

May Program on Senior Services | A representative from Silver Spring Village and the MoCo Transportation and Mobility Coordinator for Seniors and People with Disabilities will speak May 9 | **P.3**

New Feature: 'What's Trending in the County' | This issue: the ten largest employers in the county, 2006 vs. 2015 | **P.8**

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TO PRINT, USE [PRINT VERSION](#)

of note

Next MCF Meeting

Monday, May 9, 2016, 7:45 p.m. @ the Executive Office Building in Rockville. "Senior Villages and Senior Services" **AGENDA, P.2 • PROGRAM, P.3**

Annual Awards Celebration

Buy your tickets now for our June 9th reception at McGinty's Pub in Downtown Silver Spring. **DETAILS, P.7**

April Meeting Minutes

April 11 Meeting **P.16**
Executive Committee Meeting **P.19**

Membership Application

Join or Renew Now **SEE FORM**

MAY 2016 • 2

CIVIC
FEDERATION
NEWS

TOP

Federation Meeting 876

Monday, May 9, 2016

7:45 p.m.

Lobby Level Auditorium

Executive Office Building

101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland

AGENDA

- 7:45 Call to Order/Introductions
- 7:50 Approval of Agenda
- 7:51 Announcements
- 7:57 Approval of Minutes, April 11 Meeting
- 7:58 Treasurer's Report
- 8:00 Program: Senior Villages *[Learn more on page 3]*
- 9:25 Committee Reports
- 9:35 Old and New Business
- 9:45 Adjournment

About MCF Meetings

All monthly MCF meetings are open to the public. They are held on the second Monday of each month, September through June, in Rockville.

Please note the change of venue for the May meeting!

Same time as usual (7:45 p.m.), but it will be held in the **Lobby Level Auditorium of the Executive Office Building at 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, Maryland.**

Meetings are usually adjourned at 10:15 p.m. at the latest. For detailed parking directions, visit the **meetings and events calendar** on the MCF website. ■

**MCF 2016 AWARDS CEREMONY
JUNE 9, 2016, SILVER SPRING
[LEARN MORE ON PAGE 5](#)**

The **Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc.**, is a county-wide nonprofit educational and advocacy organization founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. Monthly MCF meetings are open to the public (agenda and details at left).

The *Civic Federation News* is published monthly except July and August. It is emailed to delegates, associate members, news media, and local, state, and federal officials. **Recipients are encouraged to forward the *Civic Federation News* to all association members, friends, and neighbors.** Permission is granted to reproduce any article, provided that proper credit is given to the "*Civic Federation News* of the Montgomery County (Md.) Civic Federation."

Civic Federation News

civicednews AT montgomerycivic.org

TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE, SEE [PAGE 22](#)

May Program: Senior Villages and Senior Services

By Alan Bowser

Our May 9, 2016, program will feature a presentation on Senior Villages and Senior Services in Montgomery County. We're pleased to have as our guests **Debbie Billet-Roumell**, Executive Director of the Silver Spring Village, and **Shawn Brennan**, Montgomery County's Transportation and Mobility Coordinator for Seniors and People with Disabilities.

WHAT IS A VILLAGE?

■ 'Villages' are local, volunteer-led, grassroots organizations that aim to support community members who choose to age-in-place. They foster social connections through activities and events and coordinate volunteer help at home using a neighbor-helping-neighbor model.

■ There are close to 200 villages in the nation and around 50 in the D.C. metro region.

■ Each village is unique and reflects the character, interests, and needs of the community that creates it. The village leadership decides what it would offer and how it would operate.

■ Some villages choose an inter-generational model that serves all members of the community. Examples of such villages are **Bannockburn NAN**, **Village of Takoma Park**,

and **Wyngate NHN**. Some villages have paid staff in addition to volunteers and charge a membership fee; other Villages are all volunteer and have no fee.

WHAT DOES THE VILLAGE OFFER?

Villages offer volunteer help to their members. Volunteers offer transportation to medical appointments, services, grocery shopping, and more. Volunteers may also help

MORE



May Program, cont.

with simple tasks at home. Examples include small repairs, changing light bulbs, providing cooked meals to a sick neighbor, and laundry help for someone just out of the hospital.

Villages focus on building social connections. They organize events, large and small, that are of interest to their community. Villages may organize book clubs, walking groups, knitting clubs, guest speaker events, group outings, and more. Many Village events can take place at a neighbor's home; others can take place at a local church, synagogue, mosque, library, or community recreation center. Villages often partner and connect with other local organizations and develop programs together.

Silver Spring Village, Inc., is a nonprofit, tax-exempt [501(c)(3)] or-

ganization that offers needed services and programs for adults who wish to "age in place," i.e., to remain as long as possible in their own homes, amid familiar people and surroundings, and engaged in the community. Their network of "neighbors helping neighbors" supports individuals and also builds a sense of community. Mirroring the neighborhoods within our service area, Silver Spring Village is a welcoming organization with a diverse membership and volunteer corps.

COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES

In Montgomery County, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provides a broad range of services to seniors. The Aging and Disability Resource Unit provides personalized hands on assistance, referrals to services, and specific information to seniors,

people with disabilities, and caregivers over the phone and in person. It is the primary point of entry for most of the services within Aging and Disability Services.

Staff tell residents about benefits and services, help them determine what they are eligible for, and can also help them apply. Some of the staff is on phone coverage all the time, while others rotate coverage to allow for outreach and time in the community. This includes attending fairs and expos, giving presentations, meeting with clients at senior and community centers, and making home visits as needed.

You can learn more about the **Silver Spring Village** on its website. You can learn more here about **Montgomery County's Senior Services**. You can learn more about the "Villages" in Montgomery County—how to join, how to start one—at [this link](#). ■

Announcing the MCCF 2016 Annual Awards

By Paula Bienenfeld, President

2016 SENTINEL AWARD

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 2016 awardees are the **Stop Costco Gas Station Coalition** and **Kensington Heights Civic Association**. The Coalition fought one of the largest corporations in the country, Costco, and has prevailed at each step so far, preventing a large-scale gas station from being built next to residential neighborhoods in the Wheaton/Kensington area.

In addition, their work resulted in changes at the county level, forcing the County Council to pass a zoning text amendment in 2012

requiring buffers between large gas stations and schools and outdoor recreation areas. The proposed location is too close to homes, a public school, and a swim club that are adjacent to Westfield Wheaton Plaza. Furthermore, it would have created significant adverse effects on those who shop at the stores close to the parking lot, including those who shop at the Costco store.

The eventual precise location raised a number of concerns. This not a “NIMBY” issue; rather it is a NOBY (No One’s Back Yard) issue because Costco and other retailers would have used approval of this Mega Gas Station as a precedent for the establishment of comparable facilities at other locations that similarly fail to provide an adequate buffer zone. In the absence of an

adequate buffer zone, all citizens who live, shop, or work near such Mega Gas Stations would have been subjected to a variety of unnecessary negative impacts. After hard fought battles at the county and in court, the Montgomery County Board of Appeals rejected Costco’s planned mega gas station in March of 2015.

WAYNE GOLDSTEIN AWARD

The Wayne Goldstein Award recognizes and honors an individual or group for outstanding service to the people of Montgomery County. This year we honor **Sligo Creek Water Watchdogs**, which is a model for citizen involvement and would do Wayne Goldstein proud. Their activism and hard work have led to the interaction of citizens and county investigator to report—and stop—water pollution. How? Simple: The

MORE

2016 Awards, cont.

Water WatchDog program is a simple system for reporting water pollution to County investigators as part of your daily routine, whether you are taking a walk, hiking, walking your dog, cycling, or going to work.

If you spot pollution in the Sligo watershed, just send a quick email to ReportSligoPollution@fosc.org. Sending a picture helps. If the pollution occurs in some other watershed, use the email address ReportPollution@fosc.org.

Your email will show up immediately on the smart phone of Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) pollution detective Steve Martin and his team. If they can find what is causing the pollution, they may be able to stop it and issue a fine. If you have time, add one photo (less than 1 megabyte in size) and

blog your report and DEP follow up on their [Action Log](#). Having a record is important. After hours (evenings and weekends), call the Montgomery County Park Police: 301.949.3010.

THIS YEAR’S STAR CUP

The Star Cup is awarded to the Federation delegate or committee performing the most outstanding public service on behalf of Montgomery County. This year the award will be presented to a group of our members who have worked, and continue to work, tirelessly on behalf of the residents to push for transparency and openness in the county decision-making process and to stop shameful waste of our hard-earned money on a dated “Bus Rapid Transit.” All these members attended dozens of meetings, wrote papers, presented programs, provided testimony, videotaped events, analyzed hundreds

of pages of data, and volunteered hundreds of hours to prove without doubt, a Bus Rapid Transit scheme, at a proposed cost of billions, is a wasteful outmoded use of our dollars and is instead a “canal moment.” In an age of autonomous cars and transit, demand for flexibility in transit, and smart streets, we can do better. All contributed to our 2015 report, *Response to Montgomery County, Maryland, County Executive Isiah Leggett’s Proposal for Independent Transit Authority/Bus Rapid Transit System*. We are honored to present the Star Cup to **Jerry Garson, Harriet Quinn, Jim Zepp, and Nancy Abeles**. You do us proud!

Please help us celebrate the achievements of these citizen activists at our Annual Awards Reception, June 9, 6:30-9:00 p.m., at McGinty’s Pub, 911 Ellsworth Drive, Silver Spring. [See form on next page.] ■

Reserve Your Tickets Now for Montgomery County Civic Federation's 2016 ANNUAL AWARDS CELEBRATION

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2016

MCCF Annual Awards Celebration

Reception
6:30 to 9:00 p.m.
Awards Presentations
7:15 to 8:15 p.m.

**"THE ROOM" AT
MCGINTY'S PUBLIC HOUSE**
911 Ellsworth Drive, Downtown
Silver Spring, Maryland

*Reception includes substantial
hors d'oeuvres, wine, soft drinks.
Beer and cocktails at cash bar.*

**SPACE IS LIMITED
PLEASE RESERVE BY MAY 31ST**

Questions? Call Paula Bienenfeld,
240.899.2335

I/We will attend the Reception on June 9, 2016:
 \$35 per person \$60 per couple
(After May 31st or at the door: \$40 per person)

Name(s): _____

Association or Organization (as applicable): _____

Contact Information: Phone _____

Email _____

Please print or cut off and fill in this form with check payable to:
*Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc., and mail to: Jerry Garson,
MCCF Awards Ceremony, P.O. Box 1123, Bethesda, MD 20827-1123*

WHAT'S TRENDING IN THE COUNTY

An exploration of data trends in Montgomery County. Each month statistics for a different topic will be reported.

Ten Largest Employers in the County, 2006 vs. 2015

Employer	Type	Fiscal Year 2015		Fiscal Year 2006	
		Number of Employees ^{1,2}	% of County Employment	Number of Employees	% of County Employment
U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services	Federal govt.	28,800	6.32	39,000	8.50
Montgomery County Public Schools	Local govt.	25,703	5.64	20,132	4.39
U.S. Department of Defense	Federal govt.	12,900	2.83	13,670	2.98
Montgomery County Government	Local govt.	11,112	2.44	8,536	1.86
U.S. Department of Commerce	Federal govt.	5,400	1.19	6,678	1.46
Adventist Healthcare	Nonprofit	4,800	1.05	6,951	1.52
Marriott International, Inc. (HQ)	Corporation	4,600	1.01	3,500	0.76
Holy Cross Hospital of Silver Spring	Nonprofit	3,900	0.86	*	-
Montgomery College	Local govt.	3,656	0.80	*	-
Lockheed Martin Corporation	Corporation	3,000	0.66	3,900	0.85
Giant Food Corporation	Corporation	*	-	4,900	1.07
Chevy Chase Bank	Corporation	*	-	4,700	1.02
Total Top Ten Employers		103,871	22.80	111,967	24.41
Total County		455,343	100.00	-	-

NOTES: Year with larger amount is marked in bold, red typeface. * Employer is not one of the ten largest employers during the year noted. - Data unavailable.

¹Employee numbers are based on DED's analysis of the MD Dept. of Labor, Licensing and Regulation's Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages for 2014.

²Employee counts for federal and military facilities exclude contractors to the extent possible.

Source: MoCo Department of Economic Development.

Co. Council Proposing Multiple Tax Increases on Property Owners to Fund FY17

The Civic Federation held a very informative program on the FY 2017 Budgets at the April meeting. Please see the meeting minutes on [page 16](#) of this newsletter for a recap.

Residents are also encouraged to review the [Council Staff memos to get the facts about the budget discussions](#).

The [memo on compensation and benefits](#) is informative.

INCREASED EXPENDITURES The Proposed Operating Budget for FY 17 is \$5.3 billion.

■ MCPS proposed budget is \$2.45 billion, an increase of \$110 million (6.2%) and \$90 million over and above the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) requirement which will reset the base for next year. \$82.3 million of the increase (75%) would go to

increased salaries and benefits, not reducing class size.

■ Salaries for County government would increase 4.5% on top of average increase over last 3 years of 20%. Salaries and benefits are 80% of County budget and 90% of MCPS budget.

■ The County's second highest expense—annual debt service—will increase 10.7% to \$397,600,850.

The proposed Capital Budget for FY 17–22 is \$4.44 billion.

■ 50% of the debt finances projects for public schools and the college.

■ 25% of the debt finances to transportation projects.

■ Note that Impact Fees (school fee and transportation fee) charged to developers for new development are not collected in multiple areas

of the County and only contribute 3% of revenue for the capital budget. The Council so far has declined to implement these fees where they are not being collected. The fees go directly to fund school capacity and transportation projects.

COUNTY PROPOSES INCREASED TAXES AND FEES

1. Proposed overall Property Tax increase of 10.7% above Charter limit to pay for increased salaries.

■ County Current yield rate: .723 per \$100 of assessed value. This does not include the State tax and all the other fees. The Governor confirmed state property tax (.112/\$100) will remain constant.

■ State recommends for coming

MORE

Tax Increases, cont.

year: .7004 (because assessments are up)

■ County Executive Recommends: .7754

■ Council Staff Recommends: .7754

This is a 3.2% increase in the rate and a 10.7% increase in the [Constant Yield Tax Rate \(CYTR\)](#). This increase will require *all 9 members* to vote unanimously in favor of **breaking the Charter limit** because the 10.7% increase in the CYTR is well above the rate of inflation. The current inflation rate is less than 1%.

■ Note that the County Executive and Council have agreed to defer refunds for two years, to those who qualify for income tax refunds under the Supreme Court decision on the Wynne case. They will begin to re-

pay in 2019, so additional property tax increases may be added in 2019 which would be after the next election.

2. Proposed Recordation Tax increase to pay for school construction and affordable housing projects.

County Council has proposed at least a 50% increase in the recordation tax on sale of homes, buildings and mortgage refinancing. See proposed [Expedited Bill 15-16](#), which will have a public hearing on May 10.

3. Proposed 5% increase in leaf collection fee (paid on property tax bill).

4. Proposed 7.5% increase in Water Quality Protection Charge (paid on property tax bill).

5. Council approved 3% increase in WSSC rates for increased salaries in addition to 6.5% increase the past 2 years.

6. PEPCO announced last week that they are proposing a 10% rate increase. No changes have been proposed to the County Energy Tax increase which was supposed to sunset 6 years ago.

For additional information, see a [joint position paper with the Montgomery County Taxpayers League](#), and MCCF First Vice President [Jim Zepp's budget testimony](#).

COUNCIL SCHEDULE

■ Final action on the Budget is scheduled for May 26th and Council will hold budget worksessions on May 9th, 16th, 18th, and 19th.

■ May 10th, 1:30 p.m., public hearing on the Recordation Tax Rates.

■ If you would like to testify, [sign up online](#) or call 240.777.7803 or send comments to County.Council@montgomerycountymd.gov. ■

Upcoming Public Hearings on Changes to Subdivision Staging Policy for 2016

By Harriet Quinn

The County Planning Department is updating the Subdivision Staging Policy for review and approval by the County Council by November 15, 2016. The intent of the SSP is to ensure public facilities, particularly schools and transportation facilities, are adequate to meet the needs of new development and growth.

Planning staff is proposing new ideas in transportation and school capacity planning in preparation for the revised regulations, which will first be presented to the Planning Board in May 2016 for comment; **a public hearing is scheduled for June 2nd**. This quadrennial policy includes criteria and guidance for the administration of the County's Adequate Public Facility Ordinance (APFO), which matches the timing of

private development with the availability of public services.

In the past, the APFO was designed to ensure that road and school capacity—as well as water and sewer and other infrastructure—kept pace with growth. Where new areas of the County were developed, infrastructure to support new homes and businesses was needed.

The Planning Department is proposing significant changes to the SSP so it's important for neighborhoods to stay informed about how these potential policy changes could affect residents. For example, they are proposing that transportation adequacy be primarily measured by proximity to transit and proximity to employment opportunities rather than road and lane capacity. Another metric being proposed is reduc-

tion in vehicle miles traveled.

For more information, visit the [website](#) and, in particular, the presentations from April 12th and 14th.

The anticipated schedule at the Planning Board is below.

I May 9: SSP Working Draft Planning Board worksession (transportation focus)

I June 2: SSP Public Hearing (Staff) Draft due

I June 9: SSP Public Hearing Planning Board Worksession #1 (transportation)

I June 16: SSP Public Hearing Planning Board Worksession #2 (transportation)

I June 23: SSP Public Hearing Planning Board Worksession #3 (schools and items)

I June 30: SSP Pub. Hearing Planning Bd. Worksession #4 (finalize). ■

Summary of 2016 Environmental Bills

By Carole Ann Barth

SB 57/HB 31 **Community Cleanup and Greening Act of 2016**

Sponsors: Senator Ramirez, Delegate Lierman

Bans the free distribution of plastic bags at point-of-sale. A 10-cent fee on paper and reusable bags defrays the additional cost for retailers and supports programs to distribute reusable bags in low-income communities, as well.

This bill would put MoCo retailers on a par with rest of the State. Will ban plastic bags at stores across the state, and require stores to charge 10 cents for paper bags. The store will keep 5–7 cents of that charge, and the rest will go back to the counties and Baltimore City for

a limited set of purposes: distribution of free reusable bags to those in need, trash cleanup and prevention, anti-litter education and outreach, and fresh food access funding. As we know in nearby D.C., a 60% drop in bag use following a disposable bag fee turned into a 60% drop in bags found in streams and parks. Bags are also a tremendous expense for retailers, sometimes as much as their third-highest overhead cost.

[MCCF Executive Committee Supported. Outcome: Failed.]

SB 198/HB 211 **Neonicotinoid Pesticide—Labeling, Signage, and Restrictions on Sales and Use (Pollinator Protection Act of 2016)**

Sponsors: Senators Nathan-Pulliam, et al.; and Delegates

Healey, et al.

Removes neonicotinoid pesticides for residential use. It also restricts the purchase of neonicotinoid pesticides to certified applicators, farmers or veterinarians. Neonicotinoid pesticides have been linked to devastating loss rates of bees and other pollinators.

[MCCF Executive Committee Supported. Outcome: Passed.]

HB 178 **Natural Resources—Roadside Trees—Preservation and Protection**

Sponsors: Del. Lafferty, et al.

This bill would protect healthy roadside trees by making the current permit requirement for tree removal more robust by adding criteria to permit issuance and enforcement; also adds certain mitigation require-

Environmental Bills, cont.

ments for roadside tree removal.

Supported concept of roadside tree protection but opposed as written because of unintended consequences, e.g., County tree maintenance programs would become unaffordable.

[Outcome: Withdrawn.]

SB 323 / HB 610**Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Act—Reauthorization**

Sponsors: Pinsky, et al.; Barve, et al.

The 2009 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act is set to expire at the end of 2016 unless it is renewed this legislative session. In addition to renewal, we are asking to expand the goals from 25% reduction from peak 2006 levels by the year 2020 to 40% by the year 2030. This bill

was cosponsored by Senate President Miller, is supported by Speaker Busch, and has garnered wide bipar-



tisan support.

[MCCF Executive Committee Supported. Outcome: Passed.]

HB 883**Public Schools—Synthetic Turf Fields—Informational Signs**

Requiring a public elementary or secondary school to post a specified sign in a conspicuous location at any synthetic turf field that is on property owned by a local government or local school system and is used for school activities; and requiring a specified sign at a specified synthetic turf field to inform users of specified recommended precautions, such as minimizing contamination from field dust and fibers, as well as awareness of heat-related illness and dehydration caused by field becoming excessively hot.

[MCCF Executive Committee Supported. Outcome: Failed.] ■

Election of Civic Federation Officers for 2016-2017

Election of officers will take place at the June 13th general meeting. Terms are for one year. We'd like to thank outgoing President Paula Bienenfeld for her work and leadership for the past two years. The following slate has been nominated by the Nominations Committee:

President—*Jim Zepp*

First Vice-President—

Alan Bowser

Second Vice-President—

Bailey Condrey

Treasurer—*Jerry Garson*

Secretary—*Danila Sheveiko*

We are also seeking a co-secretary to share responsibilities with another secretary for meetings.

Also, four At-Large members of the Executive Committee are named

by the President early in his/her term of office. This is a great way to become more actively involved and contribute to the work of the Civic Federation. If you are interested in serving in this capacity or would like to nominate another delegate, please contact us at *info AT montgomery-civic.org*. ■



JIM ZEPP

Fighting the Zika Virus

The best defense against Zika is knowledge and prevention. Montgomery County wants to ensure that residents have information to protect themselves and their loved ones against the Zika virus.

WHAT IS ZIKA?

Zika virus is a disease spread to people primarily through the bite of an infected mosquito. Sexual transmission of Zika virus from a male partner is possible, but mosquito bites remain the primary way that the Zika virus is transmitted. There is no indication that Zika can spread from person to person through casual contact.

AM I AT RISK?

Most people who come in contact

Fighting Zika Virus, cont.

with the virus will experience mild symptoms; however, there are significant risks of birth defects when women have contacted the virus while pregnant. Because there is no vaccine or treatment for Zika virus, the best way to avoid the Zika virus is to prevent mosquito bites. There are cases of Zika in Maryland; however, all cases are related to travel to countries already affected by the Zika virus. **There are no cases of locally acquired Zika virus in Maryland.** As mosquito season begins, Montgomery County will continue to monitor developments and will communicate information as needed.

WHAT CAN I DO TO PROTECT MYSELF AND MY LOVED ONES FROM MOSQUITOES?

█ Residents can help themselves and the community by getting rid of mosquito-breeding spots. Mosquitoes that spread the Zika virus prefer to breed in small containers close to residential areas.

█ Eliminate standing water in and around your home. Throw out or empty and scrub items that hold water such as tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, and birdbaths.

█ Dispose of trash such as plastic bags, bottle caps, open drink cans or bottles, and trash items that may hold water.

█ Use air conditioning when possible and make sure screens on windows and doors do not have holes.

█ Clean out roof gutters and downspouts and eliminate folds and tarps, such as swimming pool covers, grill covers, that may hold water. Drain water trapped in folds of tarps or covers and arrange so water runs off.

█ To protect against mosquito bites, cover up with long sleeves and pants and use recommended insect repellent when outside.

WHAT IS MONTGOMERY COUNTY DOING?

The County has formed a Zika task force of agencies and municipalities to work collectively on Zika awareness and mosquito prevention. The group is made up of the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (OEMHS), the Office of Public Information, the 311 Call Center, the Departments of Environmental Protection, Housing and Community Affairs, Health and Human Services, Transportation, General Services, Recreation, the Parks Department, and representatives from the local municipalities of Gaithersburg, Rockville, and

MORE

Fighting Zika Virus, cont.

Takoma Park. The emphasis of the task force is to provide a coordinated approach to educate the community about protection against mosquito bites and elimination of mosquito breeding sites.

The County is launching a public education and awareness campaign that includes a website where residents can find a wealth of information about eliminating mosquitoes, Zika virus, and protection against mosquito bites. The campaign will include Ride On bus ads, a mail campaign, and printed materials distributed to County facilities and community locations. Municipalities will provide information and resources to their residents as well.

For more information go to the [MoCo "Fight the Bite" website](#). █

Minutes of the April 11, 2016, General Meeting #875

By Jean Cavanaugh, Co-Recording Secretary

Call to Order: President Paula Bienenfeld called the meeting to order at 7:52 p.m. Introductions by attendees followed.

Agenda: Paula Bienenfeld called for and received approval of the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

█ Prince George's County will hold a **Green Summit** at the University of Maryland College Park Campus on May 19, 2016.

█ Early voting starts April 14 and runs to April 21.

█ MCCF's Annual Awards Reception will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Thursday, June 9, at McGinty's Pub in Silver Spring.

█ MCCF is cosponsoring Healthy School Food Maryland's Salad Bar Summit on April 16, 2016, at the Universities at Shady Grove.

Minutes: Paula Bienenfeld called for and received approval of the March 14, 2016, minutes as published in the latest newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Jerry Garson reported MCCF's bank balance is 13,160.

COMMUNITY HERO

MCCF recognized Terrill North as a Montgomery County Community Hero. North is one of the founders and current Board chair for **MANUP**, "Making a New United People." MANUP is a nonprofit

MORE

April Minutes, cont.

co-ed youth development organization based in Takoma Park, serving nearly 500 youth each year in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

The certificate presented described Mr. North's leadership and accomplishment: "In recognition of his leadership, commitment, and tireless energy to the community-at-large, we commend his vision and dedication in support of innovative work-force development and youth entrepreneurship programs for at-risk youth in Montgomery County. As a leader of the pioneering youth development organization 'Making a New United People' (MANUP), he has worked to empower the next generation of successful leaders by teaching the importance of education, social responsibility, self-em-

powerment, and economic awareness, thus strengthening the bonds of understanding between youth, families, schools, and local government to foster a nurturing environment where all of the County's youth can lead productive lives."

PROGRAM

Jennifer Hughes, Director of Montgomery County's Office of Management and Budget, and **Stephen Farber**, County Council Staff Administrator, discussed the County's 2017 operating budget. Mr. Farber's April 12, 2016, [packet to the County Council on the FY17 operating budget overview](#) is a good historical document on budget trends.

Ms. Hughes reviewed the County's \$5.3B operating budget. She said \$4.6B is tax supported; the rest of funds come from federal and state resources. The highlights of

the FY17 proposed operating budget include: an increase to MCPS budget \$90M above MOE; Montgomery College \$2M above MOE; increased police staffing upcounty; adding three life-support units to fire stations; increased library funding so proposed level is slightly above pre-recession funding; CIP funds for BRT on Routes 355 and 29 and Veirs Mill Road; and an increase in the property tax rate.

Mr. Farber said the County's economic climate is better than it has been. Unemployment in January was at 3.6%. There has been a 13-14% increase in tax and recordation revenue from sale of property.

Mr. Farber, in his packet to the County Council, questions Mr. Leggett's property tax increase proposal. The school budget would be the biggest beneficiary of the prop-

MORE

April Minutes, cont.

erty tax increase. Most of the MCPS budget goes to salaries and benefits.

The State Legislature postponed until 2020 County repayment of \$40M to taxpayers as a result of the Wynne case. Mr. Farber asked what improvements in services the taxpayers will see as a result of a significant increase in property tax. Although closing the achievement gap and reducing class size are top priorities, most of the proposed increase in the MCPS budget goes to an increase in employee compensation.

Mr. Farber questioned "make up" step increases for MCPS and County employees, negotiated so they could recover wage increases not realized during the recession. Such salary increases will be difficult

to sustain over time.

Ms. Hughes, in response to calls for accountability for MCPS budget, reminded the audience that schools are creatures of the State.

(Note: The Council provided additional information, including Mr. Farber's [packet on compensation and benefits](#), and Council website with [links to all committee budget work sessions](#).)

COMMITTEE REPORTS*Environment*

■ State legislators passed online one bill supported by MCCF, the Pollinator Protection Act.

■ Danila Sheveiko reported that DPS continues to work on the IGCC; he expects a new draft in May.

Public Safety

■ [OLO report on the School to](#)

[Prison Pipeline](#) shows that, while student removals and juvenile arrests are down substantially in the County, the OLO staff acknowledge that this is consistent with national trends so it may have little to do with specific agency activities. School removal incidents dropped by 50% as well as juvenile arrests 61%. A small number of schools account for a large number of problems.

Transportation

■ The County's CIP budget proposal includes Purple Line and BRT costs.

Education

■ Each school artificial turf field costs \$1M. Damascus High School received \$500K from state coffers for an AT field, also approved by the County BOE.

MORE

April Minutes, cont.

Planning and Land Use

■ The Planning Department continues to work on **Subdivision Staging Policy**.

Public Utilities

■ Electric utility Pepco was acquired by Exelon Corp.

NEW BUSINESS

■ Peggy Dennis has retired from her position as the MCCF newsletter editor. Jacquie Bokow was nominated and approved as the new newsletter editor. Approved with 2 abstentions.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m. ■

Minutes of the April 21, 2016, ExComm Meeting

By Co-Recording Secretary, Danila Sheveiko

The Executive Committee (Ex Comm) convened via conference call.

Call to Order: Paula Bienenfeld, President, called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m. **Present:** Carole Ann Barth, Jacquie Bokow, Alan Bowser, Jean Cavanaugh, Peggy Dennis, Jerry Garson, Harriet Quinn, Virginia Sheard, Danila Sheveiko, Louis Wilen, and Jim Zepp.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda: Paula Bienenfeld called for and received unanimous approval of the proposed agenda as amended.

Approval of Minutes for March ExComm Meeting: Paula Bienenfeld called for and received unanimous approval of the minutes.

Treasurer's Report: Jerry Garson, Treasurer, reported net expenditures over income of \$96.80 for the period.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Jerry Garson reported that early voting closed today amid very heavy turnout.

■ Jean Cavanaugh, Co-Recording Secretary, announced that she and Carole Ann Barth, Environment Committee Co-Chair, have been elected Co-Chairs of the Montgomery County Forest Conservation Advisory Committee.

MORE

April ExComm Mtg., cont.

■ A Purple Line meeting is being hosted by Montgomery College tonight with Purple Line Transit Partners talking about financing and implementation; a video of the meeting will be available online later.

PROGRAMS

Paula introduced discussion of future programs.

■ May: Senior Villages—Alan Bowser, 2nd Vice President, reported that the program will feature a speaker from Health and Human Services.

■ June: TBD.

ISSUES DISCUSSED

■ Event planning for this year's annual awards scheduled for June 9th at McGinty's in Silver Spring. [See details on pages 5-7.]

■ Discussion of State Legislature and MCCF priorities.

■ Peggy Dennis, Former President, is working to allow Sunday deer hunting in Maryland.

■ Jerry informed that the early filing deadline for 2017 session bills is in August, and those interested in advocating bills should start *after* next week's primary.

■ NBC did a 30-minute interview with Jerry on this winter's snow removal efforts.

■ Tobytown: Paula reported that the meeting by the Housing and Opportunities Commission was packed, with standing room only. HOC objected to the presence of people not living in Tobytown, but the residents said they were there at their invitation. Louis Wilen, Utilities Committee Chair, reported that HOC is denying the request to make public their latest audit, and Del. Aruna

Miller that was originally willing to make inquest ended up demurring, but Del. Eric Luedtke said he will try.

■ Danila Sheveiko, Co-Recording Secretary, reported that the Maryland Public Information Act request filed to MCPS for their synthetic turf maintenance costs and procedures should be fulfilled at the end of the month.

■ Nominating Committee has several candidates and will meet via conference call for another round of review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning and Land Use

■ Louis Wilen reported that the County is proposing to increase the recordation tax on home sales and refinancings by 50% in **Expedited Bill 15-16**. Public Hearing on May 10 at 1:30 p.m.

MORE

April ExComm Mtg., cont.

After a Council public hearing, **ZTA 16-03**, regarding transient lodging in residential zones was returned back to the Planning Department.

Westbard Master Plan public comment deadline is April 26th.

Transportation

Jerry Garson, Acting Chair, reported that MD 355 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Study Open House houses will take place on Thursday, April 28, 2016, 6:30 p.m. at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Cafeteria, and Tuesday, May 3, 2016, 6:30 p.m., at the Gaithersburg High School Cafeteria.

Peggy Dennis reported that the Bicycle Master Plan Advisory Group will be meeting in April and May.

Peggy Dennis also reported that

residents of Kirk Lane orphan road are waiting for an estimate before proceeding with improvements.

Jim Zepp reported that the Federal Transportation Administration safety inspectors are requesting additional information from WMATA over a number of violations, including fire extinguishers that don't work; WMATA is transferring \$90 million from their capital improvement budget to cover operating expenses.

Jean gave an update on the River Road traffic light. Neighbors met on April 11th with State Highway Administration officials who proposed several alternatives, but none of them involved a traffic light request by the community.

Public Safety

Jim Zepp, 1st Vice President, reported that juvenile crime is down.

Public Utilities

Louis Wilen, Chair, reported that Del. Al Carr responded to Wilen's article regarding the tuning of HVAC units to compensate for the change in the Washington Gas mixture.

PEPCO is also asking for a rate increase.

Environment

Carole Ann reported on environmental bills in the Maryland General Assembly. The plastic bottle bill failed, the Pollinator Protection Act passed, the roadside tree protection bill failed, a bill to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40% passed, and the bill requiring warning signs on synthetic turf fields following CDC guidelines has failed. [See story on [page 12.](#)]

Jean Cavanaugh and Virginia Sheard reported on a proposal to

April ExComm Mtg., cont.

construct a new salt barn at the intersection of Connecticut Avenue and 495 right next to Rock Creek.

Carole Ann Barth reported that the Northwood Park is now reopened, with many of the problems fixed, but the damaged creek bed was "fixed" with sand and straw.

Alan Bowser reported that next Thursday is Earth Day.

Danila reported that the International Green Construction Code draft by the Department of Permitting Services should be made public sometime in the second half of May.

Jean reported that about 200 trees were removed in Silver Spring on Three Oaks Drive to pave way for development.

OLD BUSINESS

Regional Civic Summit—Jim Zepp is working on details.

NEW BUSINESS

Newsletter deadline and articles April 26th at 6:00 p.m. to Jacquie Bokow at [civicednews AT montgomerycivic.org](mailto:civicednews@montgomerycivic.org).

Date and location of next two ExComm meetings:

May 19th—a field trip starting at 7:00 p.m.; details to follow.

June—via conference call.

Adjournment: Paula Bienenfeld called for and received unanimous approval for adjournment at 9:56 p.m. ■

Montgomery County Civic Federation

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Submit contributions for the next issue by the 26th of the month.

Send to CFN at [civicednews AT montgomerycivic.org](mailto:civicednews@montgomerycivic.org). Please send all address corrections to [membership AT montgomerycivic.org](mailto:membership@montgomerycivic.org).

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