

"Federation Corner" column  
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### **MCCF website contains a wealth of information**

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The internet website of the Montgomery County Civic Federation contains a wealth of information not only about the organization but also about the county and activities of its government.

It may not have some of the fancy "bells and whistles" you find on other websites, such as downloadable music or video files, but the MCCF website--[www.montgomerycivic.org](http://www.montgomerycivic.org)--is a useful resource for information from a wide variety of issue areas. The homepage is broken into two primary areas with the upper half of the page containing news about the Federation and the lower half entitled "and in other news" and containing items we believe important to MCCF members and county residents.

The first homepage entry is the date of the upcoming MCCF monthly delegates' meeting and, as the meeting date nears, the topic of the information program for that meeting and names of the speakers on the panel we have engaged to educate us on the topic. The MCCF delegate assembly meets on the second Monday of the month for ten months of the years (we take a break in July and August). Those meetings begin at 7:45 p.m., customarily in the first floor auditorium of the County Council Building in Rockville, and are always open to the public. Non-members often attend the meetings specifically to hear the speakers for the information program and participate in the question and answer period which follows the panel presentation.

The next entry on the Federation website homepage is a click-on to access the most recent edition of the MCCF monthly newsletter. The newsletters may contain general county news as well as information on planned Federation activities, such as resolutions coming up for vote by the delegates at our next meeting which will establish a position on county government policies or legislation. And the monthly newsletters contain minutes of the last month delegates' meeting and of the Executive Committee meeting that took place the previous month.

The newsletter item is followed by an area with the heading "news posted in website updates." This is a listing of the most recent additions of information to other pages on the site, and some that are not recent but remain for a time because they are so noteworthy. And, as already noted, the lower half of the homepage is home for important non-Federation news items.

A simple menu with twelve option buttons is housed on the left side of the MCCF website homepage. By clicking on one of these buttons, the user can navigate to other areas on the website such as the page "About MCCF" and a list of "Officers and Committee Chairs."

The "Current Issues" option takes users to a list of Federation standing committees, and clicking on the name of a committee takes one to a page of the issues, such as proposed changes in county law or policies, being monitored by that MCCF committee. Other menu options include a listing of "Resolutions" adopted by Federation delegates at past meetings, a link to past issues of the "Newsletter," and an archive of all past "Federation Corner columns" that have been published in The Montgomery Sentinel. The Federation Corner archives are a significant information resource on a number of issues such as county land use and growth, the environment, the county budget, and even multi-part analyses on topics like pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipes like the one that burst flooding River Road a few years back.

There is also a menu option labeled "Archived MCCF documents" that takes users to a list of important entries in the historical record of the Federation, including the 2002 "MCCF Position on Projects in County Transportation Plan" and the accompanying "MCCF Transportation Plan" from 2004, the "Site Plan Enforcement Study" conducted by the MCCF in 2005 with follow-ups released in 2006 and 2007, and the 2008 "MCCF Housing Affordability Report."

Clicking on the next three options in the homepage menu of the Civic Fed website will take users, in order, to a listing of the "Community Heroes" from neighborhoods throughout the county whose volunteer efforts the Federation has recognized, to a listing of the past recipients of the MCCF Annual Awards (the Star Cup, the Wayne Goldstein Award, and the Sentinel Award), and to a listing of the Past Presidents of the organization.

The final two menu options are entitled "How to join", which allows users to open a printable membership application, and a "Quick Links" button to a list of links to websites of other county non-profit organizations with missions related to that of the Federation, and to websites of important county government offices and agencies. And if a user has a question for which they can't find an answer on the MCCF website, they can always hit the "Contact Us" button and submit their request on a simple form which is forwarded to the Federation's mailbox--[montgomerycivic@yahoo.com](mailto:montgomerycivic@yahoo.com).

Are you looking for something to read while on vacation this month? Check out the Montgomery County Civic Federation website. You'll be surprised what you can learn.

*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)*