

----- Original Message -----

From: Michael A. Saunders

To: waynemgoldstein@hotmail.com ; theelms518@earthlink.net

Cc: finnegan20903@yahoo.com ; Richard Zierdt

Sent: Monday, September 10, 2007 10:24 AM

Subject: What's wrong with this picture? Rec Center Demolition and a New HQ for Parks and Planning

Dear Mr. Goldstein and Mr. Humphrey,

Recently I wrote you and Richard Zierdt, our MCCF delegate, has discussed with you, several Parks and Planning actions taking place with respect to demolition or disposal of a number of community recreation centers within the county. Richard let me know that the MCCF is now involved in looking into this situation. I thank you for that involvement.

This week, additional information has come to light that may also interest you. It may also provide some insight into the motivation Parks and Planning apparently has for eliminating our Rec Center facilities.

Karen Helfert, our webmaster and member of Randolph Civic Association, copied me on her letter to the editor of the Gazette (included below). In her letter, she asks some pointed questions about stewardship of the County Parks' current buildings and the planned new Parks and Planning HQ known as Silverplace in Silver Spring.

My first comment when I read this letter was to ask why in Silver Spring. It is a high rent district and not central or convenient to the majority of citizens of the county, especially with the development going on up county. Also, why not on County Land, in one of the current county parks, or re-use of a current county owned and under-utilized building. -- This begs a lot of questions. Again, as Karen states, who are they serving, us or themselves?

Anyway, thanks for your commitment and interest in this problem and please let me know if there is any thing I can do.

Best Regards,
Michael A. Saunders
President, Randolph Civic Association
301-468-9268

From: "Karen_Helfert"

To: <editor@gazette.net>

Sent: Sunday, September 09, 2007 8:45 PM

Subject: What's wrong with this picture?

The Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning had to decide whether to build a glittering new headquarters building (called the Silverplace) **OR** repair and maintain local Recreation Centers.

The lure of a glitzy new headquarters won hands down, but where to find the

funds?

- get rid of "under-utilized", i.e., not "self-supporting" Recreation Centers
- defer (as they have for years) maintenance and repairs for local Recreation Centers
- avoid making improvements in local recreation centers - like making them handicapped accessible or installing air conditioning to encourage utilization
- close and demolish some Rec Centers

Just because the proposed HQ will be a "green", multi-use building does not justify building it rather than repairing and maintaining local Recreation Centers.

It would seem, if they go ahead with their proposed Rec Center closings, they would actually need LESS office space and fewer personnel.

Whose needs are they serving? themselves or the citizens of Montgomery County?