

Montgomery County Public Schools Retirees Association, Inc.



P.O. Box 4367 Rockville, MD 20849-4367

www.mcpsra.org

Volume 2023-24, Issue #1

October 2023



PRESIDENT'S

MESSAGE

Dr. Debra Munk
President - MCPSRA

As the days get shorter, and the leaves produce their annual color-fest, we are reminded of the marvelous turn

of seasons that makes wherever we live so amazing. When I was cooped up in a school building, I rarely noticed the changes, except when I was freezing along the sidelines in mid-November, hoping that each football game would be the last. Since I retired, I try to walk early each morning—often before daylight. I have become acutely aware of the seasonal rotation and the daylight changes. We truly live on a wonderful planet.

This year we welcome a new member to the MCPSRA Board of Directors: Barbara Woodward. Barbara is the former principal of Hallie Welles Middle School and will be serving as Public Relations Chair. We currently have one vacant position on the board: Community Service Chair. If you have both the time and interest to explore service opportunities for our members, kindly let me know.

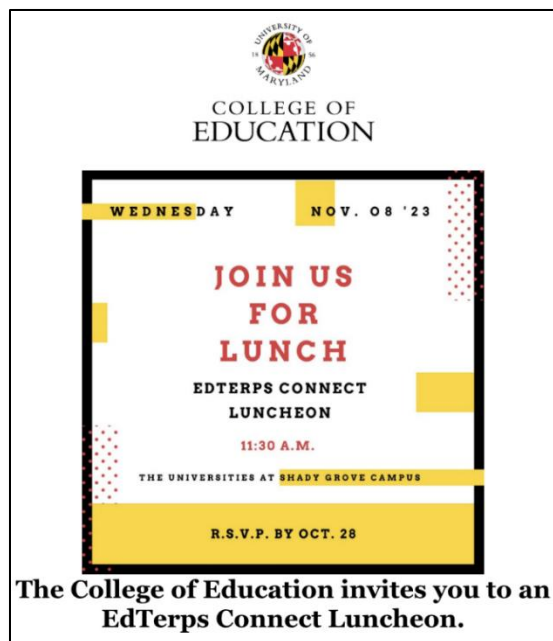


Barbara Woodward

MCPSRA continues to pursue parity in benefits between retirees and active employees. We believe that since retirees pay more than active members for benefits, they should at least receive the same level of coverage. During the MCPS Board of Education Business Meeting scheduled for October 12, 2023, MCPSRA will present information regarding the disparities between retiree and active employee medical, dental, and life insurance benefits. We will be advocating for parity in these benefits. We strongly urge all retirees to participate in this crucial meeting to showcase the unity and influence of our

membership. Let's aim to pack the Board Meeting Room to capacity! A subsequent email will provide the exact timing for our presentation.

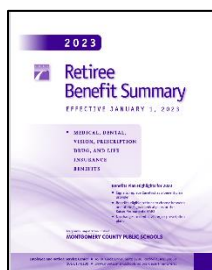
This fall MCPSRA is offering several exciting opportunities for members. Partnering with the University of Maryland, College Park College of Education, we are hosting a free luncheon for all retirees who are UMD alums (See the posting in this newsletter on page 9.) on Nov. 8, 2023. The luncheon will be held at the Universities of Shady Grove and will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with classmates and become informed on College of Education matters. Dean Kimberly Griffin and Superintendent Monifa McKnight will be honored guests.



On Oct. 12, MCPSRA is hosting its first Happy Hour! Join us at Brookville Beer Farm at 4:00 pm (see full announcement on page 6). This will be an informal opportunity to connect with other retirees.

And join us on October 26, at our Fall Luncheon at Montgomery Country Club. Information and the registration form are attached to this newsletter.

(Continued on page 9)



MCPSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD)

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President	Dr. Debra Munk debramunk@yahoo.com	240-426-8407
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--- Louise S. Walker	Margaret Brown margdell@gmail.com	301-910-2305
Trips	Bernadette Rager bg.rager@verizon.net	301-774-0345

BUSINESS MEETING/LUNCHEON

Business meetings/luncheons are held four times a year at Montgomery Country Club, 20908 Golf View Dr., Laytonsville, MD 20882.



MCPSRA LUNCHEONS RESUME

The MCPSRA business meetings and luncheons resume. Welcome back to those who have attended and welcome to new retirees!

Luncheons are a fun time to resume friendships and to meet new people and to learn what your association is doing for you! Programs are interesting and informative.

Our first luncheon is Thursday, October 26, and will be a buffet. See the back page of this newsletter to see the menu.

The Montgomery Country Club is in a beautiful country setting just 6 miles northeast of Gaithersburg and 6.5 miles west of Olney.

MCC is totally handicapped accessible, and parking is plentiful. If you need handicapped parking, once in the parking lot, drive towards the right side.

If you have not yet attended an MCPSRA luncheon, I encourage you to do so. If you're concerned about food allergies, we can accommodate you. If you think you won't know anyone, you might be surprised at who you will meet. Or bring along one of your previous colleagues.

If you have any questions, please contact me at LeeAnn Kaye, 301-598-5480 or geolakaye@gmail.com.

I hope to see you on Thursday, October 26.

Save the following dates for future luncheons at Montgomery Country Club, 20908 Golf View Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20882:

February 29, 2024
April 25, 2024
June 13, 2024



THE BEST ATTITUDE IS GRATITUDE

MCPSRA is committed to making a positive difference in the lives of its members and the lives of needy young people in our county. Since it was initiated in 2003, the **Toolkits Project** has focused on thousands and thousands of the children living in poverty in Montgomery County. It provided them with the supplies they needed to assure a fair chance of success as they started their educational adventure into kindergarten. The number of needy children has grown dramatically over the 20 years of the Toolkits Project. At times our commitment has brought us challenges and stress: fundraising stalled at the same time needs and costs escalated. But failure has never been an option. Have faith! People don't fail, they give up, but we will never give up as long as the need for our project exists in our county.

The response to every challenge has been incredible! MCPSRA members, supporting corporations, and other friends of the project have come through with very generous donations for 2 long decades.

Although a mere *Thank You* may seem inadequate, here goes...

During this past summer we were able to assemble and distribute **2,100** toolkits to kindergartners at 36 elementary school sites. The children were participants in the 3-week long, Title I **Extended Learning Opportunities Summer Adventures In Learning (ELO SAIL)** program. The kits were made possible by the generosity of approximately 225 individual donors and the Educational Systems Federal Credit Union (ESFCU) (thanks to Dominic Powell, Vice President of Development and Partnerships). The ESFCU provided rulers and pencils for each kit as well as a very generous monetary contribution.

Pam Grant and Diane Wells worked countless hours and days completing the numerous tasks that had to be done before the kits could go out to the schools. We are grateful to everyone who collected the bottle caps that are placed with lesson plans in each kit for use as math manipulatives. Rodrigo Godinez and Camiele Jones-Akinkuowo, the Title I coordinating specialists made it possible for us to complete our tasks well within the abbreviated timeframe available.

Most important to our project's success has been Kevin Soisson and his crew at the MCPS Department of Materials Management in Rockville. Kevin provides the warehouse space where we assemble the kits, he orders the items for each kit (as well as plastic shoe boxes to hold those items) and makes sure the kits are delivered to the ELO-SAIL sites on time. Thanks to **everyone** who made this project such a successful one this summer!

Now we must begin to plan for next summer's project and embark on a new fundraising campaign. PLEASE fill out the form below and send in your tax-deductible contribution for this crucial project. Checks **MUST** be made payable to: **MCPS Educational Foundation** with "Toolkits Project" on the memo line at the bottom of your check.

With MUCH gratitude, Joan Donovan

-----detach here-----

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 May 2023

Noelie K. Angevine 13501 Clear Morning Place, Germantown, MD 20784 301-972-8272

Joined in June 2023

Susan Eleanor Adams 506 Maple Ridge Ln., Harpers Ferry, WV 25425 703-609-6123
Sean M. Ambrose 227 Mara Rose Lane, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425 304-283-9340
Brenda A. Aswall 4285 Deborah Ct., Mount Airy, MD 21771 301-831-0173
Dianne L. Bisselle 14214 Catamount Ct., Silver Spring, MD 20906 301-792-2819
Teresa J. Brown 9928 Brixton Ln., Bethesda, MD 20817 301-520-3613
Leonard P. Dermont 1751 T Street NW, Washington, DC 20009 202-550-1789
Sheri L. Diegelmann-Ausura 12 Noblewood Ct., Gaithersburg, MD 20878 301-943-9093
Nancy J. Flowers 9616 S Main St., Apt 221, Damascus, MD 20872 301-922-1495
Kathleen B. Foreman 9711 Ambergate Ct., Gaithersburg, MD 20882 301-502-7187
Andrea Gates 4904 Mercury Dr., Rockville, MD 20853 301-942-2686
Harriett E. Hamlin 6429 Roselie Ln., Riverdale, MD 20737-1788 240-893-5564
Alan L. Heard 7735 Scotland Dr., Potomac, MD 20854 301-983-3015
Tova Irving 14404 Nadine Dr., Rockville, MD 20853 301-460-2847
Stephanie Jones 100 Saxton Ct., Upper Marlboro, MD 20774 202-258-8127
Allan Salim Kamara 8414 Saint Regis Way, Montgomery Village, MD 20886 301-917-4513
Suzanne Kirby 17304 Dowden Way, Poolesville, MD 20837-2143 301-910-0670
Rita S. Kolnik 4912 Waterfowl Way, Rockville, MD 20853 240-888-5319
Therese O. Louie 6422 Camrose Terrace, Bethesda, MD 20817-1610 301-214-1423
Laura L. Miller 1903 Bishops Castle Dr., Olney, MD 20832 301-793-9722
Deborah J. Overly 9 Fiddleleaf Ct., Olney, MD 20832 301-509-4563
Beth M. Phillips 7267 Mill Run Dr., Derwood, MD 20855 703-899-7276
Lisa L. Rodriguez 3404 John Carroll Dr., Olney, MD 20832 301-651-3957
Diana T. Rye 24124 Doreen Dr., Gaithersburg, MD 20882 301-318-0068
Yolanda C. Speights 14807 Hardcastle St., Laurel, MD 20707 443-801-3292
Cynthia A. Taylor 13126 Broadmore Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904 301-989-1143
Kristie Mulligan Welch 7500 Boxberry Terrace, Gaithersburg, MD 20879 301-924-1439

Joined in July 2023

Amy Domingos 409 Ashton Rd., Ashton, MD 20861 240-286-3597
Carol Ann Baker 1002 Azalea Dr., Rockville, MD 20850 240-328-3880
Linda M. Beach 130198 Graceham Rd., Thurmont, MD 21788 240-818-8478
Karen S. Boettner 608 Huntover Ln., Frederick, MD 21703 240-446-1471
Patricia (Patty) C. Bush 3260 Danmark Dr., Glenwood, MA 21738 410-245-6081
Paul E. Foringer 16008 Davon Pine Ct., Gaithersburg, MD 20878 240-888-3348
Barbara Friedlander 914 Rockborn St., Gaithersburg, MD 20878 301-806-3738
Linda L. Glixon 17820 Pond Rd., Ashton, MD 20861 301-706-2624
Susan M. Howard 3418 Tudor Dr., Adamstown, MD 21710 601-992-6275
Kathleen B. Jenkins 10809 Hob Nail Ct., Potomac, MD 20854 301-775-1398
Gyungae Kim 15304 Winesap Dr., North Potomac, MD 20878 317-518-0286
Dina S. Link 17205 Chriswell Rd., Poolesville, MD 20837
Jenny Jasmin Lizarazo 10504 Moxley Rd., Damascus, MD 20872 301-908-7350
Wendy A. Macan 7113 Rivers View Ct., Columbia, MD 21044 443-306-0536
Silvia Y. Maranon 200 Cedar Ln., Rockville, MD 20851 240-277-8115
Sarah L. Merollini 24601 Woodfield School Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20882 301-252-4337
Duane A. Merson 9715 Beall Ave., Damascus, MD 20872 240-423-9345
Mary Moore 701 Justin Way, Silver Spring, MD 20901 301-919-8638
Claire J. Myles 5904 Beech Ave., Bethesda, MD 20617 301-806-3136
Christopher Pucciarelli 300 Poultney Pl., New Market, MD 21774 240-793-2562
Pamela L. Rowe 9504 Burgandy Ln., Clarksville, MD 21029 410-531-7738
Joan Schwartz 25000 Applecross Terrace, Damascus, MD 20872 301-253-6828
Babacar Sy 9804 Walker House Rd. # 6, City Montgomery Village, MD 20886 301-987-8428
Maude C. Windsor 5614 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20015 202-966-2622

Joined in August 2023

Faith Eichner Adler
Tina D Claxton
Janice Demare
Susan Hechler
Susan C James
Judith Lynne Mills

413 Midsummer Dr., Gaithersburg, MD 20878-5225
6405 Spicewind Ct., Columbia, MD 21045
17012 Olde Mill Run, Derwood, MD 20855
5 Mentmore Ct., North Potomac, MD 20878
7 Puritan Ct., Damascus, MD 20872-2921
11205 Maine Cove Drive, North Potomac, MD 20878

301-704-8941
410-868-3460
240-354-6648
301-461-2116
301-641-2730
240-223-7271

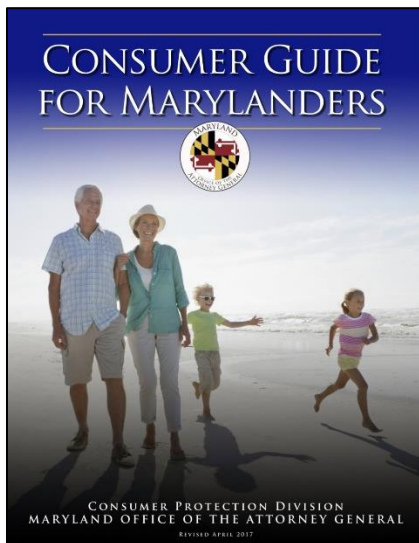
MCPSRA Consumer Education by Deb Berner

Oct-Nov 2023

Welcome back to another year of Consumer Education! With the fall equinox, which began on Saturday, September 23rd, we can officially say that fall is here! *“A fallen leaf is nothing more than a summer’s wave goodbye.”*

****Protect Yourself...How to avoid scams and fraud**

When I was a principal, my email was hacked time and time again. Staff would contact me asking, for example: “When do you need the gift cards and how many do you want?” they would ask. It was always a scam as I had not sent the email. I would promptly direct them to report it. Recently, I was contacted through a personal email from a friend to make a purchase. It seemed a little odd and having gone through this before, I called the friend and found out their email had been hacked and several people received the same scam email. Glad I called!



MCPS includes info on spam, scam emails, and fraudulent activity as part of their back-to-school training. But what should we do now that we no longer get these updates? Scams and fraudulent email activity have been on the rise. As we approach the holidays, these activities are likely to increase. Protecting yourself, your finances, and precious possessions is easier when you are informed. In reviewing information online, I came across this Consumer Guide for Marylanders, a guide produced by the Office of the Attorney General. It is a 36-page booklet on avoiding scams and fraud.

Read it online at:

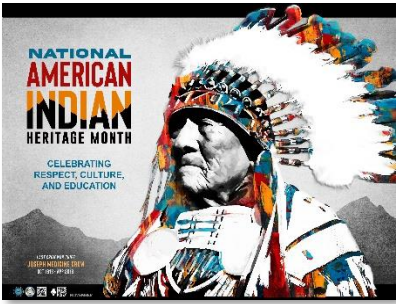
[https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/CPD%20Documents/Tips-](https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/CPD%20Documents/Tips-Publications/ConsumerGuideForMarylanders.pdf)

[Publications/ConsumerGuideForMarylanders.pdf](https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/CPD%20Documents/Tips-Publications/ConsumerGuideForMarylanders.pdf) or request a free copy by mail by calling 410-576-6500 or toll-free 1-888-743-0023.

****Best Deals in Oct and November**

According to Nerd Wallet (<https://www.nerdwallet.com/article/finance/what-to-buy-every-month>), there will be plenty of deals during the month of October for outdoor furniture and jeans. And if you can wait until closer to Halloween, candy deals will also be available. Deals in November revolve around “Black Friday” sales. You will be able to find deals on electronics, clothing and tools not just on “Black Friday”, but throughout the month.





** November is Native American Heritage Month

“Every year on November 1st, Native American Heritage Month is celebrated to honor the remarkable Native Americans who have contributed much to improve the character of the nation. This month is also referred to as the American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. November is the time to rejoice in diverse and rich cultures, histories, and traditions and to appreciate the great contributions of the Native Americans.” Plan to visit a museum or learn more at: <https://nationaltoday.com/american-heritage-month/>

** Salute a Veteran

Veterans Day is always celebrated every November 11th regardless of the day of the week, to honor the many individuals who have gone over and beyond the call of duty to protect our way of life as citizens and to protect the Constitution of the United States. This year it will be celebrated on Saturday, November 11, 2023. The theme for Veterans Day 2023 is *Service*. *Service* reflects the military value and tradition of answering the call to duty. If you are a Veteran, thank you for your service!



***Trivia fact:** Does *Veterans Day* have an apostrophe?

Veterans Day is often incorrectly written as “Veteran’s Day” or “Veterans’ Day.” But, in fact, it’s apostrophe free. *Veteran’s Day* would definitely be incorrect because it would mean a day for only *one* veteran. Also, a person may know any number of veterans, which means this day can’t use an apostrophe the way *Mother’s Day* and *Father’s Day* do. These holidays emphasize that a person can dedicate the day to their own parent(s). Source <https://www.thesaurus.com>

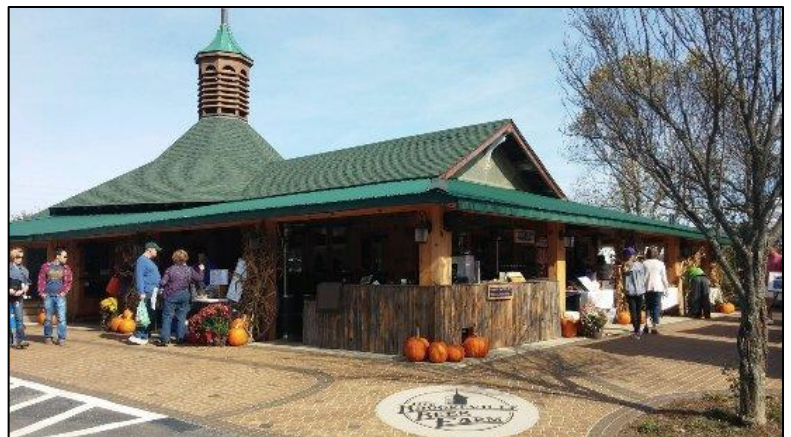
****Thought for the day:** As we approach Thanksgiving, we have many things to celebrate and be thankful for. Take a minute or more to sit back and reflect on what this means to you.

“Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our Thanksgiving.” ...*W.T. Purkiser*

*Please check out the **Consumer Connection** newsletter on the Maryland Retired School Personnel Association site at <https://mrspa.org> for more updates and information.

On Oct. 12, MCPSRA is hosting its first ever Happy Hour!

Join us at 4:00 pm at **The Brookville Beer Farm** 20315 A Georgia Ave., Brookeville, MD 20833. This will be an informal opportunity to connect with other retirees. Beer, pizza, and light snacks are available for purchase.



INVITATION FOR RETIREES TO WORK

The MCPS Office of Human Resources and Development is looking for retirees who would like to return to work either full- or part-time.

The contact information for retirees who are interested but have questions and/or would like support with the return process is below:

Certificated Staff

Ella Jennings-Johnson

Ella_M_Jennings@mcpsmd.org

301-279-3278

Supporting Services Staff

Ella Jennings-Johnson

Ella_M_Jennings@mcpsmd.org

301-279-3278

Administrative Staff

Alexandra Guillen

Alexandra_R_Guillen@mcpsmd.org

240-740-5777

Thanks to the hard work of the MCPSRA Board of Directors, the customary \$62 fingerprinting fee of has been waived for retirees.

Paid advertisement:

**One of
Johns Hopkins'
Best Kept Secrets...**

...is the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Johns Hopkins. Here, you'll find top-quality noncredit education and a community that loves learning. Curious and engaged adults join passionate faculty to explore and better understand the humanities, the sciences, the world, and one another. Classes are offered in-person and online.

**For information on membership,
visit osher.jhu.edu or call 301-294-7058.**

**BECOME AN OSHER MEMBER TODAY
—WE DON'T MIND SHARING THE SECRET.**

OSHER
LIFELONG
LEARNING
INSTITUTE

 **JOHNS HOPKINS**
KRIEGER SCHOOL
of ARTS & SCIENCES



COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION



The College of Education invites you to an
EdTerps Connect Luncheon.

This is a special luncheon for MCPS Retirees who
are also University of Maryland, College Park
Alumni.

Wednesday, November 8, at 11:30 a.m.
Universities at Shady Grove
Building II
9630 Gudelsky Drive
Rockville, MD 20850

Please join us for lunch with distinguished alumnae:
*Dr. Kimberly Griffin, M.A. '01, Dean of the College
of Education*

&

*Dr. Monifa McKnight, Ed.D. '14, Superintendent of
Montgomery County Public Schools*

This social event will be an opportunity to reconnect with the university
and your MCPS community.

There is a \$5.00 registration fee for this event.

*Visitor parking is located on Levels 2-6 of Traville Gateway
Garage, Shady Grove Garage and Lot 2*

Please RSVP by October 28, by visiting:
<https://go.umd.edu/mcpsedterps23>



Follow us on Facebook @
Maryland MCPS Retirees
Association



Join our Private Members only Facebook Group @ MCPSRA

Please note: There is an older Facebook page called Montgomery County Public Schools Retirees Association that is no longer active. Unfortunately we do not know who owns this account and have been unable to deactivate it. If you happen to know who started this account please contact christina.p.sutter@gmail.com.

In Memoriam

The following MCPSRA members have passed away:

APRIL

**Laura G. Perez
Nancy R. Swope**

MAY

**Sheila M. Dobbins
Margaret F. Hanson
William F. Hauptman
Thomas P. Marshall
Lee Etta Powell
Harry A. Swope, Jr.**

JUNE

**Elizabeth R. Baker
Julia M. Harris
Pat Anthony Iannone
Barbara L. Kornich
Barbara E. Titland
William Wilhoyte**

JULY

**Jean B. Gosbee
Fred J. Greene
Lawrence K. Kelly
Barbara M. Letzing
Eileen R. Renwick**

AUGUST

**Joan P. Carney
David Eberly
Irving L. Fisk
Sandra K. Gray
Maria A. McDonald
Jessica P. Servis
Eileen L. Starkey**

(President's Message Continued for page 1)

Consider taking a day trip with other seniors as part of our partnership with Montgomery County's SOAR and Day Tripper Programs. Several members of the Board took a SOAR Chesapeake Bay cruise in July and had a ball! The following link is for the fall schedule <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/Resources/Files/publications/SOARDAYTRIPPERS-Fall%202023.pdf> Bernadette Rager, our Trips Committee Chair, can give you additional information or answer questions.

I also encourage you to take advantage of the many benefits that your dual membership in MRSPA affords you. For more information, check out the MRSPA website: <https://www.mrspa.org>.

Finally, please encourage your retired friends to join in the fun by becoming members. We need all retirees' voices in protecting benefits and serving our interests. Be sure to visit our webpage at mcpsra.org and share your retired life activities on our Facebook page.

Warm regards,
Debra Munk

Gift Card Incentive for Members:

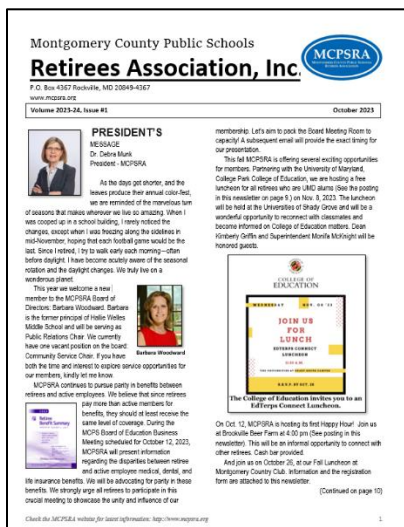
The \$10 Gift Card incentive continues! Recruit a NEW member and have them pay by DUES DEDUCTION and **you** will receive a \$10 Walmart gift card. Please make sure that you (the member recruiter) write your name on the new member application form before it is returned to the MRSPA Office. If you need new membership applications, please contact the MRSPA Office or print them from the MRSPA website or cut and paste this link into your browser: mrspa.org/files/ugd/640edf_33eedcfce7846bca9632aff1c6c9d51.pdf



MRSPA can be reached at 410-551-1517, toll-free 877-625-6782, or mrspa@mrspa.org.

Let's help grow our membership!!

Do We Have Your Email Address?



We send our newsletter to you and other MCPSRA members five times a year. While most members receive their newsletters via traditional US Mail, some also receive them by email. The email version offers notable advantages, including full-color content and swifter delivery compared to the postal service.

Furthermore, providing us with your email address has an additional benefit. On certain occasions, we have information of utmost importance that cannot wait for the next scheduled newsletter. Sometimes, it pertains to matters requiring immediate action. In such instances, we promptly send what we refer to as an "email blast." If we do not have your current email address, you will unfortunately miss out on these critical messages.

If you are not currently receiving our newsletter by email, kindly send your current email address to me at russwright408@gmail.com to ensure that you receive these valuable updates.

MCPSRA Luncheon and Business Meeting

Thursday, October 26, 2023

Montgomery Country Club

20908 Golf View Drive

Gaithersburg, MD 20882

240-912-9515

If MCPS is closed, luncheon is cancelled. Delayed opening, luncheon is held.

Gathering: 11:00 a.m. Business Meeting: 11:30 a.m. Luncheon: 12:00 Noon Program

Buffet Menu

Chicken Marsala

Roasted Potatoes

House Salad

Green Beans

Rolls/Butter

Dessert

Iced Tea, Coffee, Lemonade

\$35.00

Cut Here _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email address: _____ Total amount enclosed: _____

Reservation form and check must be received by Friday, October 20, 2023.

Make checks payable to MCPSRA. Mail to:

LeeAnn Kaye

3210 N. Leisure World Blvd. #306

Silver Spring, MD 20906

For information: LeeAnn Kaye 301-598-5480 or Trish Bendler 301-540-5160

geolakaye@gmail.com or patriciabendler0@gmail.com

ANY FOOD ALLERGIES/SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS?

PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

Montgomery County Public Schools
MCPS Retirees Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 4367
Rockville, MD 20849

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 201
Suburban, MD

DATED MATERIAL



**MCPSRA Luncheon/Business Meeting
MONTGOMERY COUNTRY CLUB**

**Gathering: 11:00 a.m.; Business Meeting: 11:30 am.
Luncheon: 12:00 Noon; Program 1:00 pm.**

Next Luncheon Date October 26, 2023

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

This is the October 2023 issue.