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## of note

### Next MCCF Meeting #946

Monday, October 9, 2023, 7:30 p.m. online via Zoom. Topic: "Montgomery Planning: A Conversation with Board Chair Artie Harris and Acting Director Tanya Stern"

- Join the Zoom Meeting Here [See further instructions on page 2. No password is required.]

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### Meeting Minutes

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Executive Committee Meeting

SEPTEMBER P. 19

### Membership Application

**JOIN ONLINE | MAIL-IN FORM**

## Federation Meeting #946

Monday, October 9, 2023

7:30 p.m.

Online Zoom Meeting

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes: September General Meeting P.15
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Announcements
6. October Program: A Conversation with Montgomery Planning Leaders P.3
7. Committee Reports
8. Old Business
9. New Business
10. 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.

**The October meeting will be held online via Zoom** (see page 3 for program) at 7:30 p.m.:

■ To be part of the video conference, first **visit the Zoom website** to download the program for your phone or computer.

■ Date and Time: Monday, October 9, 2023, 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 **812 6999 4368**. No password is required.

We hope you will join us! ■

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**

## October Program: A Conversation with Montgomery Planning Board Chair Artie Harris and Acting Planning Director Tanya Stern

Montgomery County Planning Board Chair Artie Harris and acting Planning Director Tanya Stern will be the special guests at the October 2023 General Meeting of the Montgomery County Civic Federation. The meeting will be presented by Zoom.

Mr. Harris was appointed as Chair of the Montgomery County Planning Board by the Montgomery County Council on May 16, 2023. He was the vice president of real estate at Montgomery Housing Partnership, Inc. (MHP), a nonprofit real estate development organization based in Silver Spring, Md. Previously, Harris was a vice president at Bozzuto Development Company, where he led teams developing market-rate and mixed-income housing



ARTIE HARRIS

projects across the Washington, D.C., region and beyond.

He has 30 years of experience developing multifamily housing and retail facilities, and an additional nine years of experience as a

civil engineer managing design and construction projects for commercial high-rise and industrial buildings and power plants. He holds a Master's degree in business administration from Stanford University and a Master's degree in civil engineering from Purdue University. Harris also holds a certification in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

Tanya Stern joined the Montgomery County Planning Department in 2018. She has served as Acting Planning Director for Montgomery County since 2022. She leads planning and development review for urbanized, suburban, and rural communities; the development of countywide housing, multimodal transportation, and growth manage-

MORE

## October Program, cont.

ment policies; innovative studies on real estate and the economy; historic preservation; and promotion of design excellence in architecture and the public realm.

Prior to this role, she served as Deputy Planning Director, overseeing countywide housing policy, zoning, growth management, multimodal transportation planning and historic preservation; real estate, economic, and demographic analysis; IT/GIS; and agency management services including budgeting, HR, and communications. She served as an advisor for Thrive Montgomery 2050, the county's new General Plan.

Previously, Ms. Stern served for 14 years in the Government of the District of Columbia, at the D.C. Office of Planning as Deputy Director



TANYA STERN

overseeing neighborhood planning and urban design and as Chief of Staff; in the Executive Office of the Mayor; and in other agencies. Additionally, she has 11 years of non-

profit sector experience.

Ms. Stern holds a Master's degree in city planning from the University of Pennsylvania and is certified through the American Institute of Certified Planners and as a Certified Public Manager. ■

### UPDATE YOUR DATA!

Montgomery County civic associations and home owners associations are asked to update their information on the County Planning Department's website.

Notify MCCF of any changes, too, at [info@montgomerycivic.org](mailto:info@montgomerycivic.org).

Let's keep in touch!

## Montgomery Parks and Planning—The 2023 Semiannual Report

The **Montgomery Parks** and **Montgomery Planning** departments, both part of the **Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission** (M-NCPPC), presented their Spring 2023 Semiannual Report to the Montgomery County Council on Tuesday, March 7, 2023. The presentations showcased key projects, park activities and plans from the past six months, and initiatives that will be completed over the next six months and beyond.

The presentation is given to the County Council every spring and fall and allows County Councilmembers to provide feedback to staff on work program items. It is provided for information for our MCCF delegates and the public.

### MONTGOMERY PLANNING HIGHLIGHTS

■ Continuing implementation of the department’s **Equity Agenda for Planning** by using an equity lens for master plans, conducting equitable engagement with the county’s diverse communities, and using tools such as Equity Focus Areas mapping and Trends in Racial and Ethnic Diversity data to inform master planning and implement the goals of Thrive Montgomery 2050.

■ Continuing efforts on equitably engaging the community in the master planning process with plans such as the Pedestrian Master Plan, Fairland and Briggs Chaney Master Plan, Takoma Park Minor Master Plan Amendment, the Great Seneca

Plan, and the University Boulevard Corridor Plan.

■ Expediting the development review process by having concurrent application reviews and Planning Board approval, executing Speed to Market projects, and implementing action items from the Fall 2022 Development Review Committee Retreat.

■ Advancing special projects and programs such as the Mapping Segregation Project, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Project, Incentive Density Guidelines Update, the Friendship Heights Urban Design Study, Reforest Montgomery, Placemaking, and Design Excellence.

MORE

## MoCo P&P, cont.

### MONTGOMERY PARKS HIGHLIGHTS

■ Secured federal and state funding to renovate and create new parks, trails and other amenities across the county.

■ Finalized an update to the Wheaton Regional Park Master Plan which will significantly improve pedestrian and bicycle access and interconnectivity throughout the park, as well as add trending amenities, including a world-class, multigenerational action sports park.

■ Increased the number of park activation events such as the Parks Ale Trail festival, comedy nights, free salsa lessons, movie nights, and concerts.

■ Several major park projects will come online this year, including Gene Lynch Urban Park—a new park

adjacent to the Silver Spring Metro Station—which will provide an event lawn area for gathering, public artwork, and an elevated seating terrace with bench swings.

### ABOUT THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

The Montgomery County Planning Board plans for livable communities by developing large- and small-scale plans, providing guidelines for the pattern and pace of future development, and preserving historic resources throughout the 323,000-acre county. The Planning Board implements plans through its review of development applications and its subdivision decisions. The Planning Board is also responsible for the development and management of Montgomery County’s nationally recognized 36,512-acre park system.

### ABOUT MONTGOMERY PLANNING

The **Montgomery County Planning Department**, part of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, aims to improve quality of life by conserving and enhancing the natural and built environment for current and future generations. The Planning Department creates great communities by developing **master plans**, reviewing **applications for development**, and analyzing various types of information to help public officials plan for Montgomery County’s future.

The Department comprises about 150 staff members and provides recommendations, information, analysis, and services to the Montgomery County Planning Board, the County Council, the County Executive, other government

MORE



## MoCo P&P, cont.

agencies, and the public.

### ABOUT MONTGOMERY PARKS

Montgomery Parks manages more than 37,000 acres of parkland, consisting of 420 parks. Montgomery Parks is a department of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), a bi-county agency established in 1927 to steward public land. M-NCPPC has been nationally recognized for its high-quality parks and recreation services and is regarded as a national model by other parks systems. ■

## Lyttonsville Park to Highlight History of Racial Segregation in Montgomery County, Unity of Two Communities

Site would include amphitheater, native meadow and commemorative bridge feature

By Elia Griffin

[Reprinted from MoCo 360, September 20, 2023]

Montgomery Parks planners have pitched a new park, to be built in the Silver Spring neighborhood of Lyttonsville, that would act as a rest stop along the Capital Crescent Trail and highlight the history of one of Montgomery County’s historically Black communities.

At the Sept. 7 Planning Board meeting, board members approved the project and will be proposed for final design and construction in the FY2025-2030 Capital Improvements Program. According to Montgomery Parks officials, construction of the park will likely begin in 2028, pending the completion of the Purple



Planners estimate that Lyttonsville Park in S.S. may be delivered after 2028, pending completion of the Purple Line light rail line. Credit: Montgomery Parks, M-NCPPC

Line. Currently the site is a construction staging area.

At the meeting, planners said the project cost would total \$1.9 million and the 0.84-acre park would have a yearly operating budget of about \$30,000 to \$35,000.

MORE

## Lyttonsville Park, cont.

Early design concepts of Lyttonsville Neighborhood Park include a picnic area, amphitheater, skateboarding element, bike repair station, play and sitting areas, and a native meadow, planning documents state.

Pieces of the Talbot Avenue Bridge would also be integrated into the park. The Talbot Avenue Bridge was a historic one-lane wooden and steel bridge that went over the CSX/Wmata tracks and provided Lyttonsville residents a connection to employment, shopping and recreational opportunities in Silver Spring, according to the Greater Lyttonsville Sector Plan.

Residents from the Lyttonsville, Rosemary Hills, and North Woodside neighborhoods told Montgomery Parks planners that they wanted



This park facility plan shows a number of different ways planners are hoping to utilize the 0.34-acre park that will be located along the Capital Crescent Trail and the Purple Line. Credit: Montgomery Parks, M-NCPPC

elements of the bridge to be installed in the park in a way that “visitors could travel over a recreated bridge that provided a sense of crossing

similar to the old bridge,” planning documents state. Three community engagement meetings took place

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**Lyttonsville Park, cont.**

from June 2022 to March 2023.

“I just know that if the older folks were here today—my grandmother, my parents—they would rejoice. This is a dream they had dreamed of,” said Lyttonsville resident Patricia Tyson at the Planning Board meeting. Tyson is a member of the Lyttonsville Community Civic Association and said she has lived in the neighborhood for more than 75 years.

At the meeting, Tyson explained that, growing up in Lyttonsville, she always felt protected and loved in her neighborhood but knew that where she lived was “on the other side of the tracks,” she said, referring to the CSX railroad tracks that divided Lyttonsville from the neighborhood of North Woodside.

North Woodside is part of the

primarily white neighborhood of Woodside which has 54.9% white residents, according to the 2020 Census.

The Talbot Avenue Bridge was the key point of connection between those communities until it was demolished in 2019 due to its deteriorated state. Construction of a new bridge in the same spot is under way, Montgomery Parks officials said at the meeting.

Lyttonsville Park is planned to be along the Capital Crescent Trail and CSX railroad tracks at 2205 Kansas Ave. Lyttonsville is situated in between the Chevy Chase and Woodside neighborhoods. The park will be about two blocks away from Rosemary Hills Elementary School and a quarter of a mile from the future Purple Line Lyttonsville Station, according to planning documents.

Residents brought up one issue

at the Planning Board meeting—the placement of the proposed skateboarding element in the park, which they said was too small and too close to the Capital Crescent Trail path. They said this could result in skaters interfering with the path of runners, walkers, and cyclists using the trail.

Planning Board Chair Artie Harris said at the meeting that the skateboarding element in the park will continue to be discussed among planners.

According to project manager Ching-Fang Chen, planners hope the project will “promote social equity, sensibility and highlight the unique cultural resources, help restore the environment, and provide amenities to surrounding residents and regional trail users.” The proposed park includes a “Heritage Terrace” that outlines the neighborhood’s his-

MORE

## mccf

**Lyttonsville Park, cont.**

tory and new open green space in a former industrial site.

Tyson said that Lyttonsville

residents have long “pleaded” for a chance to improve their neighborhoods and the new park demonstrates an improvement the community sought after.



Lyttonsville Neighborhood Park will feature a handful of different seating options, gathering spaces, and play areas. Credit: Montgomery Parks, M-NCPPC

Anna White, a North Woodside Citizens Association board member, expressed her strong support for the plan at the meeting and acknowledged the role her neighborhood had in racial segregation of the past.

“Our neighborhood has not always been a welcoming place for residents of the historically African American community of Lyttonsville,” she said. “Founded in 1890, almost 40 years after Lyttonsville and was developed further in the 1920s, our neighborhood [Woodside] had racist deed covenants that prohibited Black people from owning property and living in it except as domestic servants. The 1940 Census found just 11 Black people residing in our census district, all domestic servants.”

Tyson and White are members of the Talbot Avenue Bridge Commit-

MORE

**Lyttonsville Park, cont.**

tee, which works to commemorate and preserve the bridge and its history, as well as unify the neighborhoods that were once racially segregated with an annual **Lantern Walk** in November.

This year's Lantern Walk will be the sixth annual walk and will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Nov. 11, according to White.

Lyttonsville was founded in 1953 by Samuel Lytton, a free Black laborer, according to Montgomery Parks. The community was originally an all-Black enclave, a pre-Civil War settlement for free Black people. Today, the community is more racially and ethnically diverse than the county with about 70% of residents being African American, Hispanic or Asian, according to the Sector Plan.

"Hopefully I'll still be around so

I can enjoy [the park]," Tyson said. "But if I'm not, may it be a symbol to others to do the right thing, as well as be the right people, to help one another. Our community now is an international community with

many people from many cultures and places. We get along together; we work together and I just pray that this park will be assembled in a way that will always bring people together." ■

**Governor Proposes Improvements to the American Legion Bridge, I-495, I-270 to Increase Mobility**

*Maryland Department of Transportation Pursuing Federal Grant and Focusing on Transit, Engagement and Responsiveness for American Legion Bridge and I-270 to Frederick*

*[Press Release, Maryland Department of Transportation Office of Public Affairs, August 21, 2023]*

On August 23, 2023, Governor Wes Moore announced a path forward in addressing mobility and access challenges along the American Legion Bridge, I-495, and I-270, with the submission of a formal federal grant application for improvements to those corridors. This application advances a critical piece

of the Moore-Miller program for multimodal enhancements in the Washington region along the I-495 and I-270 corridors.

"Transportation is not just about physical mobility; it's about quality of life, access and opportunity," said Governor Moore. "The transportation network throughout Maryland and the National Capital Region must be able to get people where

MORE

**Transportation Plan, cont.**

they need to go in a timely and reliable manner. Providing long-desired, equitable transportation solutions in the American Legion Bridge and I-270 corridors is critical to eliminating employment barriers, linking more people to high-demand jobs and stimulating local economies."

Governor Moore emphasized that the program of activities envisioned for I-495 and I-270 identifies opportunities to be responsive to communities, improve transit and multimodal access, and spur inclusive economic growth. To meet this charge, the Maryland Department of Transportation will advance the following transportation solutions alongside stakeholder engagement:

**I Transit and Ridesharing.** Maryland will advance transit op-

tions and transportation demand management enhancements along the American Legion Bridge, I-495 and I-270 corridors. The program will implement strategies such as express bus options in Maryland and connections to Virginia, ridesharing incentives, and parallel transportation improvements including MARC Brunswick Line enhancements and Bus Rapid Transit.

**I Transit-Oriented Development.** The Maryland Department of Transportation will advance Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) opportunities throughout the corridors. Maryland has previously supported TOD planning and implementation efforts throughout the WMATA Metrorail system. As part of this program, Maryland will look to accelerate investment in key corridor TOD projects to unlock new developments that create sustainable

and inclusive communities.

**I Phased Approach to Managed Lanes.** Implementation of managed lanes will be phased, with the American Legion Bridge, I-495 to the I-270 West Spur, and the I-270 West Spur being the focus for initial implementation. The section from the I-270 West Spur to I-370, including through the City of Rockville, will be addressed in a later phase. This phasing will allow for a rational and fiscally prudent phased development.

**I A Comprehensive Planning Strategy for I-270.** Maryland will launch a formal environmental study to identify the transportation needs of I-270 North of the Intercounty Connector/MD 200, consider a range of concepts including transit and transportation demand management, and evaluate multimodal

MORE



**Transportation Plan, cont.**

approaches for near-term implementation and construction.

**I Engagement on Delivery Method.** Maryland will engage the public on the potential implementation of the managed lanes as a publicly funded and delivered project.

The Moore-Miller Administration is actively pursuing federal grants for this multimodal corridor program in partnership with Virginia and local jurisdictions. As such, Maryland has applied for a Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation. This grant will support the reconstruction of the aging American Legion Bridge and the construction of managed lanes from the bridge to the I-270 West Spur, and on the I-270 West Spur. In doing so, the grant will support reliable

and frequent bus transit between Virginia and Montgomery County and the larger Washington region.

“Listening to communities, officials, business leaders, and stakeholders is fundamental to understand the needs of those who travel the American Legion Bridge, I-495, and I-270 every day,” said Maryland Transportation Secretary Paul J. Wiedefeld.

To continue the engagement with the public, the department will conduct open houses in Montgomery and Frederick counties this fall and winter. These open houses will give residents an opportunity to weigh in on the different elements of this program. Dates and times for these open houses will be announced in the coming weeks.

*[Contact Jim Joyner, 410.865.1030, for more information.] ■*

**MoCo Council Passes the Safe Streets Act of 2023**

*[Sept. 19, 2023, Press Release]*

The Montgomery County Council voted unanimously to approve the **Safe Streets Act of 2023 (Bill 11-23)**.

The new law should create safer streets for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers on Montgomery County roadways. The legislation prioritizes pedestrians by enhancing walk times at crosswalks and prohibits “right turn on red” at busy intersections in downtown areas. To create safer routes to school, the legislation will also require infrastructure reviews following incidents in school zones, walksheds, and bus stops.

“Too many of our neighbors continue to be seriously injured or killed while walking or biking on our roads,” said Council President Glass,

MORE

**Safe Streets Act, cont.**

who chairs the Transportation and Environment Committee. “The Safe Streets Act of 2023 will bring much-needed safety improvements to our roads and help prevent injuries and death”

In 2022, 19 pedestrians and bicyclists were killed and 541 people seriously injured on our County’s roads. The County has already had 11 fatalities and 404 injuries involving pedestrians and cyclists in 2023.

“Students deserve to have a safe passage as they travel to and from school by walking, cycling, riding a bus, or driving in a car. The routes and bus stops are too often dangerous. By including school zones improvements, the Safe Streets Bill supports safety measures for our youngest travelers,” said Melissa Regan, co-chair of MCCPTA Safe

Routes to School.

“We have to rethink roadway design to meet our commitment to eliminating traffic deaths and serious injuries. The Safe Streets Act does this: it mandates sensible changes that will make Montgomery County streets safer for pedestrians and bicyclists,” said Seth Grimes, Maryland Organizer for the Washington Area Bicyclist Association.

“MoCo FSS ... [is] hopeful that this renewed focus on safety features along our County roadways, especially in and around school zones and busy pedestrian town centers, will help to improve safety for our children and community members,” said Kristy Daphnis, Steering Committee Member of MoCo Families for Safe Streets.

“We congratulate the Montgomery County Council on passing the Safe Streets Act while considering

the expansion of safe, comfortable, and accessible transportation through the Pedestrian Master Plan,” said Amy Frieder, President of Action Committee for Transit.

The legislation aims to advance the County’s Vision Zero goals of eliminating serious and fatal crashes by addressing specific transportation initiatives. The bill also requires the County Executive to provide a comprehensive automated traffic enforcement plan, which must be updated and resubmitted to the Council annually.

“This common-sense legislation will go a long way to make sure the county’s town centers and school zones are safer places to walk, which is good for public health and for our environment. However, this is only the beginning,” said Dan Reed, Regional Policy Director of Greater

MORE

## Safe Streets Act, cont.

Greater Washington. “We look forward to ... a future in which people are no longer killed walking or bicycling on Mont. County streets.”

“Making walking safe and comfortable throughout our County—whether we are walking to school, accessing transit, or enjoying our downtowns—will save lives, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and help to foster vibrant, connected communities,” said Carrie Kisicki, Montgomery Advocacy Manager for Coalition for Smarter Growth.

Councilmembers Dawn Luedtke, Kate Stewart, Sidney Katz, Natali Fani-González, Council Vice President Andrew Friedson, and Councilmembers Will Jawando, Marilyn Balcombe, Kristin Mink, Laurie-Anne Sayles, and Gabe Albornoz cosponsored the legislation. ■

## Minutes of Sept. 11, 2023, MCCF General Meeting #945

*By Karen Cordry, Recording Secretary*

*[Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the General Meeting was held via Zoom as a virtual meeting.]*

**Call to Order:** Alan Bowser, President, called meeting to order at 7:35. Meeting was recorded.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda:** Moved, seconded, and approved by voice vote.

**No Minutes for the June meeting.** Alan Bowser noted that June was the MCCF Awards Ceremony. The Star Cup was awarded to Karen Cordry, Civic Fed Secretary; the Wayne Goldstein award went to Cheryl Gannon and Kim Per-

saud; and the Sentinel Award for an outstanding association went to the North Hills of Sligo Creek Civic Association.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Jerry Garson reported \$1,078 in dues since start of current fiscal year; bank balance of \$8,102.

He noted proposed budget items; these will be included in the October newsletter and voted on next month. At this point, we are budgeting \$2,650 for both income/expenses.

We have a new system, called SimpliDues, that helps us be more effective in collecting and communicating.

MORE

## September Minutes, cont.

**Nominations for Executive Committee.** Moved by Alan Bowser: Jay Elvove, North Hills of Sligo Creek; Brenda Freeman, Woodside Park CA; Cheryl Gannon, Woodside CA; Daniel Meijer, East Silver Spring CA; and Kim Persaud, Wheaton Regional Park Neighborhood Association. They were seconded; there was no discussion and they were approved unanimously by voice vote.

### SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Our speaker was District 19 Delegate Vaughn Stewart, Chair of the Land Use and Ethics Subcommittee of the Environmental and Transportation Committee. Delegate Stewart discussed the work of the Subcommittee and his legisla-

tive agenda. [A video of the discussion is available here.](#)

After his presentation, Delegate Stewart answered questions from Civic Federation delegates and guests regarding land use and zoning, affordable and adaptive housing, synthetic turf, ethics, and the bi-county agencies.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Alan Bowser announced that our October meeting will host Artie Harris and Tanya Stern, the new Planning Board Chair and Acting Planning Director, respectively.

■ There was a demonstration of the new MCCF dues system that we are using that will hopefully help us increase our membership and participation. It was developed by Chris Betti from the North Woodside neighborhood. It’s available

at [Simplidues.com](#).

■ Alan asked Delegates and guests to recommend individuals to chair and co-chair Civic Federation committees.

■ Jerry Garson, Transportation Committee Chair, reported that CE Elrich is working on a proposal for replacing the American Legion Bridge and addressing the issue of toll lanes on I-495 and I-270.

**Adjournment:** The video recording ended and meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m. ■



## MCCF Treasurer’s Budget Report for Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024)

Revenues	
Membership Dues	2,150.00
Awards Dinner	500.00
Total Revenues	2,650.00
Expenses	
Member Communications	
Post Office Box and postage	190.00
Website	600.00
Civic and social betterment	
Federation meetings	50.00
Awards dinner	500.00
Membership	0.00

Organizational Support		
Officers Supplies and Support	300.00	
Committees	50.00	
Memberships	300.00	
Insurance	650.00	
Miscellaneous	10.00	
Total Expenses	2,650.00	
Net Income for the period	0.00	
Bank Balance	September 21, 2023	7,957.59

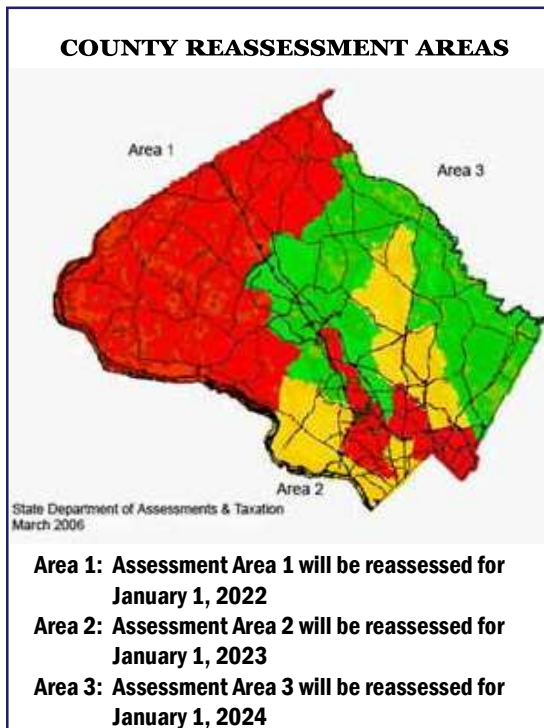
## Final Property Tax Assessments Will Be Updated as of January First

By Jerry Garson, Treasurer

Residents living in area 3 will have their tax assessment updated as of January 1, 2024. The current housing market has a very limited supply and is causing higher sales prices.

**THE PROPERTY TAX BILL:**  
The **TAX RATES ASSESSMENT** is multiplied by **TAX RATES** and equals the **TAX BILL**

The amount of the tax bill is determined by two factors: (1) the assessment and (2) the property tax rate for each jurisdiction (state, county, and municipal). Assessments are based on the fair market value of the property and are issued by the Department of Assessments and Taxation, an agency of state gov-



ernment. Property tax rates are set by each unit of government (state, counties, and municipalities).

### ASSESSMENTS

Properties are reassessed once every three years and property owners are notified of any change in their assessment in late December. Counties contain 3 reassessment regions (cycles), which allows for approximately 1/3 of the property accounts to be reassessed each year.

Property assessment values are certified by the Department of Assessments and Taxation to local governments, and are then converted into property tax bills by applying that jurisdiction’s property tax rates. ■

## Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, September 21, 2023, 7:00 pm via Zoom

By Karen Cordry, Recording Secretary

**Attendees:** Alan Bowser, Karen Cordry, Jerry Garson, Peggy Dennis, Liz Joyce, Brenda Freeman, Dan Meijer, Cheryl Gannon, and Jacquie Bokow

**1. Newsletter Articles** need to be to Jacquie by Sunday. Alan will have several articles; Jerry will be doing an article on the budget and we will include information on the new membership system again.

**2. Treasurer's Report** by Jerry Garson. We have collected \$1,233 in dues and had expenses of \$777.75, for a net addition of 455.54. The current bank balance is \$8,102.24. He said that those results are very

promising, noting that we have collected more dues in the first two months of our fiscal year than over the entire 2022–2023 year. Liz Joyce noted that we have about 30 organizations and 10+ individuals. She will be continuing to pursue former members to rejoin.

**3. October Meeting.** Alan noted this will be with the new Planning Board Chair Artie Harris and Acting Planning Director Tanya Stern. Liz Joyce will chair the meeting on Oct. 9. Peggy Dennis noted that we should support reactivating the Citizens Advisory Committees for Master Plans which used to be a good mechanism for providing input.

**4. Future Meetings.** Alan noted that the November program would

be on trees and invasive plants with Caren Madsen, the Chair of Conservation Montgomery, speaking about their Healthy Trees, Healthy Communities approach, and someone from the DEP or DOT to talk about invasive plants.

In December, we usually have someone from the Police Department, and in January we typically have the County Executive. We don't have anything specifically set up with the County Delegation before the legislative session starts, but we might set up a separate Zoom briefing.

**6. Members discussed** the ongoing meetings of the Development Review Committee Task Force which will present its recommendations in

MORE

## Sept. ExCom Mtg., cont.

the near future.

**7. There was discussion** about inclusionary zoning, affordable housing, and adequate public facilities.

**8. Peggy Dennis** made a motion that the Civic Federation should support proposals to increase bow hunting for deer in suburban neighborhoods; seconded by Garson. The motion passed by voice vote. ■

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 [civiefednews@montgomerycivic.org](mailto:civiefednews@montgomerycivic.org).

**Send all address corrections to membership AT [montgomerycivic.org](mailto:montgomerycivic.org).**

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

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Montgomery County Civic Federation

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