

June Program: MCCF's Annual Awards Event | Our June meeting, will be held only in person, not online. The time is also earlier, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and it will be on Sunday, instead of the second Monday of the month. The price is \$35 per person; use the link below or on the next page to purchase tickets. The buffet of Salvadoran and Mexican food will be held at Los Chorros Restaurant in Wheaton; kosher food

will also be available. Parking is free in the public lot on the block. | **P. 2**

Dear Delegates and Members
| A note from outgoing president Cheryl Gannon | **P. 3**

2026 Awardees | Read some of the details about this year's award recipients before the June ceremony | **P. 4**

County Council Approves FY27 Operating Budget | See a few details on this self-proclaimed "comprehensive financial package" | **P. 5**

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TO PRINT, USE PRINT VERSION

of note

Next MCCF Meeting #975

SUNDAY, June 7, 2026, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at Los Chorros Restaurant, Wheaton. Topic: MCCF's Annual Awards Event

! In-Person Event only, no online participation

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Membership Application

JOIN ONLINE | MAIL-IN FORM

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER
SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026
5:00 P.M. | \$35 PER PERSON
LOS CHORROS RESTAURANT
2420 BLUERIDGE AVENUE
SILVER SPRING, MD 20902
BUY TICKETS HERE



MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION INC.

SERVING AND ADVOCATING FOR THE
RESIDENTS OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY SINCE 1925

MCCF's Annual Awards Celebration

Sunday, June 7, 2026 | 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Los Chorros Salvadoran-Mexican Restaurant
2420 Blueridge Avenue | Wheaton, MD 20902**

*Come celebrate another year of community involvement and civic engagement
with the Montgomery County Civic Federation!*

PURCHASE TICKETS HERE

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 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 9**

Dear Delegates and Members,

Our annual dinner and awards ceremony is approaching, and I hope you can join us to celebrate this year's honorees.

The event will take place on Sunday, June 7, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at Los Chorros restaurant in Silver Spring. Please [purchase your ticket here](#) and encourage others to attend.

This year, we are proud to present the following awards:

■ **Legacy of Leadership Award:** County Executive Marc Elrich. Former County Executive Ike Leggett will present the award, joined by several other elected leaders. Marc

has been a dedicated supporter of our neighborhoods and issues, and I hope we can have a great turnout to thank him for his service.

■ **Sentinel Award:** Kemp Mill Civic Association, for their outstanding education and advocacy work.

■ **Wayne Goldstein Award:** The Gasaway Sisters of Scotland, for preserving the history of Scotland and other legacy Black communities; and the Renters Alliance of Montgomery County, for their comprehensive advocacy program promoting stable, safe, and affordable housing.

As you know, my term as President is finished and we will an-

nounce our election results. I look forward to thanking you all for your support and help over the last two years as, is the tradition, the Star Cup is presented to me.

We will also welcome Linda Nemec, as our new President. There will be plenty of opportunities to mingle with elected leaders and other MCCF members and enjoy a delicious buffet.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Best regards,

Cheryl Gannon

2026 Annual Awards Ceremony Awardees

LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP AWARD

This new award is to be given in its sophomore year to **County Executive Marc Elrich**, whose vision, integrity, and devotion to service have left an enduring mark on the county and its people through a career of service and steadfast commitment to the public good, justice, and inclusive government. The award recognizes Marc Elrich's lifetime achievements in public service—as a teacher, Takoma Park City Councilmember, Montgomery County Councilmember, and County Executive.

THE SENTINEL AWARD

To be awarded to the **Kemp Mill Civic Association**, for the comprehensive education and effec-

tive advocacy work on the University Boulevard master plan and their overall excellent educational and community building activities within the Kemp Mill community in Silver Spring.

THE WAYNE GOLDSTEIN AWARD

To be awarded jointly to:

I The Gasaway Sisters of Scotland, for their work strengthening the bonds among Montgomery County's historically Black communities—Scotland, Tobytown, Stewartown, Sandy Spring, Lincoln Park, Emory Grove, Ken-Gar, Jerusalem, and beyond. Together, these neighborhoods form the Kinship Communities: a network of families, elders, and descendants whose stories are deeply intertwined.

I The Renters Alliance, for their work promoting stable, affordable and safe living spaces for renters while also building community within rental developments. Their comprehensive and effective advocacy program has successfully promotes economic fairness, safe living conditions, and community building within rental buildings and has improved the lives of the renters in Montgomery County.

THE STAR CUP

The 2026 Star Cup goes to **Cheryl Gannon**, outgoing MCCF President, for indefatigable advocacy and service to the Civic Associations of Montgomery County during her two-year term at the MCCF. ■

County Council Approves FY27 Operating Budget

The Montgomery County Council has officially approved a \$7.9 billion operating budget and a \$6.3 billion six-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2027, both of which take effect on July 1, 2026. This comprehensive financial package follows months of public hearings, staff briefings, and rigorous internal deliberations.

A central feature of this budget is its commitment to education, with a 6.1% increase in funding for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), totaling over \$3.7 billion. This investment is intended to support both students and staff during a period of complex fiscal demands.

In a significant policy shift, the Council moved away from the County Executive's proposed across-the-board tax increases. Instead, the

approved budget implements a new, progressive income tax structure. Under this plan, residents earning more than \$150,000 will be taxed at a 3.3% rate, while lower-income households will benefit from reduced rates on the first \$150,000 of their earned income. Furthermore, the Council formally rejected the proposed property tax increase.

The budget also includes the elimination of the Income Tax Offset Credit (ITOC). The \$8 million generated from this change is being specifically redirected toward critical infrastructure projects, with a focus on heating, cooling, ventilation, and security upgrades for schools throughout the county.

Beyond education and tax reform, the budget secures substantial funding for essential public services,

including:

- Approximately \$574 million for the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Over \$317 million for the Department of Transportation.
- Continued support for public safety, affordable housing, environmental programs, and economic development.

The approved budget DOES NOT provide funding for the Office of the People's Counsel.

This budget represents a challenging effort to balance the County's immediate service requirements with long-term fiscal sustainability. Residents interested in a detailed breakdown of these expenditures and the full project schedules can review the official documents at the [MoCo Open Budget website](#). ■

MCCF General Meeting #974 Minutes, May 11, 2026, 7 pm, via Zoom

By Alan Bowser, Secretary

[A video link is here.]

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Gannon at 7:00 p.m.

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

3. Approval of the Minutes. The minutes of the April 13, 2026, General Meeting were approved.

4. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Jerry Garson reported a bank balance of \$5,646.00.

5. May Program: Data Centers in Montgomery County. Caroline Taylor of the Montgomery

Countryside Alliance was the guest speaker. Her presentation highlighted the significant infrastructure and environmental challenges posed by hyperscale data centers, specifically focusing on a massive proposed Amazon project on the Terara property in Dickerson.

a. Environmental and Resource Pressures: Water Guzzling. The Dickerson project has requested a permit to draw up to 2 million gallons of water per day from the Potomac River, a major concern given regional drought cycles. The cooling process results in high evaporation losses, and on-site bleach manufacturing for system maintenance risks river contamination.

b. Power Demands vs. Climate

Goals. Phase 1 alone requires 360 megawatts of power (equivalent to 149,000 homes), with a second phase adding 275 megawatts. This load directly conflicts with the county's 2035 carbon-neutral goals and strains a regional grid already at risk for brownouts by 2027.

c. Diesel Backups. Despite initial pledges to use cleaner energy, current plans rely heavily on diesel backup generators.

d. Zoning and Regulatory Gaps. Because the county lacks specific zoning for data centers, the Department of Permitting Services bypassed standard conditional-use reviews by classifying these massive facilities as "cable communications

May Meeting Minutes, cont.

facilities.” Under this loophole, over 2,000 acres of heavy industrial land countywide could automatically qualify for data center development.

e. Lack of Transparency.

There has been no independent cost-benefit analysis provided by the county, and negotiations—including potential financial offset deals with Amazon—are being handled opaquely without public input.

f. Pending Legislation. Residents are pushing for ZTA 26-01 amendments to ban diesel backups and enforce strict setbacks. Upcoming June 16th hearings will address a proposed 6-month pause and a 2-year moratorium on data center permitting.

6. Key Questions and Concerns Raised by the Audience

a. Environmental Impact and Loopholes. Members asked about risks to local landmarks (like the historic Sycamore tree, which is safe) and pointed out that Councilmember Glass’s 6-month moratorium was originally written to exempt pending projects like Dickerson.

b. Lack of Enforcement. Attendees expressed deep skepticism regarding the county’s willingness to enforce forest conservation and replanting rules, citing past infrastructure projects where promised greenery was left to die or never planted.

c. Grid Strain and Allocation Priorities. Questions arose about alternative energy, including whether developers plan to self-generate using small nuclear reactors. A critical concern was raised regarding priority allocation—specifically, whether residential homes or data centers would be cut off first during peak summer shortages, as no protective regulatory mechanism currently exists.

d. Economic Realities and Politics. When asked about the “pros” of these facilities, Taylor noted that promised tax revenues are poorly defined, permanent jobs are minimal, and local ratepayers will ultimately shoulder the cost of grid upgrades. Furthermore, the state delegation

May Meeting Minutes, cont.

currently mirrors the Governor's eager pro-industry stance, leaving residents to lead the pushback at the county level.

7. Annual Awards Dinner.

The Awards Dinner will be held on June 7, 2026, at Los Chorros Restaurant in Wheaton. President Gannon announced this year's MCCF Award recipients.

8. Conservation Montgomery's Home Tree Care 101 Classes. Caren Madsen of Conservation Montgomery announced a free class for MCCF Delegates and

members to be held in a location to be determined. Interested persons should contact info@conservation-montgomery.org to nominate their neighborhoods.

9. Nominations Committee.

A report by Nominations Committee Chair Joe Harkins announced the nominations for 2026–2027 MCCF Officers: President Linda Nemeč; 1st Vice President Cheryl Gannon; 2nd Vice President Elizabeth Joyce; Secretary Alan Bowser; and Treasurer Jerry Garson. He asked for nominations from the floor; there were none. Information about the

nominees is in the May newsletter. A secure ballot will be sent to Delegates in a few days. The election results will be announced at the Awards Dinner.

10. Other issues. Speakers commented on ongoing concerns about artificial turf fields, MCPS's proposals to put a bus depot in the Serpentine Barrens special protection areas, and bus rapid transit plans.

11. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. ■

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, May 20, 2026

By Alan Bowser, Secretary

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by President Cheryl Gannon at 7:00 p.m. Members present: Cheryl Gannon, Jerry Garson, Liz Joyce, Daniel Meijer, Jacquie Bokow.

2. Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Jerry Garson reported a bank balance of \$5,724.00.

3. 2026 Awards Dinner. President Gannon reviewed plans for the June 7th MCCF Annual Awards Dinner at Los Chorros Restaurant in Wheaton, Md.

4. 2026 Awards. The Wayne Goldstein Award will be presented to the Renters Alliance of Montgomery

County and the Gasaway Sisters of Scotland; the Sentinel Award will be presented to the Kemp Mill Civic Association; the Legacy of Leadership Award will be presented to Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich, and the Star Cup to MCCF President Cheryl Gannon. Former County Executive Ike Leggett and several elected officials are expected to attend. Dan Meijer has offered to provide audio/visual assistance. The awards are available for pickup.

5. Newsletter. Newsletter articles are due by May 30, 2026.

6. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. ■

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

Send all address corrections to membership AT montgomerycivic.org.

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