



Civic Federation News

April 2014

Serving the Public Interest since 1925

Official Publication of the
Montgomery County Civic
Federation

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New Screen-friendly format

Reserve Your Tickets Now (form on p 11) for the

Montgomery County Civic Federation's

2014 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Friday, May 2, 2014

Honoring

THE WAYNE GOLDSTEIN AWARD - awarded to an individual or group for outstanding public service to the people of Montgomery County:

Danila Sheveiko

THE SENTINEL AWARD - awarded to an individual or group who makes a significant contribution to good government at the local level:

Lyda Astrove

THE STAR CUP - awarded to the MCCF delegate or committee for outstanding public service to Montgomery County:

Carole Ann Barth

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Federation Meeting

Session 855

Monday, April 14, 2014

7:45 1st Floor Auditorium

County Council Office Building.

100 Maryland Avenue

Rockville, MD

Agenda:

7:45 Call to Order & Introductions

7:50 Approval of Agenda

7:51 Announcements

7:54 Approval of Minutes of
March 10 meeting

7:55 Treasurer's Report

8:00 Program: County Operating Budget

9:2 Committee Reports

9:45 Adjournment

COUNTY EXECUTIVE CANDIDATES FORUM, APRIL 16

The Montgomery County Civic Federation, the Montgomery County Taxpayers League, and the Parents' Coalition of Montgomery County, MD invite you to a County Executive Candidates Forum. All four candidates will attend: Phil Andrews (D), Doug Duncan (D), Ike Leggett (D), and James Shalleck (R). Andrea McCarren, of WUSA*9 News, will moderate. Come with your questions!

DATE: Wednesday, April 16th

TIME: 6:30pm, Meet-and-greet; 7-9 PM, Candidates Q&A

PLACE: Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave., Rockville

Navigating the Newsletter By Bob Dennis, formatter

Since January the Newsletter has been in a format that is friendly for reading on a computer screen. However, it may not be immediately obvious how to navigate around the document.

- You can click on an article in the table of contents, and jump right to the article.
- You can do the same thing from the bookmarks that should show up on the left of the page. Those bookmarks stay on the left as you move to other pages, so you can always jump to any article in the document.

You may not see the bookmarks. If you can't, try one of these:

- If you have a blue folded-ribbon ("bookmark") icon in the left-hand column on your screen, click on it and the bookmarks will appear.
- If you don't see a left-hand column with anything in it, and you can see a red PDF icon at the right of your address bar (where it says "www.montgomerycivic.org",) click on that icon so that you can read the document using Adobe Acrobat. Then you will see either the bookmarks or the blue ribbon.

Wouldn't it be nice if there were bookmarks in documents produced by the County, such as the Budget?

April Program: County Operating Budget

By Jerry Garson, Treasurer

Our program on Monday, April 14 will be presented by Steve Farber, Staff Director for the Council; Jennifer Hughes or a representative from the Office of Management and Budget, and Joe Beach, Director of the Department of Finance.

Our guests will discuss budget and financial issues, including but not limited to:

- Commercial and residential property tax assessments
- Proposed County Executive raises for county employees
- Other government and department requests that exceed budget guidelines
- Funding For the Board of Education beyond the Maintenance of Effort requirements

The following are some of the proposals for the Budget year starting July 1, 2014:

- Provide resources to accommodate the enrollment of 154,178 students in the school system.
- Make a County contribution to MCPS of \$1,541.1 million, including \$38.2 million in carryover and \$37.8 million of local contribution for State retirement. The County contribution exceeds the State Maintenance of Effort Law requirements by \$26.0 million.
- Support MCPS programs through expenditures in other County departments, such as HHS, Public Libraries, Recreation, Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF), Environmental Protection, and Police, totaling \$68.5 million in FY15, an increase of \$16.8 million from FY14.
- Expand the Kennedy Cluster Project to the Watkins Mill Cluster, a multi-agency collaborative service model, to enhance early childhood services, add one Linkages to Learning site at South Lake Elementary School, and increase staff support to reduce institutional barriers for students and families in the high-need areas to engage school activities and improve academic achievement.
- Oversee an expanded resurfacing program, which goes from 24 lane-miles in FY14 to 129 lane-miles in FY15.
- Initiate the County's first Light Emitting Diode (LED) street lighting project in an effort to reduce energy and maintenance costs. Approximately 100 new LED street lights are being installed along New Hampshire Avenue, and approximately 180 existing street lights in Damascus are being converted to LED lights.
- Support funding for the Green Technology Investor Incentive program and the Cybersecurity Investment Tax Credit Supplement Program; and introduced two programs in FY14 to promote strategic industry growth by providing incentives for private investments in green technology and Cybersecurity companies.
- The County's job retention, attraction, and creation efforts led to 47 out of 54 interested companies to start up, expand, or relocate to the County. The 47 companies are projected to retain and create 2,254 jobs, lease 232,000 square feet of office space, and generate \$56 million in capital investment over the next 3-5 years.

- Expand the Life Sciences Incubator Programming and Support.
- Partner with the State of Maryland and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to become the new home to the National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence, positioning the County to be the epicenter of this emerging and fast growing industry.
- Support funding of the Montgomery Moving Forward initiative to assist unemployed and underemployed County residents in gaining employment in the health and wellness industry.
- Convert the William Hanna Innovation Center to become the National Cybersecurity Center of Excellence.
- Through business assistance efforts, staff worked with over 300 businesses, organizations, and federal agencies in Montgomery County, resolving over 600 issues, retaining over 1,400 jobs, and creating approximately 850 new jobs.
- Through the Economic Development Fund, facilitate the retention and expansion of businesses in the County, including the addition of 242 new jobs to the 818 employee base for Sodexo, Emergent Biosolutions, Inc., and Precision for Medicine, Inc.
- Execute a general development agreement with a private partner for the redevelopment of Wheaton. This project will include an office building to house the headquarters of the Maryland National Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), as well as, the County Departments of Permitting Services and Environmental Protection. It also includes a 400 space public parking garage and a large Town Square as a public meeting and event space. In conjunction with the project, the private partner will be building a mixed use retail/residential building on the Wheaton site and a second retail/residential complex on the site of the former M-NCPPC headquarters in Silver Spring.
- Open the new Silver Spring Library in fall of 2014. Silver Spring Library will open with 69 Public Service Hours (PSH), an increase of 18 PSH over the current Silver Spring Library; Library PSH will increase overall by 62 per week to a total of 1,189, a 5.5% increase.
- Expand Public Service Hours by up to four per week at the following eleven library branches: Davis, Marilyn Praisner, Potomac, Aspen Hill, Chevy Chase, Damascus, White Oak, Kensington Park, Little Falls, Long Branch, and Twinbrook.

The 2014 Award Recipients

The Wayne Goldstein Award is given to an individual or group for outstanding service to the people of Montgomery County. This year's recipient will be **Danila Sheveiko**. Nominated by Diane Cameron of the Audubon Naturalists Society and the Stormwater Partners, whose nomination message follows:

There are numerous reasons to recognize Danila's work and civic leadership on behalf of public interest land use planning, water quality, forest conservation and community quality of life.

Most notably, it would celebrate Wayne Goldstein's legacy by highlighting an individual who in many ways is walking in his shoes. Many don't remember that the last post Wayne held was president of the Kensington Heights Civic Association. Shortly after Wayne passed, Costco broke off negotiations with Lee Development in Aspen Hill and, bolstered by county waivers and subsidies, headed to Westfield's Wheaton mall.

Until the Costco mega gas station was proposed 118 feet from his residence, Danila Sheveiko led a quiet life in Kensington Heights. A small IT business operator, Danila was largely unaware of the civic battles raging around the county, instead content with donating thousands of hours of volunteer and pro bono services to local humanitarian organizations like Shepherd's Table, CASA of Maryland, and Habitat for Humanity.

Thrust into the heat of a high-profile local development fight to defend his neighborhood and forest, Danila had got a civic education the hard way. Navigating Montgomery's bureaucracy, he was a long-time chair of the Costco Working Group and, when the circumstances demanded, took Wayne's last job - president of the Kensington Heights Civic Association. Despite four years of heartbreak

and setbacks in the Costco case, he has yet to lose faith in the process. If anything, Danila is only getting started.

He built a coalition of nearly a dozen organizations, including Audubon Naturalist Society to improve the Wheaton Sector Plan, and continues to watchdog redevelopment projects in Wheaton like the new Park & Planning headquarters. Nominated by County Executive Leggett to the Water Quality Advisory Group, he served for three years with dedication and distinction (not a single meeting missed!), chaired the Development/ Environmental Site Design subcommittee, worked to publicize economic benefits of urban greening, and eventually co-chaired the entire group, leading advocacy for State-level protection of Ten Mile Creek.

Danila also serves as a Delegate to the MCCF, contributes to the Committee to Save Kensington, WeAreMoCo, Stormwater Partners, and probably a few other organizations I don't even know about!

Giving this award to a leader like Danila would help to encourage younger activists to lead civic groups, and give needed attention to the cause of stopping the insane placement of a mega gas station in an overcrowded shopping mall, adjacent to a residential area and a school for disabled children.

Wayne was an ally of mine, and his passing left a gaping hole in our ranks that is nearly impossible for one single individual to fill, so it's hard to draw comparisons. Danila is inspired by the stories of Wayne's leadership and in turn he inspires others. New leaders like Danila coming to the scene give me hope that not all is lost.

The **Sentinel Award** is sponsored by the Montgomery Sentinel newspaper and awarded to an individual or group for a significant contribution to good government at the local level. Our 2014 awardee is **Lyda Astrove**, nominated by Paula Bienenfeld, MCCF First Vice President & Education Chair, whose nomination message follows:

Lyda has been a tireless worker and supporter of public education in the county, specifically for Special Needs children in our community, improving the County's responses to Special Needs children in our community.

Lyda is a special education attorney and advocate. For over 15 years, she has helped families across Montgomery County obtain appropriate educational services for their children with disabilities. She has helped families navigate the complex government bureaucracy so that their children can receive appropriate educational services, working with Child Welfare Services and the Developmental Disabilities Administration.

She is a past member of the Board of Directors of the Montgomery County chapter, Autism Society of America and Co-Chair of the Montgomery County Workgroup on the Future for People with Severe Developmental Disabilities, including Autism. Her other awards include Local Autism Hero, Cure Autism Now & Autism Speaks; and Outstanding Parent, MCCPTA Special Needs Committee. Last year she received the Civic Fed's Community Hero award for her work in the community. She received her B.A. from Vanderbilt University, in Nashville, Tennessee, and her J.D. from Stetson University College of Law in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Lyda has fought tirelessly for better conditions and education for the special needs community in Montgomery County. Most recently she has taken on the issue of Rock Terrace, working with the parents of these children pushing so that a Grand Jury investigation was opened and there is an inquiry into exactly what happened to these children and the funds they earned. She is a constant advocate for improvements in services and education for special needs children and adults. She shines a light on government services for special needs children and families. For all these reasons and more, Lyda Astrove is nominated for the 2014 Sentinel Award.

The **Star Cup**, sponsored by the Montgomery County Civic Federation, is awarded to a delegate or committee of the Federation for outstanding public service on behalf of Montgomery County. The 2014 Star

Cup will be presented to **Carole Ann Barth**, MCCF President, nominated by Peggy Dennis, Past President and Awards Committee Chairman, whose nomination message follows:

Carole Ann is Immediate Past President of the Northwood Four Corners Civic Association where she plays a very active role. She has been heavily involved in her community's annual Meadow Festival and their fight to preserve the Rachel Carson Meadow, now regrettably bulldozed under. In the Civic Federation she serves as Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee and will complete two terms as President in June. She has carried out her duties for the Civic Federation with tact, grace and equanimity in the face of sometimes irascible or openly hostile personalities. For her sustained and tireless efforts on behalf of the MCCF, we are pleased to honor her with the Star Cup.

Ten Mile Creek Update

by Jim Humphrey, Planning & Land Use Chair

In a "straw vote" taken on March 4, the Montgomery County Council unanimously approved the joint committee compromise plan for the Ten Mile Creek watershed area in Clarksburg. The plan strictly limits development in this sensitive watershed with mandatory imperviousness caps of 6%, 15%, and 15%, for the three largest private properties (Pulte, Miles-Coppola/Person, and Egan respectively). But this is only half of the development approved by the Planning Board last fall.

The Civic Federation, along with the Save Ten Mile Creek Coalition and others, is now asking the Council to further strengthen the plan by adding enforceable mitigation criteria to lessen the effects of development, such as strict science-based buffers for sensitive areas including wetlands, springs and small streams. The final Council vote on the Ten Mile Creek Watershed Limited Master Plan is expected to take place on Tuesday, April 1. (We trust this will not prove to be an April Fool's Day joke. ed.)

Carroll Knolls Park to be a Reality!

By Beverly Sobel, MCCF Community Hero

The dedication of Carroll Knolls Park, a new green space on Georgia Avenue, will take place at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 26, 2014. The Carroll Knolls Park is located at 10500 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD on the land formerly occupied by the Montgomery College of Art and Design. The public is invited to come help us celebrate.

This 4-acre park was slated to become a townhouse development on this very busy stretch of Georgia Avenue. However, the community rallied and lobbied for several years for the land to be saved as a neighborhood park. Community outreach to Parks and Planning, the County Council, elected representatives, civic groups, and civic associations raised awareness about the importance of saving this parcel of land for recreational use, as well as for the preservation of wetland and to help improve the Sligo Creek watershed. This land has a tributary underneath that directly feeds in the Sligo Creek watershed. Wayne Goldstein, a long time Montgomery County community activist, mentored and guided community members. In 2009, the Montgomery County Civic Federation recognized Wayne along with Beverly Sobel and Christine Ollo for their efforts to save this much needed green space in this dense, urban section of Georgia Avenue.

Ultimately, the Carroll Knolls community was protected from inappropriate land development by their community's 1948 Covenants which mandate that only single family homes can be built on land which resides within their community. The new Carroll Knolls Park falls within the boundaries of the Carroll Knolls community. In 2005, a developer sued all Carroll Knolls home owners in an attempt to overturn the community's covenants. Fortunately, one lone neighborhood lawyer, Neil Intrater, worked tirelessly and pro bono on behalf of his community for years to uphold the validity of the covenants on appeal in the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland. Per the Court's ruling, the covenants are valid and a townhouse development is not permitted on this land. That decision overturned the Maryland County Council's decision to rezone the land to allow for a townhouse development. Because of the work of many residents, politicians, public officials, and community activists, this new park became a reality against all odds. The right thing happened when the community came together and fought for their community, their families, their children, and their environment.

Farewell to Civic Federation's Oldest Members

We note the passing of **William (Bill) Schrader** on August 19, 2013. Bill served as our Treasurer from 2008 until June, 2013. He and his lovely wife, Joan, opened their home to us many times for Executive Committee meetings, and we will miss them.

We also note the loss on March 8 of one of our long-time delegates representing the community of Bannockburn since 2004, **Lee W. Shipman**.

Lee attended Hood College and George Washington University, and studied architecture at Catholic University. She and future husband, Karl served on the technical staff of the National Capital Planning Commission when their engagement was announced in 1952.

Luella Mast wrote: Given Lee's health problems, her regular attendance and participation at MCCF monthly meetings speaks to her tenacity and personality of not giving up or giving in. She must have attended architecture school when women were not particularly welcome and architectural firms even less so. She was a very tenacious woman and a woman of wide ranging interests, including strong support for her community.

Peggy Dennis wrote: Lee was forever smiling, upbeat and excited about all the goings on in her life. She loved to join us for exotic food and the a cappella concerts by my husband's singing group. And I was favored with her invitations to the annual holiday open house she held with her extended family for friends, neighbors, civic activists and fellow church members in the house she designed herself. At Civic Federation meetings we could always count on Lee to raise her hand and reminisce about life in D.C. and Montgomery County 70 years ago when her favored mode of transportation was the trolley system and Montgomery County had no public libraries. Her recollections were not always on topic, but we enjoyed them as a vivid peek into the past. And like the trolley system, she will be missed and remembered fondly.

Lee's daughter, Dena Kirkland, wrote : On March 8, 2014, Lee W. Shipman's life ended after 91 years on this earth. She lived a long and fruitful life.

On the day Lee died, she had been in the hospital for over a month. My sister Anna texted Karl, her son, "Grandma passed peacefully just before Jeopardy". Karl texted back "I'll take Great Women for \$2000 Alex...". I think that was great and really summed up my Mother. Lee loved many things: Jeopardy, travel, helping people, the Chrysler building, cobalt blue bottles. She was the eternal optimist.

To steal from the popular series, "Downton Abbey," the Dowager Countess said "Life is a series of problems, you solve one then the other and the next and so on. When you run out of problems, you die." I guess Lee solved all of her problems.

Where Does the Accountability Buck Stop in Wheaton Redevelopment? By Danila Sheveiko, Delegate from Kensington Heights

<<Note: This story contains many links to other documents. If you are reading it on paper, we urge you to go to the Civic Federation website, www.montgomerycivic.org, and read it there.>>

The civic heat has been turned up a notch on the County's Wheaton Redevelopment Project, which includes Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) offices, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) new headquarters and a town square on what is now known as "Parking Lot 13" in Wheaton's Central Business District.

We [covered the story](#) months ago when local environmentalists first sounded the alarm on the



Public Parking Lot 13

project, citing a lack of vegetative elements and a box-like building design that do not reflect Wheaton Sector Plan aspirations and MNCPPC's green mission.

Roundly criticized by civic and environmental leaders, the County [presented an updated plan](#) that was met with slightly better reviews, only to be embarrassed later by revelations that the supposedly improved plan was heavily Photoshopped. Instead of responding to the constructive criticism in earnest, the County [resorted to deceptive graphics](#) - moving back existing buildings, tripling the width of sidewalks, and just plain making up at least a third of the green space - all for a mere illusion to temporarily placate the citizenry into silence.

The ruse has backfired, and calls for accountability on this project are only growing stronger. Despite their own [gushing coverage](#), the Gazette published a [letter to the editor by Virginia Sheard](#), a Wheaton land use activist and 2013 Civic Federation Star Cup recipient, alleging that the fast-tracked project - a public-private partnership - is nothing more than a bait-and-switch bid for the Silver Spring land currently occupied by MNCPPC on Georgia Avenue.

We publish Virginia's entire letter, [Lot 13 Plan Comments by Virginia Sheard](#), and urge our readers to pay attention as the money for this project will be allocated in the County's FY2015 budget being drafted now.

Senate Bill on Mega Gas Stations

By Danila Sheveiko, Delegate from the [Kensington Heights Civic Association](#)

<<Note: This story contains many links to other documents. If you are reading it on paper, we urge you to go to the Civic Federation website, www.montgomerycivic.org, and read it there.>>

Senate Bill 631, entitled "[Environment - Retail Service Stations - Setback Certification](#)," was introduced by Maryland Senator Richard Madaleno at the request of the [Mega Gas Station Setback Coalition](#) and establishes adequate setbacks for new large gas stations in order to protect the health of surrounding communities.

This is round two in the effort, after a [similar bill](#) submitted by a [coalition](#) of civic activists and environmental groups failed in the Maryland House of Delegates last year amid heavy lobbying by Costco, other big-box retailers, the Maryland Petroleum Council, and Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett.

Virtually [non-existent until the late 1990s](#), mega gas stations [quickly became popular](#) with large corporate retailers like Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, Costco, Safeway, Giant, BJ's, and today just a few thousand of these stations are projected to sell nearly 20% of the nation's gasoline. After a humble start in industrial parks and next to highway interchanges, mega gas is now coming to denser suburban and urban neighborhoods around the country.

Unlike traditional stations selling up to 1.5 million gallons per year, mega gas stations - otherwise known as hyperstations or hypermarkets - sell [up to 20 million gallons annually](#). Spurred by cut-rate prices, demand creates queues of up to 75 vehicles idling in line for up to 30 minutes during peak hours. With thousands of cars per day going through a mega gas station, a [pollution hotspot is created](#) that can generate tons of greenhouse gases and known health hazards - like carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and particulate matter - every day.

By providing a minimal setback of 300 feet when siting these stations next to schools, hospitals, residences, daycare centers, and playgrounds, this bill, SB 631, will help local jurisdictions get a handle on this new gasoline industry trend, as local regulations on the books are failing to catch up and [cannot withstand the corporate clout](#) projected by [some of the largest retailers](#) in the United States.

The Senate Finance Committee hearing held February 27, 2014, includes testimony by individuals, MGSS Coalition members, experts in air quality, pulmonology, environmental policy and law. Audio feed for the committee hearing is available online [here](#). Concerned citizens should write to their State Senators in support of Senate Bill 631.

Minutes of the March 10 Meeting

By Sue Schumacher, Co-Recording Secretary

Call to Order: President Carole Ann Barth called to meeting to order at 7:45pm. Introductions followed.

AGENDA: It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Paula Bienenfeld announced the Debate for Candidates for County Executive is scheduled for April 16 at the Rockville Library. There will be a Meet & Greet from 6:30 to 7pm. The debate starts at 7pm and runs to 9:00. Paula announced that Sunshine Week starts March 17. President Carole Barth announced that the Civic Fed now has a portable microphone along with a projector. It was asked from the floor if MCCF would consider renting out this equipment.

MINUTES: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the February 10 meeting as they appeared in the Newsletter. The minutes were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jerry Garson reported that MCCF had received a donation from the Sunshine Foundation.

Community Heroes: Carole Ann Barth introduced the Friends of Sligo Creek and the Sligo Creek Water WatchDog, Edward Murtagh, Kathleen Samiy and Ann Vorce. Ann explained that the group works with the Park Police and that everything they do is for the protection and preservation of Sligo Creek. She urged everyone to use their smart phone to take pictures of pollution problems when they see them in the creek and email them to ReportSligopollution@fosc.org.

Program: Jerry Garson introduced Joe Beach, Director, Montgomery County Department of Finance, Anita Aryeetey, representing Montgomery County OMB and Glenn Orlin, Deputy Chief of Staff of the County Council. The panel reviewed the Capital Improvements Project (CIP) and Capital Budget, a 6 year budget. This proposed budget of \$4.5 billion represents a 2.3% increase over the previous CIP. There is a 25% increase in schools, and an increase in storm water management. Fully 50% of the CIP is for school construction. Joe Beach explained that his position was to advise on debt issues and bonds and he must make sure there are no "private use" issues with the bonds. Glenn Orlin gave an overview of the Council's time table for the CIP Budget, with about 90% of the decisions being made before the end of March. The proposed Operating Budget will be presented to the County Council on March 18 and the final vote on both budgets will come in mid-May. He added that the county is still trying to get more money from the State for schools. There was a question and answer period on the schools, and affordable housing.

Committee Reports

Education: Paula Bienenfeld, Chair said that Senate Bill 460 and House Bill 781 dealing with pedophilia in schools have dropped the age difference for teachers and students.

Public Safety: Jim Zepp, Chair reported that there is a "Storm Camp" on March 29 to address storms and power outages. He also announced a meeting to address bullying.

Parks: Carole Barth, Chair reported that of the proposed bills to roll back the storm water management fee, 3 are gone and 3 are still standing.

Environment: Alan Bowser reported on 10 Mile Creek. He indicated that there are now lower restrictions on imperviousness and the amount of allowed development has been reduced.

NEW BUSINESS

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION: An emergency resolution was moved by Danila Sheveiko of Wheaton and seconded by at least 5 different member associations as required. The vote was 12 for, 1 against, 8 abstentions. The following resolution was adopted:

Be it resolved to request to withhold CIP budget funds for the Wheaton Redevelopment Project until a General Development agreement is signed.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

Minutes of the March 20 Executive Committee Meeting By Co-Recording Secretary, Sandy Vogelgesang

The Executive Committee (ExComm) met at the Bethesda Chevy Chase Regional Services Center.

Call to Order. In the absence of Carole Ann Barth, President, and Paula Bienenfeld, First Vice President, Immediate Past President Peggy Dennis called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM. Present for the meeting: Peggy Dennis, Jerry Garson, Jim Humphrey, Harriet Quinn, Virginia Sheard, Sandy Vogelgesang, Louis Wilen, Dan Wilhelm and Jim Zepp.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda. Peggy called for and received unanimous approval of the proposed agenda.

Approval of Minutes for February 20, 2014 ExComm Meeting. Peggy called for and received unanimous approval of the minutes as published in the March 2014 newsletter.

Treasurer's Report. Jerry Garson, Treasurer, circulated updated report. The current bank balance for the Federation is \$14,183.70. Reduced spending on hard copies of the newsletter has freed up funds for other Federation needs such as purchase of a projector and sound equipment for meetings.

Announcements. Peggy called for announcements.

- Jim Humphrey reported that Mary Bradford, Director of the Montgomery County Department of Parks, plans to leave her position in June. MCCF will ask if a stakeholders' interview panel will be convened and, if so, seek to have a Federation representative appointed to it. MCCF will be interviewing candidates for MNCPPC Chair.
- Peggy noted the need for repair of dorms at Rockwood Manor Park on MacArthur Boulevard and outlined a cost-effective approach that might be presented to the Department of Parks. ExComm agreed that Peggy should write letter to that effect to Department of Parks.

Programs. Peggy introduced discussion of future programs.

- April: County Operating Budget. Jerry Garson is working on this program and will check on whether Joan Fidler, president of the Montgomery County Taxpayers' League, might be available to chair the panel's presentation.
- May: Update on transportation issues. Dan Wilhelm to arrange.
- June: Disaster preparedness. Jerry Garson to arrange.

Issues to Discuss. Peggy noted that three issues on the agenda had been proposed by Paula Bienenfeld. ExComm agreed that discussion should be deferred until she is present.

Old Business

- WSSC Ad Hoc Committee on Large Diameter PCCP Water Transmission Lines. Virginia Sheard, who had served as the only representative of the civic community on this committee, summarized the working draft of the final report of the Ad Hoc Committee. She asked for feedback of ExComm members on the draft by March 24.
- Annual Awards Dinner Update: ExComm agreed to charge the same price for the Awards Banquet as done last year. Selections were made for the dinner buffet, to be held at the Golden Bull Grand Café in Gaithersburg, May 2.

- Update from Awards Committee: Peggy reported on proposed nominees for annual awards and ExComm approved all three:
 - Carole Ann Barth – Star Cup
 - Danila Sheveiko – Wayne Goldstein Award
 - Lyda Astrove – Sentinel Award
- Update from Nomination Committee: Jim Zepp reported. He will provide more information for next ExComm meeting.
- Twitter feed update: Harriet reported that the Federation has 110 followers. Jim Humphrey will post more instructions on access to twitter feed via MCCF website.
- County Executive Candidates' Forum: Paula Bienenfeld is working with the Taxpayers' League and the Parents' Coalition on the event scheduled for April 16. Andrea McCarren, Channel 9 News, will moderate.
- Ten Mile Creek Update: Peggy shared the request from Diane Cameron, Save Ten Mile Creek Coalition Coordinator, for the Federation to ask the County Council to "add teeth" to the County Council's joint committee plan for Ten Mile Creek. ExComm agreed that Jim Humphrey will send a letter to the Council requesting enforceable mitigation criteria to lessen the effects of development through such measures as strict enforceable science-based buffers for sensitive areas including wetlands, springs, and small streams.

Committee Reports

- **Transportation.** Dan Wilhelm, Chair, nothing new to report. Peggy provided update on orphan roads.
- **Legislation.** Peggy provided updates on legislation dealing with artificial turf and deer management. Jerry reported that the Maryland Senate has passed a bill on estate taxes that would gradually raise Maryland's \$1million tax exemption to match that of the Federal Government.
- **Public Safety.** Jim Zepp noted that the County Executive's proposed Operating Budget provides for an additional \$11 million for 23 more officers in Montgomery County.

New Business

- Partnering with Safe Grow Montgomery. Peggy raised the issue and agreed to provide more information to ExComm.
- Bylaws: ExComm approved unanimously the motion to have the Bylaws Committee consider several issues, including criteria for Federation "partnerships" with other organizations and insurance.
- Newsletter. Peggy reviewed articles to be submitted for the April 2014 newsletter, with contributions needed by Sunday evening, March 23. There will be an article noting the passing of longtime MCCF delegate and member of the ExComm, Lee Shipman.
- Next ExComm Meetings. The next meeting will be on April 17 at the home of Sandy Vogelgesang. The following meeting will be held on May 22 at the Bethesda Chevy Chase Regional Services Center.
- July Potluck. There was preliminary discussion but no decision made.

Adjournment. Peggy called for and received unanimous approval for adjournment at 9:20 PM.

Reserve Your Tickets Now For The
 Montgomery County Civic Federation's
2014 ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET
Friday, May 2, 2014
Reception 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Banquet Dinner Buffet 7:00
Awards Presentations 8:15 - 9:30 p.m.
Golden Bull Grand Cafe
 7 Dalamar Street, Gaithersburg 20877

Buffet Menu: Carved Roast Beef Sirloin with Juice & Horseradish Sauce
 Seafood Newburg with Shrimp, Crab & Scallops over Rice Pilaf
 Chicken Piccata with Artichokes & Capers
 Oven Roasted Red Skin Potatoes, Honey Glazed Carrots, Fresh Fruit Salad
 Rolls & Butter, Garden Salad, Coffee, Hot or Iced Tea, Soda
 Chocolate Mousse

\$40 per person includes wine reception (beer & cocktails at cash bar) and dinner.
 \$10 for wine reception only 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Reservations and **payment must be received by Monday, April 28**

Directions: Restaurant is in the center of Gaithersburg. From Route 355/Frederick Avenue, heading north, turn left onto Dalamar. Restaurant has plenty of free parking.

Questions? Call Peggy Dennis: 301-983-9738

Please print or cut off and fill in this stub. Mail with a **check** payable to the **Montgomery County Civic Federation** to:

Mr. Jerry Garson, MCCF Banquet, 8308 Raymond Lane, Potomac MD 20854

I/We will attend the banquet _____

(Please print name(s) as you wish them to be on your name badge at the banquet)

Association or Organization (as applicable) _____

Contact information _____

(Telephone)

(Email)

The **Montgomery County Civic Federation** is a county-wide nonprofit educational and advocacy organization. It was founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. 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 Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD. Free parking in garage accessed from Monroe St. or from Jefferson St. heading east from I-270.

The **Civic Federation News** is published monthly, except in July and August. It is mailed or emailed 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: **Sunday, April 20** . Prepare submission as an MS Word, Word Perfect or text document, **attach** it to an e-mail, and send 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.

Next Executive Committee Meeting

Thursday April 17, 7:45 p.m.
At the home of Sandy Vogelgesang
9009 Charred Oak Drive, Bethesda, 20817

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

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