



# Civic Federation News

Official Publication of the Montgomery County Civic Federation  
Serving the Public Interest Since 1925

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SESSION 770

WWW.MONTGOMERYCIVIC.ORG

OCTOBER 2005



September speaker, Delegate Sheila Hixson  
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee

## October Program: What the Civic Federation Does—What's in it for You?

By Jim Humphrey and Wayne Goldstein

Now celebrating the 80th anniversary of its founding in 1925, the Montgomery County Civic Federation's mission remains constant: to protect and enhance the quality of life for all residents of the county.

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## Clarksburg Residents to Receive Community Hero Awards

by Jim Humphrey, Planning and Land Use Committee Chair

At our meeting on October 10, the Civic Federation will present Community Hero awards to members of the Clarksburg Town Center Advisory Committee. In June of 2004, this group of volunteers suspected that construction in the new Clarksburg Town Center project did not match the Site Plan that the Planning Board had approved for the project. The following month, they founded CTCAC and began their research into possible site plan violations. By that August, the group had confirmed that scores of townhouses in the project were taller than the allowed height limit. And, on August 26, 2004 they met with representatives of the developer, County Council, and Park and Planning staff to lay out their preliminary findings.

Since no response from the county government was forthcoming, CTCAC members continued their

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President Dan Wilhelm with September Community Heroes Carol Lynn Green and Barbara Siegel, and Jim Humphrey.

**October Program** *continued* ...This mission requires educating the delegates from member associations on the workings of our county government, and how to effectively interact with staff. The program at our October meeting will be the first of a series of talks that will touch on the county's development approval process, the traffic capacity test, and issues involving schools, the budget, the environment, and public safety.

The program for our regular meeting on October 10 is a break from the usual educational format. First Vice President Wayne Goldstein and Planning and Land Use Committee Chair Jim Humphrey will detail the kinds of assistance and services that MCCF offers its member groups. A half hour presentation will include examples of how MCCF has supported communities address such problems as development projects that violated master plans, negative effects of mansionization, neighborhood impact of hospital expansion, and loss of farm land in the Agricultural Reserve. In addition, Wayne and Jin will explain how member groups seeking help from MCCF can insure a more successful outcome of their issues. The presentation will be followed by a half hour question and answer period.

Help the MCCF assist you in making your neighborhood a safer, cleaner, better place to live by becoming a more knowledgeable community advocate. Start by attending the meeting on October 10 to learn how the MCCF can help support your organization. Then plan on staying active in the Federation to help build a bigger, stronger organization that will enhance the quality of life for all.

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**Community Heroes** *continued* ...research and found that many more townhouses were built closer to the street than allowed. They then arranged, in January 2005, for a meeting with Planning Board Chairman Derick Berlage. In April, a hearing was granted to address CTCAC concerns, but at that hearing a Planning staffer presented an altered version of the approved Site Plan and claimed the project was in compliance. CTCAC members found proof of the deceit and offered it to the press. The story broke in the Washington Times on June 28. At that point, the government began taking the CTCAC allegations seriously. The Planning Board held a second hearing in July and confirmed the group's findings.

The MCCF and the county owe an enormous debt of gratitude to these volunteers--Amy Presley, Kim Shiley,

Carol Smith, Tim Dearros, Lynn Fantle, Niren Nagda, and Kathie Hulley--who have logged well over 2000 hours researching the discrepancies between the approved plans and the project actually being built. Their tireless determination has led them to discover that roads and amenities promised by the Clarksburg Town Center developer have not been provided, the size of some recorded lots is smaller than approved, and the county's affordable housing law is being violated. The Planning Board has scheduled two additional hearings, one on October 6 and a second date to be set, for CTCAC members to present the additional violations they have uncovered in their research. We offer our congratulations to all of the members of CTCAC, and thank them and their supportive families.

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## President's Message

By Dan Wilhelm

There has been a lot of press lately about the height and setback violations in Clarksburg. I thank the press for its great coverage of these violations.

The height and setback violations are only some of the problems in the Clarksburg area. Other more serious violations will soon be considered by the Planning Board, and the Civic Federation has documented additional violations in other parts of the county that must be addressed.

County Executive Doug Duncan has suggested that all the enforcement responsibilities be centralized under him in the Department of Permitting Services (DPS), but that will not solve the problem. The DPS has failed to stop many of the violations. Citizens have been complaining for years about violations and both the Planning Board and DPS have ignored their complaints.

I call upon the various parts of county government to reinvent the entire process. This includes:

*Master Plans.* Citizens need to have a greater voice in the development of master plans. Currently, citizens have limited ability to make their concerns known to the Planning Staff and Board, and concerns are often ignored anyway. I urge the Planning Board to adopt a Concordia type of process where Citizen Advisory Committees could voice their disagreements with the recommendations in the staff's draft plan. The Planning Board could then focus and on and mediate those areas of disagreement. Also, with so

much of the County "built out", the master plan process needs to be adjusted to focus on one or several neighborhoods when significant redevelopment is being considered.

*Development and Site Plans.* Because knowledgeable citizens often want sensible changes to a plan rather than outright rejection of the plan, and because developers - once they have spent money developing a project - have a vested interest in going forward with no changes, developers should be required to meet and work with citizens to address legitimate concerns before submitting their plans to M-NC/PPC. Once plans have been submitted to M-NC/PPC, citizens should be guaranteed a seat at the table with the planning staff and developer while the plans are being reviewed and modified. Once the hearing before the Planning Board has been scheduled, the staff report and recommendations should be posted on the web site two weeks before the hearing and developers should be prohibited from making changes to the plan during those two weeks. The hearing before the Planning Board should provide citizens with a third forum at which to address any remaining, unresolved concerns. Once the Planning Board approves a plan, no changes should be allowed without first notifying affected citizens for their concurrence. If the citizens do not concur, then the proposed change should be referred back to the Planning Board for mediation.

*Enforcement.* We believe that better coordination and communication would occur if representatives from Park and Planning, the Department of Permitting Services, and the Department of Housing and Community Affairs MPDU Office were physically brought together in a single Office of Site Plan Investigation and Enforcement (OSPIE). Whether or not an OSPIE is created, the County must actively enforce approved plans and aggressively investigate citizen complaints. The inspectors should provide a written follow-up to the person or citizens association who filed the complaint. The enforcement must address all areas: height, setback, placement of structures and roads on the land, storm-water management and sediment control, tree preservation, scattering of MPDUs throughout the development and building the required number of MPDUs during the approved stages of development.

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## **MCCF Delegates Oppose Sale of Peary High School: Background and Implications**

by Mark R. Adelman, Chair, MCCF Education Committee

At the September 12 MCCF meeting, the following emergency resolution was brought forward by the Education Committee, discussed, and passed unanimously:

**The Civic Federation recommends that the request of the Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy to purchase the Peary High School property be denied and that the existing lease be continued.**

The delegates were provided the following background to inform their discussion:

“Peary HS (in the Aspen Hill region of the County) was declared surplus (by MCPS) in the mid 1980s and turned over to the County. The property was not adequately maintained and fell into serious disrepair, resulting in considerable upset in the surrounding community. In the mid 1990s, the Hebrew Academy (HA) entered into a lease agreement by which they occupied the facility, paying a modest annual fee (\$60,000) and spent about \$10 million restoring and upgrading the facility. The terms of the lease (which extends until 2023) specify that the HA can offer to buy the facility at any time, at which point the County Executive and County Council must determine if the sale shall proceed and the terms of such sale. The County Executive has recommended that the sale be allowed, subject to several restrictions. M-NC/PPC is to offer its opinion later this week. The Council's MFP Committee will hold a hearing on the matter on September 19 and will render a decision. The Aspen Hill community appears to be in strong support of the sale because, prior to the takeover by the HA, the Peary site was a serious problem for the community. Thereafter the HA "saved" the facility and is perceived as a very valuable "good neighbor". Furthermore the community believes that MCPS and the County will never use Peary for any education-related purposes.”

“The MCCF Education Committee has researched this issue, including extensive readings, discussions with MCCPTA representatives, and some contact with the Aspen Hill CA (via its president). While MCPS and the County continue to state that there is no need for the Peary site, we view the "loss" of the site as part of the problem of

diminishing site capacity that MCCF has been arguing with MCPS for some time. While the proposed sale would stipulate that the County could buy back the site in 2026 (or thereafter) at then-current market value, the cost by that time would be extremely unfavorable to the County, while the proposed sale price at this time appears to be too low by a considerable amount. Land for any future high schools that might be needed in the downcounty area is essentially non-existent. There is no compelling reason why the HA cannot continue to lease the facility and why, when the current lease expires, it would not be possible to draft a new lease, perhaps with better financial terms for HA, with a number of shorter, staged, buy-back windows. The MCCF Education Committee recognizes the benefits that the HA has produced for the Aspen Hill community and the service they have rendered to the County by their good stewardship of the Peary site. But the HA has also derived considerable benefit from the existing lease arrangement and would continue to benefit if the lease continues. Montgomery County stands to gain little if anything from a sale at this time and stands to lose an extremely valuable site that might be one of the only possible down-county parcels that could serve for either a newly needed high school or a holding school to be used while existing high schools are being modernized.”

There was considerable additional information covered in the delegates' discussion, some of which was included in a subsequent Civic Federation Corner article in the Montgomery County Sentinel (September 22). M-NC/PPC staff also recommended against the sale, with arguments largely in agreement with those of the MCCF Education Committee. On September 15, the Planning Board voted to approve the recommendation of Planning Staff. County Council (MFP) action (originally scheduled for September 19, hence the need for the emergency resolution) has since been deferred until October 17.

While the Peary site disposition is still not resolved, it is perhaps instructive to consider the issues it re-emphasizes for the Civic Federation. First is the continuing failure of the Board of Education and various components of county government to respect citizens' concerns about the inappropriate disposition of parcels owned by MCPS (or the County), that may very well be needed for school facilities in the future. Second is the manner in which such decisions often pit one element of the community against another; in this case it forced MCCF delegates to take the position of opposing the wishes of one of its member organizations. In other situations local PTAs have been pitted against one another. Thirdly, volunteer organizations, like the Civic Federation (or PTAs), are often

not aware of such proposed actions until very near critical deadlines and are often forced to act extremely rapidly, sometimes without all necessary information. In this case, I am confident that MCCF has acted appropriately (in addition to the decision of M-NC/PPC, the MCCPTA has expressed its opposition to the sale of Peary), but our mechanisms for dealing with such issues are stretched quite thin. Government agencies must be made to see the value of proactively involving the broader community in such decisions, rather than acting in a manner that, to many of us, appears to be an effort to "sneak things by the community". Given the enormous number of actions being considered at any given time, citizens cannot be expected to track all of them (not even all those mentioned in the media), but we can demand that agencies directly inform groups, such as MCCF and MCCPTA, of upcoming actions in which groups such as ours could reasonably be expected to have an interest. Given the current state of affairs, the Civic Federation urgently needs more member associations, and more of its delegates need to inform the various Federation committees of "looming" problems. And, speaking for the Education Committee, I repeat my request for more citizens to become active in our committee work. We are, for a small group, rather effective; imagine how much more could be done if a few more good people would join the effort!

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## **Why Can't Montgomery County Keep Its Promises?**

by Wayne Goldstein, First Vice President

In 1998, when plans for the proposed Downtown Silver Spring Redevelopment project included demolition of the 1927 Silver Spring Armory and building a parking garage in its place, then MCCF President Jorge Ribas joined others at an important hearing to oppose the demolition. At that time, Montgomery County promised to spend \$8 million to replace the Armory with a much bigger and better 48,000 square foot Civic Building. In 1999, as the people waited for this Civic Building, County Executive Doug Duncan asked to increase spending on a Silver Spring black box theater by \$3.8 million, from \$1.4 to \$5.2 million. He also asked for millions more to build fancier Silver Spring parking garages.

The Civic Building was the last stage of the redevelopment plan, and its cost increased as the years passed. By 2000, the cost was up to \$10.5 million, in part because other uses had been added to the building. The building was

originally to have been completed by 2003; instead, that year, the price had increased to \$14 million. By 2005, the price was up to \$16 million, with completion due in 2008. Now, with most of the rest of the project completed and tens of millions of cost overruns spent for the benefit of businesses and special users, the county wants to cut the cost of the Civic Building to \$12 million. It wants to do so by eliminating an outdoor ice rink and pavilion, shrinking the size of the building by 10%, using cheaper finishes, eliminating a stage, and replacing a wood dance floor with cork.

Over the years, we've read about cost overruns for Strathmore Hall and the new jail. We got this concert hall that went \$40 million over the original budget so that music lovers would have a fine facility in the county. We got a new jail that went \$10 million over the original budget after being told that it would be \$1 million cheaper to build a new jail than enlarge and rebuild the old jail. The old jail that was originally going to cost \$2 million to be refitted for other purposes will now cost \$20 million for the new uses. The total cost overruns of just these and the Silver Spring projects from the original costs is about \$100 million. Of these and other county buildings constructed in the last 7 years, only the Civic Building was promised to the public as a replacement for an important public historic building that was to be destroyed.

Now, the County Executive and County Council are poised to break much of that promise, and they have lots of excuses for doing so. If the people of Silver Spring had known what to expect from our county government, they all would have joined MCCF in 1998 and opposed the demolition of the Silver Spring Armory. That way, they would still have had a community building to use for the decade they will instead have to wait for its replacement. Even though MCCF made no promise to help Silver Spring back then, we can surely help our Silver Spring member civic associations and county residents get a public building that will belong to the many, rather than the few, in Montgomery County. In Clarksburg and throughout the county we see a county government that can't enforce its own laws. At least we can work to make it keep its own promises.

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**Common Cause Maryland Forum** on "Fixing Our Broken Democracy". Sunday, October 23 from 4-6 p.m. at the Leland Community Center, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase. Public invited. Please RSVP to [cmd@commoncause.org](mailto:cmd@commoncause.org) or by calling 301-261-1566

## Question C is Alive and Well

### Charter Review Commission to Hold Public Hearing On the Composition of the County Council

The County's Charter Review Commission will hold a public hearing on the composition of the County Council and other related issues on Monday, October 24, 7:30 p.m. in the 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Hearing Room of the Council Office Building. Individuals wishing to testify should sign up in advance with Carol Edwards at 240-777-7929. You may leave a message on her machine if she is away from her office.

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## Status of Issues

### HOUSING COMMITTEE

- Special Needs Housing and Homelessness (PHED and HHS. Comm. worksession set for Sept. 29) and Briefing on Condo Conversions (PHED Comm. on Oct. 3)
- Workforce Housing Program, to create subsidized housing program for households above moderate income level. Legislation not yet introduced.
- In August, County Executive transferred 5 publicly owned sites to DHCA for creation of housing projects (on Jingle Ln. in Glenmont, Bowie Mill Rd. in Olney, public parking lot on Bethesda Ave. in Bethesda, and 2 sites on Washington Grove Blvd.). Request for Proposals not yet issued.

### PLANNING AND LAND USE COMMITTEE

- ZTA 03-27, Building Height Measurement (PHED Comm work session set for Sept. 28).
- ZTA 05-02, to create a new Transit Oriented Mixed Use Zone. MCCF seeks amendment to specify limits to density of dwelling-units-per-acre. Council to vote in Nov. along with Shady Grove Plan.
- County Service Park at Shady Grove, land swap being negotiated to relocate to other sites so site near Metro can be redeveloped.
- Master Plans under revision by Council--Shady Grove (awaiting Council vote in Nov.) and Bethesda CBD (PHED Comm. worksessions set for Oct. 3, including ZTA 05-08 to amend CBD Zone categories, & Oct. 10)

- Master Plans under revision by Park & Planning--Damascus and Twinbrook (these 2 to be approved and transmitted to current Council); Germantown and Gaithersburg Vicinity to be held over for transmittal to 2006 Council. Development Districts in Clarksburg (MFP Comm.worksession set for Oct. 10)
- Bi-Weekly Updates on Development Approval Issues (PHED Comm. on Oct. 3, including MPDU law, and Oct. 17)
- 2005-2007 Growth Policy (PHED Comm. worksessions set for Oct. 17 & 20)
- ZTA 05-11, Accessory Buildings Height and Lot Coverage, Council hearing Oct. 18 at 1:30 p.m.

#### EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Continuing the effort to prevent the unwise sale of educational facilities in Montgomery County. Following on resolution passed by MCCF delegates on 9/12/05, to oppose sale of Peary HS site, the Committee testified before MNCPPC on September 15, 2005 and has asked to address the County Council MFP Committee on October 17, 2005.

Based on MCCF opposition to the inappropriate revision of Board of Education Policy FAA (Long Range Educational Facilities Planning), the Committee will have two representatives on the MCPS Working Group to review the proposed regulatory document that is to accompany Policy FAA (FAA-RA). Meetings to begin in October 2005.

Ed. Comm. has begun a detailed study of Board of Education staffing needs and trends. Meetings are scheduled with County staff and with MCCPTA representatives.

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### MCCF Committee Meetings

Public Safety Committee meets at the home of the Chair, Fernando Bren, 9913 Hall Road, Potomac, MD 20854 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Tel: 301 299 0899 Future meetings:  
*Friday, October 7, 2005* Police Department Status of Issues with J. Thomas Manger, Chief of Police  
*Friday, November 4, 2005* County Council Status of Issues with George Leventhal, Vice President, Montgomery County Council  
*Friday, December 9, 2005* Public Health Status of Issues with Dr. Ulder Tillman, County Health Officer

*Friday, January 6, 2006* Office of the State's Attorney, Status of Issues and Public Safety Concerns in CY 2006 with State's Attorney Douglas F. Gansler

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: meets on the first Monday of each month, at 7:30 P.M. at the home of the Chair, Mark Adelman. Contact [mra@educationalassistance.org](mailto:mra@educationalassistance.org)

BYLAWS COMMITTEE: Next meeting Thursday, October 13, 7:00 pm at Hollywood East Café on the Boulevard, 2621 University Blvd. Wheaton

For information on meetings of other committees, please contact committee chairs directly.

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### Minutes of the Federation Meeting, September 12, 2005 by Richard Zierdt, Recording Secretary

MCCF President Dan Wilhelm calls the meeting to order at 7:50 pm. with 43 in attendance.

Dan and Jim Humphrey present the Community Hero Award to Barbara Siegel and Carol Lynn Green. Carol and Barbara speak about how land-use battles are not over; building height definition problems and limits of good government; problems with Department of Permitting Services, etc.

Jim Humphrey: 2005 marks the 80th Year Anniversary of the MCCF!

Program. Dale Tibbitts introduces Maryland Delegate Sheila Hixson, a Democrat from District 20 since 1976. Ms. Hixson is the first woman to chair the House Ways and Means Committee. The Committee has been favorable to MCCF priorities, but not the Maryland Senate. How can the MCCF be more effective in Annapolis? Del. Hixson: There are six major committees: Ways & Means, Appropriations, Economy, Environment, Judiciary, and Health and Government Operations. W&M covers: Taxes, financial resources (gaming, slots, lottery), education (policy), children and youth programs, transportation (policy issues, not funding), elections (voting machines, campaign financing, etc). Between 1500-2000 bills are introduced each must have a public hearing but some are withdrawn by sponsor. Identical bills (same bill as previous years) that are re-submitted could be heard before a sub-committee. The W&M committee sets

its own rules. Delegate supporters of a bill can ask questions. Ms. Hixson notes that the press is present all the time, but the public isn't. Do not avoid opponents of your ideas: keep them as informed as your supporters. Don't get angry if a legislator does not respond to your email.

Q&A. Luella Mast: Does the committee have staff? A: Yes, but see the legislator at least once. Marvin Weinman: How do citizens get legislation passed? A: Persistence. Bills are often submitted more than once. Q: How can legislators spend less time fundraising? A: Fundraising is not fun but public campaign funding bill was killed.

Q: What about the latest interpretation of Eminent Domain from the Supreme Court? What is Maryland doing about it? A: Delegate Dereck E. Davis from Democrat, District 25, Prince Georges County, Chair of the Economic Matters committee, is looking Eminent Domain limits for Maryland. Legislation is expected.

Membership. Arnie Gordon. Civic Associations are urged pay their dues. September 28, 2005 is a meeting of MCCF vice presidents at Arnie's home, 301-570-0481.

Planning and Land Use. Jim Humphrey. ZTA-027 Height Definition legislation. September 22, 2005 closing date for public comment.

Clarksburg: Thursday Oct 6, 2005 hearing. New Transit-oriented mixed use zone: TOMX. Hearing on Private Institutional Facilities (PIFs): September 29, 2005. Limiting impervious surface and refusing sewer extensions are issues in the Ag Reserve.

Education. Mark Adelman. Policy FAA (which was gutted) will have regulatory amendments instead. Citizens have been invited to look at the draft. The PTA and MCCF will have seats on the committee. Education Committee needs volunteers.

Budget. Luella Mast. Budget was not published in the September Newsletter, but was approved by the ExComm. Copies are available. Mark moves that the budget be approved. Seconded. Approved on voice vote with no nays.

Dave Michaels. Group homes for troubled adolescents. Eight teens with two councilors. Well-run homes are not a problem in residential areas; badly run homes are a disaster. Dave presents a paper with 16 suggestions that the State should consider. Richard Zierdt: encourage foster parenting. Arnie Gordon: Moves that the MCCF adopt the resolution. Seconded. Mark Adelman: Moves that the issue be remanded to the Public Safety Committee. Dick Kauffunger: Should be under the Education committee. Education Chair Mark Adelman declines to take on this

issue. About 15-18 homes of this type exist in MC. Motion (to remand to the PSC) passes 27-3-1.

Education. Mark Adelman. Moves that the MCCF recommend that the sale of the Peary High School site be denied and that the existing lease be continued. Seconded. Aspen Hill Citizens Association supports the sale. \$1.5M is the proposed price for school with 19.5 acres. Passes with Many-4-2.

Charles Pritchard: North Four Corners Park. Moves that the MCCF oppose \$5.8M for an additional soccer field. Land was bought by County in 1997 for park land. Jim Humphrey will assist on this issue.

Adjournment. Meeting is adjourned at 10:30 PM

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## **Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting, September 22, 2005**

by Richard Zierdt, Recording Secretary

Note: MCCF Public Relations Officer Lyle Schofield takes minutes until Zierdt's arrival.

MCCF president Dan Wilhelm calls the meeting to order at 7:45 PM. 11 are present: D. Wilhelm, L. Mast, D. Tibbetts, Brian Henry (guest), L. Shipman, M. Dennis, S. Vogelgesang, J. Humphrey, E. Finnegan, L. Schofield, C. Wolff.

Minutes of the August 18, 2005 ExComm meeting are accepted without amendment.

Treasurer's Report distributed for discussion. Budget was approved last meeting. There is enough leeway in the budget assuming expected associations pay. Seems slower than it was last year, but not verified.

ICC Legal action. Brian Henry from Audubon Society in attendance. Discussed possible legal action against ICC development. Focused on failure to look at needed transportation alternatives and high cost of ICC. He polled attendees to determine where different associations stand on the ICC. Some discussion of environmental and smart growth concerns. Henry is waiting for the final environmental impact statement (EIS). If issues are positively addressed, there may be no basis for legal action. Thinks it is not a done deal and election is coming up which allows for pressure. Public is unusually uninformed on this issue. Federal money seems to be in

question. [8:14 pm, Richard Zierdt arrives and takes minutes. 13 are now present, including R. Zierdt and A. Gordon.] No action is taken on this issue and discussion ends with agreement to discuss this later in the meeting under transportation.

Program. Decided for October: Wayne Goldstein and Jim Humphrey will discuss "What the MCCF Can Do for You"; In November: Derick Berlage; In December: Jim Johnson; In January, 2006: Roberts Rules of Order Boot Camp, and Education and LATR (suggested guest: Mary Ann Bowen for Roberts Rules). It was also suggested that ways of asking effective questions be discussed.

Group Homes for Troubled Teens - (continued from Dave Michaels' presentation at MCCF's September meeting). Dan will ask the Public Safety committee and/or form an ad-hoc committee.

Planning and Land Use (Jim Humphrey). Jim is starting a study of zoning enforcement for 1-family detached homes. Clarksburg is ongoing, and other sites are in violation.

Eileen Finnegan: Accessory apartment legislation. Accessory apartments would help affordable housing. Accessory apartments without permits were not approved six months ago, so special exceptions are still required.

Membership. Arnie Gordon. Meeting Tuesday, Sept 27 at Arnie's house. Some individual members and 32 associations have joined.

Education. Wayne Goldstein. Park and Planning Board voted unanimously to oppose the sale of the Peary HS facility. Board of Education invited the MCCF to participate in FAA considerations. Mark and Wayne will participate.

Environment. Jim Humphrey. Northwood/Four Corners opposes a plan that will expand their local park adding a second playing (soccer) field. Site plan enforcement review study: nothing about environmental conditions, or traffic plans. Sandy: Some staff members feel frustrated by being overridden by the planning board.

Legislation. Dale Tibbits. Charter Review Commission. (public hearing is scheduled for Oct 24 at 7:30 PM in the Council Office Building). Dale will testify on 9-0 [local, at-large council composition], but feels 9-2, 8-3, or even 7-4 is more likely to gain support. Maryland Senator Barkley wants to increase the number of signatures for

ballot initiatives. Charles Wolff moves that the MCCF support that the County Council be paid on a full-time basis, and permitted no second jobs. Seconded. Some felt being a council member \*is\* a full-time job, while others felt full-time compensation would create a "professional" political class. Motion fails 6-8-0.

Transportation. Jim Humphrey. TMA = Traffic Management Agreement. Jim wonders if any LATRs (Local Area Transportation Review) have been monitored by DPWT (the County's Department of Public Works and Transportation). Site plan enforcement is terrible. Peggy moves that the MCCF support a position that money allocated for the ICC be spent instead on the Hurricane Katrina reconstruction. Seconded. Motion fails 2-8-2.

Audubon Society (from Brian Henry's earlier discussion; Mr. Henry is not present). Peggy moves that the MCCF file an amicus curie brief on behalf of the Audubon Society in its possible suit against the ICC, if filed, as long as no MCCF moneys are spent. Seconded. Some felt that MCCF's support before the actual suit is filed was premature. Motion is withdrawn. Peggy then moves that the MCCF (1) Oppose the ICC, and (2) Support legal action, if that course becomes necessary, to achieve a fair and thorough review of viable alternatives to building the ICC, which cost less and impact communities and the environment far less. Seconded. Motion passes 9-2-3.

County Sign Enforcement. Wayne Goldstein moves that MCCF support the ACLU in its efforts to investigate Montgomery County's sign policy as unconstitutional (free speech). Seconded. Some feel the current sign ordinance is necessary. It was stated that signs must be content-neutral. Others feel that free speech is being squelched. Motion fails, 5-7-1.

Silver Spring Armory. Wayne moves that MCCF ExComm support full funding of the Armory replacement. Seconded. \$18M is understood as the necessary amount, but the County is proposing \$12M. Improvements agreed to seven years ago are not being honored. Motion passes 10-1-1. Wayne will write newsletter article.

Meeting adjourned 10:50 PM.



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION, INC.**  
**APPROVED BUDGET for the FISCAL YEAR July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006**

	2006 Proposed	2005 Actual	2005 Budget	Notes
<b>MCCF INCOME</b>				
Dues	4,985.00	4,720.00	3,980.00	
Local Associations	4,130.00	3,715.00	3,400.00	59 @ \$70 av. (52 in 04-05)
Umbrella Associations	180.00	320.00	45.00	4 @ \$45 (5 in 04-05)
Regional or County-Wide A.	90.00	200.00	135.00	2 @ \$45 (2 in 04-05)
Individual Associate	500.00	485.00	400.00	25 @ \$20 av. (24 in 04-05)
Associate Group	85.00	0.00	0.00	1 @ \$85 (0 in 04-05)
Donations	200.00	240.00	100.00	From Organizations & Individuals
Community Advocacy	0.00	3,720.00	4,070.00	General Election 11-06 in FY 06-07
Awards Dinner	2,300.00	2,225.00	2,000.00	Income = Expense
Interest (savings account)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Miscellaneous	30.00	34.50	50.00	Income not assigned elsewhere
In-Kind Contributions/Journal	50.00	49.56	100.00	
<b>MCCF INCOME</b>	<b>7,565.00</b>	<b>10,989.06</b>	<b>10,500.00</b>	
Transfer from Reserves	NA	0.00	760.00	
<b>MCCF INCOME TOTAL</b>	<b>7,565.00</b>	<b>10,989.06</b>	<b>11,260.00</b>	
<b>MCCF EXPENSES</b>				
<b>Member Communications</b>	<b>2,530.00</b>	<b>2,023.10</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>	
Newsletter	2,500.00	2,023.10	2,500.00	250 copies of 10 issues, Sept - June
Layout	0.00	0.00	0.00	Bob Dennis pro-bono
Printing	2,000.00	1,627.50	1,500.00	10 issues @ 12 pages; 250 copies
Mailing	500.00	395.60	1,000.00	150 @ 0.37 each x 10 months
Web page	30.00	0.00	0.00	Web development; address rental
<b>Civic and Social Betterment</b>	<b>3,950.00</b>	<b>7,517.72</b>	<b>8,090.00</b>	
Petition Drive	NA	3,895.52	4,070.00	Action in FY 06-07 for Nov. 06
"Yes on C" Charter Amendment	NA	1,170.34	1,000.00	Action in FY 06-07 for Nov. 06
Federation meetings	300.00	330.00	270.00	COB rental; 10 mtg/yr@3hr@\$10/hr
Awards Dinner	2,300.00	2,071.86	2,500.00	Restaurant, invitations, awards
Community Information Forums	1,200.00	0.00	200.00	2 possible: spring 2006
Federation Memberships	50.00	50.00	50.00	Committee for Montgomery
Membership Training	100.00	NA	NA	Workshops for member org. officers
<b>Organizational Support</b>	<b>950.00</b>	<b>247.28</b>	<b>620.00</b>	
Executive Committee	250.00	109.72	200.00	Postage, copying, events
President	100.00	85.00	120.00	CfM, Housing Conf., Allied
Committees	100.00	52.56	50.00	Housing Conf., supplies
Membership Committee	400.00	0.00	150.00	Postage, copying; fair booth in 06
MCCF Directory	100.00	0.00	100.00	printing costs
<b>Miscellaneous/Journal</b>	<b>25.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>50.00</b>	Expenses not assigned elsewhere
<b>MCCF EXPENSES</b>	<b>7,455.00</b>	<b>9,788.10</b>	<b>11,260.00</b>	
Transfer to Reserves	110.00	1,200.96	NA	
<b>MCCF EXPENSES TOTAL</b>	<b>7,565.00</b>	<b>10,989.06</b>	<b>11,260.00</b>	

Cash on Hand July 1, 2005: \$ 8,822.44

Luella W. Mast, Treasurer; August 31, 2005

Note: Per MCCF Bylaws: Article XVII. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT. Section 1. Annual Budget. An operating budget for the Membership Year shall be adopted to plan and manage the Federation's fiscal affairs. A proposed budget shall be prepared by the Treasurer and submitted to the Executive Committee for approval in August. The budget as approved shall be printed in the September Newsletter and included in the September Agenda for action by the Membership. The budget shall include all planned and expected expenditures and revenues. Federation officials shall assist the Treasurer as requested in developing the budget.

Position	Name	Home Phone	Office Phone	Email
		<b>Elected</b>		
President	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698	703-983-6847	<a href="mailto:djwilhelm@erols.com">djwilhelm@erols.com</a>
1st Vice-Pres.	Wayne Goldstein	301-942-8079	same	<a href="mailto:waynemgoldstein@hotmail.com">waynemgoldstein@hotmail.com</a>
2nd Vice-Pres.	Arnold Gordon	301-570-0481	same	<a href="mailto:nmcaprexy@aol.com">nmcaprexy@aol.com</a>
District 14 VP	Jackie Benn	301-260-9483		<a href="mailto:Jbgolf1@aol.com">Jbgolf1@aol.com</a>
District 14 VP Assistant	Dave Michaels	301-622-1805	same	<a href="mailto:mailbits@bigfoot.com">mailbits@bigfoot.com</a>
District 15 VP	Sandy Vogelgesang	301-365-2347		everest.associates@erols.com
District 16 VP	Lee Shipman	301-229-2005	same	<a href="mailto:plannerlee@earthlink.net">plannerlee@earthlink.net</a>
District 17 VP	Vacant			-
District 18 VP	Donna Savage	301-942-2447	301-942-2447	intfingers@aol.com
District 19 VP	<i>Vacant</i>			
District 20 VP	Eileen Finnegan	301-439-2263	same	finnegan20903@yahoo.com
District 39 VP	Jon Putnam	301-947-9299	202-354-1809	<a href="mailto:wputnam10@hotmail.com">wputnam10@hotmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Luella Mast	301-384-4178	same	<a href="mailto:luellam@comcast.net">luellam@comcast.net</a>
Rec. Secretary	Richard Zierdt	301-881-0283	703-464-1617	<a href="mailto:richard.zierdt@asg.com">richard.zierdt@asg.com</a>
Public Relations Officer	Lyle Schofield	301-929-7624	301-929-7624	<a href="mailto:lyle@norbeck.org">lyle@norbeck.org</a>
		<b>Past-President</b>		
	Cary Lamari	301-924-2746	301-924-2558	<a href="mailto:carylamari@yahoo.com">carylamari@yahoo.com</a>
		<b>Appointed</b>		
Historian	Charles Wolff	301-585-9744	301-286-8185	<a href="mailto:wolff99@starpower.net">wolff99@starpower.net</a>
Newsletter Ed.	Peggy Dennis	301-983-9738	same	<a href="mailto:hotyakker@comcast.net">hotyakker@comcast.net</a>
Parliamentarian	Dean Ahmad	301-951-0539	301-907-0947	<a href="mailto:dahmad@speakeasy.net">dahmad@speakeasy.net</a>
		<b>Standing Committees</b>		
Education	Mark Adelman	301-942-6893	301-295-3208	<a href="mailto:adelman3@erols.com">adelman3@erols.com</a>
Environment	Vacant			-
Legislation	Dale Tibbitts	301-587-9358	202-789-2004	<a href="mailto:datibbitts@aol.com">datibbitts@aol.com</a>
Membership	Lyle Schofield	301-929-7624	301-929-7624	<a href="mailto:lyle@norbeck.org">lyle@norbeck.org</a>
Pl. & Land Use.	Jim Humphrey	301-652-6359	same	<a href="mailto:theelms518@earthlink.net">theelms518@earthlink.net</a>
Pub. Fin. & Util.	Chuck Lapinski	301-384-0392	703-506-4600	<a href="mailto:clapinsk@mclean.mcri.com">clapinsk@mclean.mcri.com</a>
Pub. Fin. & Util.	Marvin Weinman	301-946-3799	same	<a href="mailto:weinmanm@msn.com">weinmanm@msn.com</a>
Public Safety	Fernando Bren	301-299-0899	same	<a href="mailto:FernandoBR@aol.com">FernandoBR@aol.com</a>
Transportation	Byron Bloch	301-299-1801	301-299-1800	<a href="mailto:byron@autosafetyexpert.com">byron@autosafetyexpert.com</a>
		<b>Special Committees (Not part of Exec Comm)</b>		
Bylaws	Peggy Dennis	301-983-9738	same	<a href="mailto:hotyakker@comcast.net">hotyakker@comcast.net</a>
Database	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698	703-983-6847	<a href="mailto:djwilhelm@erols.com">djwilhelm@erols.com</a>
Housing	Sarah Gilligan	301-564-4373	same	<a href="mailto:gilligan.j@worldnet.att.net">gilligan.j@worldnet.att.net</a>
Sentinel Article Coordination	Dan Wilhelm	301-384-2698	703-983-6847	<a href="mailto:djwilhelm@erols.com">djwilhelm@erols.com</a>
Historical Preservation	Wayne Goldstein	301-942-8079	same	<a href="mailto:waynemgoldstein@hotmail.com">waynemgoldstein@hotmail.com</a>
Membership Directory				
Awards Dinner (for May)				
		<b>ByLaw Committees (Not part of Exec Comm)</b>		
Audit	Jerry Garson	301-765-9470	301-704-0757	<a href="mailto:garson@comcast.net">garson@comcast.net</a>
Nominating	Appointed later			
Awards	Appointed later			

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

*Serving the County since 1925*

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006

Mail to: Arnold Gordon (2<sup>nd</sup> VP – Membership Chair)  
7 Minuteman Ct, Rockville, MD 20853  
301-570-0481, nmcaprexy@aol.com

Inquiries: Dan Wilhelm (President)  
(301) 384-2698  
djwilhelm@erols.com

Name of Organization/Individual \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Households (Approx) \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Dues (see below) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(Make checks payable to **Montgomery County Civic Federation**)

Membership Type	Number of Households	PLEASE CHECK	DUES	Max Number of Members	Voting Privileges
<b>Local Association</b> (civic, community, homeowner or municipality. Must represent at least 30 households - not paid members. Can not be a single local issue group.)	30 to 300		\$45*	2	Yes
	301 to 600		\$65*	3	
	601+		\$85*	4	
<b>Umbrella Association</b> (Two or more local associations. Cannot be single local issue group.)	60 to 500		\$45*	2	Yes
	501 to 1000		\$65*	3	
	1001+		\$85*	4	
<b>Regional or County-Wide Organization</b> (environmental, transportation, or other civic/community).	50+ memberships, not households		\$45*	2	Yes
<b>Individual Associate</b>	(not applicable)		\$20*	1	No
<b>Associate Group</b> (Gov't agency, business, or other organization)	(not applicable)		\$85*	2	No

Can select less than the allowed number of members and pay according to that number. List your members below. Each member will receive our newsletter unless he/she elects to receive an email notice that the newsletter is available at [www.montgomerycivic.org](http://www.montgomerycivic.org) for downloading. Please check the email box below for those who will receive the email notice. **\*You may also take a \$5 discount off the dues for each person who elects to receive the newsletter email notice.** Please provide the email address whether or not newsletter email notification is selected. We are planning to produce a membership directory. Please identify whether you want your email address included.

1.	<b>Name</b> (President+)		Phone (H/W)	
	Street		E-mail Address	<input type="checkbox"/>
	City, State, Zip		Put email address in directory: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
2.	<b>Name</b>		Phone (H/W)	
	Street		E-mail Address	<input type="checkbox"/>
	City, State, Zip		Put email address in directory: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
3.	<b>Name</b>		Phone (H/W)	
	Street		E-mail Address	<input type="checkbox"/>
	City, State, Zip		Put email address in directory: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
4.	<b>Name</b>		Phone (H/W)	
	Street		E-mail Address	<input type="checkbox"/>
	City, State, Zip		Put email address in directory: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

+President of applying organization or permanent substitute designated by the president.

## **Federation Meeting**

Monday, October 10  
7:45 3rd Floor Auditorium  
County Council Office Building.  
Rockville, MD

### Agenda

7:45 Call to Order  
7:46 Introduction and Announcements  
7:55 Adoption of Business Meeting Agenda  
7:58 Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report  
8:00 Community Hero  
8:10 Program  
9:10 Committee Reports  
9:20 Member Issues  
9:30 Old Business  
9:35 New Business  
    Silver Spring Armory  
10:00 Adjourn

The **Montgomery County Civic Federation** is a county-wide nonprofit educational and advocacy organization. It was founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. Its monthly Federation 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.***"

Submit contributions for the next issue by: **Midnight, Saturday October 22**. Prepare submission as an MS Word, Word Perfect or text-only document, **attach** it to e-mail, and send it to hotyakker@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, October 20, 7:45 p.m.

### **RED BRICK COURTHOUSE**

29 Courthouse Square, Rockville

(Note: there is free parking in front of the courthouse.)

## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION**

**DAN WILHELM, DATABASE MANAGER**

**904 CANNON ROAD**

**SILVER SPRING, MD 20904**

**[DJWILHELM@EROLS.COM](mailto:djwilhelm@erols.com)**

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Printed by **The Image Group**, 8930 Brookeville Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910 301-608-9334