



CIVIC FEDERATION NEWS

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Dick Kauffunger (far right) acquired the Norman Rockwell print "Freedom of Speech" in commemoration of MCCF's recognition of Frank Vrtaric as our Community Hero last December. Blair Ewing (2nd from right) hung the print in the County Council Office Building on Monday August 27, 2001. Also pictured attending the ceremony are (from the left) MCCF Vice President Cary Lamari and President I. Dean Ahmad, Frank's daughter Elsie Brown and his wife Ann, and Frank himself. (See remarks in "From the President column, p. 10).—Photo courtesy Victoria Rose

This month's MCCF Program will be the Public Hearing on Redistricting. See pages 2, 10 and 12. We attend the hearing at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 10, 2001 at the 3rd floor hearing room in the Council Office Building and then adjourn to the Auditorium for our business meeting at 9 p.m.

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Redistricting Hearing Will Be MCCF Program in September

–by George Sauer, Legislation Comm. Chair

There are many levels of redistricting following a decennial census. Representation in the Federal House of Representatives is revised. Then each state with more than one House member must redistrict to account for population changes in addition to seats gained or lost. Due to the one-man-one-vote ruling, states must adjust their legislative districts. Localities with seats not elected at large must also adjust their districts.

In Maryland the Governor is given responsibility for redistricting the US House seats and the state legislative seats. These plans must be presented to the legislature at the beginning of the session the second year after the census. The legislature has 45 days to come up with its own plan or the Governor's plan takes effect. The Governor has included Senate President Miller, House Speaker Taylor, Ike Leggett, and a token Republican from the Eastern Shore on his redistricting committee. (Incidentally, they will be holding a hearing on Thursday 6 September at the Fine Arts auditorium of Montgomery College Rockville starting at 7 p.m.)

On the county level, the county council is charged with redistricting the five district seats. Ten years ago the Democrats, in a very partisan way, placed the two Republican members in one district. The hubbub that raised helped reelect both Republicans so I don't think that the Democrats will give the Republicans that issue again. The council-appointed, nine-member redistricting committee will turn over a plan to the council this October. The council will either accept this plan as presented or change it. (Unless there is a hue and cry about some issue, e.g. splitting a community or some such, the council will very likely accept the commission's plan.) Ten years ago there was a very active group whose avowed purpose was to form a district without any down-county residents. This was because the up-county district 2 had been represented first by Esther Gelman who lived south of Rockville and then by Nancy Dacek who lived in Potomac. This year, unless there are some last minute maneuvers, the theme is to make as few changes as possible. Population must shift from districts 2 and 3 to the others. The communities along the borders are

in play. Darnestown has fought off an attempt to split it. Montgomery Village is being adjusted, seemingly without raising any hackles. The biggest problem is keeping Olney in one district. Various plans either put Olney in district 2 or 4 or split it between them. Sandy Spring, Brookeville, and Ashton are used as counterweights to even up the population. There are about two hundred fifty precincts in the county. (Disclaimer–of sorts: If I had my druthers, I would take the fifty or so most Democratic precincts and put as many as I could in one district. If that left the rest of the county up for grabs, I would balance the remaining districts. Otherwise I would create a second very Democratic district and then balance the remainder. Before you go "tut tut," that is (in reverse) exactly what Miller and the Governor have stated they are doing with Congressional and legislative districts.)

One further note–Maryland's legislative districts now consist of one Senator and three Delegates, mostly elected at large. This tends to dilute the power of minorities (including the Republican minority). By **subdividing the Delegate districts we would likely get a more diverse representation.** In the immediate future, this change would discomfit some incumbents who today may live within a few houses of each other.

Delegate Meeting Minutes June 11, 2001

–by Richard Zierdt, Recording Secretary

Dean Ahmad declares meeting open. Introductions are announced.

Announcements. June 18 Fairland Library, 7:30 Burtonsville home-owner umbrella group. Montrose Parkway presentation June 12.

Agenda is approved.

Minutes from May delegates meeting are adopted without objections.

Awards program, presided by William Skinner. Star Cup Award is awarded to Charles L. Wolff for long-time and active participation in civic life, such as the conference center and Clarksburg Jail. Also involved heavily involved with CITPAC. MCCF presidents

Charles Lapinski, Dean Ahmad, and William Skinner praise his coolness, and behind-the-scene works.

Sentinel Award. Delegate Dana Dembro and Sentinel publisher Mrs. Lynn Kapiloff present the award to John Parrish, particularly for his environmental preservation effort, such as the Jessup Blair Park.

Gazette Award. Dr. Michael Stern from Boys' and Girls' Homes, and Gazette publisher William Schlossenberg present the award to Robert M. McCarthy. Mr. McCarthy has been involved with B&G Homes for 15 years, and with Christmas in April.

Refreshments. 8:32 pm

Business. 9:02 pm. Dean thanks the refreshment committee. Bill Skinner passes out information booklets about the Boys' & Girls' Homes group.

Old business. Secretary asks the president for quorum, and president declares that a quorum exists.

Bylaw change that lowers quorum from one-fifth to one-sixth of membership:

6. Quorum and meeting length. A quorum for all meetings shall consist of at least one Delegate from at least one sixth [fifth] of all Member associations.

passes by 25-1-4 vote.

County website use restrictions. Ken Reid. Motion for the **president to appoint a committee to study Council dissemination of information** is made by Dick Kauffunger and seconded by Cary Lamari. Passes by voice with one against. Dean appoints Laura Rich (Walnut Woods) and Ken Reid as Co-Chairs of the Ad-hoc committee. Fifa Northrop, Jorge Ribas and Tom DeGraba volunteered to serve on the committee.

Elections of officers. Dick Kauffunger moves that the complete slate be approved by acclamation. Passes. **The following are elected:**

OFFICE	NOMINEE	TENURE AS OFFICER
President	Dean Ahmad	> 2 yr.
First V.P.	Cary Lamari	RETURN
Second V.P.	Stan Schiff	> 2 yr.
Second V.P.	Jeanne Goldstein	> 2 yr.
Second V.P.	Pat Cummings	NEW

Second V.P.	Dan Wilhelm	1 yr.
Treasurer	Chris Suzich	2 yr.
Rec. Sec'y	Richard Zierdt	2 yr.
Corresp. Sec'y	Winnie Klein	1 yr.
District 1 V.P.	Fifa Northrup	1 yr.
District 2 V.P.	Dick Strombotne	1 yr.
District 3 V.P.	Myrna Taylor	1 yr.
District 4 V.P.	Bob Abrams	NEW
District 5 V.P.	Mark Adelman	NEW

Jaime Escalante Public Charter School Application. Jorge Ribas. Moved that the **MCCF re-affirm its support the creation of the JEPS**. Five seconds. Passes by voice vote.

9:46 pm. Suspension of the rules passes by voice vote.

Chuck Lapinski moves that **Pat Cummings be appointed as a MCCF liason to Citizen Review System Workgroup**. Seconded. Passes.

Planning Board nominees. Cary Lamari moves that the **MCCF support the joint committee's list of qualified candidates (1) Nancy F. Lesser (2) David C. Gardner (3) John M. Robinson**. Seconded.

Meeting adjourns at 10:00 pm.

Ex-Comm Meeting Minutes June 21, 2001

–by Winifred Klein, Coreresponding Secretary

MCCF secretary Richard Zierdt arrives at 7:58; Vice President Cari Lamari is presiding and Dan Wilhelm is giving a report on Summary of Growth Policies, Issues & Recommendations.

MCCF president Dean Ahmad arrives at 8:02 p.m.

Agenda adopted.

Minutes of May ExCom Meeting. Accepted

No treasurer's report.

Audit Committee. Charles Wolff. Committee is now chaired by Bob Jones.

Political Campaigning. Dean called Councilmember Nancy Dacek's aide, (Dacek was pleased to know MCCF intends to pursue the issue of political campaigning by county employees on county time and property). William Skinner and Dean are working on this. Skinner moved that **the County's inspector general should be asked to investigate**. Motion passes.

(President determines that quorum is present.)

Approval of Member Associations. Dean reminds that new voting members must be approved by the MCCF membership. Committee will look at membership requirements: Dean Ahmad, Winnie Klien, Fifa Northrop, and George Sauer.

Special Committee on the County Web site. Fifa Northrop will write opposing article re: Use of County web site for political purposes. Charles Wolff moves that the committee report to the Board at the August 23 ExCom meeting. Seconded. Motion passes. Ken Reid and Laura Rich are co-chairs. Tom DeGrabe, Fifa are members.

Star Cup. Charles Wolff. Motion is **made to authorize up to \$200 for plate work to the Star Cup**. Seconded. Passes. In the interest of saving space, a member groups' name will appear on the Star Cup, as opposed to all individual members. All names will appear in the directory. The Star Cup should be "played up" in the newsletter. Press releases may be helpful.

Community Hero. Dean Ahmad. Dick Strombotne will write a bio on a proposed nominee.

Request from MCPS for MCCF members.

Programs. Cary Lamari will be acting chair. Topic: Redistricting, either County and/or State. Carl Aro, Md State (sent to Dean and Cary). Program will be County redistricting for September. Invite Ralph Wilson; CitPAC will also contribute. Invite a member from the Democratic and Republican parties.

Environment. Charles Pritchard. Police Helicopters. County DEP would be interested. DPWT may use it.

Land Use. Peggy Dennis. Howard Denis has introduced a bill limiting the paving of residential areas. Norman Knopf has raised some objections. Peggy moves that **MCCF Executive Committee urges the County Council defer action on this bill**

until citizens have a chance to comment. Seconded. Passes with one nay.

Membership. Dean. Will send out membership invoices next month. Also, a determination of membership status should be made. Jean Goldstein, Steve Howie, and Richard Zierdt will work on this.

Social Activities. Myrna Taylor. Willing to do reception in December. Asks for dates (and times), and locations for December's reception. Also, speakers and awards. Various suggestions were made, but more are invited by the next meeting.

Letter to County's Prosecutor, Mr. Douglas Ganzler. Myrna Taylor. MCCF had requested that an investigation be conducted of the Keith Warren case. There may be a M.C. Journal article about this. Keith mother's Mary Couey thanks the MCCF.

Police Helicopter. Charles Pritchard on behalf of the Northwood Four Corners CA. Moves that **a motion to support police helicopters be place on the agenda of the September MCCF delegates meeting**. Seconded. The ExComm makes no recommendation (neither for nor against). Passes.

Interviews of candidates for Chair of the Planning Board. Cary Lamari. Committee met with 10 out the 12 applicants. Nancy Lessor, an attorney, got a favorable review. Dave Gardner, also an attorney, got a favorable review. Third and forth, John Robinson and Nancy Floreen. MCCF should contact County Council members.

Meeting adjourns 10:16 pm.

Ex-Comm Meeting Minutes

August 23, 2001

–by Richard Zierdt, Recording Secretary

MCCF corresponding secretary Winnie Klein takes minutes. MCCF president Dean Ahmad calls meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

Announcements. Tobacco lawsuit. Court ordered attorney general and Peter Angelos to tell Board of Contract Appeals what they want them to do. Dick Strombotne: Labels from Steve Howie for Myrna and Peggy.

Agenda. Agenda approved as presented.

Audit Committee. Charles Wolff. Bob Jones did most of the work and Jeanne Goldstein edited. Bob Jones. The examiners concluded that financial status is correct and complete.

8:05 pm: MCCF secretary Richard Zierdt arrives.

Political campaigning on County time. Dean and Bill continue their investigation.

Database management online. John Nelson's company has been providing MCCF with its web site. John has also established web support for every MCCF member organization. A preliminary Buyer's Guide is also established. Consumer affairs site: members may post complaints, complements, etc. Forums, Issues sites. Email members without disclosing their email addresses. Visit the site at: communitywebinc.com

Richard Zierdt moves that **all MCCF member organizations be encouraged to visit and evaluate communitywebinc.com**. Seconded. Passes by voice vote.

Treasurer's report. Chris Suzich. Dean notes that the treasurer should issue semi-annual financial reports. Chris distributes a proposed budget for 2001-02: estimated expenses of \$4,650, and income of \$5,300. Last year's expenses were higher. Current balances: Checking: \$1,545; Savings: \$5,144. Myrna Taylor suggests that postage expenses for the annual reception be separately itemized. Myrna moves that **\$30 for reception postage be included**. Seconded. Passes. Charles Wolff moves acceptance of the budget as amended. [See page 6–Ed.] Seconded. Passes.

Approval of New Member Associations. Dean Ahmad. Dean believes Steve Howie's MCCF membership database is accurate. Dean will present, at the next delegates meeting, those members who have become members since June 1, 2001 (as required by MCCF bylaws).

Special Committee on County Web site. Dean called Ken Reid and Laura Rich for their comments. Tom DeGrabba talked with Patrick Lacefield, the County employee who maintains the Council's website. The Council's position is that it is their site to post Councilmember's opinions. Dean said the primary

issue is the posting of other opinions, such as newspaper editorials, on the website.

Dues Restructuring. Dean Ahmad reads a report he wrote. Dues have not been raised for years, and expenses have gone up. However, the MCCF website offers a way to reduce printing and postage expenses. Dean proposes that current \$15, \$35, \$50, and \$65 membership dues (depending on category) be lowered to \$10, \$25, \$35, \$45, respectfully, but that the newsletter would not be mailed, thus saving printing and postage costs. Instead, members would be notified via email that the newsletter was available at MCCF's newsletter. Members that still wanted a printed copy mailed to them could get it for a \$10 surcharge for each delegate. Discussion ensued. Some argued that few delegates will read it online. For now, Richard will continue to notify delegates via email that the newsletter is available online, and provide a direct link to it provided by Dean. Dues restructuring will be revisited later.

There was no objection to publishing an article about the Escalante School in the newsletter.

Programs. County redistricting program for September may be problematic due to unavailability of officials. Bill Skinner moves that **for the next delegates meeting, MCCF shall assemble at the redistricting hearing on Monday, September 10 at 7:30 PM, and the MCCF business meeting will begin at 9 PM in the 1st floor auditorium**. Motion passes with 1 nay. October: TPR (Transportation Policy Review). Future ideas: Myrna Taylor suggests Jim Johnson speak about the Tacoma Park, Longbranch neighborhood initiatives.

Education. Richard will call John Hoven about chairing the education committee. Mark Adelman is interested as member.

Environment Committee. Charles Pritchard. (1) Legacy Open Space program additions were adopted by the Council (see also Washington Post article on July 25, 2001). (2) Dead birds in Tacoma Park (West Nile virus): Charles will distribute information (literature). Discussion ensued regarding spraying.

Legislation Committee. George Sauer. MCCF meeting January 14 may be a good time for program on state redistricting. Police Citizens Review Board.

[Membership Committee. Jean Goldstein.]

Budget for July, 2000- June 2001

(as approved by Executive Committee August 21 2001)

		2001 Proposed	2000 Actual	2002 Proposed
Income				
Dues	[1]	8000	5870	5300
Reception (net)	[2]	1500	10	0
Total:		9500	5880	5300
Expenses				
Copying		2000	1779	1800
Postage		1000	1172	1325
Newsletter Layout	[3]	600	568	500
Web page	[4]	500	0	150
COB Rent, Misc		380	240	475
Awards		350	362	400
Reserve		720	1671.5	650
Total:		5750	5880	5300

Notes:

[1] Assumes 100 orgs @ \$50 avg. plus 20 associates @ \$15

[2] Assumes annual reception is a wash

[3] Assumes we continue to pay for newsletter layout. An obvious reduction is here if we can return to the days of free layout.

[4] This is purely an estimate.

Chris Suzich, Treasurer

Transportation Committee. Dan Wilhelm. Annual Growth Policy MNCPPC staff draft. Dan reads a letter he wrote on this issue. Support critical lane volume no higher than 1800. Oppose special exceptions to the AGP. Support County-wide development impact tax. Support more businesses to use ride-sharing and public transportation in TMD areas. Oppose a proposal for "Strategic Economic Development" cases. Supports the simplification of the APG. Richard Zierdt moves **that the ExComm recommend Dan's recommendations to the Delegates in September.** Seconded. Passes.

Social Activities. Myrna Taylor. Investigate several reception locations (currently Aspenwood). Distributes handout.

Organizing standing resolutions. Dan Wilhelm would like them ordered by subject. Richard is also finishing compiling them.

Meeting adjourns at 10:26 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Zierdt, MCCF secretary

Future Tax Increases

–by William J. Skinner

More money will be needed by Maryland and Montgomery County governments' following the

large spending increases and new programs in the FY 2002 budgets in both jurisdictions. Maryland's \$1.2 billion budget increase last session and the continued nickel and dime taxes, fees, and other costs in Montgomery County will not be enough. The reduced tax collections during the current economic slow down will exacerbate the problems with government having enough money to continue all of the old programs. You can see examples of new state programs that will cost larger and larger amounts in the future on the Web at www.MarylandTaxEducation.Org. Look for the May 2001 *Maryland Tax Educator* Newsletter.

Another example of the reduced tax collections is that the Federal reduction of the Estate Tax will affect Maryland Estate Tax collections according to Comptroller William Donald Schaefer who issued a new report on August 6th. You can see a discussion of the report on the Web at www.MDTAXES.ORG. In brief, Schaefer calculates the "loss" to the government coffers. Naturally there is little emphasis on the fact that the people who earned the money get to keep it.

As the title above implies, there is no discipline in spending money by the Maryland Legislature or the U.S. Congress. Regardless of party, these legislative bodies continue to let spending increase. The end result will be tax increases.

Any civic-minded person interested in knowing more about the Maryland budget and spending process can prepare to deal with this problem. Advocates for many issues already are getting ready to assault the legislative process in January to get more money from State Taxpayers. Either you have to choose an issue to help get more money for, or you have to prepare to slow this whole process down. The alternative is to set on the sidelines and let it happen without your input. Most Taxpayers are in this category, allowing the present circumstances to exist.

Here is what you can do to get ready. The Fifth **Maryland Institute on State Budget Analysis** will be held November 10 at the Howard County Business Training Center in Columbia. The program will present several speakers from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you want to attend this program you have to write a letter requesting that a seat be reserved for you. Certificates of attendance will be given only to those who stay for the four hours. Write to: MISBA, Maryland Tax Education Foundation, Inc., 103 North

Adams St., Rockville, MD 20850. There is no charge for this program.

All candidates for statewide office are invited now and will be invited to request a seat. Invitations will be sent to all candidates who have filed for state office, to all elected central committee members of all political parties, to members of the Maryland Taxpayers Association, and to members of the Maryland Tax Education Foundation. Space is limited. And no one will be admitted without an advance reservation. Spread the word to those who need to know. Decide if you are one of those persons.

Annual Growth Policy

–by Dan Wilhelm

Every other year the Council reviews the rules used in the Annual Growth Policy (AGP). The purpose of the AGP is to pace development with the government's provision of infrastructure (primarily transportation) to accommodate the increased demand. A hearing will be held on September 11 to consider thirteen issues raised by the Planning staff and Planning Board. Of the thirteen issues, the MCCF Executive Board is proposing positions on some of the issues as follows:

Issues MCCF has previously taken a stand on:

Issue 3. This was a technical change made by the Planning Board several years ago in the way critical lane volumes (CLV) are calculated. MCCF's position since 1998 is that this change will result in a major harm to both the economic health of the county and quality of life of the residents. The CLV is the unit of measurement for the amount of traffic an intersection is carrying based upon traffic count data. The CLV is compared against a congestion standard, which when exceeded designates that action needs to be taken before allowing new nearby development to proceed. The change, which we agree is technically valid, results in a lower CLV number for all intersections with more than one lane of travel in any movement. Our position has been that the County must adjust the standards so that the same congestion level is allowed that existed prior to the Planning Board change.

Issue 8-1 This issue recommends implementation of a countywide development impact tax. Presently, it is imposed only in Clarksburg, Germantown, and Eastern Montgomery County (Fairland-White Oak). MCCF voted in February 2001 and October 1999 to support such a tax. MCCF has also taken the position that the funds be used to provide additional public services, be it for education, transportation, safety or utilities.

New Issues recommended for MCCF action:

Issues 2 and 8. The thrust of smart growth is to restrict development in the rural and agricultural areas and direct its into growth areas primarily with those inside the beltway and the I-270 corridor. Within these development areas, the major focus is to direct development toward Metro Station Policy Areas—that is around Metrorail stations. This narrower objective is to minimize increases in road congestion by encouraging use of transit. The AGP has set transit ridership goals within Metro Station Policy Area for work related trips as high as 39%. **We propose that MCCF support the thrust to focus development in Metro Station Policy Areas.**

The downside of focusing development to Metro Station Policy Areas is an increased level of congestion on the roads in those areas. If the congestion affected only traffic to the Metro Station that would be bad enough. However, these areas also include major roads (US29, Georgia Ave, MD 355, etc) that serve those who drive to and through the area. Presently the CLV standard is 1800 for these areas, which is too congested. Part of the proposed amendments is to reduce the applicability of even these standards to intersections within or near Metro Station Policy Areas. Rather than support or oppose specific actions, **the recommendation is that MCCF state that the major roads must not be allowed to become overly congested and that the existing 1800 standard and the proposal to relax the applicability of the standard will result in unacceptable congestion.** (The TPR effort is also discussing this topic so you will hear much more about this in the next several months.) (Note that MCCF voted in 1995 to oppose different levels of road congestion within the county based upon the level of transit service.)

One of the proposals of addressing congestion is to require businesses with 25 or more employees within Transportation Management Districts (TMDs) to participate. The goal of TMDs is to increase the

number of people who do not drive (i.e. use transit, car pooling, etc). Substantially reducing the amount of auto drivers is unlikely for all businesses, especially small business, without better local bus. While not directly applicable to AGP, **the proposal is for MCCF to support much better local bus service as a means to limit congestion**, not only in Metro Station Policy Areas, but also throughout the urban and suburban areas of the county.

Issues 4, 9, and 10. There are three proposals this year that deal with exceptions to the AGP so that certain categories of development can proceed. This year there are exception proposals for free-standing child day care facilities (issue 4), projects determined by the County Executive as Strategic Economic Development projects (Issue 9) and expanding the use of the exception approved two years ago for Corporate Support and Headquarters Facilities to include their expansion (Issue 10). These exceptions are for things that are desirable. At the same time, many of us feel that the exceptions are (1) unfair since they allow one type of development to proceed but not others, and (2) that they contribute to the ever-increasing congestion. **The proposal is for MCCF to oppose all exceptions as a matter of principle.** Rather the County needs to address congestion for everyone.

Issue 9 is targeted to employers who would bring high paying jobs to the county, which is important. The exception includes two options: (1) allow the development to proceed and the county will pay for improvements or (2) the developer will pay a fee and the county would use those and other funds to make improvements. Both of these would have the County paying for the benefit of select corporations and getting the benefits before other companies who have been waiting in line for county improvements to take place.

Issue 10 also concerns Economic Development for those large employers already in the County. The impetus for this exception is Lockheed Martin who would like to be able to expand their location in Rock Spring Park should they have the need. The exception would be limited in scope and have provisions to encourage more use on non-driver transportation options. I am more supportive of working with existing employers than new ones. Rather than take a specific position on this proposal, I suggest that what the County needs to do is address congestion for everyone—existing employers, new employers, and residents. The improvement in local bus service

would be a major step in this direction. However, changes to the AGP should only occur after the Council has actually made the necessary changes. In 1981 the zoning density in Eastern Montgomery County was substantially increased with the promise of substantial improvements in public transit, which have yet to be provided. We want improvements first before changes to the AGP are made, including adding more exceptions.

Retreat: A Step Forward

—by I. Dean Ahmad, President

Once again the presidents of our constituent (and prospective!) associations were invited to spend an evening in retreat with the members of the MCCF Executive Committee at the beautiful post and beam home of our Peggy Dennis, currently our newsletter editor. After a delightful potluck supper we brainstormed about our objectives for the coming year.

First-timers Milan Basta, Jack Sando, Dave Michaels, James Johnson, and Virginia Shere joined Tom DeGraba, Dan Wilhelm, Myrna Taylor, Cary Lamari, Bob Abrams, Mark Edelman, Stan Schiff, Wini Klein, Charles Pritchard, Georeg Sauer Jorge and Sharon Ribas, Chuck Lapinski and me.

As always, the problems of over-development had pride of place and a potential workshop on "How smart is smart growth?" was floated. The controversy over affordable senior housing took an especially predominant place in the discussion.

The impending conclusion of the Transportation Policy Review (TPR) study assures that transportation matters (always a major issue) are sure to be front and center. Transportation issues are complex, with a regional dimension and no panacea. It was emphasized that the TPR study is not constrained by the current master plan.

There was considerable dismay at the unfolding of the recent Planning Board Chair appointment.

Other issues mentioned included the Keith Warren case and the police review board, better communication with constituency association presidents, improved public relations, restoring the mental health crisis to the public discussion, ethics

reform, campaign disclosures, land acquisition laws, redistricting, police helicopters, the West Nile virus, water issues, and whether the Legacy Open Space that we supported and which has become law may "wither on the vine."

One proposal was to position the Federation as a citizens' ombudsman, to speak up loudly when things "don't look right." While education received attention as an important issue, no one has yet volunteered to chair the Education committee.

After hearing a detailed exposition of the situation surrounding the "Longbranch Initiative" most participants felt an exposition of the situation in east Silver Spring and Takoma Park might be instructive for the Federation members. Longbranch has the highest concentration of people per acre. There has been an exodus of officers from the police department. Police officers in Baltimore city make more money than Montgomery County officers. Within 3 years half the rookies have left the dept. It takes 4 weeks to get a fingerprint analyzed.

There is a need to form a "federation of federations" so that the MCCF and its sister organizations can inform and provide balance to the Council of Governments.

From the desk of...

*Alice K. Helm, Chair,
Montgomery County
Commission on Aging*

Assistance for Seniors and Disabled on Shoveling Sidewalks

The APedestrian Winter Safety Act of 2001" requires that we take responsibility for removing snow and ice from any sidewalk, or other walkway or parking area on or adjacent to property that person owns, leases, or manages including any walkway in the public right of way. The purpose is to provide a pathway wide enough for safe pedestrian and wheelchair use.® Some concern has been raised that persons with disabilities and some seniors will be unable to shovel sidewalks themselves, and financially hard pressed to hire others to do so for

them. The County Council wishes to develop of list of those individuals needing help with this new requirement, and volunteers willing to help them out.

Any senior with a disability, the disabled, and seniors of very low income for whom shoveling snow from sidewalks will be a problem should call 240-777-7900, ask for Council member Phil Andrews' office, and tell his aide that they will need help with snow removal. They will be asked to give the following information: name, address, telephone number, and basis for need. Since some homeowners can afford to pay something to have someone help them when there are no family members or close neighbors available, they should also give this information.

Civic Organizations and homeowners associations are asked to copy and reprint this announcement in their member newsletters.



From the desk of...
*John Nelson,
Community Web*

**Free Neighborhood
Web Sites**

Community Web, a startup founded by Bethesda residents John Nelson and Andre Sieh, is working with the Civic Federation and other civic groups to get neighborhoods online by offering free web sites to local associations. Your site is up now and can be found at www.communitywebinc.com.

The company was founded to make it easier for neighbors to get to know each other, to help make neighborhood leaders' job easier and to pool the political and purchasing power of neighborhoods. Each community gets its own fully operational web site complete with forums, links to a variety of relevant local information, free classifieds, demand aggregation technology and password protection to provide a safe spot for the community on the web, to name just a few features. The format makes it easy for residents to get information, and to take action on it, either individually or as group. Additionally, the site provides a buying co-op that helps residents to focus their buying power to gain better quality, availability, and pricing on home, auto, and personal

services, as well as prepared food delivery. The company is also working on aggregating demand for natural gas, electricity, communications services and merchandise. Finally, the site makes it easy for neighborhood officers to update mailing/e-mail lists for their residents, and for various civic groups by providing an online database where changes can be made.

The association area of the sites are ad free. The company seeks to make a profit by taking a small percentage of the money it saves residents, offering limited advertising in other sections, and providing services. In addition, the company seeks to bolster the community by returning 5% of revenues, and 50% of internet affiliate revenue to the neighborhood association. Community Web believes that the neighborhood association is the fundamental building block of real community and needs to be strengthened. The sites provide a symbiotic relationship where both the company and association help drive residents to the neighborhood site to keep informed and take action in their interest.

Even if your association already has a web site, we can help build traffic and encourage involvement—and we'll host it for free.

Community Web already has around 500 sites up in the metro area is in the process of adding dozens more. A sample site can be seen at sample.webresident.net (don't use www.) and the ID is "demo" and password also "demo". You can find your neighborhood at www.communitywebinc.com by entering your zip code. If you don't see it, please call John Nelson at 301-263-9821 or e-mail to: jnelson@communitywebinc.com and we'll have it up the same day in most cases. If you already have a site, you can integrate it with our features, and we'll host it for free. Take advantage of this opportunity to join the local network of neighborhoods.

From the President

Welcome back from your peaceful summer vacations to the rough and tumble world of civic activism. If, despite our many successes over the past year, you have been disheartened by a setback from some particular favorite issue of your own, take heart from the picture on the front cover. Remember that print representing freedom of speech from

2001-2002 MCCF Officers and Committee Chairs

Office	Name	home	office	fax	email
President:	I. Dean Ahmad	301-951-0539	301-656-4714	301-656-4714	deanahmad@yahoo.com
Past-Pres.:	Jorge L. Ribas	301-258-1910	<not available>	301-258-1909	sfristoe@erols.com
1st Vice-Pres.:	Cary Lamari	301-924-2746	301-924-2558	<none>	wlamari@lmi.org
2nd Vice-Pres.:	Stanley D. Schiff	301-530-6455	same	<not available>	stanschiff@netzero.net
2nd Vice-Pres.:	Jeanne Goldstein	301-652-3064	same	<not available>	<none>
2nd Vice-Pres.:	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698	same	<not available>	djwilhelm@erols.com
2nd Vice-Pres.:	Pat Cummings	301-977-6004	301-840-0921	301-840-0967	<call first>
Treasurer:	Chris Suzich	301-417-9522	same	<not available>	jsuzich@erols.com
Rec. Secretary:	Richard Zierdt	301-881-0283	703-464-1617	<not available>	richard.zierdt@landmark.com
Corres. Sec.:	Winifred Klein	301-654-8084	same	<not available>	w-wklein@webtv.net
Dist. 1 V.P.:	Fifa Northrup	301-984-9424	<not available>	301-984-0147	breo_@hotmail.com
Dist. 2 V.P.:	Dick Strombotne	301-540-9597	<not available>	<not available>	<not available>
Dist. 3 V.P.:	Myrna Taylor	301-869-4499	202-429-2163	<not available>	MyrnaJT@aol.com
Dist. 4 V.P.:	Bob Abrams	301-946-7291	<not available>	<not available>	robertabr@aol.com
Dist. 5 V.P.:	Mark Adelman	301-942-6893	301-295-3208	<not available>	<none>

[Appointed officers and committee chairs, subject to ratification by membership:]

Historian:	Marcella Petree	301-384-1776	same	<not available>	<none>
Newsletter Ed.:	Peggy Dennis	301-983-9738	same	<not available>	hotyakker@aol.com
Parliamentarian:	William Skinner	301-762-5483	301-762-3784	301-762-3786	wjswtg@aol.com
Public Relations:	Stuart Rochester	301-384-5515	<not available>	<not available>	<not available>
Education:	vacant	<not available>	<not available>	<not available>	astrove@hotmail.com
Environment:	Charlie Pritchard	301-593-1781	same	<not available>	erc69434@aolcom
Legislation:	George Sauer	301-762-7260	same	<not available>	<none>
Membership:	Jeanne Goldstein	301-652-3064	same	<not available>	<none>
Pl. & Land Use.:	Tom DeGraba	301-340-2570	<not available>	<not available>	<none>
Pub. Fin. & Util.:	Chuck Lapinski	301-384-0392	703-506-4600	<not available>	clapinsk@mcri.com
Transportation:	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698	same	<not available>	djwilhelm@erols.com

Norman Rockwell's "Four Freedoms" series that Dick Kauffunger gave our outspoken and irrepresible Frank Vrtaric on the occasion of our recognizing Frank as a community hero? Well, on August 27th, Council President Blair Ewing hung the picture in the hall outside the 7th floor hearing room in the Council Office Building.



The first issue to come up is redistricting. We originally intended to have a typical program on the subject at our meeting on Sept. 10, but the Redistricting Commission for the county decided to schedule its hearing on the same night at the time we usually have our program. Well, when life hands you lemons, make lemonade. We decided to make the hearing our program! So join us all in the third floor hearing room at the county council at 7:30 to hear the options being offered by the commission and give testimony as you wish. At 9:00 we shall adjourn to

the auditorium for the business part of our meeting, including consideration of any motions on the redistricting issue. A motion I would like to see made is **for the Civic Federation to support the desires of our constituent members for particular placement of their own precincts where such preferences do not conflict with the preferences of other constituent organizations.**

Our Bylaws require that we also approve "new" member organizations, i.e. those not previously approved: East Springbrook Citizens Association, South Four corners Citizens' Association, Burnt Mills Hill Civic Association, Castlegate Homowners Association, West End Citizens Association, College Garden Civic Associations, Hunting Ridge Citizens Association Walnut Woods Neighborhood Association, and Potomac Manors II. We must also ratify the newly appointed officers and committee chairs. The list of appointees will be found on page 15 along with the list of elected officers. Please note that we still do not have a volunteer to chair the Education committee. Call me if you want the job.

–I. Dean Ahmad, Ph.D.

Delegates Meeting

Monday, Sept. 10–7:30 p.m.

County Council Office Building, Rockville, MD

AGENDA:

- 7:30 Assemble in **3rd floor hearing room** and listen to the public hearing on redistricting
- 9:00 Move to the **1st floor auditorium** for business mtg.
Call to Order, I. Dean Ahmad presiding
- 9:01 Announcements, Introductions
- 9:06 Adoption of Agenda
- 9:10 Approval of Minutes, Officers' Reports
- 9:15 Old Business
- Approval of new members (p.10)
- 9:20 New Business
- Ratification of Appointed Officers and Committee Chairs (p. 15)
 - Motions on Redistricting (pp. 2, 10)
 - Police helicopters (p. 4)
- 9:45 Adjourn

The **Montgomery County Civic Federation**, a nonprofit, educational, and advocacy countywide group, was founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. The monthly Delegates Meeting is open to the public and it is held on the second Monday of each month (except for holidays, July, August and December) at 8:00 p.m. in the First Floor Auditorium, County Office Building, Rockville, MD.

The **Civic Federation News** is published monthly. It is mailed to Delegates; associate members; news media, and local, state, and federal officials. Permission is granted to reprint any article provided proper credit is given to the "*Civic Federation News* of the Montgomery County Civic Federation." Deadline for submissions for the next issue: 5 p.m. Saturday, September 22. Attach submission to e-mail to: Hotyakker@aol.com file in fully justified 11-point Times Roman font (preferably as a Word document.)

Please send all address corrections to Steve Howie, P.O.Box 325, Clarksburg, MD 20871, 301-972-2736, stevehowie@aol.com.

Next Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 20, 2001, 7:45 p.m.

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Services Center

4805 Edgemoor Lane in downtown Bethesda

(Note: there are two entrances to the parking garage—one on Edgemoor Lane and another on Woodmont Avenue.)

Montgomery County Civic Federation

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