles of disintegrating synthetic turf catch fire.

How do we spend 20 years allowing an industrial product to be spread across the landscape and have no plan for how it will be handled when it's all removed? HB 1547 or a similar bill is essential if Maryland is to make any progress in managing this waste. It's time for the plastics and tire industries to assume responsibility for helping to correct this monstrous boondoggle by keeping these materials from being dumped around the globe. ■

Call for Nominations and Volunteers for Awards Event

Do you know someone who has made great contributions to Montgomery County and who you would like to see recognized with one of the annual MCCF Awards? If so, be sure to send your nomination to the Awards Committee this month! The Awards Event will be held in June (more details to follow) and the Committee will be reviewing the nominations in May.

Also, if you'd like to help the Awards Selection Committee, let us know. The work of the Awards Selection Committee includes accepting nominations for award recipients, evaluating those nominations, and making final recommendations on the awardees. The work should be of short duration and may be done largely by phone. If you would like to help with the

event and/or the committee, please let us know by sending an email to *info AT montgomerycivic DOT org*.

LIST OF AWARDS

■ **The Wayne Goldstein Award** is awarded to an individual or group for outstanding service to the people of Montgomery County.

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

■ **The Star Cup** is awarded to a Delegate or Committee of the Federation for outstanding public service on behalf of Montgomery County.

We look forward to hearing from you! ■

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 March 9th 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.

League of Women Voters Program on Pedestrian Safety

By Sue Schumacher, 2nd Vice Pres.

A panel on pedestrian safety at a Feb. 24 meeting of the LOWV of Montgomery County consisted of three individuals: Kristy Daphnis, Chair of the MCDOT Pedestrian, Bicycle Safety, and Traffic Safety Advisory Cmte.; John Hoobler from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation; and Eli Glazier from the Montgomery County Planning Department. All three have been to MCCF and presented their findings.

The County is has just finished a two-year Vision Zero program and has started its one-year program; there is a 10-year program in the planning. All these plans are done by the County Executive's Office.

Hoobler explained that he is in charge of the Three E's: Education, Enforcement, and Engineering. He

announced that there will be a County Safety Day in Rockville in May.

Glazier of the MoCo Planning Dept. told of plans for a Predictive Safety Analysis, a County-wide Survey, and a Student Travel Survey.

A particular remark by Daphnis was that everyone seems to think that all the pedestrians who have been hit by a vehicle were using a cell phone at the time. She said that not one of the police investigations mentioned a cell phone.

Questions from the audience dealt with enforcement and especially crosswalks. One person wanted to know why we don't have the enforcement of California, where, if a pedestrian gets to the crosswalk, all cars stop and don't start up again until the individual has stepped out of the crosswalk. ■

Before You Reach the Conclusion that an Animal Presents a Nuisance

By Bailey Condrey, MCCF President

In the urban/suburban/rural landscapes of Montgomery County, we all encounter animals whether



they be domesticated, wild, or pets. My neighborhood, of Parkwood, borders Rock Creek Park, one of the older federal parks, and offers the opportunity to see wild animals on a regular basis. I've even been surprised to watch a raccoon hang upside down from the suet feeder outside of my dining room and help itself to a meal of fat and seed, completely unfazed by the human presence on the other side of the window.

Woodpeckers of various species feed upon insects and other prey and belted kingfishers can sometimes be seen chattering as they fly along the creek bed. Pileateds are easy to spot because of their distinctive vocalizations.

White tail deer are also present, but this subject was covered exten-



sively in a [prior CFN article](#).

Regular discussions occur on our listserv regarding what should be done about this animal or that animal when they are seen or after they have taken up residence in an attic, under a porch or deck, under the shrubs in a border, or even under a garage. We all agree that no one wants a nest of squirrels, raccoons,

Wildlife, cont.

or sparrows in their attic or garage. Few of us are equipped to remove them. But one should consider which trapping service gets called as not all of them release captured animals to the wild.

For those who dislike wild animals, it's a good idea to make sure that your home doesn't offer entry by way of broken attic or roof vents, dilapidated eaves, or crumbling foundations or stairs.

Sometimes animals find a way to live on our properties without invitations because, of course, they have always lived here. One of these fascinating mammals is North America's smallest ground squirrel, the chipmunk.

You will never see another animal collect seed anywhere close to the rate at which these little imps fill



their twin cheek pouches before they scamper away to stash it in their underground lairs. They do this relentlessly. They've dug tunnels where I don't want them, which creates brief consternation, and then I outwit them with a heavy stone, or a cut length of branch. I've been able to get them to tunnel where everyone's happy.

The point to all of this is that **recent federal declarations** have weakened protections for wildlife, even on the edges of federal parks. The

world's climate crisis makes it more difficult for wildlife to subsist within their historic ranges as access to food and water can change quickly. With this in mind, the stray raccoon taking advantage of your bird feeder in broad daylight may not present radical behavior or an imposition on the birds, but the need to take the risk to simply eat. A bird bath sweetens the risk-reward equation. Raccoons have gone so far as to fully recline in my backyard bird bath, pulling it to the ground at times. It's not an infringement on rights.

Natural food chains are full of predators from the soil beneath our feet to the skies above our heads. Food chains make human life possible. Terrestrial mammalian predators live among us and perform essential functions across food chains, but many of the species that belong

Wildlife, cont.

to this group make people uncomfortable in suburban settings—more often than not, for the wrong reasons. It's hard not to respect any species that survives and procreates in the wild.

As I considered what to right for this article, I came upon a blog post, quite accidentally, by the Humane Society of the United States about an [undercover exposé on wildlife killing contests still occurring in Maryland](#).

Beware, the article is shocking.

I had read about these before, but didn't know they occurred so close to home. I have gathered very little data from Maryland Department of Natural Resources officials on whether the claims made by proponents have any validity. The question arises, however, what economic toll do raccoons, red and

gray foxes, and coyotes really place on rural farmers and does this toll justify killing hundreds of these animals in a single day? For a cash prize! And what is the environmental cost of these killing contests with so many species already teetering on the knife's edge of extinction?

Delegate Dana Stein, Democrat from Baltimore County, has introduced [HB 863, Natural Resources—Hunting Restrictions—Hunting Contests](#), the hearing for which was held February 26, 2020. It has strong support from the Montgomery County Delegation.

If it doesn't pass, maybe the parks and stream valleys and neighborhoods of Montgomery County can serve as sanctuaries to ensure that some respite is afforded these wild travelers while they simply try to survive. What are we without wildlife? ■

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](mailto:president@montgomerycivic.org). Include topics/possible dates.

Rounding Up Running Bamboo: Know What You're Getting Into

By Carole Ann Barth

Bamboo is lovely, it has great cultural significance, and it is a fast-growing resource with myriad uses from food to fiber to construction. However, it is problematic as a garden plant anywhere outside its native range. Running bamboos are particularly invasive, because their growth habit is to send underground runners horizontally out from the parent plant which give rise to new shoots at every other joint.

In addition, they grow very quickly. Running bamboo can grow 12 inches to 3 feet a day and its underground runners can travel 30 feet away from the original plant. (Some plants have spread more than 15 feet horizontally in a single season.)



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IMPACTS

Since bamboo tends to like moist soil, the roots have been known to clog sewer lines and water pipes. It can grow up through asphalt driveways, decks, and pools, as well as behind siding. It can cost thousands of dollars to have it professionally removed. Areas taken over by bamboo quickly cease to be diverse plant communities capable of supporting a variety of wildlife and become mono-

cultures. Some running bamboo species grow to a height of 40 ft. or more, interfering with power lines and bending over under rain or snow, blocking driveways and rights of way.

Controlling running bamboo is a multiyear, multistep process, according to the Missouri Botanical Garden:

1. Contain the running bamboo with a physical barrier.

The safest containment methods for running bamboo are (1) planting in containers, or (2) installing a vertical, 30- to 40-mil thick plastic rhizome barrier 22–30 inches deep around the perimeter of the area in which the bamboo is to be contained. The advantage of this material is that even large plantings of bamboo can

Bamboo, cont.

be surrounded with a single length of plastic, requiring only one seam. It is preferable to cement (which often develops cracks), or metal (which rusts and requires many seams), is less expensive, and lasts 20–30 years if installed properly.

2. Many years of effort may be needed to eradicate running bamboo. Begin by either digging as much of the root system out as possible—no easy job—or cutting the bamboo to the ground and then continue by following up with regular removal. New shoots will come up from the rhizomes. Break them off or cut them off with pruning shears. Keep doing this until no more shoots come up. This will exhaust the energy stored in the rhizomes underground. Without green leaves to photosynthesize and produce new energy, they will no lon-

ger be able to send up new shoots. The rhizomes will be left behind but will rot away. This is a slow, labor intensive process.

3. Cut off unwanted shoots.

The active growth period usually lasts for only about 2 weeks every spring, then little or no additional new growth will occur until the following spring. Therefore, cut off any shoots you don't want but remember all of the culms (stalks) of bamboo in a clump or grove are interconnected underground by rhizomes (underground stems). New shoots will grow again next year. If the bamboo in your yard comes from another's yard, separate your grove from his by cutting the connecting rhizomes, which are usually quite shallow. If this isn't done, and his part is healthy and vigorous, the rhizomes in your part will still be supported by the photosynthesis in the leaves of his part, and

your efforts will be in vain. Cutting rhizomes with a spade or a saw will do the trick if it is done every year. If the growth is old, you may need to use a mattock or a digging bar the first time. Digging a ditch and putting in a barrier is a more permanent solution.

4. Mow unwanted shoots in lawn areas. If the bamboo is surrounded by lawn, then just mow frequently over the area where the bamboo is coming up during the spring shooting season.

5. Using chemical weed killers may be helpful. Be warned that bamboo doesn't respond well to any herbicide currently on the market. If glyphosate (Round Up) is used, remember it is taken in through the leaves only, and it must be applied in an undiluted form. Often the plants will

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!

Please volunteer for MCCF's
Nominating Committee.
The MCCF will only be effective
with good leadership.

Recommendations
are needed for:

President
1st Vice President
2nd Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

A report will be due by May.
Contact the MCCF at *info AT montgomerycivic DOT com* to
volunteer or ask questions.

Bamboo, cont.

still re-shoot. Some have used a “cut and paste method” with some success. Each culm is cut to within 6" of the ground and immediately (within 15 seconds) painted with concentrated glyphosate. (Note: Some sources indicate horticultural vinegar works.)

HOW TO ID RUNNING BAMBOO

If you decide to plant clumping bamboo, you need to be sure you are not getting running bamboo by mistake. Not every nursery knows the difference, so it's buyer beware. First, you want to avoid any *Phyllostachys* species such as *Phyllostachys nigra* (Black Bamboo), *Phyllostachys aurea* (Golden Bamboo or Fish-pole Bamboo) or *Phyllostachys aureosulcata* (yellow groove bamboo).

Secondly, you want to avoid *Pleioblastus* species. These are dwarf running bamboos that are very popular as ground covers. If the plants are not labelled, look at some of the young canes. Running bamboo canes have a small notch (the cross section looks a little like a pac-man), clumping bamboo is perfectly round. The rhizomes (underground runners) are also different. Running bamboo rhizomes are jointed like canes. Clumping bamboo rhizomes look scaly.

PROPOSED RUNNING BAMBOO RESTRICTION

Senator Ben Kramer has introduced [SB 491, Regulation of Invasive Plants—Bamboo—Prohibitions](#). Under SB491, for the first time, people growing bamboo would be required to properly contain it and may be

Bamboo, cont.

issued a fine or penalty if they do not. Thus, the burden of dealing with runaway bamboo now falls on the source property rather than the impacted property owner. (Maryland courts have historically ruled that a neighbor cannot seek damages in court for the damages caused by your neighbor's bamboo [or other invasive]. That means it was up to you to remove the runners and shoots and

not the neighbor who planted the invasive plant species.) Virginia has a similar law, as does Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. In these states, even towns and boroughs can enact restrictions, and quite a few have.

The bill changes running bamboo from a Tier 2 to a Tier 1 invasive, meaning a person may not propagate, import, transfer, sell, purchase, transport, or introduce any living part of a Tier 1 invasive plant in the

State. (These restrictions do not apply to the transfer, lease, sale, or purchase of real property on which an invasive plant is located. Tier 2 plants may still be sold but warning signs must be posted.) It also authorizes local governments to adopt local rules or regulations to require upkeep and containment of bamboo and to enforce those requirements.

BILL STATUS

The bill has been held up in committee, where it received an unfavorable report from the Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. Thus, it is not likely to pass this session. However, it is not unusual for bills to take several years to garner enough support to pass. So, keep an eye out for a similar bill next session and, in the meantime, please don't buy or plant running bamboo. ■



Minutes of the February 10, 2020, MCCF General Meeting #910, in Rockville

By Karen Cordry, Recording Secretary

The General Meeting convened at the Executive Office Building.

Call to Order: President Bailey Condrey called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m. and attendees provided introductions.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda: It was moved and seconded that the agenda as printed in the newsletter be adopted. The agenda was unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS

■ The Planning Board will hold a meeting on February 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Silver Spring Civic Building

to discuss the pending Pedestrian Master Plan.

■ The League of Women Voters will be holding a discussion on Pedestrian Safety Issues on Mon., Feb. 24, at the Rockville Library at 6:45 p.m.

Approval of January Minutes: It was moved and seconded that minutes of the January meeting, as published in the newsletter be approved. The minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of January 13, revenue from dues was a total of \$1,148. Total expenses have been \$1,950, which includes a number of substantial prepaid expenditures, including for the post office box, the website, and

the \$957.50 for meeting room rentals for the year. Further details are contained in the Treasurer's report in the newsletter.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

The topic for February was a discussion of "Greening the County." The primary speaker (one was unable to attend) was Helga Luest, a long-time community activist, candidate for state delegate in District 18, and a member of two of the County Executive's appointed work groups dealing with the imminent and ongoing effects of climate change, as declared in the County's climate emergency declaration in 2017. There are total of 5 workgroups—buildings, clean energy, transportation, climate adaptation and seques-

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tration, and public engagement/education. Helga serves on the latter two groups and chairs the Evidence Based Communications subgroup.

She began by noting that the IPCC, a global organization of climate scientists, stated in 2018 that drastic steps had to be taken to fix the problem by 2030 to avoid the worst effects of the changing climate. The County's goals are to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2027 and 100% by 2035. The workgroups have compiled some 400 recommendations to date from their own discussions and review of other efforts and are now working to winnow them down and prioritize changes for the Council to consider.

She further described the Adaptation and Sequestration workgroup as dealing with two issues. First is

how to make existing buildings and landscapes more resilient to effects of climate change, such as higher water levels and increased flooding, which can give rise to side effects like higher tick populations and Lyme disease, more severe outbreaks of asthma, and the like. The other issue is reducing emissions by looking at innovative ways to sequester them so they do not enter the atmosphere.

The other group she works with has to do with informing and educating the public so as to communicate the urgent need for change and for all to become involved and support the changes. In that regard, while large majorities agreed that climate change is real, that it's largely caused by human actions, and that it's harmful in general, only about 51% view it as something that is hurting them personally at this point. Thus, in looking for effective messages, the

group has focused on how to make the effects salient and warranting vigorous action. The most effective message to date has focused on two points: one, looking at these issues as a legacy for one's children and beyond; and two, framing the issue in terms of its health effects which make it more current and important to listeners personally. One slogan being looked at now that incorporates those themes is "Montgomery County Carbon Free—A Healthy County for a Better Future." The messaging also tries to show that individual actions can make a difference, including by using green transportation methods and reducing heat extremes by planting more trees.

Bailey Condrey presented some of the slides from the second planned presenter, Theresa Cullen,

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the Executive Director of the Alice Ferguson Foundation, which works to connect people to the natural world. They have opened the Caf-fritz Environmental Center, which is a Net Zero facility for environmental learning with numerous construction features to allow for natural ventilation, lighting, and the like. The presentation also noted a number of programs working to expose kids to nature and the evidence that such exposure improves their mental and emotional functioning as well as their physical health.

Bailey then spoke on some of the projects going on in the county, such as trying to determine appropriate locations for large solar panel projects and whether they could peacefully co-exist with other county

priorities such as maintaining the agricultural reserve. One possible location is under existing high-tension power lines or possibly at an old Pepco plant with about 2,000 acres that is now closed. Other county efforts are focusing on reforestation and ensure that native habitat is maintained.

Jim Driscoll, Chairman of the MoCo Coalition for 80% by 2027, will be holding a discussion on climate change issues at the Silver Spring Library, at 900 Wayne Avenue, from 6:30–8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation

■ It was noted that the P3 group (the Governor's Private-Public Partnership) planning group has concluded that Phase 1 will consist

of extended 2 HOT (high-occupancy toll) lanes from the American Legion Bridge all the way to Frederick running along the I-70/I-270 corridor. Notices for those wishing to submit bids have been sent out.

Phase 2, which would deal with the I-495 segment through Montgomery and Prince George's County, will probably not be moving forward until Phase 1 is done, which will be an extended period of time in the future. The new director, Greg Slater, seems likely to be somewhat more responsive and easier to work with than his predecessor.

■ In other events, Chris Conklin, the director of the County DOT is heading a project on light synchronization on major roads, as well as looking at requirements for when left turn signals will be installed, on either a full-time or part-time basis.

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Environmental

■ Montgomery County is still moving ahead with installing artificial turf field despite all the concerns that have been raised. They are now allowing private groups to raise funds (some \$4.5 million) to pay for putting in new soccer field. It was noted that the field installed at Walter Johnson High School was defective and required a continual addition of infill material to keep it useable, which then left the County with some 5 million pounds of such material to be removed and carted away when the field was replaced.

■ It was noted that HB 795, to allow the appointment of an Inspector General for the school system, was expected to have a hearing in the state legislature in the next few weeks.

ADJOURNMENT

Bailey called for and received unanimous approval for adjournment at 9:34 p.m.

Montgomery County Civic Federation

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