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Some General Assembly Bills of Interest | Next year's legislative session of the Maryland State General Assembly begins January 9; hearings on local bills will be held in Rockville this month | **P. 3**

Civic Fed Tonight! | Looking for a knowledgeable speaker for your civic association meeting? Members of MCCF's Executive Committee are available to speak on a variety of civic topics | **P. 5**

The Challenge We Face | The Fourth National Climate Assessment, a report nearly 1,600 pages long produced by 13 Federal agencies, was released to the public on November 23. As Walt Kelly's Pogo said in 1972, "We have met the enemy and he is us." | **P. 6**

Bicycle Master Planning | The County Council on November 27 adopted a comprehensive master plan to make Mont. County a 'world-class bicycling community' | **P. 9**

Something You Want to Talk About? | Come early to the meeting to meet other activists | **P. 9**

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of note

Next MCCF Meeting

Monday, December 10, 2018, 7:45 p.m.
@ the Executive Office Building in Rockville. "Meeting with our State Delegation Leaders"

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Meeting Minutes

November 12 Meeting #899 **P. 10**

November 15 Executive Committee Meeting **P. 12**

Membership Application

Join or Renew Now **SEE FORM**

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Federation Meeting #900

Monday, December 10, 2018

7:45 p.m.

Lobby Level Auditorium

Executive Office Building

101 Monroe Street
Rockville, Maryland

AGENDA

- 7:00 Social Time for Members
- 7:45 Call to Order/Introductions
- 7:50 Approval of Agenda
- 7:51 Announcements
- 7:56 Approval of Minutes, November 12 Meeting **P.10**
- 7:57 Treasurer's Report
- 8:00 Program: Meeting with Our State Delegation Leaders
- 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 December 10 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 13](#)

December Program: Our State Delegation Leaders

By Jerry Garson

The Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc., will have State Senator **Craig Zucker**, the chair of the Senate Delegation, and Delegate **Marc Korman**, the Chair of the House of Delegates Delegation, as our guest speakers for our December 10, 2018, meeting.

The meeting will be held in the Lobby Auditorium of the Montgomery County Executive Office Building. Parking is available on the lower level of the Parking Garage located at 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, Maryland 20850.

Our speakers will be discussing probable legislation to be introduced in the 2019 Legislative Session that begins on January 9, 2019 (see bills of interest at right). ■

Some General Assembly Bills of Interest

The 2019 legislative session of the General Assembly begins January 9 and concludes on April 8. The Montgomery County Delegation is holding hearings in Rockville on local bills on December 3 and December 17. The following are some bills of interest. Descriptions are from County Staff memorandum.

■ MC 6-19: MONTGOMERY COUNTY—COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND COUNTY COUNCIL CANDIDATES—PETITIONS

(Requested by Delegate Luedtke)

Under current law, an individual may become a candidate for public office by filing a certificate of candidacy, along with a form establishing a campaign finance entity and evidence that the individual has complied with financial disclosure laws and paying a filing fee. This bill adds the follow-

ing requirements: (1) a candidate for County Executive must file a petition signed by at least 1,000 registered voters in the County; (2) a candidate for an at-large County Council seat must file a petition signed by at least 500 registered voters in the County; and (3) a candidate for a district County Council seat must file a petition signed by at least 250 registered voters in that district.

■ MC 7-19: MONTGOMERY COUNTY—AUTHORITY OF COUNTY COUNCIL OVER INSPECTOR GENERAL—HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION

(Requested by Delegate Kramer)

This is an enabling bill that would allow the County to enact a local law giving the County's Office of Inspector General (OIG) the same

MORE

Bills of Interest, cont.

authority over the Montgomery County Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) that the OIG has over County government. A separate bill would do the same for Montgomery College (**MC 12-19: Montgomery County—Authority of County Council Over Inspector General—Montgomery College**). If the two bills pass, no changes would be needed to County law.

The bills make State law consistent with existing County law governing the OIG, which already reflects the County's desire to extend the OIG's authority to all "Independent Agencies" created by the State, including Montgomery County Public Schools, the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, HOC, and

Montgomery College. This component of the County's OIG law is currently unenforceable because these entities were created by the State and the State has not yet granted authority to the County to include them under the jurisdiction of the OIG. These two bills would change that for HOC and Montgomery College and make the OIG law enforceable against them.

■ MC 8-19: MONTGOMERY COUNTY—STATE HIGHWAYS—TOLL FACILITIES

(Requested by Delegates Carr, Moon, and Wilkins, and Delegates-Elect Charkoudian, Shetty, and Solomon)

MC 8-19 requires an authorizing local law to be enacted by the County before a State agency, including the Maryland Transportation Authority, may acquire or construct any toll road, toll highway, or toll bridge in Montgomery County. The provi-

sions of the bill are similar to those in existing law that require prior approval of a majority of Eastern Shore counties before any such toll facility may be built on the Eastern Shore.

■ MC 29-19: MONTGOMERY COUNTY—VOTING METHODS

(Requested by Delegate Luedtke and Senator Kagan)

This bill authorizes the County to adopt a local law establishing "ranked choice" or "approval rating" voting systems for elections to County Executive, County Council, Circuit Court Judge, State's Attorney, Circuit Court Clerk, Register of Wills, Orphan's Court, Sheriff, and Board of Education. "Ranked choice voting" means a method of casting and tabulating votes in which voters rank candidates in order of preference and votes are tabulated in a manner that reflects voter preference. "Ap-

MORE

Bills of Interest, cont.

proval voting” means a method of casting and tabulating votes in which voters may choose any number of candidates and the candidate chosen most often is elected.

MC/PG 103-19: MONTGOMERY COUNTY—PLANNING AND ZONING AUTHORITY—MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS

(Requested by Delegate Carr)

Currently, the County’s zoning laws apply to all municipalities except the seven which are excluded from the Regional District Act (RDA) (i.e., Brookeville, Poolesville, Laytonsville, Rockville, Barnesville, Gaithersburg, and Washington Grove). However, Takoma Park and Kensington have a type of “concurrent jurisdiction.” A supermajority (2/3) vote of the District Council and Planning Board is required to

take any action relating to zoning in Takoma Park or Kensington that is contrary to a resolution passed by the municipality. This bill is intended to extend the same type of concurrent jurisdiction to the other 10 municipalities in Montgomery County that are covered by the RDA so long as they have adopted a local ethics law that has been approved by the State Ethics Commission.

MC/PG 106-19: MONTGOMERY COUNTY—LAND USE DOCUMENTS—CERTIFICATION

(Requested by Delegate Kramer)

This bill requires an applicant who seeks to subdivide land in the County to certify under penalty of perjury that the following documents are true, correct, and complete to the best of the applicant’s knowledge: (1) forest conservation plan exemption application; (2) natural resources inventory/forest

stand delineation, including any required maps or drawings; (3) forest mitigation bank application; and (4) concept plan or other local development plan that does not require either a natural resources inventory/forest stand or forest conservation plan exemption. ■

CIVIC FED TONIGHT!**SEEKING POSSIBLE SPEAKERS FOR YOUR MEETINGS?**

MCCF Executive Committee members have extensive experience in issues such as transportation, land use and zoning, schools, parks, environmental concerns, taxes, public spending. If you would like an executive committee member to speak at a meeting, send an email to [president AT montgomerycivic DOT org](mailto:president@montgomerycivic.org). Include topics/dates.

Opinion: The Challenge We Face: It Is Us

By Bailey Condrey, MCCF President

“As to whether or not it’s man-made and whether or not the effects that you’re talking about are there, I don’t see it.” —Donald J. Trump to The Washington Post

“We think that this is the most extreme version and it’s not based on facts,” Sanders said of the National Climate Assessment. “It’s not data-driven.” —Delivered at a White House press conference on 11/27/18.

[The entire story can be read here.]

It could have been any other Thanksgiving weekend Black Friday, when millions of us would be out shopping for “deals” or watching college football. The Trump Admin-

istration might have been hoping we wouldn’t notice the issuance of the *Fourth National Climate Assessment*. The NCA assesses the science of climate change and variability and its impacts across the United States, now and throughout this century. The nearly 1,600-page report was produced by 13 Federal departments and agencies and overseen by the *U.S. Global Change Research Program*.

This Fourth Assessment contains the bad news that scientists have warned us for decades will happen to our nation and the world if we don’t pull our heads out of our collective ostrich holes and get to work on fixing the situation. This requires us to come to grips with the hard choices we have to make in order to preserve some semblance of environmental

stability for younger Americans and citizens of the globe.

For the doubting capitalists in the crowd, the NCA explains how the economic growth rate will be hammered by repeated “natural disasters” that we have helped make worse by our addiction to the status quo. The floods, droughts, crop and livestock losses, wildfires, blizzards, ice storms, tornados, hurricanes, wind storms, red tides, coral bleaching events, and algal blooms that already lay waste to communities, towns, regions, industries, and economies will keep getting worse.

The United States’ National Flood Insurance Program is bankrupt and a fraud on the taxpayers of the nation. The Federal Emergency Management Agency cannot afford

Challenge We Face, cont.

to rebuild Mexico Beach in Florida. Even if it could, rebuilding in flood plains that will surely be inundated again is a fool's errand and one that U.S. citizens should resist. Logic dictates that states retreat from high risk areas and create funds to help those affected by disasters to do so. Insurance agencies across the nation are reeling from the devastation wrought by the "interface" wildfires in California that have burned nearly 1.7 million acres, made worse by the drought conditions fueled by changing climate patterns. These fires have released millions of tons of pollutants into the global atmosphere, further exacerbating the situation.

Air pollution exposure scientists have documented that plumes from various California fires have reached as far as the east coast of the United

States. Prevailing winds have carried them across the continent, but they don't just affect the quality of the air we breathe, they also drop tiny particles of carbon upon the rapidly decomposing ice fields, glaciers, and pack ice of Greenland and the Arctic. This creates a feedback loop upon the ice called cryoconite melting that, unfortunately, accelerates its transformation to water. Water absorbs heat. Ice reflects the sun's energy. This feedback loop gnaws at atmospheric stability.

The global melt of ice packs and glaciers accelerates sea level rise. Every coastal community around the globe must deal with this phenomenon, but the shores of the states bordering the Chesapeake Bay also suffer from subsidence: the land is sinking simultaneously. These Bay states must also address the fact that the Atlantic Meridional Overturn-

ing Circulation has slowed due to the warming of the ocean, another unexpected feedback loop that arises from climate change that allows water to build up along the Atlantic coast. What affects Naval Station Norfolk also affects Baltimore, Annapolis, and Maryland's seaside resort towns. The world's largest naval base—home to the U.S. Navy's Sixth Fleet—is being flooded regularly by the Atlantic Ocean, and there's no plan to fix it, according to a recent investigation by *Inside Climate News*.

So what are we to do? The time for concerted action to address this collective challenge has arrived. "American Exceptionalism" requires us to band together and start implementing solutions that work on local, regional, and national levels; it must become another unprece-

MORE

Challenge We Face, cont.

dened Marshall Plan for the United States and the world.

The citizens of Montgomery County, Md., have just elected a new executive, Marc Elrich, by an overwhelming majority. He—along with a host of new County Council members and state legislators—should be urged by multiple groups to embrace the interlocking goals that must be met if the State's most populous County is to make a difference reducing the downside risks that climate change presents, both now and for the future. A partial list includes the following:

- Accelerate divestment of the county's public pension funds from fossil fuel investments.
- Accelerate the implementation of sustainable energy production across all county and state properties

amenable to such production, such as public school buildings.

- Strengthen green building practices across Montgomery County and the State, including directing new development to areas that are most accessible to all forms of public transit. Mixed use development that creates meaningful live/work communities is one option.

- Accelerate the closure date for the Dickerson incinerator.

- Reduce the heat island effect by reducing the use of synthetic turf that exposes children to toxins and increasingly dangerous temperatures and disconnects them from exposure to the natural environment. Man-kind evolved on grassy savannahs, not plastics and other chemicals by adults forcing these playing surfaces on children given no choice. Better grass fields solve many issues related to climate change and micro-plastics

pollution.

- Create a task force to work with landowners in the county's agricultural reserve and across Maryland to determine what incentives may be needed to jump start the production of industrial hemp for fiber, food, and other commercial uses.

- Incentivize the use of public transportation and bikeways.

- Place a price on carbon emissions.

Just a partial list reveals the level of work to be done. The new political make up of our County and legislature has given us fertile ground upon which to nurture necessary change. We all must endeavor to do more to spread the word and bear the load. The MCCF stands ready to assist all stakeholders in this essential work. We can all spend the rest of our lives engaged with this challenge and show the world that we have not forgotten the meaning of exceptionalism. ■

Bicycle Master Planning

By Peggy Dennis, Past President and Transportation Cmte. Member

On Tuesday, November 27, the 18th Council of Montgomery County unanimously adopted what is described as a world-class bike plan, a plan that I, a member of the Planning Department's advisory group, was honored to help create.

This new "functional" master plan is a comprehensive proposal that aims to make the County a "world-class bicycling community." The plan recommends a network of protected bike lanes—lanes where people can bike and ride in a manner that is protected from cars—as well as low-stress routes throughout the County, in our urban centers, as well as connecting major activity centers.

The plan is critical because it will guide design and capital budget

decisions and development plans going forward. When fully built out, the network envisioned by the plan will make biking a real option for cyclists of all ages and experiences in their trips for work, shopping, and recreation. But, I should add one caveat: Like all master plans, *it is only a guideline*. It does not mandate funds to finance these improvements nor provide a firm timeline to dictate when projects will be carried out. It will be up to citizens to advocate with future Councils to get moving and fund the projects we want and need. It could easily be another 20 to 40 years before "fully built out" is accomplished.

You can [learn more about the plan](#) and [view online the digital map](#) of the proposed network, or talk to staff contact David Anspacher at 301.495.2191 or David.Anspacher@montgomeryplanning.org. ■

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 December 10 meeting to discuss community concerns and meet other civic activists. From 7:00 to 7:45 p.m., members of the MCCF Executive Committee will be available to talk in the EOB Lobby Auditorium. Light refreshments will keep you from going hungry. Be social, be a part of the civic movement, and be here.

Minutes of the MCCF November 12th General Meeting #899 at a Rockville High School

By Karen Cordry, Second Vice President

General Meeting #899 of the MCCF was held November 12, 2018, at the Richard Montgomery High School Cafeteria, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive, Rockville, Md.

Call to Order: Bailey Condrey, President, called the meeting to order at 7:56 p.m.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda: Sue Schumacher moved the adoption of the proposed agenda, and Alan Bowser seconded. There was unanimous approval of the proposed agenda.

Approval of Minutes: Due to the absence of a Recording Secretary,

no minutes were taken for either the General #898 or ExComm meetings in October.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Mark Elrich will be holding four "listening sessions" in Cabin John, Germantown, Silver Spring, and Takoma Park following his election as County Executive on November 6. Each session will last about 1.5 hours and will allow him to receive feedback from the community about their priorities and the direction the County should take.

■ The County Delegation to Annapolis will have their annual hearing on the community's views of the priority issues they should pursue at the session beginning in January. The hearing will be held at the County Council's Hearing Room on

Nov. 14, beginning at 7 p.m.

■ The Delegation will also be holding hearings on local and bicounty legislation on December 3 and 17, at the same location at 7 p.m. on each evening. [A list of proposed bills is available here.](#) One bill was No. 6-19, that proposed to include a minimum signature requirement for those seeking to run for County Executive or County Council (1,000 for Executive, 500 for At-large, and 250 for a district seat).

Treasurer's Report: Jerry Garson, Treasurer, discussed his October report. The highlights were that MCCF has received \$1,435 in dues to date and had \$1,085 in expenditures (primarily on meeting expenses). The current bank balance is \$12,173.

November Minutes, cont.

PROGRAM

Jim Zepp introduced speakers from Eco City Farms and Rooftop Roots, both of which are active pioneers in the field of large-scale urban/suburban gardening ventures. Both gave interesting presentations about their efforts to integrate farming into the local community, their successes and setbacks to date and the difficulties they have faced and overcome to a greater or lesser degree in dealing with the established regulatory and bureaucratic machinery.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transportation

■ Jerry Garson reported that Metro ridership overall has increased by 14,000 riders a day although Mont. Co. stations have gone down some-

what.

■ There has been nothing specific announced about any further developments on the I-270/495 toll road proposals. Al Carr has introduced a bill proposing to bar any toll road projects within Mont. Co. unless authorized by the County through local law; the bill may be viewed as too stringent if it would limit any changes north of Clarksburg. There has also been continued discussion of expanding the American Legion Bridge.

Legislation

■ Carole Barth reported that, based on recent legislation that MCCF supported, IGs have been put into place in several agencies and more are in the works.

■ A pending bill that MCCF is supporting would require that applicants submitting Forest Conserva-

tion Plans must sign them “under penalty of perjury,” so we would no longer have the situation where the County finds that it is powerless to enforce the plans or to penalize an applicant who filed a knowingly false application. The bill was proposed by Del. Ben Kramer and Carole will be testifying in support of it on behalf of the MCCF.

NEW BUSINESS

■ Resolution opposing Beltway Expansion. This was **published in the last newsletter** and Alan Bowser requested that we take it up and approve it at the current meeting. Bailey Condrey moved that we proceed to consider it at this time, and Jeff Griffith seconded the motion. It was approved by voice vote. After some discussion, and with a friendly amendment to change one

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November Minutes, cont.

reference to what “would” occur to what “could” occur, Sue Schumaker moved for the adoption of the resolution and Bailey Condrey seconded the motion. It was approved with a vote of 10 yea, and 2 abstentions.

■ There was discussion of the suggestion that we should resume the tradition of holding a reception for our local elected officials to raise our visibility and our concerns. No determination was made on the issue.

Adjournment: Bailey called for a motion to adjourn. Sue Schumacher made the motion, Alan Bowser seconded it, and it was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m. ■

Minutes of November 15 Executive Committee Meeting

By Karen Cordry, Second Vice President

Call to Order: Conference call meeting commenced at 7:52 p.m. All current members of the Executive Committee were present.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda:

Bailey called for and received unanimous approval of the proposed agenda with no changes.

Treasurer’s Report: Jerry Garson discussed latest expenses, including meeting room rental (Executive Building Auditorium), meeting expenses, and website.

PROGRAMS

■ December: State Legislation, coordinated by Jerry.

■ January: Pedestrian Safety, coordinated by Alan and Karen.

ISSUES DISCUSSED

■ Future programs for remainder of year.

■ Status of assignments/roles/Committees

Awards Committee

■ Membership update, Constant Contact. Alan, Jerry working on online membership Committee for Montgomery membership and breakfast

■ Podcast and Sentinel Column

■ State Legislation, Carole will testify at State Delegation hearing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning & Land Use

■ The Cell Tower ZTA was tabled

MORE

ExComm Minutes, cont.

and expired during this County Council term. A new ZTA may be proposed in the new Council. Planning Board will take up amending the General Master Plan for the County this year and May MCCF program will discuss.

Transportation

■ Governor's proposed toll lanes for I-270 and I-495 was a topic of many testimonies at the State Priorities Hearing.

OLD BUSINESS

■ Farm Road Reparations

NEW BUSINESS

■ New Council and Executive take office Dec. 3rd

■ Newsletter deadline: Tues., Nov. 26th.

■ Date and location of next two ExComm meetings:
| December 20, 7:45 p.m., Conference Call
| January—TBD

Adjournment: Bailey called for and received unanimous approval for adjournment at 9:52 p.m. ■

Montgomery County Civic Federation

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Submit contributions for the next issue by the 26th of the current month. Send to CFN at [civicednews AT montgomerycivic.org](mailto:civicednews@montgomerycivic.org).

Send all address corrections to membership AT montgomerycivic.org.

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