

# Montgomery County Public Schools **Retirees Association, Inc.**



P.O. Box 4367 Rockville, MD 20849-4367  
www.mcpsra.org

Volume 2021-22, Issue #3

February, 2022



## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**Dr. Debra Munk**  
*President - MCPSRA*

The COVID-19 virus, with its newest variant, continues to impact our lives and daily activities. It's hard to believe, but it's been nearly two years since we gathered together for our last MCPSRA luncheon – February 20, 2020. And, it is with great regret, that I inform you that our next luncheon, scheduled for February 17, has been canceled due to COVID health concerns. We truly hope that we will be able to meet again in April... Stay tuned!

But in spite of current challenges, our members continue to reach out to help others by volunteering at local organizations... donating money and other resources to help those in need. If you are looking for an opportunity to serve in a safe, COVID-controlled environment, consider volunteering at the Interfaith Works Clothing Center. The center has been closed for donations since the beginning of the year because of a backlog due to an increase of donations during the holiday season and a decrease of volunteers. **They desperately need more volunteers.**

Last year, the Clothing Center distributed \$2.5 million worth of clothing and household goods to 6698 clients. With only 4 full-time staff members, the Center relies heavily on volunteers. The Center has done its very best to create a safe environment by requiring all volunteers to show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test administered in the past 72 hours. Masks and gloves are provided. **Additionally, all staff members at the Clothing Center have been vaccinated.** The sorting room is a large gym-like area that allows for ample social distancing. My family and I have volunteered, and we felt safe and were gratified to be able to help our community's neediest members.

Those interested in volunteering can sign up at the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040f4faaa923a64-interfaith3>

If you would like to bring a group, then please reach out to Miranda Marks, Volunteer Coordinator [mmarks@iworksmc.org](mailto:mmarks@iworksmc.org).

(Continued on page 4.)

## MCPSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD)

### Officers:

President	Dr. Debra Munk debramunk@yahoo.com	240-426-8407
Vice President	Reginald J. Ott Regjott1@verizon.net	301-384-4901
Immediate Past President	Dr. Carol M. Dahlberg john.dahlberg234@gmail.com	301-253-2212
Recording Secretary	Dr. Donna Hollingshead DonnaShimodaHollingshead@gmail.com	301-385-2147
Treasurer	Dr. Stephen M. Raucher sraucher@comcast.net	301-318-4969

### Committee Chairs:

Archives	Marti Gray graymm0322@gmail.com	301-641-8896
Auditing	Harvey Strine strineah@verizon.net	301-251-0478
Budget Development	Dr. Stephen M. Raucher sraucher@comcast.net	301-318-4969
Community Service	VACANT	
Consumer Education	Wilma K. Holmes Wilmakholmes@gmail.com	301-580-0598
Hospitality/Luncheons	LeeAnn Kaye geolakaye@gmail.com	301-598-5480
--- Co-Chair	Trish Bendler patriciabendler0@gmail.com	301-540-5160
Insurance and Benefits	J. Thomas Hickman CTMAR28@yahoo.com	301-929-9660
Legislative	Fred S. Evans fredevans1970@gmail.com	301-706-3993
MCPSRA Projects	Joan Donovan jcjdonovan@aol.com	301-253-6099
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Newsletter Editor	Dr. Russell G. Wright russwright408@gmail.com	301-806-7252
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Parliamentarian	Nickie Neary nearynic@msn.com	301-869-0057
Political Action	Debra Mugge muggedebra010@gmail.com	
Public Relations	Bobbi Jasper Jasperbo114@gmail.com	
Recognition	Joan Donovan jcjdonovan@aol.com	301-253-6099
---Co-Chair	Juliette Trevino jgtrevino@comcast.net	301-460-9670
Scholarships (MCPSRA)	Bill Stief William_A_Stief@mcpsmd.org	301-956-5891
---Louise S. Walker	Margaret Brown margdell@gmail.com	301-910-2305
Trips	VACANT	

## BUSINESS MEETING/LUNCHEON

Business meeting/luncheons are held four times a year at the delightful Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac, MD 20854.



Normandie Farm Restaurant

### February 17, 2022 Luncheon

Well... it has happened again! Just as we thought we could have the February luncheon, covid struck again! Along came omicron.

The same thing happened in October. The Board of Directors was ready to go ahead with the luncheon, but delta reared its ugly head.

As more people were being vaccinated and boosted and vaccines became available for young people and delta seemed to be retreating, the Board felt that finally, we could hold the February luncheon.

Unfortunately, omicron is surging. It is just too risky now to have the February luncheon. Safety of our members is a priority. Let's cross our fingers and hope we will be able to hold the April 21 luncheon. It would be wonderful to see everyone again! The popovers are waiting for us!

Meanwhile, be safe and take care. I hope to see you Thursday, April 21, 2022, at Normandie Farm.

The dates for the remaining luncheons are:

April 21, 2022

June 16, 2022

Keep your fingers crossed that we will be able to gather together in 2022



LeeAnn Kaye



## FOR THE LOVE OF CHILDREN

What motivates people to do what they do for others? Is it with the hope of getting something in return? Is it for personal gain or recognition? Or is it our innate human nature to be caring, loving, and compassionate especially at times when others need us most? Most of us would agree that showing love and understanding warms the hearts of not only the recipients but also the givers.

Have you ever tried to explain in words to a child what *LOVE* is? Try to write a love letter to a child sometime. What would you include? Would it be something like this:

*Dearest Child,*

*How very much your presence in my life defines my happiness and purpose. Every smile you send my way, every word you utter, every hug you share with me, fills my heart to overflowing with a feeling of awe and gratitude. You are so beautiful, so gifted with talents that make you uniquely you, a cherished blessing to all that know you. I treasure each moment that you are in my life. You make my life worth living. You are my whole world. May you always feel in your heart and understand just how deeply you are valued and **loved**.*

Just try it - it's harder than you think!

Do children really listen to or understand what we say or write? Or do they respond more readily to what we do? We know the answer to that, don't we? If a smile is worth a thousand words, what do you think a hug is worth? And just how much more do care, love, and compassion mean when given to a child in a time of need. That's why we can honestly describe our **Toolkits Project** as a **Project of Love**. It not only provides the needy kindergartners who receive these toolkits with the school supplies that they desperately need at home, but it shows these children just how much they are valued for who they are, that they are our very best hope for the future, and most especially that they are loved. Everyone who has ever sponsored kits in the past by making a donation to our project should have the experience of seeing the expressions of joy on the faces of the children who received their toolkits. And the hugs! Why do we work so hard on this project? Now you know!

Please show your love of children by filling out the sponsorship form below and sending it along with your tax-deductible donation to our project. Let your caring spirit guide your generosity. The children will *love* you for it!

With much gratitude, Joan Donovan

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### **MCPSRA TOOLKITS SPONSORSHIP FORM**

Please provide (print clearly) the following information and mail it along with a check (payable to: **MCPS Educational Foundation**, with "**Toolkits Project**" on the memo line) to Mrs. Joan Donovan, 13 Hilton Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20882-3521

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to sponsor # \_\_\_\_\_ toolkits at \$10 per kit. Donation enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Optional: In memory of \_\_\_\_\_ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Send acknowledgement to \_\_\_\_\_

Select one: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail me a receipt at \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ mail me a receipt \_\_\_\_\_ no receipt is necessary

\_\_\_\_\_ Do **NOT** include my name on the toolkits labels

# Welcome New Members

## Joined in November 2021

Judith B. Bruening	11217 Trippon Ct. Gaithersburg, MD 20878	301-340-0704
Linda A. Jasper	2912 Aquarius Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20906	301-785-2630
Anne Manuel	2021 Luzerne Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910	301-588-2328
Robert W. Newcomb	13120 Two Farm Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20904	301-622-0177
David W. Sampsele	1001 Carroll Pkwy, Apt. 416 Frederick, MD 21771	301-514-8058
Maria M. Smith	24061 Sugar Cane Ln., Gaithersburg, MD 20882	301-253-3359
Deborah Szyfer	6405 Tone Dr., Bethesda, MD 20817	301-320-2833

## Joined in December 2021

Joan M. Chongpinitchai	1112 Spotswood Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20905	301-421-5909
Ann Gallahan	7804 Potters Mill Court Derwood, MD 20855-1025	240-686-9011
Jill Garber	293 West Coach Rd., Boulder, CO 80302	301-928-8594
George H. Mitchell	4704 Dorsey Hall Dr, Unit 206 Ellicott City, MD 21042	443-440-2564
Sarah C. Whorton-Waters	9725 Whetstone Dr., Montgomery Village, MD 20886	240-476-1736

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(President's Message continued from page 1.)

This year MCPSRA will continue to provide scholarships to MCPS employees pursuing advanced degrees and professional development. We provide two types of scholarship awards of up to \$1500 each: the Walker Scholarship (for teachers only) and the MCPSRA scholarship (for all MCPS staff). Last year 126 staff members applied, and we awarded 18 scholarships, amounting to a total of \$27,000. This year's deadline is May 6, 2022.

Additionally, Deb Mugge, our Political Action Chair, is preparing for candidate interviews for the upcoming elections. If you

would like to serve on her committee and participate in interviews, please contact her at [muggedebra010@gmail.com](mailto:muggedebra010@gmail.com). This is a great way to get involved in the democratic process and to participate in identifying MCPSRA endorsements.

On behalf of the MCPSRA Board, I hope this message finds you well, in spite of the challenges of COVID and winter weather. Let's hope the groundhog doesn't see his shadow. Bring on spring!

Warm regards,  
Debra Munk

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## MCPSRA Consumer Report by Reggie Ott

Your membership in MCPSRA assures that you are a member of the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association (MRSPA). As a result, you have access to the bi-monthly Consumer Connection Newsletter published by the MRSPA Consumer Education Committee which offers a full array of consumer information.

From Kathy Stokes, AARP –Watchdog Alerts

## Crypto—Same scams, Different Currency

Cryptocurrency such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, and Dogecoin are soaring in popularity these days. Indeed, these virtual currencies, which are not regulated, can lead to profit for some investors. And scammers are more than happy to adapt traditional scams to this new space to try to line their own pockets along the way.

What you should know:

- Pitches that claim virtual currency investments offer little or no risk are seeking to deceive you. The value of virtual currencies is driven entirely by supply and demand, which can create wild swings that can produce big gains, but also big losses.

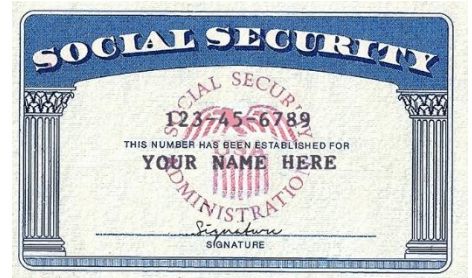
What you should do:

- Understand the risk, even if it's not a scam, cryptocurrency is a new and highly volatile way to invest.
- Never invest in a virtual currency at the urging of someone who contacts you out of the blue or whom you have only met online.
- Never share your “private keys”, the long letter-and-number codes that allow you to access your virtual currency, with anyone. Keep them in a secure place.

## From AARP—The Eleven Worst Things to Carry in Your Wallet

These Items are better stored in a fireproof lock box, or a safe deposit box depending on how often you need to access them:

1. Social Security card
2. Covid-19 Vaccination record card (which carries your date of birth and hints at where you live)
3. Multiple credit cards and credit card receipts
4. Checkbook, or even one blank check
5. Work ID card
6. Passport or passport card
7. List of passwords
8. Gift card not fully redeemed
9. Birth certificate
10. Library card (It sounds benign, but a thief can check out lots of books and sell them for a buck or two apiece)



“We all think we’re being careful, but it takes one second for a criminal to steal our wallet or purse”- Amy Notziger, AARP’s Director of Fraud Victim Support

January is *National Glaucoma Awareness Month*

- More than 2.2 million Americans and over 60 million people worldwide, have glaucoma, and experts estimate that half of the people who have glaucoma don’t even know they are afflicted. Glaucoma is the leading cause of blindness. While glaucoma can impact people of any age, the risk increases as we age. People over 70 are three to eight times more likely to develop some form of glaucoma than their younger counterparts.
- Regular eye examinations are essential to preserve vision, especially for seniors and others in high-risk groups

Finally, if you are feeling bored, *January is National Hobby Month*.

- Check out your local library for some great options!! There are many “how to” books and virtual classes for many hobbies!

Notes taken from **Consumer Connection**, A publication of the MRSPA Consumer Education Committee

January-February, 2022

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## 20<sup>th</sup> Century Arm-Chair Philosophers from Skip Rideout (Continued on page 10)

The only reason they say 'Women and children first' is to test the strength of the lifeboats.

Jean Kerr

When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife.

Prince Philip

I'm not a paranoid, deranged millionaire. Actually, I'm a billionaire.

Howard Hughes

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.

George Burns

One good reason to only maintain a small circle of friends is that three out of four murders are committed by people who know the victim.

George Carlin

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## PROFILES IN RETIREMENT by Bobbi Jasper

No profiles for this issue. If you are doing anything that other members might find interesting, please reach out to Bobbi Jasper. Her email address is [Jasperbo114@gmail.com](mailto:Jasperbo114@gmail.com) .

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# ***In Memoriam***

The following MCPSRA members passed away in 2021:

## **JANUARY**

Harry J. Brennan  
Marguerite R. Bridge  
Mattie W. Brown  
Queen E. Pulliam  
Anne L. Radin

## **FEBRUARY**

Robert E. Anastasi  
Adda Barrett Clark  
Lola C. Gimmel  
Henry B. Heller  
Mary Frances Jones Mooneyham  
Helen F. Matheny  
Odette B. Stebbins  
Sheila J. Stout

## **MARCH**

Pearl R. Flowers  
Margaret J. Gentile  
Margaret F. Gonzales  
Allan J. Halper  
Phyllis Parks Robinson  
Nellie H. Rys  
Rita L. Tietze  
Anita J. Willens

## **APRIL**

Kathleen S. Andersen  
E. Joyce Katz  
Irving M. Sheltzer  
Victor H. Small  
William L. Young

## **MAY**

Robert A. Davis  
Richard J. Ervin, Jr.  
Virginia E. Holborow

## **JUNE**

George C. King  
Barbara Lewis  
Dolores M. Nolan  
Nancy H. Powell  
James W. Wolf

## **JULY**

George E. Bryan  
Nancy C. DuMars  
William V. Jordan

Roe D. June  
Edith M. Rusher  
Jean E. Schwindaman  
Judith L. Tarr  
Elizabeth T. Walle  
Orlow R. Zumwalt

## **AUGUST**

Barbara L. Adams  
Harry (Mike) M. Farrell  
Marlene Kay Gunther  
Frederick A. Hardy  
Katherine M. Hauprich  
Lelia J. Hoffmaster  
Deena O. Levine

## **SEPTEMBER**

Mary Lou Galpin  
Lona E. Hackenberg  
Sandra R. Kramer  
Judy E. Low  
Johanna L. Lyskawa  
Dorothy G. Mattes  
Mary H. Witt

## **OCTOBER**

Elizabeth (Betty) K. Barbe  
Robert H. Emery, Jr  
Lowell R. Fritts  
Louise C. Giuliano  
Warren E. Groomes  
Leroy Harper  
Dorothy J. Jackson-Christian  
Catherine P. Johnston  
Lillian K. Miller  
Waveline Starnes  
Dorothy L. Williams

## **NOVEMBER**

Roger J. Gessay  
Delores B. Hutson  
Gerald W. James  
Judith Stein  
Laverne A. Toler

## **DECEMBER**

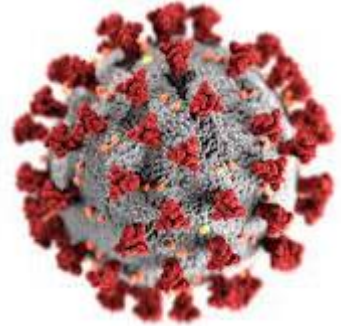
Angelia R. Cox  
Catherine E. Kazmierczak  
Mary M. Perhach

## MCPSRA COMMUNITY BOARD

As a service to our members, The MCPSRA includes information in the newsletter regarding no-cost community events and opportunities that are appropriate and of interest to retirees. Note that submissions may be edited, shortened, or excluded based as space permits. Events requiring a fee to participate will not be included on the Community Board, but may be submitted for consideration as an advertisement with an associated fee. Send items for consideration to [jasperbo114@gmail.com](mailto:jasperbo114@gmail.com) or Bobbi Jasper, 7104 Old Stage Rd. Rockville, MD 20852

### COVID 19 Information

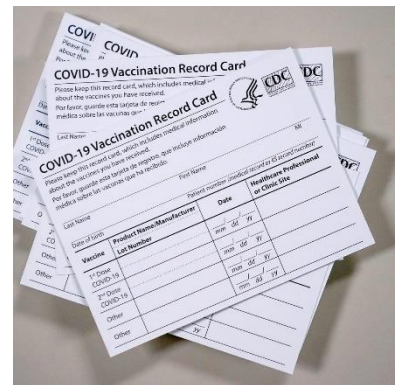
**Are you seeking information on how to get tested or vaccinated for COVID 19?** Click here to go the [Montgomery County Government COVID-19 Information Portal](#)



For the latest information on cost-free COVID 19 testing and vaccination clinics, access the COVID 19 Information Portal on the Montgomery County Government Website at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov) or call 240-777-2982 for assistance in making an appointment.

### \*\*\*Get a copy of your vaccination record\*\*\*

County Council is considering a “vaccine passport”. County Executive Marc Elrich said during in a recent briefing that the focus for the passport would be on indoor dining, entertainment venues, gyms and similar businesses that customers visit, just like D.C.’s new requirement.



#### Online

For an online record of your COVID-19 vaccination, [view your account in Maryland MyIR](#). MyIR is Maryland's online immunization record system. It is considered your official record of vaccination. If you have trouble accessing your online record, [use the MyIR Help](#). If your record does not show up on MyIR, [request help for an "unmatched record"](#).

#### Email copy

If you were vaccinated at a County-operated clinic, we can email you a copy of your record. To request a copy, email [c19vaccination@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:c19vaccination@montgomerycountymd.gov) or call 240-777-2982. They cannot provide duplicate CDC vaccination cards.



## The Montgomery County Government Website for Seniors

To keep up with the latest news for Seniors in Montgomery County, visit the Montgomery County Government Seniors website at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/senior/> The Website has information about many topics of concern, including, but not limited to, consumer issues, Health, Recreation, Senior housing, Taxes & Finances, Transportation and more.

### “Connect-A-Ride”

**Do you need transportation within the county?**

Call 301-738-3252 Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. or contact

[connectarisde@AccessJCA.org](mailto:connectarisde@AccessJCA.org)



Connect-A-Ride (CAR) is a free information and referral service that helps adults over 50 find transportation for medical services, errands, social activities and more. It connects callers with public, private and volunteer transportation services (including escorted transportation). It is funded by the Montgomery County Government

and operated by the Jewish Council for the Aging.

Free Ride-On and Metrobus public transportation is available to seniors 65 or older from 9:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday; and until 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. Outside of these hours, seniors pay half fare. Metro Senior SmarTrip Card or Medicare Card with photo ID required. For Metro schedule information, call 311.



For Seniors -

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/for-you/seniors.html>

MCPL offers programming and services for adults 50+ that are designed to reflect the wide interests of today’s older adults. Come check out our book clubs, computer help, tax preparation, music performances, and health and wellness programs.

## **KEEP ACTIVE - Montgomery County Recreation for Seniors**

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/activitiesandprograms/seniors/>

Montgomery County Recreation has many ways for independent adults, 55 and over to stay



active and healthy. Check out the [Aquatics](#), [Classes](#), and/or [SOAR/Day Tripper](#) sections. There are programs in each section geared to those 55 and over. For more information, contact the Senior Center or Active Adult Program location nearest you. [Click here for the Winter 2021-2022 Guide](#). They also have a program guide specifically for Seniors at [“55 & Better”](#)

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### **20<sup>th</sup> Century Arm-Chair Philosophers** (Continued from page 6)

Wood burns faster when you have to cut and chop it yourself.

**Harrison Ford**

The best cure for Sea Sickness is to sit under a tree.

**Spike Milligan**

Having more money doesn't make you happier. I have 50 million dollars but I'm just as happy as when I had 48 million.

Arnold Schwarzenegger

We are here on earth to do good unto others. What the others are here for, I have no idea. Cheers!

WH Auden

If life were fair, Elvis would still be alive today and all the impersonators would be dead.

Johnny Carson

Hollywood must be the only place on earth where you can be fired by a man wearing a Hawaiian shirt and a baseball cap.

Steve Martin

Home cooking. Where many a man thinks his wife is.

Jimmy Durante

The first piece of luggage on the carousel never belongs to anyone.

George Roberts

If God had intended us to fly, he would have made it easier to get to the airport.

Jonathan Winters

I have kleptomania, but when it gets bad, I take something for it.

Robert Benchley

I love being married. It's so great to find that one special person you want to annoy for the rest of your life.

Rita Rudner

Life is always walking up to us and saying, 'Come on in, the living's fine,' and what do we do? Back off and take its picture.

Russell Baker

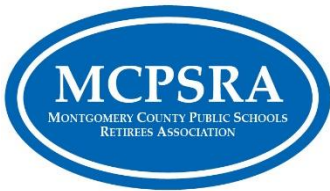
America is the only country where a significant proportion of the population believes that professional wrestling is real but the moon landing was faked.

David Letterman

Montgomery County Public Schools  
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Rockville, MD 20849

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**DATED MATERIAL**



**MCPSRA** is more than an acronym—it's a mission! We're here to protect your pension and your health benefits, and inspire the dedication, commitment, skills and abilities of our members in service to our fellow retirees and the entire community. Please encourage your retired friends to join us in our important work and in the fun of our luncheons if and when they start up again.

**The MCPSRA Newsletter is published in  
October, December, February, April, and June.**

**This is the February, 2022 issue.**