

September Program: Thrive 2050—An Assessment | MoCo Planning Board's Thrive 2050 Draft will be discussed at the September meeting. *Note: Key documents noted in this article should be reviewed before this meeting.* | **P. 3**

Resolution on Thrive 2050 | Our view on the draft plan is expressed in this proposed resolution, to be voted on at the meeting | **P. 9**

Officer Candidates Announced | Elections of MCCF officers for 2021–2022 will take place at the September 13 meeting | **P. 10**

Transportation Update | Details on I-495 and I-270 projects, plus ridership data of interest | **P. 11**

Dear Civic Leader | A letter from the MCCF President | **P. 14**

MCCF 2022 Budget | **P. 15**

A Citizens Guide to Safe Bow-and-Arrow Deer Hunting | The annual exhortation | **P. 16**

2021–2022 MCCF Meeting Schedule and Topics | Please mark your calendars now | **P. 19**

Virginia Sheard | The County activist from Kensington passed away on June 10 | **P. 20**

Like our Facebook Page and follow us on Twitter.

TO PRINT, USE PRINT VERSION

of note

Next MCCF Meeting #925

September 13, 2021, 7:30 p.m. *online*.
Topic: “Thrive 2050—An Assessment.”

Join the Zoom Meeting Here

[See further instructions on p. 2.]

AGENDA, P. 2 • PROGRAM, P. 3

Meeting Minutes

June 2021 Meeting *Unavailable*

Executive Committee Meeting

June and August 2021 *Unavailable*

Membership Application

Join or Renew Now

SEE FORM

MCCF Website Updated

Check out our redesigned website:

www.montgomerycivic.org

Federation Meeting #925

Monday, September 13, 2021

7:30 p.m.

Online Zoom Meeting

AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Treasurer's Report
5. Announcements
6. September Program: Thrive 2050—An Assessment **P.3**
7. Committee Reports
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. Adjournment

Note: MCCF general meetings are recorded and will appear online on YouTube.

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, online at 7:30 p.m. (In-person meetings are usually at 7:45 p.m.)

The September 13, 2021, meeting will be held online via Zoom (see page 3 for program) at 7:30 p.m.:

■ Meeting Name: "MCCF Monthly Meeting."

■ Date and Time: September 13, 2021, 7:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

■ To **join the Zoom meeting from your browser, use this link.**

■ To participate by phone (audio only), call 301.715.8592. The meeting ID is 846 7909 0857. No password is required, but we ask that you make sure your name is visible.

We hope you will join us! ■

mccf

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 20

Montgomery County Planning Board's Thrive 2050 Draft Plan: An Assessment by MCCF

At its September 13, 2021, online meeting, the Montgomery County Civic Federation will discuss and vote on a Resolution (see page 9) expressing the Federation's view on the Montgomery County Planning Board's Thrive 2050 Draft, recently transmitted to the County Council for its consideration and action. This article provides some context to that discussion. We invite our members to review the key documents noted below in advance of our meeting.

As you know, the Planning Board's draft has been the source of interest, discussion, and concern among our Federation members. (View the [Montgomery County Planning Board Draft here.](#))

Thrive 2050 is the Planning Board's recommendation for a

planning framework for Montgomery County. Its chapters discuss Compact Growth: Corridor-Focused Development; Complete Communities: Mix of Uses and Forms; Design, Arts, and Culture: Investing and Building Community; Transportation and Communications Networks: Connecting People, Places, and Ideas; Affordable and Attainable Housing: More of Everything; and Parks and Recreation for an Increasingly Urban and Diverse Community: Active and Socials.

The Federation supports many of the principles of the Draft Plan, including economic competitiveness and equity, affordable and attainable housing, inclusive and socially connected communities, environmental sustainability and

resiliency, and walkable communities. However, before the County Council approves the Draft Plan that will form the basis for long-term, large-scale community development and redevelopment, we strongly recommend that careful attention be paid—and revisions be made—based on the detailed suggestions made in the letters sent by the Thrive 2050 Neighborhood Coalition and Stormwater Partners Network to the Montgomery County Council.

Overall, many members of the Federation have expressed serious concerns about both the omissions of discussion and recommendations in some key areas of the planning document—particularly around the issues of economic development,

Assessing Thrive 2050, cont.

environmental sustainability, and housing—and the related flawed public outreach and engagement process.

As members of the [Thrive 2050 Neighborhood Coalition](#) and the [Stormwater Partners Network](#), the Civic Federation has concurred with the recommendations of these colleagues in their communications with the Montgomery County Council about the draft Thrive 2050 Plan.

Additionally, we have associated ourselves with the comments of the Montgomery County Executive outlined in his [June 10, 2021, Memorandum to the Montgomery County Council President](#).

LAND USE/PLANNING ISSUES

Like many of our partners, we

believe that the goals of the Draft Plan will have a better chance of being attained—which we support—if the Montgomery County Council makes the following modifications:

- Mandate the use of traditional master and sector planning processes to make recommendations regarding specific zoning changes in order to achieve public buy-in and to avoid a one-size-fits all approach that would result from proposed countywide Zoning Text Amendments.

- Reinstate the concept and value of compatibility as a means of ensuring that such changes enhance each individual community for all residents—new and existing.

- Include detailed strategies for how affordable and attainable housing can be created through adaptive reuse and other means.

- Reinstate a chapter on econom-

ic competitiveness that was deleted from the initial draft, in recognition that a holistic vision will be needed to reverse current shortcomings in jobs and wages.

- Include more robust funding methods for needed infrastructure.

- Discuss how the evolution from a car-centric to transit-centric society will be staged and differentiated across the diverse communities of the County.

- Require a five-year review to document results and impacts, as well as modify the Draft Plan as indicated by the results of said review.

THE ENVIRONMENT

We share the concerns of our colleagues in the Stormwater Partners Network about the Thrive 2050 Draft Plan as it concerns envi-

Assessing Thrive 2050, cont.

ronmental stewardship and resiliency. Overall, while the Plan has a number of strengths—particularly in its emphasis on increasing parks and greenspaces—it lacks a strong emphasis on climate change, stormwater management, and implementation steps. Earlier Thrive 2050 draft Plans had a much stronger and extensive list of policies and actions specific to the environment and climate change.

Like the Stormwater Partners Network, the Federation asks the Council to revise the Plan to bring back the “Health and Sustainable Environment” and the “Implementation” chapters of the Thrive 2050 Draft Plan released in October 2020. Additionally, the Federation believes that it is critically important that the Thrive 2050 Plan be

closely coordinated with the Climate Action Plan and subsequent Sector Plans, as sustainable and equitable land use is closely linked to many of the actions listed in the CAP. Enforcement and strengthening existing laws protecting the forests and waterways must also be highlighted in the final Thrive 2050 Plan as approved by the Council.

More specifically, as was emphasized in the Stormwater Partners Network letter to the County Council, we support the Plan’s recommendation of increasing the number and total acreage of parks; protecting our parks as natural solutions for climate resilience, biodiversity, and habitat protection; and fostering healthy communities. We agree that the County should incorporate more Green Streets, and green infrastructure for stormwater resilience in par-

ticular. However, we note that the County lacks the real policy/implementation steps and budget allocation needed for these to become effective and measurable climate change adaptation actions. The Thrive 2050 Plan should direct that any time our stormwater infrastructure is opened up for repairs or reconstructions, it is enhanced or prepared to meet or exceed current stormwater management standards, with green infrastructure (i.e., the addition of bioswales, grass swales, tree boxes, etc.) taking first priority.

Within both Thrive 2050 and the CAP plans, we now have an opportunity to exceed MS4 permit requirements by enhancing and improving green infrastructure. Local requirements overall should codify stricter stormwater manage-

Assessing Thrive 2050, cont.

ment requirements than those the State has proposed and should be considered as part of the Thrive 2050 Plan. The County needs to revise the process of granting waivers on stormwater requirements for redevelopment and we support the recommendation to move towards banning them.

When possible, we also support the increased protection of forests, waterways, and soils as natural solutions to stormwater management as part of climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience. We recommend the addition of “a no net loss of forest” policy in the Plan as part of updating the County’s Forest Conservation Law (FCL). In addition to no net loss under the FCL, we propose a countywide policy goal to increase total tree

canopy cover and total forest cover.

And, to the extent that additional density is allowed in transit-oriented locations, Council and Planning Department should create policies within Thrive 2050 that would allow any new buildings to be built within existing plot sizes and set back requirements while ensuring county agencies fully enforce all existing laws and policies, including for stormwater management and forest conservation, and do not allow waivers of environmental requirements.

With regard to the County’s Agricultural Reserve, we believe that the Plan lacks clear, full-throated support for the continued primacy of farming and forestry in the Ag Reserve. Reserve stakeholders have frequently expressed concerns regarding the absence of specificity in long-term commit-

ments to protect the Reserve in the Thrive 2050 update and Council, in conjunction with the Planning Department, should address that need proactively. The Plan should evaluate existing policies, clearly and strongly plan for the future of the Agricultural Reserve, and seek to create new policies that find a balance between food accessibility, sustainability, equity, and climate change.

ON COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Finally, the Montgomery County Civic Federation has, on many occasions, expressed its deep concern about the flawed community outreach and engagement process of the Montgomery County Planning Department and the Montgomery County Council with regard to discussions and public testimony

Assessing Thrive 2050, cont.

on the Thrive 2050 draft.

In **September 14, 2020, MCCF adopted a Resolution** calling on the Planning Board to extend the public engagement process in light of the coronavirus pandemic. In its November 19, 2020, Testimony before the Planning Board, the Civic Federation called for more community engagement and outreach about this important plan, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We expressed our view that the government's timetable was "unreasonable and unsuited" for a legitimate public process. "MCCF strongly supports the idea of a community-based planning framework which values diversity and the need for a dynamic economic foundation. The social and economic disruptions of the current pan-

demic have raised serious concerns about the future of the national and regional economies and the unpredictable impacts on transportation needs, job creation, environmental stewardship, and education, and the implications of the global pandemic—and alternative economic scenarios—must be taken into account into any comprehensive planning framework adopted by the County. The current announced timetable for the design, finalization, and approval of the proposed General Plan—without adequate public consultation and input—is unreasonable and unsuited for a legitimate community process in which residents can take ownership of the final Plan."

Again, at our May 10, 2021, General Meeting, the membership reiterated its concern about the Thrive 2050 public engagement

process, calling on the County Council to defer legislative action on the Thrive 2050 proposals "until the comprehensive planning for such fundamental and long-lasting legislation is completed and there is a significant open process whereby the public can appear in person."

On June 17, 2021, MCCF testified before the Montgomery County Council on the Thrive 2050 Draft Plan. We noted that there is confusion and a widespread lack of understanding of the draft plan among community members across Montgomery County. We also expressed our concern that the "draft" that we testified on in November 2020 was not the "draft" that was transmitted to the County Council. The November draft was subsequently changed by the Planning Department and there were no

Assessing Thrive 2050, cont.

subsequent public hearings on the new draft.

CONCLUSION

There are other important issues that need to be addressed as the County Council considers the Thrive 2050 Draft Plan. Several of these issues have been highlighted by the Montgomery County Executive in his Memorandum to the County Council President on Thrive 2050.

The Civic Federation agrees that consideration of the General Plan and any proposals for changing residential zoning be completely separated. We believe that there should be full and thorough consideration and community discussion of the long-term planning document in advance of the Council's

consideration of residential zoning changes that would significantly transform development practices in their areas. We also request that any specific zoning changes be done through the master and sector plan process and not upzoning through countywide Zoning Text Amendments.

The General Plan must include substantive recommendations for economic development, environmental resilience, and equity that will build on the County's successes and address its weaknesses.

We are concerned that the recent work by the Planning Department related to housing policy has put an undue emphasis on attainable housing policies, while giving insufficient attention to affordable housing. The Civic Federation believes that much attention needs to be given to income-restricted public

housing that would provide housing opportunities for working families and public sector employees, such as police, fire and rescue personnel, and teachers.

In sum, the Montgomery County Civic Federation has a longstanding interest in a comprehensive planning framework in the County that has strong ownership by our many constituent civic and homeowners associations. What we have heard from our members and concerned residents across the County is that the Draft Plan is incomplete, and that it needs revisions and a longer timeframe for community outreach and engagement. ■

Proposed Resolution of the Mont. Co. Civic Federation on the Thrive 2050 Draft Plan

[This proposed resolution will be discussed and voted on at the September 13 meeting.]

Whereas, the Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc., has taken a strong interest in the development of the new draft long-range planning document for Montgomery County, Thrive 2050 (the “Draft Plan”) currently before the Montgomery County Council for its consideration; and

Whereas, members of the Civic Federation have expressed repeated concern about the inadequate public outreach and engagement process of both the Montgomery County Planning Board and the Montgomery County Council regarding the Draft Plan during a period of the coronavirus pandemic in the United States; and

Whereas, the Civic Federation has worked closely with policy colleagues—such as the Thrive 2050 Neighborhood Coalition and the Stormwater Partners Network—on issues related to planning and land use and environmental sustainability and resiliency; and

Whereas, the Civic Federation concurs broadly with the recommendations developed by the Neighborhood Coalition and the Stormwater Partners Network in their communications with the Montgomery County Council; and

Whereas, the Civic Federation takes note of the important concerns raised by the Montgomery County Executive in his June 10, 2021, Memorandum to the Montgomery County Council President concerning serious omissions in the

Draft Plan and recommendations to improve the planning document and concurs broadly with his concerns about the Draft Plan; and

Whereas, the Civic Federation believes that critical issues of economic development, environmental sustainability, housing production and affordability, adequate public facilities and infrastructure; and community ownership are of the utmost importance to the development of the dynamic, inclusive, productive community that we wish to support, and merit much more discussion and elaboration in the Draft Plan; and

Whereas, the Civic Federation notes, with concern, widespread confusion among Montgomery County residents about the simultaneous government discussions surrounding

Resolution, cont.

the Draft Plan, multiple proposed countywide Zoning Text Amendments, and the Planning Board's work on attainable housing policy;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc.:

Expresses its view that the Thrive 2050 Draft Plan needs very significant modification in many areas before it is approved by the Montgomery County Council; and further

Calls upon the Montgomery County Council to work diligently to add new substantive standalone chapters on job-creating economic development, environmental sustainability, and infrastructure development and financing to the Draft Plan; and further

Expresses its view that there must be significant improvement in the

approach of the Planning Board and the County Council to community engagement and discussion on this important document; and further
Calls upon the Montgomery

County Council to withdraw Zoning Text Amendments with changes in Countywide zoning related to the Draft Plan.

—*Karen Cordry, Secretary* ■

2021–2022 MCCF Officer Elections at September Meeting

The MCCF Nominations Committee is pleased to announce the following candidates for elections for the 2021–2022 membership year:

■ **President:** *Alan Bowser* (President, Park Hills Civic Association)

■ **First Vice President:** *Joshua Montgomery* (Immediate Past President, McKenney Hills/Carroll Knolls Civic Association)

■ **Second Vice President:** *Elizabeth Joyce* (Chair, Saratoga Village Neighbors)

■ **Secretary:** *Karen Cordry* (President, Kensington Heights C.A.)

■ **Treasurer:** *Jerry Garson*

(Treasurer, Regency Estates Citizens Association)

Elections will take place at the September 13, 2021 General Meeting. There will be an opportunity for nominations from the floor.

We continue to seek volunteers to serve as members of our Executive Committee at-Large and as chairs and co-chairs of our Civic Federation Standing Committees: Education, Environment, Land Use and Planning, Legislation, Public Finance, Public Safety, and Transportation.

—*Jacquie Bokow, Chair, MCCF Nominations Committee* ■

An Update on Transportation Projects on I-270 and I-495, Ridership Data of Interest

By Jerry Garson, Treasurer

■ The RideOn bus system is still not charging fares.

■ Rail ridership at Shady Grove was 16% in May 2021 compared with May 2019.

■ Parking at Shady Grove Metro Station had a weekday average in June 2021 of 346 vehicles per day compared with 4,769 in June of 2019. At Grosvenor Metro Station, the June 2021 average was 109 vehicles per day compared with 1,789 in June of 2019. WMATA rail systemwide is still operating at less than 25% of prepandemic ridership.

I-270 AND I-495 FROM THE AMERICAN LEGION TO I-270 WIDENING

On August 8, 2021, the Maryland Board of Public Works (BPW)

approved the Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) and the Maryland Transportation Authority to move forward with Phase 1 of the Public-Private Partnership (P3) Agreement with Accelerate Maryland Partners LLC for predevelopment work on the New American Legion Bridge I-270 Traffic Relief Plan.

In the week ending August 21, 2021, with the P3 agreement officially signed, the State began collaborating with AM Partners on predevelopment work. The state will work with the municipalities, residents, and agencies in Montgomery and Frederick Counties to avoid and minimize potential impacts, reduce congestion along the corridor, and bring a better quality of life to Marylanders. BPW

approval was a key step in advancing the New American Legion Bridge I-270 Traffic Relief Plan. This approval does not permit construction to begin. Future approval for construction will be required by the MDOT MDTA Board and BPW.

I-270 INNOVATIVE CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The project is 77% complete and is in multiple stages of construction on all remaining work zones. Ten of 16 improvement locations for this project are complete.

MDOT SHA activated and tested a new ramp metering system on the ramp from northbound MD 118 to southbound I-270 in the Germantown area of Montgomery County on Wednesday, June 23. This is

Transportation, cont.

the first location activated in the new ramp metering system that will eventually include 22 northbound and 23 southbound I-270 ramps.

This single location was activated as a flashing yellow signal on June 16, before becoming fully operational on June 23. MDOT SHA is testing the system at this single location for one week and will then deactivate it until the entire southbound I-270 ramp metering system is activated later this year. The northbound I-270 ramp metering system is expected to be activated in 2022.

Ramp metering is a part of the I-270 Innovative Congestion Management (ICM) project designed to help reduce congestion on this busy interstate. The system uses sensors that detect real-time traffic conditions and activate traffic signals,

when needed, to more efficiently control how traffic merges onto I-270. This will allow motorists to merge safely onto I-270 while minimizing delay and reducing congestion.

When ramp metering is in operation—which is expected to start on September 15, 2021—motorists will see a warning sign with flashing beacons. When the beacons are activated, motorists should be prepared to stop at the stop line. Once the signal turns green, drivers may proceed on the ramp and merge onto the highway. The signal will allow one car at a time to go from each lane, optimizing traffic flow onto I-270.

The ramp metering signals will have the capability to operate between 4 a.m. and 11 p.m. daily and are anticipated to be active during peak-traffic hours and when congestion is present on I-270.

UPDATE ON PURPLE LINE

Construction is again underway for the Purple Line, a proposed 16-mile light rail line with 21 stations. Construction is now anticipated to be completed in 2023.

On or about August 30, 2021, crews will begin underground utility relocations along eastbound Wayne Avenue from Silver Spring International Middle School to Springvale Road through February 28, 2022, weather permitting. Work may take place 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays and as needed on weekends.

SEMINARY ROAD OVER I-495 BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROJECT

The Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration continues work on the Seminary Road over I-495 Bridge

Transportation, cont.

Rehabilitation Project. This project will replace the riding surface and girders and strengthen the concrete supports to improve safety. The construction started in 2018.

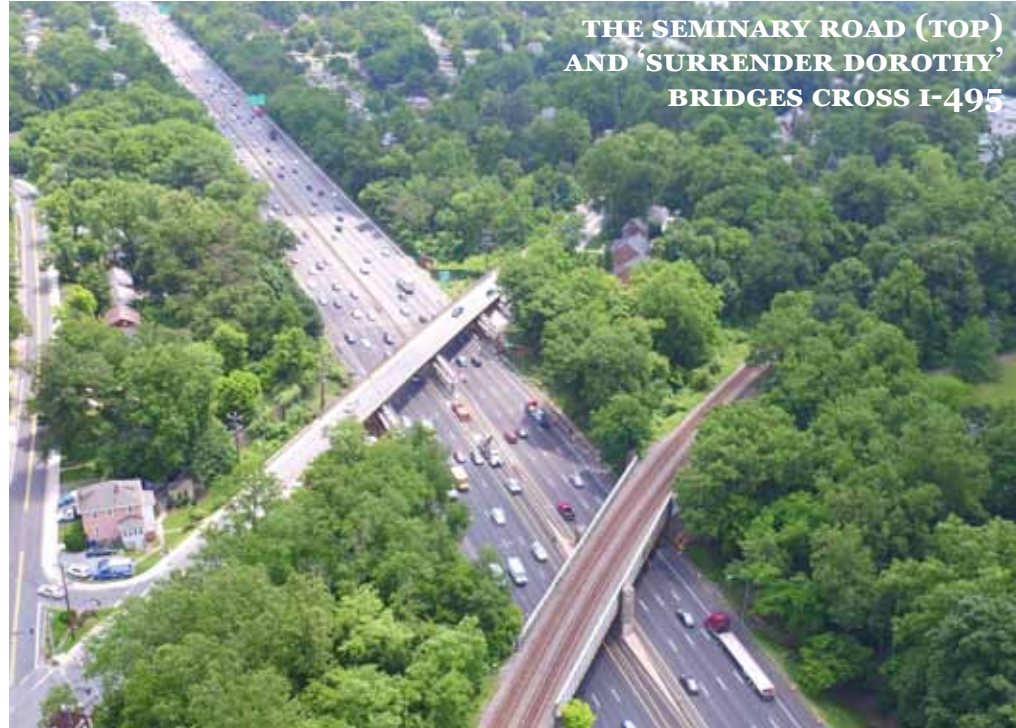
This project is 87% complete and is in the final stages of construction.

Constructed in 1964, the bridge is safe for the traveling public but requires rehabilitation. Crews will replace the steel beams and the deck (driving surface) of the bridge. Local utility service providers will work with MDOT SHA's contractor to relocate utilities during the bridge rehabilitation project.

In addition to replacing the bridge beams and driving surface, crews will apply a protective fiber wrap to the bridge pier columns, protecting the concrete and steel from weather elements. MDOT SHA

will resurface the Seminary Road bridge approaches, as well as the

inner and outer loops of I-495 in the project area. ■



**THE SEMINARY ROAD (TOP)
AND 'SURRENDER DOROTHY'
BRIDGES CROSS I-495**

Dear Civic Leader:

I'm writing to remind you to renew your membership in the Montgomery County Civic Federation as we begin our 2021–2022 membership year. Or, if you and your association are not current members of the Civic Fed, we invite you to join us in our work.

As you know, by renewing or joining the Civic Federation, you become part of our County-wide organization in support of our civic associations and homeowner's associations. With your help, we can continue our active advocacy work on behalf of our neighbors and maintain the high level of service we provide to Montgomery County's residents.

We are fortunate to have a great group of Civic Federation officers who give selflessly of their time to

monitor programs, policies, and events at the County and State levels and who work tirelessly to educate our members and advocate for valuable changes in policies.

We invite the participation of you and your organization at our meetings and in the work of our Executive Committee and in our subject-matter committees. And there are many opportunities for your delegates to serve as chairs of Civic Fed committees and to be part of our Executive Committee team.

Why support the Civic Federation?

■ For ninety-six years, the MCCF has been devoted to improving the quality of life in Montgomery County, advocating for improvements in the infrastructure of the County, and evaluating and discussing issues of concern to its members.

■ We are the only Montgomery

County-wide membership organization which addresses critical issues across a wide spectrum, including land use and planning, public safety, environment, education, public finance, health, and community development.

■ We have successfully mobilized community support to make meaningful changes in transportation, environmental, and public accountability issues.

■ With member feedback, communications, resolutions, and testimony are provided to the County government, State government, and bi-County agencies on a regular basis.

For example, recently—with help from our members—our efforts to promote good government resulted in the Maryland State Legislature creating new Inspector General authority for Montgomery County Pub-

President’s Letter, cont.

lic Schools, the Maryland-National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the Civic Federation, we seek to expand our membership and to enhance the effectiveness of our education and advocacy mission. We can do that with your membership and your participation.

You [join the Civic Federation online](#) and you can pay via PayPal after submitting your application.

We’ll be meeting virtually for the foreseeable future due to the coronavirus pandemic, so it will be easier to participate in our regular monthly and special meetings.

Thank you for your time and we hope to see you soon.

—Alan Bowser, President ■

MCCF Fiscal Year 2022 Budget, 7/1/21–6/30/22

REVENUES

Membership Dues	2,500.00	
Awards Dinner		
Total Revenues		2,500.00

EXPENSES

Member Communications		
Post Office Box and postage	130.00	
Website	400.00	
Civic and social betterment		
Federation meetings	300.00	
Awards dinner		
Organizational Support		
Officers Supplies	300.00	
Committees	100.00	
Memberships	300.00	
Insurance	650.00	
Miscellaneous	10.00	
Total Expenses		2,190.00

Net Income for the Period		310.00
----------------------------------	--	---------------

A Citizens Guide to Safe Bow-and-Arrow Hunting for Deer in Suburban Neighborhoods

By Peggy Dennis, Past President

This is my annual exhortation for civic organizations and individuals to organize. As deer populations have increased, suburban and urban areas in Montgomery County face too many deer. Many localized populations of deer are estimated to be more than ten times what the land and/or local residents can support or tolerate. Although pleasing to watch, large numbers of free-roaming deer increase the risk of human injury from deer-vehicle collisions (DVC). Montgomery County had 2,176 and 1,924 reported DVCs in 2019 and 2020, respectively. This statistic does not include the thousands of deer which are injured or killed but are not reported. My son just sustained major damage to his car on a Beltway exit ramp by run-

ning over a dead buck with antlers. Who knew that even dead deer can be such a hazard!

Most people know that black-legged ticks (also known as “deer ticks”) spread Lyme disease. How many are aware that they are also associated with debilitating and costly diseases such as *Babesiosis*, *Bartonella*, *Ehrlichia chaffensis*, and *Powassan encephalitis*? Decreasing our deer overpopulation is good for public health.

Deer cause extensive damage to the environment. They have destroyed the understory of many of our regional, community, and stream valley parks; denuded hill-sides of native plants; destroyed habitat for other species; accelerated soil erosion; and promoted the take-over of invasive species. Some natu-

ralists now consider overabundant deer as significant a threat to select bird populations as climate change. Excessive deer droppings can affect public health. And, if you have too many deer, forget about your landscaping or trying to grow your own fruits and vegetables in your yard!

THE BOWHUNTING OPTION

You can help solve this ongoing problem. Other options for deer management—such as feeding, exclusionary fencing, and fertility control (“birth control”)—are impractical, counterproductive, or prohibitively expensive. Regulated hunting, specifically bowhunting, is a safe, ethical, humane, and efficient method for decreasing the number of deer in residential neighborhoods.

Deer Hunting, cont.

It provides deer population control at the least cost to taxpayers because volunteer bowhunters do the “work” of removing deer as a public service.

Hundreds of metro areas—including Fairfax County, Virginia; Columbus, Ohio; the Pittsburgh suburbs; and many cities in Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Canada—allow bowhunting. Few problems and no accidents have been reported. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources supports the use of bowhunting to curb deer populations in suburban areas. In 2020, the Urban/Suburban Deer Management Zone was re-established and comprises Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince Georges counties. Within this zone, the archery antlerless limit is unlimited.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Archery is one of the safest sports in the United States. Most accidents involve the bowhunter falling out of a tree stand. In Maryland and Virginia, there have been no recorded incidents involving injury to persons, pets, or property caused by a bowhunter.

Bowhunters typically hunt from elevated positions or tree stands. This means that an arrow is shot at a downward angle. If it misses the deer, it goes harmlessly into the ground. An arrow, under most conditions, cannot travel any appreciable distance once it hits even a twig or small limb. National surveys show that most deer harvested with a bow are shot at distances of 20 yards or less, which makes it ideal for hunting in and around suburban and urban areas.

Deer taken by reputable hunt-

ers are never “wasted.” All the meat (venison) is used, either by the hunter or by donation to local food banks, soup kitchens, and shelters. In Montgomery County, this is done by an organization called Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry. Property owners who wish to obtain venison may do so through arrangement with their hunter. In case you are not aware of this program, [see this flyer on the deer donation program.](#)

GETTING STARTED

Many individuals know little about hunting, particularly bowhunting. Bowhunting in residential neighborhoods should never be undertaken by amateurs, but left to licensed, well-trained, skilled sportsmen. Here are a few tips to get started in your neighborhood.

Deer Hunting, cont.

HOW TO FIND A SAFE AND RELIABLE HUNTER

In Montgomery County, several groups can link you to an expert bowhunter. The Animal Connection Deer Management Team (ACDMT) is an organization of skilled, veteran bowhunters with strict rules and enforcement to ensure the safety of hunters and the public. Most members of ACDMT are members of the Maryland Bowhunters Society, an organization dedicated to preserving and promoting safe and responsible bowhunting; educating the non-hunting public about the role of the bowhunter in wildlife management and conservation; and educating bowhunters in safety, shooting skills, hunting techniques, and relations with property owners. Both groups strongly advocate ethical bowhunt-

ing within the laws of the jurisdiction hunted. A third organization is the Bow Hunting Fire Fighters of Maryland. (See below for contacts.)

Not every suburban yard is appropriate for bowhunting. The bowhunter will first tell you if your property has a suitable location for hunting. If it does, the bowhunter should provide you with copies of his/her hunting license, safety certificate, a release of liability form, and a copy of the permission form for you to sign, plus copies of the permission form for your neighbors to sign, if needed. Your contract or agreement with the bowhunter may stipulate what days and times hunting may take place, how you will know that the hunter is at work, where the hunter will be shooting from, where bait will be located, whether the hunter may field dress the animal and leave remains on

your property or not, and whether you wish to be gifted with venison for your own consumption.

GET BUY-IN FROM YOUR NEIGHBORS

Hunters are required to make every attempt to track, euthanize, and remove a wounded deer, even if it is no longer on the property where the shooting occurred. Under current law, owners of inhabited dwellings within 50 yards of the hunting location must give permission before hunting takes place. In seeking permission from your neighbors, you should draw the distinction between the shooting that will take place on your property and the permission that the hunter may need to enter your neighbor's yard should a wounded deer stray onto their property. If your neighbors

Deer Hunting, cont.

have questions or express anxiety or reluctance, it will help if you hold a meeting with them and the bowhunter(s). The bowhunter(s) can then explain how, where, and when the hunting will take place. It is crucial that your neighbors understand that this form of hunting is safe and humane, presenting no risk to people, pets, or property.

The 2021–2022 season for archery hunting begins on September 9 and runs through the end of January. It is not too late to discuss archery hunting with your neighbors and local civic association and line up one or more hunters to work in your neighborhood.

To find an experienced, licensed archery hunter, contact one or several of these organizations:

■ [Animal Connections Deer Man-](#)

[agement Team,](#)
■ [Bow Hunting Fire Fighters of](#)

[Maryland,](#)
■ [Maryland Bowhunters Society.](#) ■

MCCF Meeting Schedule 2021–2022

SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

Thrive 2050/Housing Policy
Resolution/Officer Elections
(Virtual Meeting)

OCTOBER 11, 2021

Open Streets/Bicycle Plan/Pe-
destrian Safety

NOVEMBER 8, 2021

Transportation

DECEMBER 13, 2021

State Legislators

JANUARY 10, 2022

Economic Development

FEBRUARY 14, 2022

Transparency and Accountability

MARCH 14, 2022

Candidates Forum

APRIL 11, 2022

Budget

MAY 9, 2022

Environment

JUNE 13, 2022

Annual Awards Program

Check the MCCF website for ven-
ues or online meeting access codes. ■

The Passing of County Activist Virginia Sheard

We have the sad news to share that our friend and longtime civic activist Virginia Sheard of Kensington passed away on June 10.

A fine artist, Virginia was a good friend and a long-time member and official of the Montgomery County Civic Federation, representing the Kensington View Civic Association. She served on the Executive Committee for many years. As chair of the Planning and Land Use Committee, Virginia faithfully attended countless meetings, listened to and reported on the County's zoning rewrite process, and diligently kept us informed on very complex but important processes, while always maintaining her great sense of humor.

Due to her exemplary service, she was appointed to numerous County committees representing the



Civic Federation. In 2013 and 2015, she was awarded the MCCF Star Cup in recognition of her outstanding service on behalf of Montgomery County. We are grateful to have known and worked with Virginia and for her dedication and commitment. She set a great example through her advocacy work and she will be greatly missed. ■

cfn

The *Civic Federation News* is published monthly except July and August by the Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc. 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."

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

Send all address corrections to membership AT montgomerycivic.org.

VIEW PAST ISSUES ONLINE [HERE](#)