

**July Program: A Discussion of ZTA 25-02, More Housing N.O.W.** | A speaker from the County Executive's Office will join us to discuss this pending legislation. Note the change in the day of the week! | **P. 3**

**September Book Session** | An in-person meeting on September 4 with Miranda Spivack, author of *Backroom Deals in Our Backyards: How Government Secrecy Harms Our Communities--and the Local Heroes Fighting Back* | **P. 3**

**The History of the MCCF** | For the record! See the milestones, decade by decade, and some of what we've accomplished | **P. 4**

**100th Anniversary and Awards Celebration Pix** | Check out the photos of the fun on June 8 | **P. 16**

**New Officers Elected** | The voting was online during May; results were announced June 8 | **P. 22**

**Warning! Scam Alert!** | Some members have received emails claiming to be from our President, saying their civic association owes tens of thousands of dollars in dues! | **P. 23**

**Like MCCF's Facebook Page and follow us on Twitter.**

**TO PRINT, USE PRINT VERSION**

## of note

### **Next MCCF Meeting #965**

WEDNESDAY, July 9, 2025, 7:00 p.m. *online via Zoom.* Topic: "ZTA 25-02, More Housing NOW."

! **Join the Zoom Meeting Here**

[See further instructions on page 2. No password is required.]

**AGENDA, P. 2 • PROGRAM, P. 3**

### **June Meeting Minutes**

100th Anniversary Celebration **P. 22**  
Executive Committee Meeting **P. 24**

### **Membership Application**

**JOIN ONLINE | MAIL-IN FORM**

## Federation Meeting #965

WEDNESDAY, July 9, 2025

7:00 p.m.

Online Zoom Meeting

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order/Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes: June General Meeting **P.22**
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Announcements
6. Introduction of Speaker:  
Speaker from County Executive's Office on ZTA 25-02,  
More Housing N.O.W. **P.3**
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. 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 July meeting will be held online via Zoom** (see page 3 for program) at 7:00 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:** Wednesday, July 9, 2025, 7:00 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 840 9990 4025. No password is required.

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 25**

## A Message from the MCCF President

Dear Members,

We have scheduled our last meeting before the fall for **Wednesday, July 9, at 7:00 p.m.** to discuss the ZTA 25-02, More Housing N.O.W. Our new by-laws allow for a July meeting and, although we were all looking forward to a summer break, the More Housing N.O.W. package (the corridors workforce housing proposal 25-02) will be considered by the full Council in the next few weeks, so we will meet in July to discuss. We are in the process of lining up a speaker.

Our next *regular* meeting will be on **September 8** at 7 p.m. Watch for the announcement in August for the topic and speaker.

Also, mark your calendar for the evening of **September 4** for an in-person book discussion with

Miranda Spivack. Ms. Spivack is a veteran journalist and author of the book *Backroom Deals in Our Backyards: How Government Secrecy Harms Our Communities—and the Local Heroes Fighting Back*. Ms. Spivack's has a specialty in government accountability, secrecy, and urban development, and the book explores the underreported rise in secret deal-making between local governments and corporations and how this threatens our health, safety, and democracy. We look forward to meeting in person, hearing from Ms. Spivack, and discussing the book.

Over the summer, I will be working with our committee chairs and any willing volunteer to begin drafting a legislative agenda for next year. My hope for this coming year is that we position ourselves to proactively

advocate for an agenda improve our grassroots outreach. If you would like to help, please let me know!

There are other ways to help the Civic Federation. We are always looking for volunteers. Database manager to input membership data is a job that takes just a few hours a month. If you can help with drafting legislative alerts or setting up sign-on letters, that is another area of great need. And there are standing committees to chair or serve on. If you are interested in a role on any of the standing committees, please let me know: Energy and Environment, Planning and Land Use, Public Safety, Transportation and Pedestrian Safety, and Membership.

As always, thank you for your membership and participation.

—Cheryl Gannon ■

## The History of the Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc.

Founded in 1925, the Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc. (MCCF), emerged during a period when Montgomery County was deeply segregated, both by law and custom. At that time, African American residents lived in separate communities, often denied access to basic amenities and forced to build their own institutions—churches, schools, and benevolent societies—to serve their needs in the face of systemic discrimination. Black children attended underfunded, segregated schools and public services and housing were starkly unequal.

The Civic Federation, like many organizations of its era, initially reflected the priorities and demographics of the county's white, property-owning majority. Despite this segregated context, the MCCF

played a pivotal role in shaping the county's civic landscape, advocating for home rule, infrastructure improvements, and the creation of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Over time, as the county and nation confronted the injustices of segregation, the Federation's focus and membership began to evolve. The civil rights era brought significant change: by the 1960s, Montgomery County had desegregated its schools—one of the first in Maryland to do so—thanks to the tireless advocacy of Black community leaders and allies.

The MCCF, along with other civic organizations, supported reforms such as nonpartisan school board elections and improved zoning code enforcement, gradually expanding

its advocacy to address issues affecting a broader cross-section of residents.

As Montgomery County's population became more diverse—shifting from 96% white in 1960 to a majority BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) population by 2020—the Civic Federation worked to better represent the county's changing demographics. In recent decades, the MCCF has increasingly recognized the importance of equitable community engagement, supporting efforts to amplify the voices of historically marginalized groups and advocating for policies that advance racial equity and social justice.

We are proud of our efforts to increase transparency and accountability in government at all levels.



## Our History, cont.

We are proud of our efforts focusing on public safety and pedestrian safety, transportation, climate change, and housing affordability. We are proud to have seen our efforts result in the wider establishment of inspector generals in M-NCPPC, WSSC, Montgomery County, and MCPS and the County's commitment to free Ride On bus service for the community. And we will continue our advocacy for the re-funding of the critically important Office of the People's Counsel.

This progress reflects a broader commitment within the county to ensure that all residents, regardless of race or background, have a say in local governance and planning.

Today, as the Montgomery County Civic Federation marks its centennial, it stands as both a wit-

ness to and an agent of profound social change. From its origins in a segregated county to its current role as a champion for inclusive civic participation, the Federation's legacy is one of adaptation, advocacy, and progress. Its ongoing efforts to foster cooperation among diverse communities and to honor those who serve the public good underscore its enduring relevance in building a more just and vibrant Montgomery County for all.

### **KEY ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION: A DECADE-BY-DECADE SUMMARY**

The Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc. (MCCF), since its establishment in 1925, has served as a cornerstone of civic engagement in Montgomery County, Maryland. This nonprofit, county-wide umbrel-

la group was founded with the aim of promoting cooperation, education, and effectiveness among the numerous civic and community associations that represent neighborhoods across the county. Its core mission has consistently revolved around fostering civic, community, and general welfare within Montgomery County, and acting as a unified voice for residents in their interactions with government policy makers. This essay will outline the key achievements of the MCCF, presented in a chronological, decade-by-decade summary, highlighting its enduring influence on the development and governance of Montgomery County.

### **THE FORMATIVE YEARS (1920S-1930S): LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUC-**

**TOP**

**MORE**

## Our History, cont.

### TURE DEVELOPMENT

The Montgomery County of the 1920s and 1930s was experiencing a transition into a suburban region, spurred in part by the increasing accessibility of the automobile. Recognizing the potential for rapid and potentially uncoordinated development, a group of engaged citizens came together to form the Montgomery County Civic Federation in 1925, officially incorporating the organization the following year. The initial impetus behind this formation was a shared desire to guide the county's growth, resisting what were perceived as undesirable industrial developments and instead promoting the creation of attractive residential communities.

### 1920s

■ The Montgomery County Civic Federation was established in 1925 with the fundamental objective of promoting civic welfare throughout the county.

■ The Federation achieved official incorporation in 1926, solidifying its organizational structure and capacity for action.

■ A primary focus during these early years was on ensuring that new developments adhered to standards suitable for single-family dwellings.

■ The MCCF actively campaigned for the implementation of essential infrastructure improvements necessary for a growing suburban population.

■ A significant early achievement involved the Federation's strong support for the creation of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC),

which became the principal agency responsible for land-use planning within Montgomery County.

■ The Federation advocated for specific projects aimed at improving the quality of life, such as enhancements to Georgetown Road, the establishment of organized garbage and trash collection services, and the creation of the Cabin John Creek Valley Park for recreational purposes.

■ Recognizing the distinct needs of the developing suburban areas, the MCCF also campaigned for the establishment of the Western and Eastern Suburban District.

### 1930s

■ A notable shift in the Federation's focus occurred in the 1930s with the initiation of efforts to achieve home rule for Montgomery

## Our History, cont.

County. This ambition reflected a growing desire for greater local control over county affairs.

■ In 1937, the MCCF formed a dedicated committee tasked with studying and proposing concrete ways to improve the structure and function of Montgomery County's government. This proactive step demonstrated the Federation's commitment to identifying and addressing areas for potential enhancement in local governance.

■ Furthering its aim for governmental reform, the Federation passed a resolution in April 1938, formally requesting that the County Commissioners allocate funds for an independent, third-party evaluation of the county's governmental operations. This action underscored

the MCCF's belief in the value of objective analysis as a foundation for meaningful change.

■ The MCCF's persistent advocacy ultimately led to the County Commissioners' decision in the winter of 1939 to engage the Brookings Institute for Government Research to conduct a comprehensive study of Montgomery County's governmental framework. This study would prove instrumental in shaping future governance reforms within the county.

The initial decades of the Montgomery County Civic Federation were characterized by a proactive stance in shaping the county's physical and governmental landscape. The Federation's early advocacy for planned residential development and essential infrastructure laid a foundation for the county's suburban character. Moreover, the pivotal

decision to pursue home rule and to instigate an independent study of county government demonstrated a forward-thinking approach to ensuring effective and responsive local governance for the growing population.

## POST-WAR GROWTH AND GOVERNANCE REFORM (1940S-1950S): CHAMPIONING HOME RULE AND SHAPING COUNTY STRUCTURES

Following World War II, Montgomery County experienced significant population growth, amplifying the need for effective governance structures. The findings of the Brookings Institute report, commissioned at the urging of the MCCF, were released in 1941, providing a blueprint for potential reforms.



## Our History, cont.

### 1940s

■ The MCCF actively advocated for the implementation of the recommendations put forth by the Brookings Institute report. Key proposals included the replacement of the existing Board of Commissioners with a County Manager and a nonpartisan County Council, aiming for a more professional and less politically influenced system of governance.

■ Recognizing the need for a dedicated effort to achieve these reforms, the Federation took a decisive step in 1942 by establishing the Montgomery County Charter Committee (MCCC). This committee was specifically tasked with leading the campaign for a charter referendum that would enshrine these proposed changes into law.

■ The persistent efforts of the

MCCF and the MCCC culminated in a significant achievement with the adoption of a new County Charter in 1948. This marked a crucial step towards realizing home rule for Montgomery County and restructuring its governmental framework. While the adopted charter did not fully incorporate all of the Federation's initial goals, particularly concerning the role and structure of the M-NCPPC, it represented a substantial victory in the pursuit of greater local control.

### 1950s

■ Despite the progress made with the 1948 charter, the MCCF, through the continued work of the MCCC, remained committed to further enhancing Montgomery County's autonomy. This ongoing advocacy reflected a dedication to refining the county's governance to best serve its

residents.

■ A significant achievement during this decade was the MCCF's strong support for the implementation of nonpartisan elections for the school board. This initiative aimed to remove partisan politics from the selection of individuals responsible for overseeing the county's education system, promoting a focus on qualifications and the best interests of students.

■ The Federation also played a role in contributing to the revision and improvement of the county's zoning codes. This engagement in land-use regulations demonstrates the MCCF's continued interest in shaping the physical development and character of Montgomery County in a responsible and sustainable manner.

■ The MCCF maintained an active

## Our History, cont.

and engaged membership through its various committees. These committees focused on a wide range of issues, including internal county improvements, legislative matters, planning and zoning, public finance and budget, and social welfare. The existence of a special committee dedicated to studying apartment zoning indicates the Federation's proactive approach to addressing evolving housing needs within the county.

The period following World War II witnessed the Montgomery County Civic Federation's unwavering commitment to reforming the county's governance. The successful campaign for a new County Charter and the advocacy for nonpartisan school board elections represent significant milestones in the Fed-

eration's history. Furthermore, its continued engagement in zoning matters and the diverse activities of its committees underscore its comprehensive approach to serving the interests of Montgomery County residents.

### **THE ERA OF EXPANSION AND PLANNING (1960S-1970S): GUIDING GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING COUNTY**

The 1960s and 1970s were decades of substantial growth and transformation for Montgomery County. This period necessitated careful planning and foresight to manage the increasing population and maintain the county's high quality of life. The Montgomery County Civic Federation played a vital role in shaping this era of expansion.

### **1960s**

■ A defining achievement of this decade was the MCCF's significant influence on the adoption of the "Wedges and Corridors Plan" in 1964. This comprehensive land-use plan provided a framework for managing growth by strategically directing development along transportation corridors while preserving open spaces in designated "wedges." The MCCF's support for this long-term vision demonstrates its commitment to sustainable and well-planned development for the county.

■ Continuing its dedication to strengthening local governance, the MCCF actively advocated for further revisions to the County Charter. These efforts culminated in the charter revision of 1968, which granted Montgomery County even greater autonomy in managing its affairs.

## Our History, cont.

This achievement reflects the Federation's ongoing pursuit of effective and locally controlled governance.

■ The MCCF remained highly active through its network of committees, addressing a wide spectrum of issues critical to the county's well-being. These committees focused on areas such as public finance, public safety, public utilities, the maintenance and development of roads and bridges, sanitation and public health, the quality of schools, and social welfare. This broad engagement highlights the Federation's comprehensive approach to representing the diverse interests of the community.

### 1970s

■ The MCCF continued its essential function of closely monitoring the policies and legislative actions of

the county government. This vigilance ensured that the Federation remained informed and prepared to advocate for the needs and concerns of its member associations and the wider community.

■ The Federation provided a vital platform for discussion and action on a wide range of community issues through its regular monthly meetings and newsletters. These forums facilitated communication, collaboration, and the development of collective positions on important matters affecting Montgomery County residents.

■ The MCCF's involvement in issues related to public utilities, as evidenced by the records of its dedicated committee, underscores its commitment to ensuring the provision of essential services and infrastructure to support the county's growing population.

■ Demonstrating a spirit of collaboration within the broader civic community, the MCCF actively participated in the Metropolitan Congress of Citizens, which was founded in 1970. This involvement allowed the Federation to work alongside other civic groups in the region to address shared challenges and advocate for common goals.

The 1960s and 1970s marked a period where the Montgomery County Civic Federation played a crucial role in guiding the county's significant expansion. Its influence on the "Wedges and Corridors Plan" provided a lasting framework for managing growth, while its continued advocacy for charter revisions strengthened local governance. The Federation's active committee structure and collaborative spirit ensured that it remained a relevant and

## Our History, cont.

influential voice for the residents of Montgomery County during this dynamic era

### **CONTINUED ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (1980S-1990S): ADDRESSING GROWTH AND RECOGNIZING LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS**

As Montgomery County continued to develop and evolve in the 1980s and 1990s, the Montgomery County Civic Federation maintained its commitment to advocating for the interests of its member communities and recognizing the efforts of individuals dedicated to public service.

#### **1980s**

■ The MCCF sustained its work through various standing committees, addressing critical areas such

as planning and zoning, public finance, and legislation. This ongoing committee activity provided a structured framework for the Federation's policy analysis and advocacy efforts.

■ The Federation continued its vital role in monitoring the actions of county government and engaging with the County Council on issues of significance to its membership. This ensured that the concerns and perspectives of civic associations were considered in local decision-making processes.

■ In 1980, the MCCF established the "Star Cup" award to formally recognize individuals who demonstrated exceptional dedication and activism in addressing land use issues within Montgomery County. This award served to highlight the importance of citizen involvement in shaping the county's physical development. Recipients during

the 1980s included Elvera Berson (1980), Dr. Dean W. Gibson (1982), and Peggy Erickson (1989).

■ The MCCF further expanded its recognition of civic contributions in 1989 with the creation of the Sentinel Award. This award was designed to honor individuals or groups operating outside of government who made significant contributions to good governance at the local level. The first recipient in this decade was the Citizens' Referendum on Over-Development (1989), reflecting the Federation's ongoing concern with managing growth and development.

■ The Federation also continued the tradition of recognizing outstanding public service through the Wayne Goldstein Award (originally named "The Journal Cup" in 1984). Recipients in the 1980s included Allen Bender (1984), Reverend Lincoln

## Our History, cont.

Dring, Jr. (1985), R. Scott Fossler (1986), and Jenny Sue Dunner and Dennis Lavalee (1987), showcasing a range of contributions to the community

### 1990s

■ The MCCF continued its long-standing practice of monitoring county government activities and advocating for the interests of its diverse member communities. This sustained engagement ensured that the Federation remained a relevant voice in county affairs.

■ The Federation continued to present its established awards, recognizing individuals and organizations for their contributions. Star Cup recipients in the 1990s included Fernando Bren (1990), Pamela Lindstrom and Richard Kauffunger

(1994), and Steve Howie (1999). Sentinel Award recipients included Sugarloaf Citizens' Association (1990) and Connecticut Avenue-Greenwood Knolls Civic Association (1999). Wayne Goldstein Award recipients included Frank Vrataric (1990), Robert Denny (1991), and the Montgomery InterCounty Connector Coalition (1995). The variety of these recipients highlights the breadth of civic engagement valued by the MCCF.

■ The Civic Federation was a founder in 1991 of the Committee for Montgomery, a broad coalition of community leaders that advocates to the Maryland State Government for the county's needs through collective action.

The 1980s and 1990s saw the Montgomery County Civic Federation solidify its role as a key advocate for residents and a significant con-

tributor to the civic life of the county. The establishment of the Star Cup and Sentinel Awards, alongside the continuation of the Wayne Goldstein Award, underscored the Federation's commitment to recognizing and encouraging active participation in shaping the county's future.

### ADDRESSING MODERN CHALLENGES (2000S-2010S): NAVIGATING CONTEMPORARY ISSUES AND HONORING DIVERSE CIVIC CONTRIBUTIONS

The dawn of the new millennium brought new challenges and priorities to Montgomery County, including increased development pressures, environmental concerns, and a growing focus on social equity. The Montgomery County Civic Federation continued to adapt and engage with these evolving issues.

## Our History, cont.

### 2000s

■ In 2000, the Civic Fed joined the digital age and created its own website, *www.montgomerycivic.org*. That website routinely gets 5,000 hits a month and has reached as many as 20,000 per month.

■ The MCCF maintained its fundamental role of monitoring county and state policies and legislation, ensuring that the perspectives of its member communities were represented in governmental decision-making.

■ The Sentinel Award continued to recognize significant contributions to good government, with recipients such as Sharon Constantine (2000), Montgomery Preservation Inc. (2010), and The Stormwater Partners Network (2009). These awards highlight the Federation's apprecia-

tion for efforts in areas like historic preservation and environmental stewardship.

■ The Wayne Goldstein Award honored a wide array of public service achievements, with recipients including Doris Penico (2000), The Parents' Coalition of Montgomery County (2009), and Hearts and Homes for Youth (2010). This demonstrates the MCCF's recognition of diverse forms of community engagement and service.

■ The MCCF actively utilized its Community Heroes program to celebrate individuals making impactful local contributions. Examples from this decade include Frank Vrataric (2000) for his ongoing community activism and Barney Evans (2000) for his advocacy in areas such as transportation, education, and environmental protection. The consistent use of this program underscores

the Federation's commitment to recognizing grassroots efforts.

### 2010s

■ The MCCF continued to address a broad range of contemporary concerns facing Montgomery County, including transportation, land use, environmental protection, education, budget and finance, health and human services, public safety, and ethical governance. This comprehensive focus reflects the complexity of the issues confronting the county.

■ Sentinel Award recipients during this decade included the Organizational Reform Commission (2011) and the Coalition of Bethesda Area Residents (2017), indicating the MCCF's attention to matters of governmental structure and local community advocacy in response to development pressures.

## Our History, cont.

■ The Wayne Goldstein Award continued to honor diverse forms of public service, recognizing organizations such as Friends of the Library, Montgomery County (2011) and individuals like Jamison Adcock and the Coalition Against the Avery Road Depot (2017). These awards showcase the MCCF's appreciation for efforts ranging from supporting cultural institutions to advocating against specific development projects.

■ The Community Heroes program continued to recognize numerous individuals for their dedication to improving Montgomery County. Notable examples include Jennifer Alvaro for her work in child protection (2017) and Peter Murtha for his leadership in advocating for climate change solutions (2016). The issues

highlighted by these awards provide insight into the key areas of concern within the Montgomery County community during this period.

The Montgomery County Civic Federation in the 2000s and 2010s demonstrated its continued relevance by actively engaging with contemporary challenges facing the county. Its ongoing recognition of individuals and organizations through its various awards programs highlights the diverse ways in which citizens contribute to the well-being of Montgomery County.

### **RECENT ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS (2020S): NAVIGATING CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES AND FOSTERING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE**

In the current decade, the Montgomery County Civic Federation remains a vital force in addressing the evol-

ing challenges and opportunities facing the county, with a particular focus on issues such as housing affordability, climate change, and community resilience.

### **2020-Present**

■ The MCCF continues its essential function of monitoring and engaging with county and state policies and legislation, ensuring that the perspectives of its member associations are considered in ongoing policy debates.

■ Recent recipients of the Sentinel Award include The Thrive Montgomery 2050 Neighborhood Coalition and the Citizens Coordinating Committee on Friendship Heights (2021) and the North Hills of Sligo Civic Association (2023). These awards underscore the MCCF's continued focus on significant planning initia-

## Our History, cont.

tives and local community advocacy.

■ The Wayne Goldstein Award has recently honored The Montgomery County Climate Action Plan Coalition (2021) and Cheryl Gannon and Kimblynn Persaud (2023), demonstrating the MCCF's recognition of the growing importance of addressing climate change and fostering community leadership.

■ The Community Heroes program continues to celebrate individuals making valuable contributions to the county, with recent honorees including Elliot Levine for his innovative support of food security organizations (2020) and Corinne Hart for her advocacy for pedestrian safety (2019). These recognitions reflect the MCCF's ongoing commitment to acknowledging grassroots efforts in addressing contemporary needs.

■ The MCCF has actively participated in discussions surrounding critical issues such as housing affordability, including the Attainable Housing Strategies Initiative. This engagement underscores the Federation's continued relevance in shaping the county's approach to pressing challenges.

■ The MCCF maintains its representation on various county boards, commissions, advisory committees, and working groups, ensuring that the perspective of residents is integrated into county governance.

## CONCLUSION

Over nearly a century, the Montgomery County Civic Federation has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the well-being of Montgomery County and its residents. From its foundational efforts in guiding early suburban develop-

ment and advocating for essential infrastructure, to its pivotal role in shaping the county's governmental structure through the pursuit of home rule, the MCCF has consistently acted as a powerful voice for civic engagement. Its influence on landmark planning initiatives like the "Wedges and Corridors Plan," its sustained monitoring of county and state policies, and its ongoing efforts to recognize and celebrate the contributions of individuals and organizations through its various awards programs underscore its enduring impact. As Montgomery County continues to evolve and face new challenges in the 21st century, the Montgomery County Civic Federation remains a vital institution, fostering community resilience and ensuring that the voices of residents continue to shape the county's future. ■

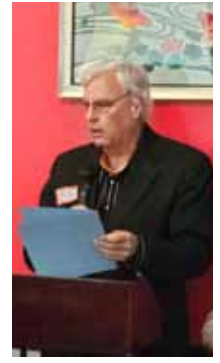
## Photos from MCCF's 100th Anniversary & Awards Celebration on June 8



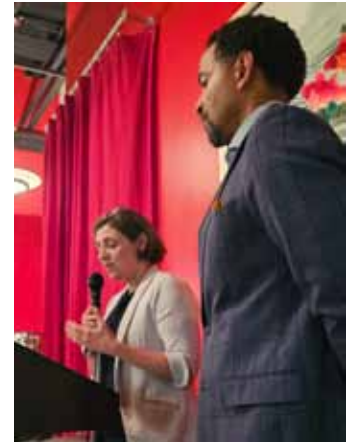
## More 100th Pix!



## More 100th Pix!



## More 100th Pix!



## More 100th Pix!



## More 100th Pix!



## New Officers Elected

The officers elected for the 2025-2026 year, which were announced at the June 100th Anniversary Celebration, are as follows:

- **President:** Cheryl Gannon, Woodside Civic Association, Silver Spring
- **First Vice President:** Joyce Gwadz, Edgemoor Citizens Association, Bethesda
- **Second Vice President:** Elizabeth Joyce, Saratoga Village Neighbors, East Silver Spring
- **Secretary:** Alan Bowser, Park Hills Civic Association, Silver Spring
- **Treasurer:** Jerry Garson, Regency Estates Civic Association, Potomac

## MCCF Annual Awards Meeting Minutes, June 8, 2025

*By Alan Bowser, Secretary*

**1. Call to Order.** President Cheryl Gannon called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. at Hollywood East Cafe in Wheaton.

**2. Awards Presentation.** President Cheryl Gannon announced that the Civic Federation was presenting several awards to outstanding individuals and organizations in the County. The following awards were presented:

**a. The Legacy of Leadership Award** was presented to former Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett. This new Civic Federation Award recognizes outstanding service to Montgomery County by a respected community leader or

elected official. Montgomery County Councilmember at Large Gabe Albornoz accepted the award on behalf of Mr. Leggett.

**b. The Sentinel Award** was presented to the Luxmanor Citizens Association. This award is given to an individual or group for a significant contribution to “good government” at the local level.

**c. The Wayne Goldstein Award** was presented to Friends of Sligo Creek, Inc. This award recognizes outstanding public service contributions by an individual or group in Montgomery County.

**d. The Star Cup** was presented to MCCF Board Member and



## June Mtg. Minutes, cont.

Committee Chair, Joe Harkins of the Parkwood Residents Association. The Star Cup is awarded to the Federation delegate or committee performing the most outstanding public service on behalf of Montgomery County.

### 3. Recognition of the Civic Federation's 100th Anniversary.

Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Civic Federation, MCCF acknowledged special citations from Maryland U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen, Maryland Congressman Jamie Raskin, Maryland State Senator Ben Kramer, and Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich.

### 4. Recognition of Elected and Appointed Officials Attending.

President Gannon acknowledged

the presence of the following elected and appointed officials attending the anniversary program: Dale Tibbitts, Special Assistant to Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich; Joseph Eyong from the Office of Congressman Jamie Raskin; County Council President Kate Stewart, County Council Vice President Will Jawando, and County Councilmembers Gabe Albornoz, Laurie-Anne Sayles and Kristen Mink; Takoma Park Mayor Talisha Searcy, and Somerset Mayor Jeffrey Slavin and Somerset Town Clerk Linda Williams; Maryland State Senators Jeff Waldstricher and Sarah Love; and State Delegates Lorig Charkodian, Marc Korman, Teresa Woorman, Sarah Wolek, Jared Solomon, and Emily Shetty.

### 5. 2025-2026 MCCF Election Results.

Nominations Committee

## WARNING! DUES SCAM ALERT

Some MCCF members have been getting scam emails asking for ridiculously high dues payments (\$36K!). Crooks are using Cheryl Gannon's name to request Civic Fed payments. Don't be fooled!  
If in doubt, email  
[info@montgomerycivic.org](mailto:info@montgomerycivic.org).

Chair Elizabeth Joyce announced the results of the 2025-26 officer elections: President Cheryl Gannon, First Vice President Joyce Gwadz, Second Vice President Elizabeth Joyce, Secretary Alan Bowser, and Treasurer Jerry Garson.

**6. Adjournment.** The program was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. ■

## MCCF Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, June 23, 2025, 7p.m., via Zoom

*By Alan Bowser, Secretary*

**1. Members Present:** Alan Bowser, Cheryl Gannon, Jerry Garson, Joe Harkins, Joyce Gwadz, Jacquie Bokow.

**2. Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Jerry Garson reported a bank balance of \$5,687.75 as of June 23, 2025.

**3. Federation Dues.** Members discussed options to make the Federation dues payment process more timely and efficient. Members discussed whether or not to disallow checks for payment, requiring all members to use the online system. They also discussed moving the dues renewal date to September 1 which would allow associations to pay dues

in the Fall. A note will be sent out to all members outlining prospective changes to the dues payment and renewal system. It was suggested that a volunteer be recruited to help with the dues management database.

**4. Land Use & Planning.** President Gannon reported on the Council's consideration of a bill that would encourage the development of workforce housing along major corridors in the County. She commented on a Council committee work session on the issue today and noted that the Committee voted to advance the bill 25-02 to the full Council. There is considerable community interest in the issues. It is anticipated that the Council will vote on the bill in July 2025, although there is substantial community interest in

having the Council vote postponed until September 2025.

**5. President Gannon reported on recent community discussions about a ZTA** that would permit the construction of a Costco mega gas station in the East County, related to the Viva White Oak project. Currently, Council regulations set specific distances from gas stations to sensitive areas. The ZTA before the Council would adjust these distances so that a mega gas station could be sited in the East County.

**6. July 14 Meeting.** Members discussed having a July meeting to discuss housing issues before the Council. The meeting would need to

## June ExCom Minutes, cont.

be held before the Council consideration of the Corridors bill.

**7. July Newsletter.** Members discussed submissions for the July newsletter. It was suggested that the newsletter contain an announcement to recruit Committee chairs and a reminder to pay dues.

**8. Programming.** 1st Vice President Joyce Gwadz noted the interest of a representative of WSSC to attend a Federation meeting and discuss community issues.

**9. 100th Anniversary Celebration Recap.** Members discussed the 100th Anniversary Celebration at the Hollywood East Cafe and commented on its success. They expressed their appreciation to all

of the attendees for recognizing the contributions of the 2025 awardees and supporting the work of the Civic Federation.

**10. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. ■

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### Montgomery County Civic Federation

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