

"Federation Corner" column  
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### **2012 MCCF Awards Banquet to be held May 11**

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The Montgomery County Civic Federation's 2012 Awards Banquet will be held the evening of Friday, May 11, in the New Fortune Restaurant at 16515 South Frederick Avenue (MD 355) in Gaithersburg. A wine reception will take place from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by dinner, then capped off by the awards program. This annual event provides an opportunity to socialize with county elected and appointed officials, to honor the awardees for providing outstanding volunteer service to the county and its residents, and enjoy a tasty appetizer and seven entree Chinese dinner served family style.

The Federation encourages attendees to send in their reservations with payment by mail to be received by May 9. The charge is slightly higher for reservations received after May 9, or for those who decide to attend at the last minute and pay cash at the door. The reservation form, including the banquet menu, can be downloaded from the homepage of the MCCF website at [www.montgomerycivic.org](http://www.montgomerycivic.org).

The following is a list of this year's award recipients.

**The Wayne Goldstein Award** is given to an individual or group for outstanding service to the people of Montgomery County. The MCCF proudly bestows the 2012 Wayne Goldstein Award on the Montgomery Countryside Alliance.

Thirty years ago, forward thinking Montgomery County planners created the Ag Reserve to protect rapidly disappearing family farms. Today, while an acre of farmland is lost in the US every minute, the Reserve remains the nation's most successful farmland protection effort. MCA has spent the last decade helping to protect the land and supporting those who farm it.

Through its website ([www.mocoalliance.org](http://www.mocoalliance.org)), email newsletter, public testimony and events, the Alliance educates and advocates on legislative, transportation, and land use issues that impact the county's rural areas and farms. MCA also works to strengthen the wider local food system by helping local farmers find resources to start and grow their operations, while also promoting local food and farmers markets to area consumers.

Programs like Land Link, which links new and expanding farmers with local land to lease or buy, and a series of Producers Summits seek to keep family farms viable and maintain agriculture as a powerful economic engine in the county. MCA's history of success is attributable to two paid staff members, a highly engaged Board of Directors and an Advisory Committee of twenty-five community leaders. MCA's impact is widely felt, leading the Catalogue for Philanthropy of Greater Washington to recognize it as "one of the best" small nonprofits in the DC area in 2011.

MCA is currently working to expand their outreach by producing a thirty minute educational movie entitled "Growing Legacy" that profiles the purposeful beauty of the Ag Reserve. With this powerful tool, MCA will reach out to communities across the county and beyond, to spread the message about the valuable role that the Ag Reserve plays in the wider region. For this vital work, we are pleased to present this year's Wayne Goldstein Award to the Montgomery Countryside Alliance.

County Councilmember Marc Elrich (D.-At Large) will present the Goldstein Award to the Montgomery Countryside Alliance.

**The Sentinel Award** is sponsored by the Montgomery Sentinel newspaper. It is awarded to an individual or group for a significant contribution to good government at the local level. This year, we honor the Zoning Advisory Panel's Community Representatives.

The Zoning Advisory Panel (ZAP) was formed in March 2009 from appointees named by the Planning Board, for the purpose of offering advice on the rewrite of the county's Zoning Ordinance. The Panel has met monthly since its creation, and will conclude its work when the draft Ordinance is presented to the Board later this year. Some ZAP members are from various land use related professions, while others are county residents appointed as Community Representatives to focus on how the rewrite might impact various constituencies in the county--residents in rural and agricultural areas, suburban communities, residential neighborhoods, urbanized areas, and seniors. It is these unpaid volunteers, the Community Representatives, which the Federation honors with this award. They are: Patricia Baptiste; Diana Conway; Julie Davis; Martin Klauber; Leslie Marks; Kimbly Persaud; and Jane Seigler.

County Councilmember Phil Andrews (D.-Dist. 3) will present the Sentinel Award to the Community Representatives of the Zoning Advisory Panel.

**The Star Cup** has been given by the Civic Federation since 1925 to a Delegate or Committee of the Federation for outstanding public service on behalf of Montgomery County. This year, we are pleased to award the Star Cup to Paula Bienenfeld, Education Chairman.

Paula has done an outstanding job of following and helping us understand many issues pertaining to our public school system including the selection of our new superintendent; the bumpy selection process for the site of the new Bethesda-Chevy Chase cluster middle school; the MCPS budget; misuse of school credit cards, and so much more. She works closely with the Parents' Coalition and she recently organized an excellent public forum for the candidates running for the Board of Education. But Paula has gone above and beyond the scope of her committee work by hosting meetings of the Executive Committee in her home, chairing the MCCF Nominations Committee, encouraging us to attend the seminar put on by The Sunlight Foundation, and working with councilmembers and the Board of Education to adopt the "Checkbook Online" as a fiscal management tool. She is a Renaissance woman with boundless curiosity and energy from which we all benefit, and is a most deserving recipient of the Star Cup.

Barbara Hollingsworth, columnist and local opinion editor for *The Washington Examiner*, will present the Star Cup to Paula Bienenfeld.

Do plan on attending this special event honoring the public service provided by these county volunteers, and mail your reservation today.

*The views expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect formal positions adopted by the Federation. To submit an 800-1000 word column for consideration, send as an email attachment to [theelms518@earthlink.net](mailto:theelms518@earthlink.net)*