



CIVIC FEDERATION NEWS

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Serving the Public Interest Since 1925

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WWW.MONTGOMERYCIVIC.ORG

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January Delegates Meeting Program

Electrical Outages caused by Tropical Storm Isabel and the Thunderstorms of August, 2003

By Jerry Garson

This summer over 80% of PEPCo's customers in Montgomery County lost power during thunder storms and tropical storm Isabel. Some customers were out of power for over a week. Representatives from Pepco and the State of Maryland People's Counsel will make presentations on what occurred during these storms and what is being done to reduce the number and severity of future outages in Montgomery County. Representatives of BGE and Allegheny Power will also be present to answer questions for areas of the county served by their utilities.

In presentations to the Public Service Commission the electric utilities indicated that significant damage was done to their power lines by whole trees on private property that fell or were blown into the power lines. While the power companies trim and prune trees in their and the public's right of way, they do not normally trim trees on private property in front of residents homes. Branches on private property may be trimmed if they are within 10 feet of the power lines connecting individual houses to the power distribution system.

Please plan on attending the January 12th meeting to learn, discuss and make your opinions known to your electric utility representatives.

January Community Hero Award Law Firm of Knopf & Brown

For years, residents have turned to Norman Knopf for legal advice and representation when confronted with unreasonable variance applications, neighborhood-altering special exceptions, or fights against attempts to resubdivide, rezone or circumvent master plans. He is frequently joined in these endeavors by his long-time partner, David W. Brown. While Montgomery County has an abundance of land use lawyers, almost all are allied with builders and developers. Were they willing to represent citizen groups, their fees would be too high for most groups to afford anyway. Given these facts, the law firm of Knopf & Brown is thought by many of us to be our "knight in shining armor," providing excellent legal representation in land use disputes. We homeowners are deeply indebted to their willingness to take on our causes, fight for our rights, and - when the developers seek to win by process of financial attrition - even soften the blows of their very reasonable bills by doing some of the work on a "pro bono" basis. Without their help, we would too often be left without legal representation.

IN THIS ISSUE . . .

January Delegates Meeting Program	1
January Community Hero Award	1
From the President	2
New Member Organizations	3
Proposed Resolution on Transportation Funding	3
Speed Humps	4
Holiday Reception for Elected Officials	5
Housing for a Livable City: Vienna, Austria	6
MCCF Education Committee to Host Board of Education Forum	6
Proposed Bylaws Changes	6
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes	9
Officers and Committee Chairs	11
Delegates' Meeting Agenda	12

From the President

by Cary Lamari

Happy New Year and Good Cheer to everyone! It's 2004, and I hope you all had a great New Year celebration and that you're able to keep those resolutions you made after your 2nd, 3rd or maybe 5th glass of champagne. I, for one, will promise to be less wordy in these articles during the coming year, but I'm sure none of you will believe me, so let's see how I do in this column.

This month I want to discuss two concerns: our fiscal and safety needs. Members of the County Council have expressed distress with our fiscal situation. The significant budget surplus enjoyed in recent years and used to bolster our Triple A bond rating has now been depleted. It is estimated that we will have a revenue shortfall of over 100 million dollars in the coming fiscal year. The Council must make real hard decisions to protect the trust we, the voters, have placed in them. They must be fiscally responsible, however to do so will most likely upset many county employees as well as community groups.

Last year prior to the election the Civic Federation and the Montgomery County Taxpayers League warned the County Council and the Executive that hard fiscal times were coming. We argued that the contracts being negotiated with the county employees' union, the teachers' unions and the career (paid) firefighters were not sustainable. We felt that these contracts were inconsistent with the fiscal concerns and measures being implemented by organizations and businesses in the private sector. Having said this, now that these contractual commitments exist, our county government should resort to any and all possible cost saving measures and exhaust all other options before considering renegotiating or renegeing on these contracts or raising taxes.

Given these fiscal concerns, I am bewildered by the tenacity with which the County Council seems to embrace Fire Bill 36-03. For more than a century volunteer fire fighters and rescuers have risked their lives to protect the lives and personal property of their neighbors. This form of volunteerism is probably the oldest and most noble form of citizen participation we have. Montgomery County has been well served by these heroic individuals, and we tax payers have enjoyed significant fiscal savings due to their volunteer work.

Fire Bill 36-03 threatens to radically change this system, and I'm not convinced that the changes would be for the better. Members of the County Council have suggested that no chain of command exists in the current system. Let me clarify the facts. The current system is governed by the Fire Safety Commission which is chaired by the Fire Administrator, currently Mr. Gordon Ayogi, an Executive appointee. Commissioners include career (paid) firefighters, volunteer firefighters, and lay citizens. This Commission develops the voluminous "Policies and Procedures" manual that is adopted by the County Council and which all professional firefighters and rescue personnel - both paid and volunteer - follow.

The next link in the chain of command is the Fire Administrator who is responsible for the day-to-day management, administration and coordination of our 33 fire stations, 27 of which are solely owned by the volunteers and paid for by neighborhood contributions and fundraisers.

The final tier of the command structure are the Local Fire Department Chiefs. They are required to run each station in accordance with the "Policies and Procedures" manual and in times of emergency they are subject to the authority of the Fire Administrator. These 33 Department Fire Chiefs are trained and seasoned to make life and death decisions every day on a case-by-case basis. Over 100,000 "incidents" are

triaged and dealt with by the local chiefs and members of these stations each year.

Council members supporting Fire Bill 36-03 would have us believe that these life and death decisions should better be left to the fire administrator in Rockville. The current Fire Administrator, Gordon Ayogi, is not and has never been a firefighter, and no Fire Administrator can reasonably be expected to be on call in Rockville 24/7/52. They have also made erroneous arguments that the needs of “homeland security” require us to abandon our century old system. Well, the present system served us well on September 11, 2001 and continues to serve us well. Far from being “broke” and requiring “fixing”, it functions superlatively and at an affordable price. The proposed changes could cost us from \$25 to \$50 million more in annual costs. For these reasons and because the fire safety system here in Montgomery County has been nationally recognized as being efficient, professional and of the highest standard, I believe Bill 36-03 should be withdrawn.

It should be noted that one member of the County Council, within days of the public hearing on Bill 36-03, held a campaign fund raiser sponsored by the very unions which stand to benefit by the passage of the bill. This kind of fund raising activity may be legal, however in my humble opinion such activities have the appearance of an ethical conflict.

New Member Organizations.

The MCCF Bylaws require that an organization applying for membership be admitted upon an affirmative vote. The delegates will be asked to formally admit the following organizations (names are initial delegates and numbers are their size):

- Brooke Manor Estates HOA (Kathryn Lindquist & Bonita Williams -177)
- Olney Coalition (Nancy Wendt - >1000)

- Sandy Spring Civic Association (Alyce Ortuzar & Carolyn Snowden - 150)
 - Snowdens Mill Homeowners Asso. (Paul Mannina, Tom Netting, & Dennis Holden - 495)
 - Upper Sligo Civic Association (Rosemary Dempsey and Kathleen Michels - 250)
-

Proposed Resolution on Transportation Funding

By Dan Wilhelm, Transportation Committee Chair

The State of Maryland Transportation Task Force held a number of hearings in November to gather public opinion about how much to increase taxes for transportation and what sources should be used. The Task Force asked for comments on their proposal to increase taxes by \$300M per year, which would cover only 2/3 of the State capital needs for transportation. At the last session at Blair High School on November 24, most speakers said the \$300M was too low. Most speakers also indicated that funds are needed for both roads and transit.

MCCF held a number of presentations during 2002 and 2003 and took a number of votes on projects. Funds are needed at both the County level and State level to fund these projects. We also talked about a number of polices and voted on some of them. MCCF supported and the County Council recently passed transportation impact taxes that will provide much, but not all, of the funds needed for County supplied transportation. We have not taken a position about funds needed for State supplied transportation. I am proposing the resolution below. This resolution supports raising taxes statewide for projects throughout the state. The increased taxes would be added to the Transportation Trust Fund and used by the State Department of Transportation (DOT). This resolution does not change MCCF's opposition to increasing state taxes solely in Montgomery County and providing the increase to the County Government.

Proposed Resolution

Whereas roads within Montgomery County are very congested and the last election demonstrated that citizens want congestion relief,

Whereas no citizen likes paying more taxes, but many feel that congestion has reached the level that additional taxes for transportation are needed,

Whereas Montgomery County needs Maryland DOT to spend \$200M to \$300M per year for new transportation projects in the County just to address projected growth (1% to 1.5% growth),

Whereas the annual Maryland DOT program levels between FY 2007 and FY 2010 are 50% of the FY 2003 program level which translates to a projected statewide \$10.5B unfunded program for FY 2005 thru FY 2010 (\$17B need vs. \$6.5B funded),

Whereas a total of \$2.8B is expected from the federal government and other sources, which leaves a state shortfall of \$7.6B or \$1.3B per year,

Whereas MCCF opposes the ICC,

Whereas MCCF opposes widening the beltway,

Whereas State DOT has a plan for paying for the ICC, should it be built, that uses toll revenue and Garvee/MdTA bonds that will be retired by using tolls and future federal funds,

Whereas long-term solutions need to focus on transit since the county is largely built-out except in the Clarksburg area, thus limiting most road improvements to widening of existing roads and intersection improvements,

Whereas Montgomery County recently significantly increased the transportation impact tax on new development to help pay for county transportation infrastructure,

Whereas some 85% to 90% of the transportation needs in Montgomery County are a state responsibility,

Whereas congestion exists not just within Montgomery County but throughout much of the state of Maryland,

Therefore MCCF supports increasing state taxes on existing residents to complement the County impact tax on developers in order to keep congestion from increasing and to start the long process of reducing congestion. MCCF supports the increase in taxes statewide conditional upon the following:

1. No Maryland Transportation Trust Funds will be used for any part of the ICC construction.
2. At least 50% of the funds would be used for transit.
3. The increased funds will be used solely for SHA, MTA, MVA and WMATA projects and programs.
4. Montgomery County will receive in terms of projects a significant and fair share of the funds its citizens pay via increased taxes.

MCCF supports an increase of \$650M per year plus new tolls. MCCF is not supporting specific tax increases but suggests the following:

- Increase vehicle registration by \$30 per vehicle per year (\$150M state-wide)
- Increase Motor Fuel Tax by 5 cents per gallon and indexed for inflation (\$203M state-wide)
- Increase sales tax by ½% (\$292M state-wide)

MCCF supports using tolls on new lanes for freeways to fund these road improvements, should they be built. Within Montgomery County the freeways are the ICC, Beltway (\$2B) and I-270 (\$2B). MCCF opposes the use Garvee funding for the ICC, which uses future federal funds to repay bonds. Use of such funding would mortgage future federal funds for just one project.

Speed Humps

by Dan Wilhelm, Transportation Committee Chairman

Montgomery County uses speed humps as one means to reduce speeding on local roads. They employ two designs. The short parabolic design requires vehicles to slow to 15mph or slower. The flat-top design allows vehicles to travel 25 mph. Many other Maryland counties, including Prince Georges and Anne Arundel have outlawed the parabolic design because it is intrusive and unsafe.

The Transportation Committee is not proposing that the Federation take a position about whether or where speed humps should be used. Those issues are up to the local neighborhoods. We are proposing that the delegates support a resolution **to urge the county to stop using the**



This year's honorees at the Holiday Reception: Ike Leggett, Nancy Dacek, Blair Ewing, (President Cary Lamari) and Jean Roesser for Connie Morella

parabolic design and use only the flat-top design. The parabolic design should no longer be used because:

- It slows traffic below the 25 mph speed limit on local roads;
- It causes more jarring and jolting to the vehicle and passengers, which can cause pain to people with back problems and damage vehicle steering and suspensions; and
- It is opposed by Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission since they needlessly delay emergency vehicle response.

Holiday Reception for Elected Officials

by Peggy Dennis

This year's reception for elected officials had no chairman, no one person organizing, prioritizing and delegating. I had volunteered to find a venue and negotiate a price we could live with, but after that things just seemed to fall into place. Luella Mast did a superlative job of handling the checks and payments,

keeping lists of guests and attendees, making up the name labels and organizing the reception table. Jorge Ribas and Cary Lamari collaborated to send out invitations to our four honorees and numerous guests. Rosie Poole made up a lovely invitation and sent it out with her renewal notices. Richard Zierdt and Dan Wilhelm sent electronic invitations. Lyle Schofield posted the notice on our website. Charlie Pritchard, Marie de Maria, Carol and Vic Palmer all volunteered to staff the reception table. And of course, Cary Lamari did an outstanding job as master of ceremonies. We ended up with 106 very well-fed and convivial attendees, and I think we agree that "a good time was had by all." So, thanks to the management of New Fortune Restaurant for giving us such excellent food and service, and thanks to all those who pitched in and worked to make this event a success.

Please give us your suggestions now for a restaurant which you would like considered as a venue for next year's reception. The restaurant must be large enough to hold a reception for 100-125 people, have good food and drink at a reasonable price. Central location, proximity to the Metro and free parking are all a plus. Please give your ideas to any member of the Executive Committee.

Housing for a Livable City: Vienna, Austria

The Civic Federation has agreed to join with the Coalition for Smarter Growth, the Sierra Club and other groups to co-sponsor a public forum featuring Wolfgang Forster from the Department of Housing Development and Renovation of the City of Vienna, Austria. Mr. Forster's presentation will include Vienna's housing and other innovative programs and projects of interest to environmentalists, transit advocates and proponents of Smart Growth. A panel of local officials and development industry representatives will respond.

Tuesday, January 27, 7:30 p.m.

Probable location: Montgomery County Planning Board Auditorium

8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring

For more information call Pam Lindstrom, 301-869-7139 or Laura Olsen of the Coalition for Smarter Growth, 202-588-5570, ext. 4.

MCCF Education Committee to Host Board of Education Candidates Forum

by Mark Adelman, Education Committee Chairman

Put it on your calendar now! Thursday, February 12, from 7:00 until 10:00 PM. Plan to be at Crossway Community in Kensington (3015 Upton Drive, close by Westfield Shoppingtown Wheaton, with plenty of parking space). Three of the seats on the Board of Education (Districts 2 and 4, and one at-large seat) will be decided in the March 2 Primary Election. As we go to press, the deadline for filing, December 22, is fast approaching, and there are already 6 declared candidates. All candidates will be invited to our Forum. Join us to hear their positions on the issues that concern us regarding Montgomery County Public Schools. There will be ample time and opportunity to ask questions and gauge who YOU think should serve on the Board of Education and help fulfill its critical role in the education of our children. Be part of the process by which we help shape the Board's policies and actions. Spread the word about this event; we'll see you there!

Proposed Bylaws Changes

by Dan Wilhelm, First Vice President

Because of the difficulty members had in November with understanding the proposed Bylaw changes, we decided to approach the changes in stages. During the first round, we will make changes to the organization of the Bylaws without changing substance. As a second round, we will propose substantive changes.

The Membership is asked to approve the reorganization of existing Articles II (Membership), IV (Delegates to Federation) and XVIII (Federation Associates) into a new Article II (Membership). Below is the text of the existing Bylaws for these three articles and the proposed change. The full Bylaws can be found on the Federation Web site. As part of the reorganization, we include text where the Bylaws are silent to reflect our practice. The added content is identified in CAPITAL LETTERS. With this change, we are also proposing to change the "Delegates at Large" delegate name to "Past President." Approval of this change to the Bylaws will mean that this title will also be changed in Article V, Section 5 (two places), which are the only other places where the term is used. The current Bylaws require that the delegates from new organizations be listed (but not confirmed by vote) in the newsletter but changes in delegates of member associations are not listed in the newsletter. For consistency, the requirement to publish delegate names has been deleted.

The Bylaws Committee meets the Thursday after the second Monday Delegates Meeting at the Mid-County Government Center in Wheaton at 7:30PM. Rather than consume time at the delegates meeting discussing Bylaws changes, we encourage anyone who has an interest in changes to attend the meeting, where changes can be discussed at length.

Existing Articles II, IV and XVIII

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

1. *Eligibility.* Membership in the Federation shall be open to any organized Montgomery County civic, community, homeowner associations and municipalities which support the Federation's object and whose primary purpose is to further the public interest. An association organized for or devoted to only a single local issue shall

not be eligible. The boundaries of the residential community represented by each local association must be specified in its by-laws and registered with the Planning Board. Local Associations must represent at least thirty households and regional and countywide associations must have at least 50 paid memberships to be eligible.

2. *Representation.* Members shall be entitled to voting representation within the Federation, with representation determined by the number of households represented within the association. The maximum number of representatives shall be four, and the president of the association shall be the first representative named unless the president elects to appoint another association member to serve in the president's place.

a. Local associations. The number of representatives for a member association which represents a residential community shall be two for the first three hundred households, one additional for the next three hundred, and one additional for all households over six hundred.

b. Umbrella Associations. The number of representatives for member associations whose membership consists of local associations shall be two for the first five hundred households, one additional for the next five hundred households and one additional for all households over one thousand.

c. Regional and Countywide Associations. The number of representatives for Regional and County-wide Associations shall be two.

3. *Membership Year.* The membership year shall be July 1 through June 30.

4. *Acceptance.* An organization applying for membership shall be admitted upon Affirmative Vote of a Regular Meeting. The name of an applicant association and of proposed delegates shall be published in the newsletter preceding the meeting before the Acceptance vote. The Federation reserves the right to determine the organization that shall represent in the Federation any one specific community. A change in status of any organization must be presented in writing to the Federation.

ARTICLE IV - DELEGATES TO FEDERATION

1. *Representatives.* Individual representatives to the Federation shall be called Delegates, and shall belong to one of the classes defined below.

2. *Member Delegates.* This class includes all representatives certified by a member association in good standing. They shall have a duty to participate fully in the deliberations and activities of the Federation, may vote on any issue before it, and may hold any Federation office or position. Member Delegates shall serve until a replacement has been seated or their eligibility ceases.

3. *Delegates At Large.* This class includes all past presidents of the Federation who are legal residents of the County. They shall have all the rights and privileges of Member Delegates and shall have the right to vote in meetings of the Executive Committee.

4. *Honorary Delegates.* This class includes individuals who have rendered especially valuable service to the County and who have been elected to honorary status by a three-fourths Affirmative Vote at a Regular Meeting. The motion to elect shall specify the term such status shall continue. These delegates may participate in deliberations of the Federation and may serve on committees but shall have no vote and may not hold office.

5. *Voting Privilege.* The privilege of voting will be restricted to member delegates and delegates at large.

ARTICLE XVIII - FEDERATION ASSOCIATES

1. *Eligibility.* Any individual may participate in Federation activities by becoming an Associate. Any government agency, business, or similar association may also become Associates.

2. *Status.* Associates may attend Federation functions, participate in discussions at meetings, serve on appointed committees, and will receive the Newsletter. They are neither Delegates nor members, and may not make motions or vote. If appointed to chair a committee, they shall not thereby be voting members of the Executive Committee, and in no case shall the number of committee chairs held by Associates exceed 25% of all committees.

PROPOSED NEW ARTICLE II

ARTICLE II - MEMBERSHIP

1. *Categories.* There are two basic categories of membership: Association and Individual.

2. Association Member

A. Local Association

(1) Definition. Membership in the Federation shall be open to any organized Montgomery County civic, community, homeowner association or municipality which supports the Federation's object and whose primary purpose is to further the public interest. An association organized for or devoted to only a single local issue shall not be eligible. The boundaries of the residential community represented by each local association must be specified in its bylaws and registered with the Planning Board. Neighborhood associations must represent at least thirty households to be eligible.

(2) Representation. The number of delegate representatives for a member association shall be two for up to the first three hundred households, one additional delegate for between 301 and 600 households, and one additional delegate for any association with over six hundred households. The president of the association shall be the first representative named unless the president elects to appoint another association member to serve in the president's place.

(3) Duties and Privileges. Delegates shall have a duty to participate fully in the deliberations and activities of the Federation, may vote on any issue before it, and may hold any Federation office or position. Member delegates shall serve until the association names a replacement or their eligibility ceases.

B. Umbrella Association

(1) Definition. An umbrella association is any group composed of two or more local associations as defined above. Membership shall be open to any umbrella association that has as its primary purpose to further the public interest. An association organized for or devoted to only a single local issue shall not be eligible. The boundaries of the umbrella association must be registered with the Planning Board.

(2) Representation. The number of delegate representatives for an umbrella association whose membership consists of local associations shall be two for the first five hundred households, one additional for the next five hundred households and one additional for all households over one thousand. The president of the

association shall be the first representative named unless the president elects to appoint another association member to serve in the president's place.

(3) Duties and Privileges. Delegates shall have a duty to participate fully in the deliberations and activities of the Federation, may vote on any issue before it, and may hold any Federation office or position. Member delegates shall serve until the association names a replacement or their eligibility ceases.

C. Regional and Countywide Organization

(1) Definition. A REGIONAL OR COUNTY-WIDE ORGANIZATION IS ANY CIVIC OR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION OTHER THAN LOCAL OR UMBRELLA which supports the Federation's object and whose primary purpose is to further the public interest. Regional and countywide associations must have at least 50 paid memberships to be eligible.

(2) Representation. The number of delegate representatives for a regional or countywide organization shall be two.

(3) Duties and Privileges. Delegates shall have a duty to participate fully in the deliberations and activities of the Federation, may vote on any issue before it, and may hold any Federation office or position. Member delegates shall serve until the association names a replacement or their eligibility ceases.

D. Acceptance. The name of an applicant organization shall be published in the newsletter. The organization shall be admitted upon an affirmative vote at a regular delegates meeting. In the event where two organizations claim to represent any one specific community area, the Federation reserves the right to determine the organization that shall represent in the Federation any one specific community. A change in status of any organization must be presented in writing to the Federation.

3. Individual Member

A. Associate

(1) Definition. Any individual, government agency, business, or similar group may participate in Federation activities by becoming an Associate.

(2) Duties and Privileges. An associate may attend Federation functions, participate in discussions at meetings, serve on appointed committees, and will receive the Newsletter. They may not make motions or vote. If appointed to chair a committee, they shall not thereby be voting members of the Executive Committee, and in no case shall the number of committee chairs held by Associates exceed 25% of all committees.

B. Past President

(1) Definition. All past presidents of the Federation who are legal residents of the County shall be classified as a past president member. THEY MAY BE A DELEGATE FROM AN ASSOCIATION BUT NEED NOT BE.

(2) Duties and Privileges. Past Presidents shall have all the rights and privileges of delegates and shall have the right to vote in meetings of the Executive Committee. THEY NEED NOT PAY DUES.

C. Honorary

(1) Definition. Honorary members are individuals who have rendered especially valuable service to the County and who have been elected to honorary status by a three-fourths Affirmative Vote at a monthly meeting. The motion to elect shall specify the term such status shall continue.

(2) Duties and Privileges. Honorary members may participate in deliberations of the Federation and may serve on committees but shall have no vote and may not hold office. THEY NEED NOT PAY DUES.

4. *Membership Year.* The membership year shall be July 1 through June 30.

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, December 18, 2003

by Richard Zierdt, recording secretary

MCCF President Cary Lamari calls the meeting to order at 7:55 PM. 9 are present.

Cary describes an email he received from Dorothy Camer regarding ridesharing, etc, that she feels will help transportation, and would like to share at an MCCF

meeting. Although this might be helpful on its merits, some felt a hearing before the Federation may be a little too commercial.

Minutes from the ExComm meeting 2003-11-20. Dan Wilhelm: Under Announcements, Item #1: remove 3rd and 4th sentences regarding letters being written and sent by Dan. Also, under AGP hearing, Councilmember Marilyn Praisner emailed the MCCF correcting an impression left in the minutes. She wrote “...*Because of the County Council actions on the Annual Growth Policy, there is a need to change the AGP law to conform to the new policy (i.e. eliminate policy area review from the law, etc.). Legislation that does that has been introduced. It is bill 37-03 and the public hearing for it is January 13th.*” [see the complete text of the bill at www.montgomerycountymd.gov under “Legislation”]. Motion to approve the minutes as amended is seconded and passes.

Treasurer’s Report. Cary for Luella Mast. The MCCF may be slightly in the red as per the Reception for Elected Officials. This is not considered serious, particularly given the success of the reception.

AGP: New Hearing proposed by Council on Staff-adopted AGP. Cary recommends that the MCCF attend the public hearing January 13, the more the better. Mark Adelman volunteers to testify. Peggy: This should be called “pay-and-grow.”

Request by Pam Lindstrom for MCCF to co-sponsor education forum for Tuesday, January 27, 2004, 7:30 p.m., at the MC Planning Board Auditorium, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring. The main presenter, Wolfgang Forester from Austria who describes a “new urban” approach to development, will speak at this forum. Some feel MCCF should co-sponsor this forum; others feel co-sponsorship is tacit support of other groups that are sponsoring the forum. Dan Wilhelm moves that the MCCF co-sponsor the forum. Peggy seconds. Passes 3-2-2.

Electoral Campaign finance review committee. Cary for Dale Tibbetts. The petition for nine local councilmanic districts is being developed. Dale is seeking approval of language.

President’s Report. Kojo Nnamdi program on WAMU-FM: Cary Lamari participated. Nancy Floreen has asked

to address the MCCF at the next delegates meeting on her proposal to increase building heights. Mark Adelman: Councilmember Floreen spoke to Allied Civic on this topic. Dean Ahmad: we should provide equal time to the other side, with preponderance of time reserved for Q&A. General ExComm approval is sensed by this secretary. Reception for Elected Officials, Peggy Dennis: we got a lot of very positive feedback.

Program. January: PEPCO. Richard Zierdt for Jerry Garson, who attended two (both) Public Service Commission meetings in Baltimore. The major electric utilities all want to participate. Public interest groups are also interested. Some State legislators may introduce legislation this session that would modify the current path towards deregulation in Maryland. February program: Affordable Housing. March: Budget. April: Transportation.

Bylaws. Cary: Put bylaw changes on the website? Peggy: it should fit within the 12 pages that comprise the typical MCCF Newsletter (including other material).

Land Use. ZTA 03-27. No one at this MCCF meeting is familiar with the proposal. Dean moves that Cary be authorized to decide whether or not the MCCF supports this ZTA. Seconded. Passes.

Transportation. Dan Wilhelm. State Transportation Task Force looked at state funding. Dan wants to support state tax increases for transportation and will write an article for the Newsletter. Speed humps: Byron Bloch, South Tuckerman Inverness Citizens Association. Mr. Block prefers no speed humps, but if approved, they should be the 25-mph “flat top” design, not the 15-mph humps that the County wants to install. Dan will write article for the newsletter and propose a resolution to abolish the 15-MPH humps. Some felt that speed humps are undesirable, but that if they must be installed, then they should be the 25-mph design. Some felt that opposing viewpoints should be presented.

Environment. Cary for Charles Pritchard, who is now president of this local civic association. Charles feels that tree trimming is a core community service.

Education Committee. Mark Adelman. Submission deadline is Dec 22 for school board candidates. MCCF candidates Forum is February 12, 2004. The Montgomery Hills Junior High lease has disappeared into a “black

hole” in the executive’s office. Education Committee sent a letter to Superintendent Wease with two questions on charter schools. The superintendent’s office has not returned any of Mark’s repeated phone calls. A forum on de-tracking was held, attended by some out-of-state speakers and two members of the school board.

Joe Parello, V.P. of the Greater Shady Grove Alliance, 20855 zip code. “Town” of Derwood is in danger. Several antique buildings. Excessive cut-through traffic; GSGA would like to save the quality of life in Derwood. Some suggestions were made traffic calming devices, turn restrictions, historic preservation. Dan and others will work with Joe to try to find ways of decreasing cut through and heavy traffic and calming traffic still using neighborhood streets.

Meeting adjourned 10:15 pm

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Delegates’ Meetings (Mondays)

January 12
February 9
March 8
April 12
May 10
June 14 (Annual/Awards meeting)

Executive Committee Meetings (Thursdays)

January 20
February 19
March 18
April 22
May 20
June 24

Have a happy and prosperous 2004

MCCF Officers and Committee Chairs					
Office	Name	Home #	Office #	Fax #	e-mail
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Delegates' Meeting

Monday, January 12 - 7: 45PM
Auditorium, County Council Office
Building, Rockville, Maryland

AGENDA

- 7:45 Call to order, Cary Lamari presiding
- 7:50 Adoption of Agenda
- 7:52 Announcements and Introductions
- 7:55 Approvals of minutes Officers Report
- 7:58 Community Hero Award: Knopf and Brown
- 8:00 Program: Electric Power Outages & PEPCO
- 9:10 Nancy Floreen: ZTA Building heights
- 9:15 New Business
 - Committee Chair Reports
 - Community Grants (Cary Lamari)
 - Housing Committee (Wayne Goldstein)
- 9:20 Old Business
 - Electoral Reforms (Dale Tibbitts)
- 9:45 Adjournment

The **Montgomery County Civic Federation** is a countywide nonprofit, educational, and advocacy organization. It was founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. Its monthly Delegates meetings are open to the public and are held on the second Monday of each month (except for holidays, July, August and December) at 7:45 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: Midnight Sunday, January 25. Prepare submission in fully justified 11-point Times Roman font, preferably as a MS Word or text-only document, attach it to e-mail, and send it to mccfnewsletter@comcast.net.

Please send all address corrections to Dan Wilhelm, 904 Cannon Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904, 301-384-2698, or djwilhelm@erols.com.

NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, January 22, 2004, 7:45 p.m.
RED BRICK COURTHOUSE
29 Courthouse Square, Rockville
(Free parking in front of the courthouse.)

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

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