

## Come to the MCCF Annual Awards Banquet on Friday, May 18, in Rockville

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**Award Winners Announced!** | Read details about each of the winners before the banquet | [P. 8](#)

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**Green Streets Rebuttal** | Sligo Hills Park CA President takes exception to the April article | [P. 4](#)

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**Talk to Us!** | Come early to the May 14th meeting to talk things over and meet others | [P. 15](#)

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**TO PRINT, USE [PRINT VERSION](#)**

## of note

### Next MCCF Meeting

Monday, May 14, 2018, 7:45 p.m. @ the Executive Office Building in Rockville. "Economic Development in Montgomery County—Follow the Money"

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### Annual Awards Banquet 5/18!

See Menu and Venue Details [P. 6](#)  
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View Award Winners [P. 8](#)

### Membership Application

Join or Renew Now [SEE FORM](#)

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and follow us on [Twitter](#).**

## **Federation Meeting 895**

*Monday, May 14, 2018*

7:45 p.m.

Lobby Level Auditorium

**Executive Office Building**

101 Monroe Street, Rockville

### **AGENDA**

**7:00 Social Time for Members**

7:45 Call to Order/Introductions

7:50 Approval of Agenda

7:51 Announcements

7:58 Treasurer's Report

8:00 May Program: Economic  
Development in Montgom-  
ery County—"Follow the  
Money" **P.3**

9:25 Committee Reports

9:35 Old and New Business

9:45 Adjournment

## **About MCCF Meetings**

*All monthly MCCF meetings are open to the public.* They are held on the second Monday of each month, September through June, at 7:45 p.m.

The May meeting will be held in the **Lobby Level Auditorium of the Executive Office Building at 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, Maryland.**

Walkers can enter by buzzing security at the door. You can park for free either in the lot at E. Jefferson and Monroe Streets or in the lowest level of the EOB. Drive onto the ramp in the front of the building (ignore "permit parking only" sign), turn left at the second, lower level; use the intercom at the gate to the parking garage and at the door to the elevators to inform security you're attending the MCCF Meeting. ■



The **Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc.**, is a county-wide nonprofit educational and advocacy organization founded in 1925 to serve the public interest. Monthly MCCF 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 15**

## May's Program: Economic Development in Montgomery County—Follow the Money

By Jim Zepp, President

“Follow the money.” That was the advice given to *Washington Post* reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein by their source, Deep Throat, in the movie *All the President's Men*. Economic development in Montgomery County can be just as controversial, full of intrigue, and contradictory an issue as the Water-gate Scandal.

A booming local economy can result in growing complaints about a lack of affordable housing, overcrowded schools, traffic congestion, shortages of qualified workers, overwhelmed infrastructure problems, higher taxes to pay for needed infrastructure improvements, as well as tax incentives and subsidies to attract or retain businesses. A failing local economy can engender cries

for desperate measures to entice businesses to come or stay. Furthermore, as corporate plans change or companies struggle financially, their commitments to expand or build facilities or hire more employees may not be met. Consequently—despite whatever communities' economic

development efforts may do—they may not be rewarded. So the problem with economic development is that there may be too little, unless there is too much.

Other controversies about economic development involve the following questions:

■ Are either government or are private economic development agencies more effective? A few years ago the County government dissolved its ED agency and created a private, nonprofit corporation to promote itself for economic development. In some other jurisdictions, there have been complaints about corruption or cronyism when private agencies were allowed to dispense millions in public funds and tax incentives.

■ Are the traditional approaches



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## May Program, cont.

of giving subsidies/tax incentives to established businesses and incubating new startup companies effective at attracting/retaining businesses? There has been research questioning whether this true. The high failure rate of new businesses can make startups a high risk investment. An alternative called Economic Gardening has provided some hope in this regard. This approach identifies established small local businesses that are in the position to grow by expanding their markets to other areas. By providing market research and other information to these businesses substantial growth is possible with minimal public subsidies.

Among the program speakers will be **Greg LeRoy**, Executive Director of **Good Jobs First**, a national policy resource center for grassroots

groups and public officials that promotes corporate and government accountability in economic development. They conduct research into tracking subsidies, promoting accountability in economic development.

The Montgomery County Economic Development Corp. (MCEDC) was invited to send a representative to discuss its plans and achievements. However, no one associated with the MCEDC was available to talk about it.

The County Executive's Office was also contacted to speak about the County's efforts, but, as of the time of publication, no response has been received.

In lieu of any official representatives from the County's economic development team, a presentation on this subject may be delivered by MCCF members. ■

## Rebuttal Letter to the Editor on Green Streets Article

*By Anne McHenry, President, Sligo Hills Park Civic Association*

As President of Sligo Park Hills Civic Association, I want to provide a counterpoint to the **Green Streets Rain Garden article in the April 2018 newsletter**.

SPHCA was a prototype for the county's stormwater runoff program. The county provided significant advance outreach to home-owners. [Representatives from the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)] met with our association multiple times. They provided information, met with individual home-owners, and solicited comments and concerns. DEP representatives set up a whole neighborhood tour and then tours

## Green Streets Rebuttal, cont.

by block. They literally walked with homeowners through SPHCA to discuss opportunities to reduce rainwater runoff. There were opportunities at all points to work collaboratively with the county to fine tune the project. Neighbors successfully obtained a variety of system-wide changes, including a three-foot buffer between the street and the bioswales to allow people to get off the street safely. In individual cases, bioswales were moved or modified. The process was almost entirely collegial.

Kit Gage, our neighbor and a Master Watershed Steward, put in hundreds of hours of volunteer time facilitating this project. She has significant technical expertise, training, and experience in the field, and has been able to explain these projects in lay terms.



Joan Bernmeter

The project is now complete. We're thrilled with results. The program accomplished what it was supposed to. Stormwater runoff is reduced. Our streets no longer get washed away from heavy rains. Our yards are more beautiful. Whenever there's been an issue (plants that die, any standing water – only a couple places ever), they get fixed quickly.

Given our experience with DEP's community outreach and collaborative approach, I find it odd that homeowners in other neighborhoods

claim they didn't know about these stormwater gardens until they appeared in their right of way. This is the exact opposite of our experience.

I also want to offer a rebuttal that Kit Gage financially benefits from promoting rain gardens. Kit's job is as a garden adviser that does not involve rain garden designs. On the side, she has done a few hundred dollars in work over the last four years designing institutional conservation landscapes. This is hardly an amount that qualifies as "profiting" or conflict of interest as was alleged in last month's article on GreenStreets. Kit has been supportive of DEP. She also, with other environmentalists, has made lots of recommendations to them to improve their efforts, all at no cost to the county. The county needs people like Kit who advocate for the health of our streams and watersheds. ■



## MCCF Annual Awards Celebration is Friday, May 18th

*By Bailey Condrey, 1st Vice President*

The Montgomery County Civic Federation will hold its annual awards celebration on Friday, May 18th at New Fortune Chinese Restaurant in Gaithersburg. The restaurant is just north of I-370 on Route 355 at South Westland Drive. The address is 16515 South Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. The phone is 301.548.8886.

Tickets are \$50/person, \$75/couple.

The menu for the evening will include the following dishes:

- Egg Drop soup and vegetable egg rolls,
- Chinese broccoli/oyster sauce,
- Double mushrooms/vegetables,
- Chicken or vegetable lo mein,
- Tofu with mixed vegetables in garlic sauce with ginger.

For dessert: Oranges and fortune cookies. Soft drinks will be provided. Beer and cocktails may be purchased separately from the bar. The Civic Federation will provide red and white wine.

MCCF presents three awards annually to deserving residents of Montgomery County: The Sentinel Award, The Wayne Goldstein Award, and The Star Cup. To see who won the awards this year, see [page 8](#).

Use the registration form on the next page ([or on the MCCF website](#)) to make your reservations. ■



## CIVIC FED TONIGHT!

### ***SEEKING POSSIBLE SPEAKERS FOR YOUR CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETINGS?***

**Members of the MCCF Executive Committee have extensive experience in issues such as transportation, land use and zoning, schools, parks, environmental concerns, taxes, and public spending. Plus, they have a community-oriented perspective on these matters. If you would like an executive committee member to speak at a meeting, contact President Jim Zepp at *president at montgomerycivic dot org*. Include topics/possible dates.**

## Reserve Your Tickets Now for Montgomery County Civic Federation's **2018 ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER**

**FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2018**

**Dinner**

6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

**Awards Presentations**

7:15 to 8:15 p.m.

**NEW FORTUNE RESTAURANT**

16515 South Frederick Avenue  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

*Buffet dinner includes appetizers,  
choice of five entrées, dessert,  
red/white wine, and soft drinks.  
Beer and cocktails at cash bar.*

**SPACE IS LIMITED  
PLEASE RESERVE ASAP**

Questions? Contact Bailey Condrey,  
*veep1 AT montgomerycivic DOT org*

### **MCCF Annual Awards Dinner**

I/We will attend the Awards Dinner on Friday, May 18, 2018:

\$50 per person     \$75 per couple

Number Attending \_\_\_\_\_

**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 Montgomery County  
Civic Federation, Awards Celebration, P.O. Box 1123, Bethesda, MD 20827-1123

## Montgomery County Civic Federation 2018 Annual Award Winners

### THE STAR CUP

The Star Cup was presented by *The Washington Star* newspaper to the Civic Federation on March 14, 1927, to be awarded by the Civic Federation to the committee or delegate performing the most outstanding public service on behalf of Montgomery County.

**Recipient** | *Jerry Garson*

**Recognition** | *For over 20 years of service to MCCF and the community as Treasurer, Chair of the Transportation Committee, and many other roles, and President, County Elections Bd.*

**Presenter** | *State Senator Brian Feldman*

### THE SENTINEL AWARD

This award, sponsored by *The Montgomery Sentinel* newspaper, is given annually by the Civic Federation to an individual or group, typically outside government, for a “significant contribution to good government at the local level.”

**Recipients** | *Term Limits Ballot Committee: Sharon Cohen, Ann Hingston, and David Drake*

**Recognition** | *For the extraordinary achievements of collecting 18,000 signatures on a petition and garnering a 68 percent vote for term limits.*

**Presenter** | *James Shalleck, President, County Elections Board*

### WAYNE GOLDSTEIN AWARD

This award recognizes outstanding public service contributions by an individual or group in Montgomery County. Instituted in 1984 by *The Journal*, it was called “The Journal Cup” until 1998, when *The Gazette* newspaper assumed sponsorship. In 2010, it was renamed in honor of MCCF Past President Wayne Goldstein, who passed away in 2009.

**Recipients** | *Friends of the Capital Crescent Trail: Ajay Bhatt*

**Recognition** | *Because of their work on the Trail and the major role they have played with the Purple Line, i.e., for bringing a suit which highlighted the importance of realistic ridership estimates*



## I-495 Beltway in Maryland and I-270 P3 Study

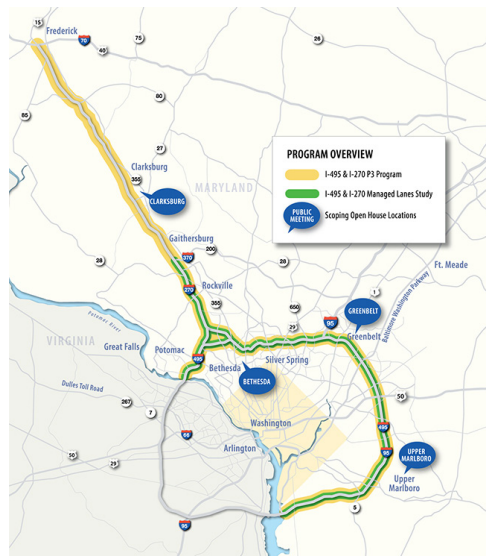
By Jerry Garson, Transportation Chair

The Maryland State Highway Administration has started a study of an I-495 and I-270 Public-Private Partnership (P3) Program.

The proposed program includes all of I-495 (Capital Beltway) within Maryland, from the American Legion Bridge to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge, and all of I-270, from I-495 to I-70, including both east and west I-270 spurs. The program seeks input from the private sector to finance, design, build, operate, and maintain improvements on both I-495 and I-270.

### MANAGED LANES STUDY

The I-495 and I-270 Managed Lanes Study is the first element of the P3 Program and includes all



I-495 but I-270 from I-495 only to I-370 (including the spurs). The study will review existing and future traffic, roadway, and environmental conditions to identify alternatives

and assess potential impacts, while focusing on enhancing trip reliability.

The I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study will follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and will prepare

MORE

### Award Winners, cont.

*in calculating the cost-benefit of hugely expensive public transit projects. The judge's ruling required preparation of a Supplemental EIS because usage projections failed to account for falling ridership trends. FCCT struck a blow for objective analyses over highly optimistic assumptions in the approval of mega-project public works.*

Presenter | State Del. Al Carr ■

## I-495/I-270 P3 Study, cont.

an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The law requires development of a reasonable range of project alternatives that can accomplish the purpose and need, taking into consideration potential impacts to socioeconomic, cultural, and natural resources. Coordination among federal, state, and local agencies, and communication with

the public and other project stakeholders, is key throughout this process.

A future study—the second element of the P3 Program—will extend along I-270 from I-370 north to I-70. The State held four open houses during April at different high schools to discuss the proposals.

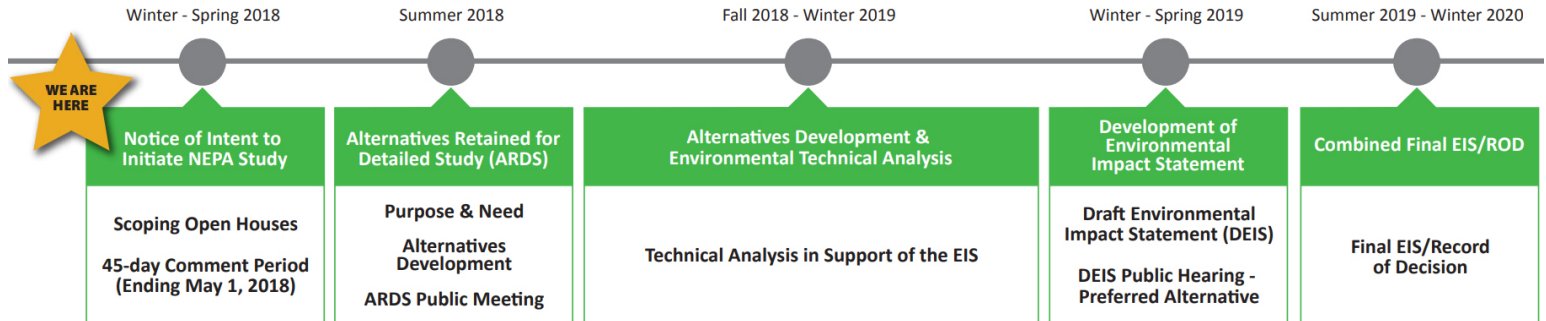
See the “I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study Timeline” below,

for the proposed schedule of work.

A fast-track management contract was to be voted on by the Maryland Board of Public Works on April 18, 2018, but was pulled before the meeting. This will probably delay the project.

To learn more about the study you can visit the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration project website at [495-270-P3.com](http://495-270-P3.com). ■

## I-495 & I-270 MANAGED LANES STUDY TIMELINE

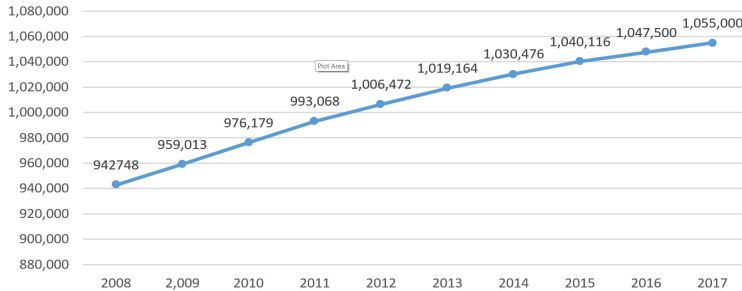


## WHAT'S TRENDING IN THE COUNTY

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

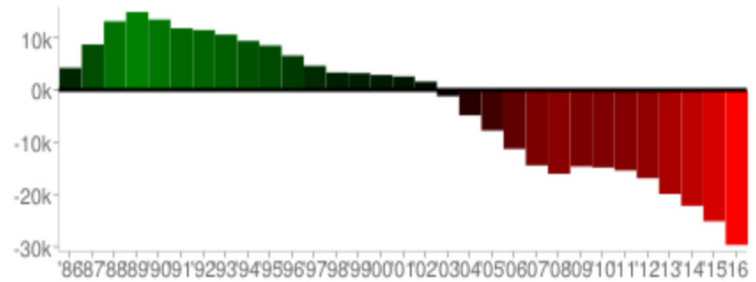
### Montgomery County Population Keeps Growing While Taxpayers Are Leaving

**TOTAL POPULATION, 2000–2017**



Source: Department of Finance's 2017 Comprehensive Financial Report, Demographic Statistics, page 253

**POPULATION MIGRATION 1985-2016**



Source: How Money Walks (IRS Tax Migration)

**IRS Tax Migration:** For many years now, the Internal Revenue Service has been tracking the migration of Americans and their income across state and county lines. Every year, the IRS produces a detailed report on the tax migration of Americans, showing the amount of people and income that moved.

Source: [How Money Walks \(IRS Tax Migration\)](#)

**Gained Taxpayers and Dependents From:**

- 26,083 District Of Columbia, DC
- 7,840 Prince George's County, MD
- 2,046 Queens County, NY
- 1,812 Allegheny County, PA
- 1,681 Nassau County, NY

**Lost Taxpayers and Dependents To:**

- 30,672 Frederick County, MD
- 11,816 Howard County, MD
- 7,084 Fairfax County, VA
- 7,060 Anne Arundel County, MD
- 4,528 Loudoun County, VA

## Clinoptilolite Zeolite for the Students or the Death of Cork-o-Nut or We'll See...

*By Bailey Condrey, MCCF First Vice President*

Early in the week of April 23, 2018, the Chief Operating Officer of Montgomery County Public Schools, Andrew Zuckerman, used his access to the parents of pupils to send an e-mail message that highlighted a new synthetic turf decision by MCPS and simultaneously denigrated local scientists and activists for their science-based opposition to synthetic turf. His letter motivated Dr. Diana Zuckerman, Ph.D.—a Yale University-trained epidemiologist who is president of the National Center for Health Research—to issue this reply on the Parents Coalition website: **MISLEADING email sent to MCPS families #zeolite.**

(Read a 2010 **Material Safety Data Sheet for clinoptilolite zeolite**, a

mined volcanic rock.)

The common chemical name for “Zeolite” is hardly simple: Potassium Sodium Magnesium Calcium Aluminosilicate Mineral. The silicate part should be a component of concern as silica dust creates silicosis in the lungs, a debilitating chronic disease that, once acquired, does nothing wholesome to the human body. According to the MSDS sheet, in #4 and #11, it’s also an eye and skin irritant.

Within the MCPS website you can find a **summary of the path the school system took to make its decision to use “Zeolite”** and, within the summary, you can find a **new MSDS sheet that appears to have been upgraded for use as a marketing tool** to sell this rock to consumers for use on synthetic turf fields.

Despite the assurances of Andrew Zuckerman that MCPS’ new choice of clinoptilolite zeolite as the infill material for the new synthetic turf fields at Walt Whitman and Albert Einstein High Schools is just the perfect replacement for cork-o-nut, the decision flies in the face of the Montgomery County resolution of 2015 stating that all future synthetic turf fields constructed at MCPS high schools would, in fact, use a plant-based infill. **“Cork-o-nut,” supplied by Limonta Sport**, was chosen.

What happened to cork-o-nut as the preferred infill? Where are the data and the due diligence that justify this new infill choice?

Remember how manufacturers sold unwitting consumers on the notion that the crumb rubber

## Clinoptilolite Zeolite, cont.

would be cryogenically processed and, therefore, encapsulate all of the nasty compounds in the CR? Andrew Zuckerman has called “Zeolite” organic, but it’s mined rock. Does all of the mining equipment harvesting this rock keep the industrial process pollutants it generates from combining with this “highly absorptive” material?

The MSDS for clinoptilolite zeolite says it’s an inhalation risk and skin and eye irritant. Are we now going to require that all athletes use full-body leotards, breathing masks, and goggles in order to continue competing on the “best,” most expensive synthetic turf that Montgomery County taxpayers’ money can buy? How will players in all sports deal with the dermal, eye, and mucous membrane irritation noted

in the MSDS? We’re now going to subject children to silica dust, along with lead, during the physiological formative years of their lives. What a great idea! Let’s all jump through as many crazy hoops as possible just so we can continue to use this incredibly destructive and expensive product because it’s what parents have been convinced they want.

Which brings to mind: the synthetic turf fields at both Richard Montgomery and Walter Johnson High Schools remain in failure and have not been fixed due to the need for complete replacement because they are made of the defective “Duraspine” carpets supplied by Field Turf. How does MCPS proceed with building new synthetic turf fields when two existing fields remain dangerous? Will **Montgomery Soccer, Inc.**, not help defray the replacement costs for these fields because MCPS

failed to maintain them according to the warranty? How does MCPS get to choose a new infill material for synthetic turf fields when the County Council resolution on the use of plant-based infill still remains in effect?

MSI has a “Health and Nutrition” section on its website. It makes no mention of any health concerns related to synthetic turf, G-MAX, or Zeolite, but does discuss new rules for preventing concussions from “heading” a soccer ball. There is no mention of the MCPS accepted level for G-MAX hardness of 200 on synthetic turf fields. This level of hardness can prove fatal.

According to **an article published in late April in *Bethesda Beat***, MSI is a huge financial contributor to the public-private partnership that MCPS established to help fund the

## Clinoptilolite Zeolite, cont.

construction of synthetic turf fields at MCPS. Does MSI have formidable influence in the decision-making process? Sunny Acres Landscaping of Davidsonville has been awarded the build contract. Can MCPS provide a list of past projects that Sunny Acres has constructed?

Why haven't MCPS and the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission built any state-of-the-art grass fields from which to make performance and cost comparisons between top-tier grass and synthetic turf? Is MNCPPC recording performance and maintenance data from the Bermuda grass fields it manages at the SoccerPlex and has it been shared broadly? Many synthetic turf supporters state that grass "can't take the level of play that's needed," and yet *no* top-of-the-line grass fields

have been built by MCPS from which to make comparisons, or better yet, allow students to choose which ones they prefer. Making blanket assertions about the performance of synthetic turf—drawn mostly from industry public relations materials—does nothing to instill confidence with taxpayers that MCPS' humongous percentage of the county budget is spent wisely.

Andrew Zuckerman continues to make statements about the status of the MCPS synthetic turf program that are not supported by data or facts on the ground. How much do rental fees actually offset the cost of synthetic turf fields? Where do the funds generated by County Use of Public Facilities for synthetic turf field rentals get spent? What company will supply the plastics synthetic turf carpeting for WW and AE high schools? With the horrible performance of over-

priced Field Turf-supplied synthetic turf fields, it most certainly won't be FT. Or will it? Zuckerman assured parents that the bidding process was competitive, but MSI is going to pay 89 percent of the bill for the \$1.34 million Walt Whitman field, according to *Bethesda Beat*. Where does MSI acquire the funds it uses to support the synthetic turf program at MCPS?

MCPS continues to operate much like the Trump administration and it predates his election. They generate decisions and the tax-paying public is left with nothing but questions. The entire decision-making process for choosing clinoptilolite zeolite should be readily available. Where is it? If this unilateral decision by MCPS doesn't reveal that they need an Inspector General, maybe the other ongoing scandals within the system will push the door open more widely to acceptance of diligent oversight. ■

## SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT?

*Need to share  
a community concern?*

*Want to know how to do  
something for your own  
civic association?*

*Would like to meet  
your fellow civic activists?*

**Come early to the May 14 meeting. From 7:00 to 7:45 p.m., members of the MCCF Executive Committee will be available to talk in the EOB Auditorium. Light refreshments will keep you from going hungry. Be social, be a part of the civic movement, and be here.**

## 2018–2019 MCCF Officer Nominations

President: Bailey Condrey  
1st Vice President: Danila Sheveiko  
2nd Vice President: *Vacant*  
Treasurer: Jerry Garson  
Secretary: *Vacant*

The election of MCCF Officers for the next fiscal year will be held at the June 11th regular meeting in Rockville. The new officers begin their terms of office immediately following the June meeting.

Nominees must be Delegates from MCCF Member civic associations. Floor nominations are allowed at the May 14th regular meeting, but must be seconded by Delegates from three different Member associations.

FYI, contact Jim Zepp at *president AT montgomerycivic.org*. ■

## cfn

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**Submit contributions for the next issue by the 26th of the current month.** Send to CFN at *civiefednews AT montgomerycivic.org*.

**Send all address corrections to membership AT montgomerycivic.org.**

**VIEW PAST ISSUES ONLINE [HERE](#)**