



# Civic Federation News

June 2011

Serving the Public Interest since 1925

Official Publication of the  
Montgomery County Civic  
Federation

[www.montgomerycivic.org](http://www.montgomerycivic.org)

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## June Program: Maryland Charter Schools 101: Let's Start the Conversation

**Paula Bienenfeld, Education Committee Chair**

The program at our June 13 meeting will give us the chance to learn about Maryland's Charter School Act and to begin a conversation about charter schools in Montgomery County. We will cover what the Act is; what it allows and doesn't allow; what charter schools offer and what they don't offer; and to have a first discussion on facts and break some logjams. Our distinguished panelists include members of three organizations directly related to charter schools and the charter school process in the area: David Borinsky, of the Maryland Charter School Network; Joseph Hawkins, of the Global Garden Public Charter School; and Dr. Darren Woodruff of the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board.

David Borinsky chairs the Board of the Maryland Charter School Network (MCSN). MCSN is a non-profit, non-partisan, statewide organization whose aim is to promote and serve the Maryland charter school movement. MCSN offers advice, training, information and support to charter schools and charter school applicants.

Joseph Hawkins has been involved in charter schools in Montgomery County since at least 1999, with the application of the Jaime Escalante Charter School, the first charter school application in the county, and more recently, with the application to the Montgomery County Board of Education (BOE), of the Global Garden Public Charter School.

Dr. Darren Woodruff is a Board Member of the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board (PCSB). The PCSB was created in 1996 by an amendment to the D. C. School Reform Act of 1995 as a second, independent authorizer of public charter schools. In 2006, the D.C. Board of Education, which had served as the first charter authorizer since 1996,

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## July Potluck Dinner

All Current, Former and Prospective New Members  
Are Cordially Invited to the  
2011 Montgomery County Civic Federation Potluck  
Dinner

Friday, July 15, 2011

6:00 p.m. to whenever.....

At the home of Peggy Dennis  
11115 Fawsett Road, Potomac

**For additional information, turn to page 3**

## Community Hero Award: Save Our Park/Preserve Our Community Coalition

**By Caren Madsen, Environment Committee Co-Chair**

Anthropologist Margaret Mead would have been proud of a small group of community members who banded together recently to make a difference in their quiet but densely developed neighborhood in Montgomery County. In a neighborhood where multiple high-rise apartment buildings and single-family houses abut an industrial area, the *Save Our Parks/Preserve Our Community* coalition took a strong stand to save the 17-acre Rosemary Hills-Lyttonville Park in Silver Spring from becoming the next site for a middle school in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase cluster of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). For their passion, fast action and well-organized effort, the *Save Our Park/Preserve Our Community* coalition will be honored on June 13 with the MCCF "Community Hero" award.

On a Friday afternoon on March 25th, residents on a neighborhood e-mail list serving the Rosemary Hills community were alerted to a memorandum signed by MCPS Superintendent Jerry Weast. The memo advised the Board of Education (BOE) that a Site Selection Advisory Committee made the Rosemary Hills-Lyttonville Park the first choice for the site of a new middle school. The selection committee had reviewed 10 locations. Out of 10 sites on the review list, six sites were public parks.

Residents in the area were well-aware of the need for new schools to relieve over-crowding and supportive of maintaining a high-quality school system. But what they were not aware of until late March was a school selection process that had excluded them -- and had targeted their cherished and heavily-used local park for new school construction.

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**Program** from p 1

voted to relinquish its authorizing responsibilities. The D.C. Council passed legislation in 2007 to give the Mayor direct authority over the traditional public school system, and to transfer the oversight responsibility for the charter schools previously authorized by the DC BOE to the PCSB. The PCSB became the sole authorizer of charter schools in the District of Columbia. The PCSB regularly evaluates D. C. public charter schools for academic results, compliance with applicable local and federal laws and fiscal management, and holds them accountable for results. The PCSB can close charter schools that fail to meet the goals established in the charter agreement between the PCSB and the school.

The Maryland Public Charter School Act was passed and signed into law in May 2003. The State Law:

- Allows new start up schools and existing public schools to become charter schools
- Does not limit the number of charter schools for the state or any LEA
- Identifies the local board of education as the primary authorizer of charter schools
- Identifies the State Board of Education to serve as a secondary authorizer as a result of an appeal decision or for a restructured school
- Requires that charter schools receive funding that is commensurate to funding received by other public schools
- Gives charter schools a right to appeal decisions made by local boards of education
- Requires that charter school employees are public school employees of the local school board
- Requires that local school boards adopt a charter school policy.

There are currently 44 public charter schools in Maryland, but none in Montgomery County.



May program: Public Safety Chair Jim Zepp with State's Attorney John McCarthy, Assistant States's Attorney George Simms III, and Police Chief Thomas Manger

**Community Hero** from p 1

The BOE was to vote on the recommendation of the Rosemary Hills-Lyttonsville Park site the following Monday after residents became aware of the Weast memo. Community members mobilized immediately and formed a coalition. They contacted the BOE with urgent requests for the decision to be delayed due to the short notice to surrounding residents on the issue. They also filed public information requests quickly to get copies of documents related to the site selection process from MCPS.

Within days, the coalition set up a *Facebook* page, started a petition to save the park and ordered bright green t-shirts to promote their cause. They canvassed the neighborhood, contacted the media and started talking with local civic organizations, the Parents' Coalition of Montgomery County and Conservation Montgomery, an MCCF member and partner. Central to the Save Our Park coalition's message were that: 1) no one in the immediate neighborhood around the park had been included on the site selection committee and, 2) the community received word of the selection just a few days before a BOE vote was pending on the fate of Rosemary Hills-Lyttonsville Park. They contended that the process was flawed and that the lack of community engagement on the part of MCPS was cause for the selection process to be revisited.

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, an emergency town hall meeting was held at the Coffield Community Center in Silver Spring and included a broad group of residents surrounding the park. The meeting drew over 200 people along with staff from County Council Members Ervin, Elrich and Leventhal's offices, Parks Department Director Mary Bradford and the local media. Out of over 35 people who made public comments that night, only six supported using the park as a site for the new middle school. Among those making impassioned pleas to keep their parkland intact were middle and high school students from the area who use the park on a daily basis, as well as residents with a long history in the surrounding neighborhood.

Following the town hall meeting, letters to the BOE were sent by organizations, County Executive Leggett and many individuals. The Executive's letter steered the BOE away from the Rosemary Hills Park and suggested Rock Creek Hills Park, which had once been the site of Kensington Junior High School and held reclaim rights for MCPS. However, the strongest letter by far was a weigh-in from Planning Board Chair Francoise Carrier, who backed Parks Director Bradford's April 21 admonition at the town hall meeting that, "...[The Department] was not inclined to give up public park space for other uses."

In Chairman Carrier's letter, dated April 27<sup>th</sup> (the date the BOE had this item back on their agenda after the initial postponement), the facts spoke for themselves. Ms. Carrier pointed out that, "In some cases...State or federal money was used to purchase all or some of the property to make the park improvements, and that money has use restrictions associated with it. This often amounts to hundreds of thousands of dollars, as in this instance."

She noted that the first and second choices for the school site:



A member of the Save Our Park/Preserve Our Community Coalition testifies.

Rosemary Hills-Lyttonsville Park and Rock Creek Hills Park, were unanimately viewed by the Planning Board as unsuitable uses of parkland. Ms. Carrier said the Planning Board has serious concerns about the “..overall MCPS site selection process as it relates to identifying parkland for school sites.” She ended her letter by saying that both parks and schools are two primary reasons residents and businesses locate to Montgomery County, and said, “both are highly valued by our residents.”

On the evening of April 27<sup>th</sup>, the Save Our Parks Coalition assembled for the BOE meeting wearing their green t-shirts and armed with a complete set of documents, the chronology of events and a thorough analysis of what had transpired over the course of a month. Conservation Montgomery was represented on the panels of those testifying as well. The organization took the position that all county parkland should be protected from other uses. After reasoned public comments and discussion by the Board, the Board voted 6-1 to explore using the 13.4-acre Rock Creek Hills Park in Kensington instead of Rosemary Hills-Lyttonsville Park for the middle school.

Leaving the BOE meeting that evening, what might have been a time of celebration was instead an almost somber moment among residents of the Rosemary Hills-Lyttonsville community. While they were relieved that their park had been removed from the site selection list, they realized that another nearby park was in jeopardy.

“We’ve wanted to be good neighbors and help the Kensington community hold on their park,” said Susan Buchanan, a spokesperson for the Save Our Parks coalition. “We’ve been willing to help Kensington residents fight for Rock Creek Hills Park the way we fought for our park. We don’t think any park should be sacrificed for other uses.”

On June 13, we will honor Susan Buchanan, Leonor Chaves, Patricia Tyson, Charlotte Coffield, Joel & Mya Teitelbaum, Jean Redman and Mark Mendez for their exemplary work in pulling their community together to save their local park. They are true ‘Community Heroes’. Also, please read the draft resolution on the larger issue – the taking of parkland for

## July Potluck Dinner

Since our meetings provide little time to get to relax and get to know one another, our Summer Potluck is mainly a social event to allow us time to relax with great food and wonderful friends. We will have the opportunity to discuss issues of concern to our local associations, and time to strategize with our committee chairs about these issues.

Please RSVP to Peggy at hotyakker@gmail.com or. 301-983-9738. Former and Current Members are asked to bring a dish to share (appetizer, salad, side dish, casserole or main dish, bread/rolls, or dessert) and the serving utensils needed for that dish. Prospective and New Members will be our guests.

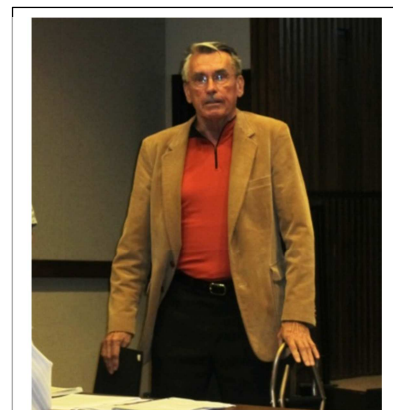
Directions:

**FROM DOWN-COUNTY /** Beltway take Exit 39 onto River Road (Rt. 190) going west to Potomac Village. Turn LEFT at second light in the village onto Falls Road (Rt. 189). Drive 2 miles to the T-intersection where Falls Rd. meets MacArthur Blvd. Turn LEFT on MacArthur and LEFT immediately onto Fawsett Road.

**SCENIC ROUTE ALTERNATIVE:** take Beltway Exit 41 onto the Clara Barton Parkway heading west towards Carderock and Great Falls. When Parkway ends, turn LEFT onto MacArthur Blvd. Follow MacArthur past Old Angler’s Inn, up the long, curvy hill, past the Woodrock development, the Rockwood Manor Conference Center and Picasso Lane (all on the right) then turn RIGHT onto Fawsett Road.

**FROM UP-COUNTY / I-270:** Take Exit 5 for Falls Road (Route 189) west to Potomac. Pass through the village and drive 2 miles to the T-intersection where Falls Rd. meets MacArthur Blvd. Turn LEFT on MacArthur and immediately LEFT onto Fawsett Road.

House is the second on the left with the green mailbox. Our driveway has limited space for parking and turning around, so please save space in the driveway for our less able walkers. Also, please park only on the right side of the road so enough space is left for other cars to get through safely. A flashlight is useful for finding your way back to your car in the dark.



George Lane, May’s Community Hero

## Time to Join the Civic Federation or Renew Your Membership

Our membership year begins on July 1. Delegates or association presidents are asked to print out the **Membership Form** on page 11, fill in the form and give it to your **treasurer** so it can be mailed with the check for to Bill Schrader as soon as possible. We appreciate your cooperation, and we thank the Huntington Terrace Citizens' Assn., Strathmore-Bel Pre Civic Assn., Clarksburg Civic Assn., Richard Strombotne, Richard Zierdt and Paula Bienenfeld for their early renewals. We also welcome new members: Ajima Olaghere, President and delegate from the Glenmont Forest Neighbors Civic Assn., and new (old) associate member, Fifa Northrup. Old hands will remember Fifa as our Corresponding Secretary some years ago. Fifa's local association has become defunct, and she is interested in working to revive it.

## Slate of Officers Nominated for 2011 – 2012

### By Dan Wilhelm, First Vice President

The Federation's Nominating Committee, consisting of Dan Wilhelm, Paula Bienenfeld and Chuck Lapinski puts forth the following nominees for the elected positions:

President	Peggy Dennis
First Vice President	Carole Ann Barth
Second Vice President	<i>open</i>
Treasurer	William Schrader
Recording Secretary	Sue Schumacher

Elections will take place at the June meeting. Delegates will also be asked to confirm the recommendations for persons in appointive positions on the Executive Committee:

Member at Large	Virginia Sheard
Member at Large	Michelle Yu
Member at Large	Ann McDonald
Member at Large	Max Bronstein
Member at Large	David Shaw
Database	Dan Wilhelm
Education	Paula Bienenfeld
Environment	Ginny Barnes & Caren Madsen
Legislation	Dan Wilhelm & Jay Harding
Newsletter Editor	Peggy Dennis
Parks & Recreation	Carole Ann Barth
Planning/Land Use	Jim Humphrey
Public Finance	Chuck Lapinski
Public Relations	Sandy Vogelgesang
Public Safety	Jim Zepp
Public Utilities	Chuck Lapinski
Transportation	Dan Wilhelm

## Proposed Resolution on the Taking of Park Land for Schools By Caren Madsen, Environment Committee Co-Chair

To be introduced, discussed and voted on at the June 13 meeting.

*Concerning* the recent site selection process for a proposed new middle school in the Bethesda-Chevy Chase cluster, and what was identified by community members, the Montgomery Planning Board Chair and Parks Director as a flawed and exclusive process employed by the Montgomery County Board of Education and Montgomery County Public Schools:

*Whereas* 6 out of 10 sites on a recent MCPS site selection list were county parks which have been purchased and maintained with appropriated funds and ,

*Whereas* the County Executive acted to recommend use of one park over another based on former occupancy of Rock Creek Hills Park by Kensington Junior High School, and,

*Whereas* an existing 34,000 acres of county parkland are valuable natural resources as well as treasured public spaces that should not be jeopardized by uses outside of the mission and goals of M-NCPPC, the government entity charged with Parks stewardship, and,

*Whereas* parks and schools are both extremely important county services that should never compete for land use, and

*Whereas*, parkland should not be treated as surplus or vacant property, and

*Whereas* other sites should be considered for redevelopment or reclamation by the Board of Education and MCPS, such as the former Montgomery Hills Middle School, and

*Whereas*, the Montgomery County Planning Department staff and Planning Board should meet immediately with officials from MCPS and the Board of Education to discuss alternatives to attempting to take parkland for use as school sites,

*Be it resolved* that the Montgomery County Civic Federation urges the State, County Executive, incoming School Superintendent Joshua Starr, Board of Education and staff in charge of school site selection at MCPS:

- to develop a transparent process for engaging and consulting with community stakeholders long before a site selection process is started for a new school building,
- to act in the future with integrity and complete transparency,
- to work in consultation with professional land use planners at the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission and the Planning Director on all future land use decisions that will affect an entire community, and
- to refrain from attempting to take and use any parkland in Montgomery County for school sites.

## Roadside Solicitations

By Dan Wilhelm, Legislative Chair

If you recall, MCCF members voted in March to support a state bill that would have given the Council the authority to pass a law to require individuals and groups to obtain a permit to solicit money or donations from a median divider or sidewalk adjacent to a roadway. After our vote, the Council requested that the bill be modified to also give them the authority to completely ban roadside solicitations. The Executive opposed a complete ban as did the career firefighters union, which wants to be able to continue their annual "Fill the Boot" campaign. Councilmember Phil Andrews, representing the Council, pressed the Montgomery County State Delegation for the modification. MCCF supported the modification based upon the sentiment expressed by the delegates at the March meeting. In the end, the bill was withdrawn.

At the April meeting, MCCF members voted to support County Bill 12-11 which would ban county employees from standing in a roadway, median divider, or intersection to solicit money or donations while on duty. Under existing Executive Regulations, the County Fire and Rescue employees could still solicit while on-duty at other locations such as shopping centers, maybe along the lines of the Salvation Army's annual holiday collection. The bill would not affect what the firefighters do while on their own time.

I testified at the May 3 hearing. My testimony and others who supported the bill said it was needed for public safety. The County Executive, Fire Union, and Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) indicated that the "Fill the Boot Campaign" was needed to raise funds for MDA. I and others indicated that the campaign could continue and still be successful but would need to be relocated to collect donations in shopping centers and other public places and that the collection would need to have only one or two firefighters at a site at one time rather than many people at an intersection. In response to questions from Councilmember Andrews, the Fire Chief said he was not aware of firefighters being in the street during the campaign, which is already against state law. Many people pointed out to the Fire Chief that firefighters were illegally in the street and that he needed to provide them direction.

Now that the budget has been approved, the council will be taking up Bill 12-11. I urge you to email and/or call your councilmembers about supporting the bill. This bill is only a first step and we really need to get state legislation passed to give the council the authority it needs. The "Fill the Boot Campaign" as presently conducted is the main impediment, and the County bill is a step towards addressing the larger problem. The bill is about one thing – safety.

## Transit Task Force

By Dan Wilhelm

In February, County Executive Leggett appointed 18 people to a Transit Task Force (TTF) with the mission of making a comprehensive rapid transit system a reality in Montgomery County. The TTF members include two councilmembers, the Director of the County's DOT, Chair of the Planning Commission, a senior WMATA representative, a senior Maryland DOT representative, senior business leaders and civic leaders representing diverse interests. There are also seven ex officio members including an assistant chief administrative officer, state senator, state delegate, and three staff members for different congressional representatives. I am one of the 18 people and I am representing the MCCF, largely because of my involvement for MCCF in transportation in the 1990s and early 2000s and the Transportation Policy Report (TPR) effort with the planning department that concluded in 2002.

The Task Force has been meeting twice a month (generally first and third Wednesdays) since March 23. The current schedule continues this schedule through September. We have had presentations that included the County DOT bus rapid transit (BRT) study; MC DOT on the performance of the Ride-On facilities and services; the Governor's Blue Ribbon Transportation Commission; and various public-private partnerships. We have also had a discussion about our vision for a rapid transit system.

The material from the meetings is posted on [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/cex/transit](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/cex/transit). I encourage you to review the material, especially the briefing by MC DOT on BRT. They have identified 16 possible BRT routes. The Planning Board is expected to start a transportation master plan beginning next fiscal year that would include transit facilities. The County DOT study will surely be considered by the planning staff in the development of the master plan. Once the final MC DOT BRT report is available, it will be posted to that web site as well.

## Education News

By Paula Bienenfeld, Education Committee Chair

### Happy Graduation

As school comes to an end this month the Civic Fed would like to congratulate all our high school graduates, and wish them the best in the future! And thanks to all the parents, guardians, teachers, and staff who work so hard to care for our children and see them through the education process. Best wishes for bright futures to all. And of course to all our children – have a wonderful, fun-filled summer vacation.

### MCPS Budget

The County Council voted unanimously on Thursday, May 19, to finalize its \$4.4 billion operating budget for

FY12. (FY11 ends June 30th.) A total of \$1.37 billion in county tax dollars will go to MCPS. Adding in state funding, total tax dollars spent on schools in fiscal 2012 will be \$1.95 billion — almost 56 percent of all tax-supported funding in the county. Because of additional state funding, MCPS will actually have an increase in its budget. In response, the Board of Education (BOE) is considering bringing suit against the citizens of Montgomery County. MCPS is not a county agency; it operates as a 'quasi-state' agency.

### Update on New B-CC Middle School Site

The BOE voted to prepare a Feasibility Study to place the new Bethesda/Chevy Chase Middle School at Rock Creek Hills Local Park, sparing the Rosemary Hills/Lyttonsville Local Park. While this is a relief to the neighbors at the Rosemary Hills/Lyttonsville Local Park, it was a shock to the neighbors at the Rock Creek Hills Local Park who were taken completely unawares by the vote and had no advance notice at all. The bigger picture is the continued secrecy, lack of transparency; and disdain for public input in the BOE's approach to its business.

### Artificial Turf Draft Report

Comments on behalf of the Civic Fed were submitted to the Working Group, the BOE and the County Council. Please know that the deadline to submit comments has been extended to June 3rd. Please make sure to read this report in its entirety, and send comments to the Working Group, the BOE, and the County Council. The following is a link to the Draft Report on our website: <http://tinyurl.com/art-turf-drft> and a link to my analysis: <http://tinyurl.com/art-turf-drft-comments>

## Monthly Meeting Dates for Remainder of 2011

Please mark these on your calendar

Pot Luck dinner July 15  
Monday, September 12  
Monday, October 10  
Monday, November 14  
Monday, December 5\*

\*N.B. December meetings are moved forward one week because our regular meeting room was not available on December 12, and we do not want our December ExComm meeting to conflict with Chanukah.

## Minutes of the May 9, 2011 Meeting

By Sue Schumacher, Acting Recording Secretary

**Call to Order:** President Peggy Dennis called the meeting to order at 7:49 pm with introductions all around. The agenda was approved with the addition of the Nominating Committee Slate of Officers report at 9:15. The minutes of the April meeting were approved as

published in the newsletter. Bill Schrader, Treasurer, gave a report on the finances of the organization as well as the finances for the Awards Dinner.

**Announcements:** The Environmental Committee will co-chair the Sunlight Conference.

**Community Hero:** Jim Humphrey introduced George Lane, who was presented the community hero award for his work in writing and dispersing the timely and accurate crime reporting for East Silver Spring. George explained how the County Police do not get out the Silver Spring crime reports for 2-3 weeks whereas the DC Police post its reports hourly..

**Program:** Jim Zepp introduced the program on Community Policing and Prosecution with three speakers: John McCarthy, the Montgomery County States Attorney; George Sims also of the States Attorney's Office and Thomas Manger, Montgomery County Chief of Police. Chief Manger spoke on Community Policing stressing that "one size doesn't fit all", what works in Poolesville will not work in downtown Bethesda. The Chief went on to say that the County has one of the lowest police officers to residents ratios in the country, 1.2 per 10,000 versus the US average of 2.5. The County currently has 1151 police officers to almost one million residents. The County budget cuts are impacting the force. For example, for the US Open at Congressional Country Club, the Internal Affairs officers, who are usually in suits behind desks will be in uniform at the event. John McCarthy, spoke next discussing Community Prosecution, which includes educating the public. The States Attorney's office is very proactive. There are 70,000 crimes reported a year and 30,000 are pursued. He went on to say that his office dealt with crime prevention, identity theft, sexting, bullying and internet safety. The States Attorney's office runs a program on this in grades 1-12. Other crimes include truancy as well as crimes against seniors. George Sims then spoke on the work the county does on truancy, especially getting the parents/guardians involved.

**Nominating Committee:** Slate of Officers for 2011-2012: So that Peggy Dennis could serve a third term as president, it was moved by Dan Wilhelm, First Vice President "to waive for one year the Bylaws requirement that the president may not serve more than two consecutive terms (Article IV, paragraph 9). The motion was seconded by Yale Wiesberg and passed. There was a call for nominations from the floor, especially for second vice president, which was a vacant position on the Slate of Officers (see May 2011 Newsletter, page 4). Yale Wiesberg nominated himself as a candidate for Second Vice President and received one second.

**Resolutions:** Jim Humphrey, Planning and Land Use Chair, reviewed the recommended position on ZTA 11-01, the proposed CR Zone amendments (see May newsletter pages 4-5). It was moved and seconded to support the position, and adopted unanimously.

## Committee Reports

**Chuck Lapinski, Finance Chair**, reported that County Executive Leggett has been told that the County charter predominates. The County Council has turned things over to an arbitrator. On the State level everything passed without input from citizens. The Governor will call a Fall session of the legislature especially to pass a gas tax.

**Dan Wilhelm**: Reported on the County bill on Roadside Solicitation.

**Paula Bienenfeld, Education Chair**, reported that:

- Josh Starr of Stanford, CT has been hired as the new Superintendent of County Schools.
- The Artificial Turf Report is due on Friday, May 13.

**Caren Madson, Environment Committee Co-Chair** reported that the County Bag Bill passed the County Council 8-1, with Nancy Floreen being the only no vote

**Carol Ann Barth, Parks and Recreation Chair**, indicated that the Board of Education will be coming after public parkland that originally had schools on the land.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

## Minutes of the May 17 Executive Committee Meeting

### By Ginny Barnes, Acting Recording Secretary

**Call to Order** at 7:55 at the home of Peggy Dennis. Attendees: President Peggy Dennis, Ginny Barnes, Carole Ann Barth, Jim Zepp, Jim Humphrey, Bill Schrader. The agenda for May and the minutes of the April ExComm meeting were both approved.

**Treasurer's Report**: Bill Schrader provided a financial update. Final bills for the Annual Awards Banquet and the Bicycle Conference have not yet been submitted.

**Discussion Topics**: Annual Awards Banquet and the Bicycle Conference were successful. Slate of elective officers and appointive members of the Executive Committee were finalized. Because Bylaws require 3 seconds to nominations from the floor, it was determined that Yale Wiesberg's self-nomination with only 1 second was invalid and the 2nd VP position will remain unfilled for now. Dates for future ExComm meetings will be changed to the third Monday of the month as three members of the ExComm cannot attend on the third Wednesday. Monthly meetings will remain the 2nd Monday of the month for remainder of the year except December when the meeting will be held on the 5th.

**Programs**: Paula Bienenfeld is arranging the June program on Charter Schools. It was decided that Paula should also invite the new Superintendent of Schools, Starr, to meet with us for the program in September on his vision for the future of Montgomery County Schools.

Future program topics include October program with Directors of Regional Service Centers on topic of building stronger civic associations (Peggy); Zoning Rewrite & Zap Committee (Jim Humphrey), Bus Rapid Transit (Dan Wilhelm) and an Update on the Forest Conservation Bill and Urban Trees (Ginny & Caren).

**Community Hero**: Caren nominated by email the "Save Our Park" community group formed to prevent the loss of Rosemary Hills-Lyttonsville Park from being taken by MCPS for a new Chevy Chase Middle School.

**July Potluck Dinner** - Friday July 15th - 6 PM at the home of Peggy/Bob Dennis

## Committee Reports

**Planning and Land Use**: Jim H. testified on ZTA 11-01 which goes to the PHED Committee on June 21. Update on candidates for the Planning Board with Council interviews scheduled for May 24th. Also discussed Brickyard Rd. School Site as a Master Plan issue and as a future Mandatory Referral to the Planning Board.

**Environment** - Ginny gave an update on work she and Caren are involved in to give stormwater credit for retaining trees, particularly on small lots, as well as progress in creating an Urban Tree Bill to address the loss of tree canopy.

**Parks and Recreation** - Carole brought up the need to address stormwater runoff in parks since they will have their own MS4 permit and there is an undesirable trend toward using more structural controls when developing parkland projects. Artificial Turf Report was critiqued as an inadequate product. Jim Zepp reported he is on Countywide Recreational Advisory Board and the Artificial Turf Report has not been brought up for discussion in that body.

**Meeting adjourned @ 10 PM.**

## Bethesda Green Hosts Free Solar Expo

Hear from neighbors who are already living with solar. Get info on costs, benefits, rebates and tax credits. Check your home's solar readiness with satellite mapping. Meet local solar companies.

**Saturday, June 25, 10 am – 4 pm**

**4825 Cordell Ave., Suite 200, Bethesda**

**For more information or to RSVP go to [www.bethesdagreen.org](http://www.bethesdagreen.org)**

## Pictures from the 2011 Awards Banquet



Ginny Barnes and Caren Madsen, Environment Committee co-chairs, receive the Star Cup from Council President Valerie Ervin



Vernon Ricks, Jr. and Richard Wegman receive the Sentinel Award on behalf of the Organizational Reform Commission



Councilmember Hans Riemer presents the Wayne Goldstein Award to board members of Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc.





Cyril Draffin, Dan Wilhelm, Councilmember Mark Elrich and Caren Madsen



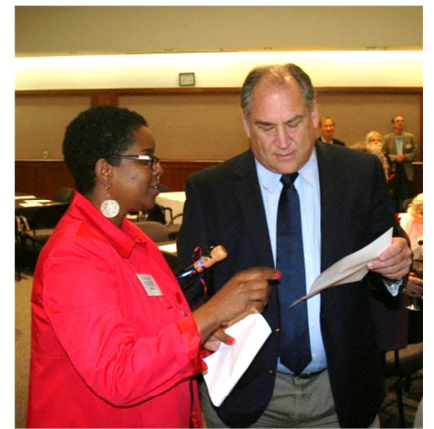
Councilmember Hans Riemer with Carol Ann Barth



Caren Madsen—Let's fill this with champagne!



Councilmember Nancy Floreen—voted "Cutest Smile"



Councilmembers Valerie Ervin and Marc Elrich—"Can't the budget wait?"



George and Ginny Barnes with Parks Director Mary Bradford



Francoise Carrier, Chair, Montgomery County Planning Board, with Ginny Barnes



Roger Berliner, Council Vice President, with Mary Bradford, Parks Director



Judy Higgins and Virginia Sheard having a fine time



Luella Mast, previous Star Cup awardee



MCCF President Peggy Dennis

## Montgomery County Civic Federation

*Serving the County since 1925*

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

**Mail to:** William H. Schrader (Treasurer)  
 12824 Middlevale Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20906  
 301-946-6545; schraderw@erols.com

**Inquiries:** Dan Wilhelm (1st VP, Database)  
 904 Cannon Road, Colesville, MD 20904  
 301-384-2968; djwilhelm@verizon.net

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 Delegates	Voting Privileges
<b>Local Association</b> (civic, community, homeowner or municipality. Must represent at least 10 households - not paid members. Cannot be a single local issue group.)	10 to 50		\$25*	1	Yes
	51 to 300		\$45*	2	
	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 advocacy organizations).	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

**\*A \$5 discount may be taken for each person who elects to receive the newsletter via email – please check e-mail box below.** You can also select less than the allowed number of delegates and pay for the lesser number. Please provide all the information below regardless of newsletter delivery method. Please indicate whether you want your email address included in a membership directory.

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

\* Organization president or a permanent substitute designated by the president

### **Federation Meeting**

#### **Session 828**

Monday, June 13, 2011  
7:45 1st Floor Auditorium  
County Council Office Building.  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD

#### Agenda:

7:45 Call to Order & Introductions  
7:50 Announcements  
7:52 Approval of Agenda  
7:53 Approval of Minutes of the May 9 Meeting  
7:54 Treasurer's Report  
7:55 Community Hero: Save Our Park Coalition  
8:00 Program: Discussion on Charter Schools  
9:15 Resolution on Taking Park Land for Schools  
9:20 Committee Reports  
9:44 Old Business / New Business  
9:45 Adjournment

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 September through June at 7:45 p.m. in the First Floor Auditorium, County Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD.

The **Civic Federation News** is published monthly, except in July and August. 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, August 21, 2011.** Prepare submission as an MS Word, Word Perfect or text-only document, **attach** it to an e-mail, and send it to: **hotyakker@gmail.com**

Please send all **address corrections** to Dan Wilhelm, 904 Cannon Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904, 301-384-2698, or [djwilhelm@verizon.net](mailto:djwilhelm@verizon.net).

### **NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**DATE: TO BE DECIDED**

At the home of Paula Bienenfeld

6018 Tilden Lane  
North Bethesda, MD 20852



**Official Publication of the  
Montgomery County Civic Federation**

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First Class Mail

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