



## Civic Federation News

October, 2014

*Serving the Public Interest since 1925*

Official Publication of the  
Montgomery County Civic  
Federation

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### October Program: How to Get Your Neighborhood Project into the Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

by Paula Bienenfeld, President

Our program on Monday, October 13 will be a roadmap and guide to getting your neighborhood project into the Capital Improvements Program, or CIP.

The CIP is a bi-annual appropriation of funding for infrastructure work. The CIP is required by our Charter. Following the Charter, the County Executive must submit to the County Council by January 15th of each even-numbered year, "a comprehensive six-year program for capital improvements." The County Executive is also required to submit to the Council, no later than March 15th of each year, a "comprehensive six-year program for public services and fiscal policy." At least five councilmembers must approve or modify this annual program submittal. The final Council approval of the six-year programs shall occur at or about the date of budget approval.

The current CIP is online here:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OMB/cip.html#The%20Capital%20Budget>, along with the annual County budget.

If you scroll through the CIP projects you will see that many projects are set and will affect your neighborhoods. Some examples that show up in the current CIP: a project to renovate the Old Blair auditorium (formally the

### BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS

a forum presented by the

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Sunday, November 16

1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Western Montgomery County Regional Services Center

4805 Edgemoor Lane

Bethesda, MD 20814

free parking in the underground garage

see article on page 6

#### Federation Meeting

##### Session 859

Monday, October 13, 2014

7:45 1st Floor Auditorium

County Council Office Building.

100 Maryland Avenue

Rockville, MD

#### Agenda:

7:45 Call to Order & Introductions

7:50 Approval of Agenda

7:51 Announcements

7:55 Approval of Minutes of September 8 meeting

7:56 Treasurer's Report

8:00 Community Hero: Committee to Save Kensington

8:10 Program: Getting your Local Project into the CIP

9:20 Election of Alan Bowser, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP

9:25 Committee Reports

9:40 New and Old Business

9:45 Adjournment

Elizabeth Stickley Auditorium) in the old Blair High School on Wayne Avenue. Contribution of county taxpayer funds to the City of Takoma Park to construct a sidewalk on Flower Ave., and the reconstruction of Flower Ave., between Piney Branch and Carroll Ave. General neighborhood traffic calming projects, where "Projects originate with requests from citizens associations, other neighborhood organizations, and/or public officials." Money for construction on the Capital Crescent Trail including the main trail from Elm Street in Bethesda to Silver Spring; connector paths, a new bridge over Connecticut Ave., an underpass underneath Jones Mill Road, and more. Falls Road East Side Hiker/Biker Path. Design and construction of a library in Clarksburg. Money for Legacy Open Space purchases for new parks. Document links on the website show costs, funding, justifications, and agreements among the different agencies for these projects.

The question we have is, how can you and your neighborhood get your project into the CIP? When setting up the program we asked around. One of the answers: talk to Ike Leggett. A lot. Clearly there is more than budgeting, objective financial analysis, and justification that goes into choosing which projects make it into the CIP. We know there are a lot of 'special interests' in the County. So, how can your neighborhood become one of the chosen few?

Please join us for an evening where we can discuss what the CIP is, and draw back the curtain somewhat to see how the County Executive and County Councilmembers decide which projects get into the CIP, and how you can get your neighborhood project into the CIP for funding. We know that members of our civic associations know their neighborhoods better than anyone. And, all these projects are paid for with your tax dollars. So, come to your October general meeting and bring your questions and your projects.

### **October's Community Hero: Committee to Save Kensington** by Danila S. Sheveiko, Recording Secretary

We are very pleased to honor the Committee to Save Kensington (CSK) at our October 13 meeting. CSK works diligently on public interest land use and government accountability in the Town of Kensington and Kensington communities. CSK spearheaded civic engagement on the new Kensington Sector Plan and is actively participating in ongoing issues like the battle against the Costco gas station location, Park & Plannings's new headquarters building in Wheaton, and the Council's adoption of the International Green Construction Code."

### **Follow Up to the September Program on Managing the Deer Population** by Peggy Dennis, Past President

Our September program on "Strategies for Managing the County's White-tailed Deer" was exceptionally well attended. Kevin Brandt, Superintendent of the C.&O. Canal National Historic Park, briefed us on his work with the Superintendent of the National Historic Park at Harper's Ferry to jointly initiate an "Environmental Assessment" to document the detrimental impact of the overpopulation of white-tailed deer on the environment of their respective parks. An Environmental Assessment costs less and may be completed more quickly than an Environmental Impact Study. If approved, they hope that this will allow them to consider options beyond the strict "no hunting" policy of the National Park Service.

George Timko, Assistant Deer Project Leader covered the work of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Their office has been particularly supportive of our legislative efforts to get the 150 yard "safety perimeter" for bow and arrow hunters decreased to 50 yards as had already been done in Frederick and Carroll Counties. In the end, we had to accept a compromise of 100 yards, but we view this an improvement. The overpopulation of white-tailed deer is considered extremely problematic in jurisdictions up and down the eastern seaboard, and politicians and wildlife professionals are under growing pressure to take more effective measures to decrease the number of deer.

Bill Hamilton and Ryan Butler, both Natural Resources Specialists with the Montgomery County Department of Parks, focused on the work of the County's "Deer Management Work Group." Their website contains much interesting and supportive information. It can be accessed at: [www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/Natural\\_Resource\\_Stewardship/Living\\_with\\_wildlife/deer/DeerManagement.shtm](http://www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/Natural_Resource_Stewardship/Living_with_wildlife/deer/DeerManagement.shtm). Their presentation covered the statistics on the deer population within the County and how Parks officials carry out "managed hunts" in a growing number of parks. Questions and observations from many in the audience made it clear that most residents want far more done to reduce the number of deer, whether by non-lethal methods such as the administration of contraceptives, or by lethal but faster and more cost-effective methods such as hunting.

Our program did not allow for time to cover and discuss the new hunting regulations passed in Annapolis during the 2014 session and its companion law passed by the County Council and specific to Montgomery County. I will attempt to do that here and now.

Most residents are not aware that bow and arrow hunting for deer and other game has long been legal throughout the county and the state. They also don't know that it is one of the safest sports in the U.S. and the least costly means of decreasing the number of deer. Hunters must be licensed, must hunt only during the official hunting season and times of day permitted, and must observe all applicable laws and regulations. For years, many property owners in the "Ag Reserve" with large lots and relatively long distances from hunting locations to inhabited residences have welcomed bow and arrow hunters and have relied on hunters to cull the herds and help lessen damage to their crops. Smaller lot sizes, shorter distances between homes, ignorance about the safety of bow and arrow hunting, and fear of antagonizing neighbors has effectively made it difficult, if not impossible, for bow and arrow hunters to work in the "down county". But many homeowners and civic associations are beginning to understand and accept that this must change.

My own neighborhood provides an excellent example. My street is a cul-de-sac ending in a wooded stream valley. The two homeowners at the furthest end gave permission to a bow and arrow hunter to work between their homes. He came 10 times during the 2012-2013 season and took out 11 deer reducing the size of our local herd by about 50%. He was quiet, discreet, humane and highly effective. Not even the homeowners who had given him permission to hunt were aware of his presence. A few of the deer he took were given to appreciative friends, and the surplus venison was donated to soup kitchens to feed the hungry. It was a "win-win" situation all around. Even the deer benefitted, as those who remained were less famished

during the winter. We welcome him back, and hope that many more neighborhoods will follow our example.

How does the new law facilitate bow & arrow hunting in suburban neighborhoods? Any property owner who wants to allow this activity and who has a suitable location for a hunter to work – a tree that could hold a tree stand or a deck or balcony allowing the hunter to take aim at a downhill angle – should first meet with a hunter to establish the suitability of the location. The “Citizens Guide” listed below has lists of reputable archery groups to help you find a good and safe hunter. Next, the property owner and hunter must get written permission from other homeowners within 100 yards of the proposed hunting location. This is easier if the property adjoins or backs onto land belonging to the County Parks Department, the National Park, a conservation area or country club as there are fewer permission slips to be obtained. Please understand: our park officials support the use of private property for archery hunting locations and have approved language (see below – Guidelines for Deer Hunters) governing the procedures to be used in the rare event that a wounded deer wanders off private property and onto public park land. The hunter will provide the necessary permission forms and meet with those neighbors within the 100 yard perimeter to explain how he works, and answer all questions. Neighbors living outside the 100 yard perimeter do not have legal grounds for objecting to or obstructing a legal hunt.

To facilitate the expansion of hunting into suburban neighborhoods, the Civic Federation will be posting supporting informational documents on our website's Environment page:

<http://montgomerycivic.org/currentissuesEnv.html> These include:

A Citizens Guide to Safe Bow and Arrow Hunting in Suburban Neighborhoods in Montgomery County

Guidelines for Deer Hunters Retrieving Deer from Parkland

David Berk's Frequently Asked Questions on Bow and Arrow Hunting

If your neighborhood has been plagued by too many deer, we encourage you to consider this option. Forward this newsletter to those in your civic association. Point out this article and the supporting documents on the website. Get a discussion going, and email me -

[hotyakker@gmail.com](mailto:hotyakker@gmail.com) - if you have additional questions or need help in getting the ball rolling.

The bow & arrow season has already begun.

## **Montgomery's Green Construction Woes**

by Danila Sheveiko, Recording Secretary

The environmental benefits we had anticipated from the proposed sustainable building code now seem uncertain. Montgomery County's adoption of the [International Green Construction Code](#) (IgCC) is about to get controversial after environmental activists discovered proposed amendments that, if passed by the County Council this fall, will essentially gut this groundbreaking piece of legislation.

Maryland was [the nation's first state to embrace](#) the IgCC back in 2011, and now Montgomery is the first county to adopt and implement the new regulatory framework – hailed as “pro-business

and pro-environment” and meant to supplant the voluntary and expensive LEED certification as the first code to include sustainability requirements for the entire construction project and site – from design to construction, operation, maintenance and beyond.

To ease [political acceptance in local jurisdictions](#) largely dominated by developer interests, the IgCC is just a baseline of minimum green requirements that can be strengthened by more progressive governments. Alas, our County is [going another route](#) via Department of Permitting Services – the agency responsible for implementing the Code. Instead of raising the bar or even keeping the baseline as is, the [County is bent on gutting the very minimum requirements](#) by weakening, deleting or moving them into an appendix of project electives. The hatchet was taken to entire sections of the Code like Stormwater Management; Preservation of Natural Resources; Management of Vegetation, Soils and Erosion Control; Transportation Impact; Material Selection; Building Renewable Energy Systems; etc.

Not stopping there, after drastically expanding the list of electives, the County is proposing to weaken the already voluminous appendix itself. A developer could be required to complete anywhere from 0 to 16 electives for any given project, but the County is limiting that number to a disappointing two (2). To make matters worse, a few of these electives are already required by other County ordinance, so it is possible for a developer to comply without doing any work, rendering the electives appendix essentially meaningless and making a mockery of the [IgCC's pro-environment intent](#).

Approving the IgCC as proposed would be a huge setback for local efforts to save the Chesapeake Bay and [address climate change](#) at the ordinance level. In the U.S., [buildings account](#) for 65% of electricity consumption, 36% of total energy use, 30% of greenhouse gas emissions, 30% of raw materials use, 30% of waste output, and 12% of potable water consumption. At the regional level, stormwater runoff generated by development is the [fastest growing source of pollution](#) for a Chesapeake Bay already on life support.

The case for green buildings is strong – [numerous studies](#) show that energy efficiency and other [economic benefits](#) can coexist with cleaner water and air while creating green jobs in a sustainable and resilient economy. If studies are not enough, we can look at real world examples like Germany that recently reached [grid parity with solar power](#) and leads the world in energy efficiency, while [the U.S. is in 13th place](#) just ahead of Russia, Brazil, and Mexico. [Green roofs](#) have been mandated by some German municipalities for over half a century, and today the green industry in that country [generates jobs in the hundreds of thousands](#).

Unfortunately, Montgomery County preaches the [false choice mantra](#) that you can either have a healthy economy or a healthy environment. Take the proposed Wheaton Town Center as an example – the new headquarters for Park & Planning, Department of Environmental Protection, and Department of Permitting Services. [Despite concerted advocacy](#) by a coalition of civic, environmental and business groups, the County chose a [building design that fails to lead by example](#) – to reflect the green mission of the agencies it will house or [even comply](#) with the recently approved Wheaton Sector Plan. It seems that shifting this paradigm of denial is a

titanic undertaking nearly equal to facing the challenges of climate change and [the sixth extinction](#) themselves.

In spite of valiant efforts, once-in-a-generation opportunities to improve both our environment and economy are wasted and turned into greenwash, but the International Green Construction Code is so comprehensive and affects such a multitude of stakeholders – the sheer mass of people who care about energy efficiency and economic competitiveness, about trout in our streams or about childhood asthma – that could be organized to turn the tide instead of just stemming the flow. For a change.

## **Sunday Forum on “Building Better Civic Associations”**

by Peggy Dennis, Past President

There are many good reasons to start a civic or neighborhood association, to revitalize an old but dormant organization, or to improve your current association. Think about the community where you live. Is it a 1950's style “bedroom” community where few residents know their neighbors and community life is non-existent? Or does it have a name, a sense of identity and a community spirit that give its residents a really high quality of life?

Strong, active, neighborhood and civic associations can improve the quality of life for their residents in so many ways. Communities that are safe, welcoming, friendly, and fun to live in also tend to have glowing reputations, higher property values and faster turnover when homes are put on the market.

In this issue, I'll detail 6 features of civic and neighborhood associations that are kind of fun and sexy – the “gee, wouldn't it be great if we had that in this neighborhood” kind of feature. In the November News I'll focus on the less sexy but vitally important “nuts and bolts” aspects of community organizations: residents' directories; websites; newsletters; meetings; electronic communications including email groups, Facebook pages, Twitter handles and listservs; and Neighborhood Watch programs. As you read, please think about the best aspects of your local association, and email me to help me develop a really great Sunday Forum.

**Community Recreational Facilities:** apart from the County-owned and operated pools and community centers, some communities own and manage their own recreational facilities. Examples I can readily think of: Mohican Hills has its swimming pool; River Falls and Carderock Springs have swimming & tennis clubs; Carderock Springs and Bannockburn have club houses where all manner of events take place from Boy Scout meetings to wedding receptions; Avenel has everything – country club, swimming & tennis club, equestrian facility and clubhouse. These facilities are which can be a wonderful focal point for community activities. And most communities don't have them. They are costly. They are usually run by a separate organization. So, read on to other, more common and affordable possibilities.

**Community Social Events and Celebrations:** Many local associations hold social events like seasonal block parties, annual flea markets or garage sales. My own community which doesn't even have a formal association holds a “Welcome and Farewell Potluck Party” whenever old timers move out and new residents move in. Wood Acres Citizens Association holds an

outstanding 4th of July parade and barbecue. What event(s) that bring people together, foster friendships and create a sense of identity and cohesion does your community have? Will you share your best features with us?

**Community Kids & Youth:** Our public schools, PTA events, the gaggle of kids walking to and waiting at the school bus stop together, have long been a source of community identity and cohesion. But the kids in many communities are divided with some attending private and parochial schools. Local associations can provide great ways to help kids meet other kids who live in the same neighborhood but who attend different schools and who might not otherwise meet. Neighborhood associations can also provide resources for adults to find out about local teenagers who offer their services as as babysitters, dog walkers, lawn mowers, leaf rakers and snow shovelers. And local teenagers who want to earn money and start their own small business providing such services can advertise through their neighborhood association.

**Community Seniors:** some local associations have starting “Senior Villages” or support groups for elderly residents who wish to age in place, but need the friendship and support of other seniors and neighbors to remain in the community. These are growing in popularity throughout the U.S., and Montgomery County hosts a number of Senior Villages. We want to know more about them, and urge those active in the Senior Village movement to come on November 16 and share their knowledge with us.

**Pet Care and Lost & Found Pets:** Our pets are valued members of our households. Local associations are invaluable for sharing tips on local vets, dog-walking services and for finding other pet owners who may be willing to share or trade pet care responsibilities when you have to be away. And when a pet goes missing, there's nothing like a local neighborhood association to get out the word and help find the lost dog or cat.

**Community Food Sharing:** Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) schemes are wonderful to participate in when a number of neighbors go in together. With enough neighbors joining the same CSA, you may qualify for free delivery of your weekly produce right to the neighborhood. A group of “foodies” can also share recipes, share extra seeds and swap overabundant garden produce. When you've got too many zucchini squash and your neighbor has too many tomatoes and eggplants, you've got a situation ripe for two households to make fantastic ratatouille! And remember those potluck dinners: a great way to socialize and eat well at the same time.

If this list of the many things local civic associations can do makes you want to scream and run away – the “OMG! this is much too much work!” reaction – please remember: civic associations (unlike homeowners associations) are voluntary. What each association does reflects the needs, interests, and abilities of its leaders, and a key part of leadership is getting other people to enthusiastically participate and share in the work. And the fun.

So, please start thinking about how your own civic association works; what works well that you would recommend for other communities; what doesn't work so well and what do you need to learn to make it work better? How can you quickly and easily generate interest, enthusiasm and participation? Our Sunday Forum what on “Building Better Civic Associations” needs the knowledge, experience, and ideas from all our civic leaders to help our civic life flourish.

## **Traffic Test Change for White Oak would set Bad Precedent**

by Jim Humphrey, MCCF Planning & Land Use Chair

On September 16, Councilmembers Floreen, Navarro and Rice proposed a radical change to the local traffic test, to be applied in the White Oak master plan area. On October 7 the Council will hold a hearing on the legislation, which was introduced (on the Consent Agenda) as Subdivision Staging Policy Amendment 14-02.

The amendment would change the Local Area Transportation Review (LATR), a test applied when development projects come to the Planning Board for their initial, or Preliminary Plan, approval. It is at this stage that the Board determines whether local signalized intersections have the capacity to handle traffic from the planned project, or whether there is no additional capacity remaining so the project can only get approval by paying an added transportation fee.

The LATR test is used to enforce the county's Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance (APFO), which requires the Board to determine if schools, roads, transit and other public facilities are adequate to handle new development projects before approving them.

At present, when the LATR is applied to new projects countywide, the test calculates traffic volume at nearby intersection by counting not only actual traffic but also projected traffic from nearby projects that are approved by the Board but are not yet built. This projected traffic from approved, unbuilt projects is called "background traffic."

The change proposed for the White Oak area by SSPA 14-02 would only count "background traffic" from approved but unbuilt developments for which building permits have been issued by the Department of Permitting Services. The difficulty is that traffic capacity of an approved unbuilt project could be "reallocated" to a second project without rescinding the APFO approval of the first project. Hence, when the original project is later granted building permits with their valid APFO approval, there will be insufficient traffic capacity to support the two (or more?) projects.

Although Subdivision Staging Policy Amendment 14-02 is proposed to only apply to the White Oak Policy Area, the legislation, if adopted, provides a dangerous foothold to weaken the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance across the entire county. Therefore, at their September 18 meeting, the members of the MCCF Executive Committee voted to oppose SSPA 14-02, and will register our opinion in testimony at the upcoming Council hearing.<sup>1</sup>

## **Fabulous Fungus**

by Carole Ann Barth, Immediate Past President

As we roll into autumn, I want to remind everyone that fungi are the lifeblood of the forest. Indeed, without fungi, there would be no forests. There are four major roles fungi play in keeping the forest ecosystem healthy:

- (1) recycling deadwood, returning nutrients to the soil
- (2) partnering with roots, to the benefit of both plants and fungi

(3) enhancing soil structure and carbon storage

(4) binding soil particles and linking trees

Many people with a bit of woods on their property feel the need to “tidy up” the forest floor, removing dead leaves and fallen branches. They think of these as waste materials which need to be disposed of. In reality, when we remove these food sources, we run the risk of starving our trees. Trees cannot grow on sunlight alone, they also need fertile, healthy soil.

So where does healthy soil come from? The mineral components come from weathered rock fragments, but most of the nutrients come from organic matter. The breakdown and decay of dead organic matter like leaves, stumps, and branches is crucial for cycling nutrients and building soil structure.

Did you ever stop to think how something as massive as a 100 year old tree can return to the soil? Animals cannot digest lignin (the complex polymer that gives wood its rigidity). Certain fungi, however, can break down the lignin, providing a feast for a wide variety of soil organisms which further process the detritus, thus setting the stage for new growth and the next generation of plants.

Other types of fungi prefer a living substrate. Mycorrhizae (from myco meaning fungal and rhiza meaning root) form mutually beneficial associations of roots and fungi. There are two types of mycorrhizae, those that grow around the root hairs and those that actually live (partially) inside the root cells.

In both types, the fungus obtain sugars manufactured by the plant, and the plant receives phosphorus, nitrogen, and moisture through the fungus. The millions of tiny fungal threads massively increase the effective surface area of the roots, making them much more efficient at absorbing water and nutrients. Mycorrhizae also help increase plant resistance to diseases. Some plants just grow better with mycorrhizae, but others depend upon them for survival. For example, this is why pink lady slippers usually die when transplanted from the woods—they cannot survive without their fungi partners.

Some mycorrhizae also produce a protein (called glomalin) that binds soil particles and stores carbon and nitrogen. Binding soil particles into “crumbs” is the basis of good soil structure; a mixture of crumbs and voids which permit air and water to penetrate soil.

In fact, some mycorrhizae create an extensive feeding web that goes far beyond the tree’s roots. This links the soil together, making it less likely to erode. It can also bridge the gap between food sources (or in arid climates) between scarce water sources. Such fungal mats have been found to physically connect trees, allowing them to share resources. Scientists have actually documented food from the mother tree being transmitted to her seedlings.

This can be essential for plant reproduction where light resources are scarce. A seedling may not be able to photosynthesize enough to grow on the shaded forest floor, but with the extra boost it receives by linking into the mycorrhizal mat it can grow and it can afford to wait for an opening in the canopy.

Recent research has also shown that trees (and other plants) communicate chemically. (Trees have had their own social media for millions of years.) When one tree is attacked by a pest, it sends a warning to nearby trees of the same species. I wonder if the fungal mat carries these messages as well as food and water?

“But wait (I hear you ask) aren’t there fungi that parasitize and even kill trees? What good are they?” Indeed, there are some species of fungus that get their nutrients at the expense of living plants. It turns out that fungal pathogens cause the most damage to single-species plantings (monocultures) and thus they are of greater concern in agricultural settings. In the forest, these fungi play the same role that wolves play for caribou. By preying on the sick and weak, the overall population is kept strong. Because of the pressure of predation, the prey population does not multiply beyond the area’s carrying capacity. So even the parasitic fungi has its job to do.

Interestingly, a particular parasitic fungus is the largest (and possibly oldest) organism alive on the planet today. An *Armillaria ostoyae* occupies about 2,384 acres of soil in Oregon’s Blue Mountains. This is the equivalent of 1,665 football fields, or nearly four square miles. Based on its current growth rate, the fungus is estimated to be 2,400 years old but could be as ancient as 8,650 years. This type of fungus attacks conifers at the roots, causing Armillaria disease.

In addition to all these ecosystem services, fungi are an important component of the forest food web. Soil organisms eat the fungi underground, and several species of ants and termites maintain fungus farms. Some ant and fungus partners have become completely dependant upon each other. Then there are the mushrooms, truffles, and earthstars. These above-ground fungi are actually the fruiting bodies of a much more extensive underground organism. When animals eat the fruiting bodies, they help distribute its spores, seeding a new generation. Thus fungi links the living soil, trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, insects, people, and other animals together into an inter-dependant ecosystem.

So the next time you walk in the forest, try to imagine the millions of tiny fungal threads inhabiting the soil, dead wood, and roots all around you. Be grateful for this humble organism, that stitches the forest together, creating new life from death. Try to imagine what it would be like if we were truly “plugged in” to our environment like the mycorrhizal fungi. We humans are so proud of our electronic communication networks, when all the time, quietly in the dark, a living internet has been there under our feet all along.

Want to learn more about fungi? Try these websites:

<http://americanmushrooms.com>

<http://www.mushroomexpert.com>

## **Minutes of the September 8 Meeting**

By Danila S. Sheveiko, Recording Secretary

**Call to Order:** President Paula Bienenfeld called the 858<sup>th</sup> session to order at 7:46pm. Introductions followed.

**AGENDA:** It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda as amended for next month's vote for Second Vice President.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Park after Dark fundraiser at Historic Great Falls Tavern is on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>.

School Board Challengers - Good Governance Forum will be held TUESDAY, September 30, 2014 - 7:00 - 9:00 pm in the Rockville Memorial Library, 1st Floor Conference Room, 21 Maryland Avenue, Rockville.

**MINUTES:** It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the June 9<sup>th</sup> meeting as they appeared in the Newsletter. The minutes were approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jerry Garson reported net income for period of \$715.05.

**COMMUNITY HERO AWARD:** Gordie Brenne - for close and careful attention to County finances.

**PROGRAM:** "Strategies for Managing the County's Whitetail Deer." In 2013, there were 2,041 reported Deer Vehicle Collisions (DVC) in Montgomery County. Many more minor, unreported DVCs are not reflected in this statistic. Average density of deer in the County is 60-75 per square mile, but can be as high as 250 per square mile. Recommended maximum density for a healthy environment is 40 deer per square mile. Cost of deer management plans by government is seven figures, and one is under way for the C&O Canal National Park - an environmental assessment that takes less than two years, as compared to an environmental impact statement, which would take five years.

**ELECTIONS:** The MCCF Executive Committee and Nominations Committee have agreed to nominate Alan Bowser to fill the vacant Second Vice President position.

**RESOLUTIONS:** Delegates voted to approve the 2015 MCCF Budget as proposed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Peggy Dennis reminded everyone to send out the MCCF newsletter to their organization's list serve or membership.

Paula reported on Executive Committee assignments.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 9:46pm.

**Minutes of the September 18 Executive Committee Meeting**

By Danila S, Sheveiko, Recording Secretary,

The Executive Committee (ExComm) convened at the B-CC Regional Services Center.

**Call to Order:** Paula Bienenfeld, President, called the meeting to order at 7:49 PM. Present: Paula Bienenfeld, Jerry Garson, Peggy Dennis, Jim Zepp, Carole Ann Barth, Danila Sheveiko, Harriet Quinn, Sandy Vogelgesang, and Virginia Sheard.

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

**Approval of Minutes** for August 21 ExComm Meetings: Paula called for approval of the August 2014 minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jerry Garson, Treasurer, reported income of \$855 from membership dues and \$29.95 in expenditures for the period.

**Announcements:** Paula Bienenfeld called for announcements.

- Jim Zepp reported that the County has now waived the fee for placement of neighborhood association gateway signs.
- Harriet Quinn reported that the County Council issued a shortlist of five candidates to be interviewed for appointment to the Planning Board next Tuesday, Sept. 23.
- Bill 28-14 Cable Communications Community Media Organizations Bill was unanimously adopted by the County Council. This law regulates community media organizations like myMCMedia and regulates community access to the County's media resources.
- MCCF is co-sponsoring the School Board Challengers – Good Governance Forum: 7pm. Sept. 30 at the Rockville Memorial Library.

**Programs:** Paula introduced discussion of future programs.

October: How to get your Community's Request in the Capital Improvements Program Budget? Paula reported that she is finalizing the details.  
November: County's waste management and recycling program  
December: County's street resurfacing program.

**Community Hero:** Suggestions.

### **Issues Discussed**

- Grants possibilities: Registering as a 501(c)(3) organization would significantly expand MCCF's grant opportunities.
- Committee for Montgomery: Paula reported that she has yet to hear back from Committee for Montgomery about MCCF membership and participation.
- Membership: ExComm reviewed trial version of membership communications software with approximate cost of \$240 per year.
- Civic Fed Mailing address: Jerry reported that a P.O. Box will cost about \$40/year.

- DPS use of blanket “confidentiality” notices on their emails. Jim Zepp will draft a letter.

### **Committee Reports**

- **Education:** Paula reported that the County is reviewing the policy of placing cell phone towers at public schools.
- **Planning & Land Use (PLU):**
  - Virginia Sheard, Member at Large, reported on Planning Board interviews.
  - Harriet Quinn, Member at Large, informed the ExComm about a report by Office of Legislative Oversight on the development process in the County.
- **Transportation:**
  - Jerry will set up a meeting of the Transportation Committee.
  - Peggy reported that the County will begin construction on Fawsett Rd, the first of the “orphaned roads” to be improve by the county.

### **Old Business**

- MCCF Retreat: Scheduled for Sept. 28, details TBD.
- Costco Update: Closing arguments for County’s longest running land use hearing scheduled for September 19.
- IgCC update: Virginia is working with DPS to confirm facts and draft a letter.
- Aspen Hill testimony for County Council
- Building Better Civic Associations workshop, Sun Nov 16, 1-5 pm: Peggy is organizing.
- Exelon response to MCCF letter
- Venue for MCCF 2015 awards banquet still undecided.

### **New Business**

- Media relations: forward articles for Montgomery Sentinel to Jim Humphrey.
- MC Planning Department review of Local Area Transportation Review (LATR) Test, which is part of the Subdivision Staging Policy and Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance. ExComm discussed MC Planning’s proposed working group on traffic impact.

- SSP Amendment No. 14-02 introduced Sept. 16, sponsored by Councilmembers Rice, Floreen, Navarro proposes to change LATR traffic test for White Oak only. The amendment which has been fast tracked, would permanently eliminate counting traffic for approved but not yet permitted projects, allowing existing capacity to be counted multiple times, avoiding necessary improvements. ExComm voted unanimously to oppose. Council hearing October 7. See newsletter article.
- Bill 39-14 Amendments to County Ethics Laws from the County Ethics Commission. These amendments make County ethics law consistent with State law which is required. Council's Government Operations Committee will hold a worksession on Monday, October 13.
- Newsletter deadline and articles – Deadline: Sunday, October 26, 6pm to Peggy Dennis [mccfnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:mccfnewsletter@gmail.com)
- Date and location of next two ExComm meetings:
  - October 23, 7:00pm, Mid County Regional Services Center, Wheaton
  - November 20, 7:45pm, BCC RSC

**Adjournment:** Paula called for and received unanimous approval for adjournment at 9:43PM.

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

*Serving the County since 1925*

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION OR RENEWAL

July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Mail to MCCF Treasurer: Jerry Garson  
8308 Raymond Lane, Potomac MD 20854  
301-765-9470; email: garson AT comcast.net

Form updated August 2014

Name of Organization/Individual \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Households (Approx) \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Dues (see below) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Make checks payable to **Montgomery County Civic Federation**)

Membership Type	Number of Households	PLEASE CHECK	DUES	Max Number of Delegates	Voting Privileges
<b>Local Association</b> (civic, community, homeowner or municipality. Can not be a single local issue group.)	10 to 50		\$20	1	Yes
	51 to 300		\$35	2	
	301 to 600		\$50	3	
	601+		\$65	4	
<b>Umbrella Association</b> (Two or more local associations. Cannot be single local issue group.)	60 to 500		\$35	2	Yes
	501 to 1000		\$50	3	
	1001+		\$65	4	
<b>Regional or County-Wide Organization</b> (environmental, transportation, or other civic/community).	50+ memberships, not households		\$35	2	Yes
<b>Individual Associate</b>	(not applicable)		\$15	1	No
<b>Associate Group</b> (Gov't agency, business, or other organization)	(not applicable)		\$75	2	No

The newsletter is no longer mailed. Email is the only way to receive it. Organizations can also select less than the allowed number of delegates and pay according to that number.

1.	<b>Name</b> (President)		Phone (H)	
	Street		E-mail	
	City, State, Zip		Put email address in directory: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
			Phone	
<hr/>				
2.	<b>Name</b>		(H)	
	Street		E-mail	
	City, State, Zip		Put email address in directory: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
			Phone	
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3.	<b>Name</b>		(H)	
	Street		E-mail	
	City, State, Zip		Put email address in directory: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
			Phone	
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4.	<b>Name</b>		(H)	
	Street		E-mail	
	City, State, Zip		Put email address in directory: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

