

Retirees Association, Inc.

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

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/mcpsretirees/



Volume 2017-18, Issue #1

October, 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dr. Carol Dahlberg
President - MCPSRA

Welcome to the 2017-18 year and to new retirees! I look forward to working with all MCPSRA members to achieve our goals as well as keeping in touch with you at our luncheons and through our newsletters. Welcome, also, to our new vice-president, Russell (Russ) Wright, who remains our newsletter editor, and to Harvey Strine who is now the chair of the Audit Committee. I appreciate the four years of excellent leadership provided by outgoing president Steve Raucher who will chair the Nominating Committee.

Our service projects continue to be *Tool Kits, Books, and Backpacks* and the support of the *Josiah Henson Park* in Bethesda. Your support for both of these projects is greatly appreciated. (See pages 3 and 4.)

Trips chair, Frieda Price, reports that participants enjoyed and benefited from outings to The African American Museum in July, and Pigeon Forge in August. Outings to the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad, New York City and Longwood Gardens are on the calendar for October, November and December. Frieda, and her co-chair Mary Ann Davis, have announced that they will retire from the leadership of the Trips Committee in December. For the past 29 years, Frieda and her committee have successfully identified and planned the numerous MCPSRA trips and cruises.

Congratulations to Mary D'Ovidio and Lou D'Ovidio who will be inducted into the Senior Citizens Hall of Fame on October 26, 2017. Both are being recognized for their many volunteer activities:

- Mary is the recording secretary for MCPSRA Board of Directors, volunteer coordinator for the *Tool Kits Project*, chair of the Community Service Awards Committee and the Josiah Henson Park Committee. She also volunteers for Meals on Wheels and is the president of Sleepy Hollow Lot Owners Association.
- Lou, is an MCPSRA member, a Montgomery County Police Department Volunteer, Office of the Chief, and received its Volunteer of the Year Award. Lou reconstituted the Montgomery County Police Foundation and is a member of its planning committee. Active also in the Montgomery County Parks Foundation, he has secured funding for the development of the Josiah Henson Park and serves on its Steering Committee. As a member of the Montgomery County Democratic Party Trustees Committee, he assisted in the selection of the recipient of the Annual Lucille Maura Award.

The Board of Directors meets at 9:30 am on the first Thursday of each month in CESC Room 120 and prior to our luncheons at Normandie Farm. All members are welcome to participate and share their ideas and perspectives at Board meetings.

Mark your calendar and make your reservation for our first luncheon of the year at Normandie Farm on October 19, 2017. (See page 15.)

Carol Dahlberg

MCPSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President	Dr. Carol M. Dahlberg john.dahlberg234@gmail.com	301-253-2212
Vice President	Dr. Russell G. Wright russwright408@gmail.com	301-806-7252
Immediate Past President	Dr. Stephen M. Raucher sraucher@comcast.net	301-460-9092
Recording Secretary	Mary D'Ovidio ldovidio01@comcast.net	240-246-7818
Treasurer	Dr. Kenneth K. Muir kkmuir@aol.com	301-598-3649

Committee Chairs

Archives	Elizabeth P. Doyle edoyle3233@aol.com	301-947-0733
Auditing	Harvey Strine strineah@verizon.net	301-251-0478
Budget Development	Kenneth E. Huff kenandmarylou@gmail.com	301-622-2161
Community Service	Mary D'Ovidio ldovidio01@comcast.net	240-246-7818
Consumer Education	Elizabeth P. Doyle edoyle3233@aol.com	301-947-0733
Hospitality/Luncheons	LeeAnn Kaye geolakaye@gmail.com	301-598-5480
--- Co-Chair	Trish Bendler patricia_bendler09@comcast.net	301-540-5160
Insurance and Benefits	J. Thomas Hickman CTMAR28@yahoo.com	301-929-9660
---Co-Chair	Gerald W. Johnson jsilverspring5@aol.com	301-466-1714
Legislative	Fred S. Evans fredevans1970@gmail.com	301-706-3993
MCPSRA Projects	Joan Donovan jcjdonovan@aol.com	301-253-6099
---Co-Chair	Trish Bendler patricia_bendler09@comcast.net	301-540-5160
Membership	Juliette Trevino jgtrevino@comcast.net	301-460-9670
Newsletter Editor	Dr. Russell G. Wright russwright408@gmail.com	301-806-7252
Nominating	Dr. Stephen M. Raucher sraucher@comcast.net	301-460-9092
Parliamentarian	Nickie Neary nearynic@msn.com	301-869-0057
Political Action	LeeAnn Kaye geolakaye@gmail.com	301-598-5480
Public Relations	Fred S. Evans fredevans1970@gmail.com	301-706-3993
---Co-Chair	Bruce McKay bmckay303@gmail.com	301-706-3993
Recognition	Joan Donovan jcjdonovan@aol.com	301-253-6099
Scholarship	Joy G. Schwab joyschw35@verizon.net	301-253-3294
Trips	Frieda J. Price fjprice@verizon.net	301-926-2286
---Co-Chair	Mary Ann Davis gidgygam@verizon.net	301-253-6256
Louise S. Walker Scholarship	Kenneth E. Huff kenandmarylou@gmail.com	301-622-2161

2017-18 BUSINESS MEETING/LUNCHEON DATES

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



Here are the luncheon dates for the 2017-18 school year:

- Thursday, October 19, 2017
- Thursday, February 22, 2018
- Thursday, April 26, 2018
- Thursday, June 14, 2018

Wanda Twigg, the new Executive Director of the Maryland School Personnel Retirees Association (MRSPA), and Fay Miller (MRSPA President) will attend our October Luncheon to welcome MCPSRA members who are present and update us on the many MRSPA activities being conducted on our behalf. (We are all members of both organizations.)

We will also have Shiri Spicer (Montgomery Parks Museum Manager and Historian) to give an update on the Josiah Henson Park project (See page 4).

We hope to see you there.

A NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY IS COMING IN 2018

We are working on a new membership directory and plan to mail it to you in January or February.

Have you moved, have you changed your email address or phone number since our last directory? Is something wrong with your listing in our current directory?

Please contact Julie Trevino with updates and corrections. Contact Julie ASAP, but no later than December 1 (301-460-9670 or at jgtrevino@comcast.net). Once the directory is printed it will be too late to make changes.

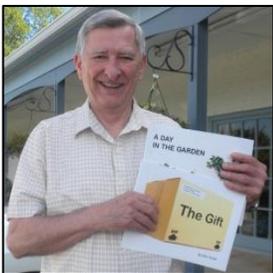
THE ROAD TO SUCCESS IS ALWAYS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Another road under construction? One road isn't done before they're starting a new one. Our road to success has taken fourteen years. Will it ever end? "NO!"

During the past 14 years the MCPSRA **Toolkits, Books, and Backpacks Project**, has provided nearly 18,000 kits and 225 backpacks of school supplies as well as 8,900 new books to Title I ELO SAIL elementary summer school children. Over 2,000 toolkits were assembled this summer alone. We now begin year fifteen. and the need is growing.



We have met and conquered many obstacles over the years, the biggest has been raising the necessary funds to continue with the project. But we truly believe that the road to success is always under construction and that *triumph* is just *umph* added to *try*. Someone once said, "If the going gets easy you may be going downhill." So we wish to express our sincere thanks to everyone who provided the *umph* that paved the road for this past summer's project: the 292 individuals, organizations, and businesses who sponsored toolkits with monetary donations totaling \$26,985 (especially John and Susan Vaszko, Drs. Lois and John Martin, the Sigma Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, and the Kiwanis Club at Leisure World), the Educational Systems Federal Credit Union for its \$1,000 contribution and the rulers and pencils for the kits, the Germantown Target store for acquiring 2,000 shoe boxes for us at cost, the many individuals and school, church, and scout groups who collected over 110,000 bottle caps used for math and sorting activities including the Eagle Ambassadors at Seneca Valley HS, the residents at Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg, the Red Hatters of Merryland, and the very special group of Wootton HS students who spent months counting out and bagging the caps. A special thank you goes to Steve and Janet Silvius who took the time to place yellow happy face stickers on the many hundreds of bottle caps they donated. We were simply delighted when John Vaszko, a MCPSRA member and the author of two children's books, The Gift and A Day in the Garden, donated 50 autographed copies of each book that were awarded to kindergartners at the parent training sessions at each summer school site. Enormous thanks go to MCPSRA members Diane Wells and Pam Grant who spent hundreds of hours at the MCPS Warehouse sorting and bagging bottle caps, labeling shoe boxes, collating lesson plans, stocking the assembly line, and assembling the toolkits. (Many individuals volunteered to help but due to a conflict with another group that was scheduled to use the same space, we had to restrict the number of people who could work at one time at the warehouse.) Most importantly, our project would not be possible without Lanny Taylor and his crew at the MCPS Department of Materials Management. He provides space to assemble kits, orders items for the kits, and distributes the kits to schools. Finally, thanks to all the Title I specialists and Camiele Jones-Akinkuowo who coordinated this summer's project at 22 school sites and conducted parent seminars on how to use the items and lessons plans in the kits with their children at home.



As we plan for next summer's project and embark on a new fundraising campaign, please consider sponsoring toolkits with a generous tax-deductible contribution. You too can help pave the road to success for another group of eager little in-coming kindergartners who will start their educational careers next September. PLEASE fill out the form below and mail it along with your check today. Thank you SO much for your continued support of this very worthwhile and highly successful project!

Joan Donovan, *Co-chairperson, MCPSRA Special Projects Committee*

-----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 _____

_____ Please do **NOT** include my name on the toolkit's label

UPCOMING VACANCY ON MCPSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The position of our Trips Committee Chair will become vacant in January. Responsibilities include planning trips of various types and lengths and offering them to members at an economical cost. Information regarding trips and reservation forms are printed in each newsletter. A list of participants is developed and provided to the carrier for each trip. If you are interested in chairing this committee, please contact Carol Dahlberg (john.dahlberg234@gmail.com).

MCPSRA-JOSIAH HENSON PROJECT

The MCPSRA has resolved to help support the establishment of a museum and education center at the Josiah Henson Park in North Bethesda.

Josiah Henson was a very famous resident of Montgomery County. He lived here from 1795 to 1830 as a slave on the Isaac Riley Plantation near the intersection of what is now Old Georgetown Road and Tilden Lane. The Park is located on a small part of the property where Josiah Henson lived.



In 1849 Henson became one of the most influential international figures of the 19th Century when his autobiography was published. It was entitled *The Life of Josiah Henson, Formerly a Slave, Now an Inhabitant of Canada, as Narrated by Himself*. Henson's autobiography inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's landmark novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The most liberal abolitionists felt *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was not strong enough. More moderate abolitionists praised the book for putting a human face on slavery.

According to legend, in 1862 Abraham Lincoln greeted Harriet Beecher Stowe by saying "So you're the little woman who wrote the book that started this great war." Whether that story is true or not, the legend underscores the connection between *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and the Civil War.

In his autobiography, Henson vividly described his experiences living as an enslaved person on the Riley plantation. Although, many of these experiences are recreated in Stowe's famous novel, there are major differences too. Unlike the fictional "Uncle Tom" who was killed by the order of his owner (Simon Legree), Henson escaped to Canada where he established the Dawn Settlement for fugitive slaves (located near Detroit, between Lake Erie and Lake Huron). As a conductor on the Underground Railroad Henson led over 200 people from enslavement in the United States to freedom in Canada. Henson traveled to England three times to raise money for the Dawn Settlement, and on March 5, 1877, he was invited by Queen Victoria to meet with her at Windsor Castle.

In 1983, Josiah Henson became the first black person to be honored with his likeness on a Canadian postage stamp.

Josiah Henson Park preserves the owner's house and a small part of the plantation property of Isaac Riley. The Josiah Henson Project is raising funds to construct a museum and educational facility to be located on the property where Henson was enslaved. The museum will portray Henson's life and the Maryland slave experience. It will also explore the impact of Stowe's novel.

We hope you will contribute to this important project. Your donation will go twice as far because MCPSRA will match member donations up to a total of \$5000!

MCPSRA-Henson Project Donation Form

Please provide (print clearly) the following information and mail it along with a check (payable to: "Montgomery County Parks Foundation" on to MCPSRA Treasurer, Dr. Ken Muir, 3100 North Leisure World Blvd. #508, Silver Spring, MD 20906.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE TRUANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM

The Truancy Prevention Program (TPP) is an initiative of the State's Attorney's office. It is an early intervention program with the mission to improve attendance of middle school children in Montgomery County Public schools by discovering the root causes of truancy and assisting students and their families with issues that impact attendance. The program confronts school absenteeism by addressing academic, school, personal, and family-related factors. The Truancy Prevention Program is a voluntary and supportive program designed to keep children in school and families out of court.

VOLUNTEER WITH US! Be a positive influence. Have a great conversation with children. Make a lifetime of difference. Enrich and empower community, society and self. One student, one family at a time. 7 out of 10 children in the program experience a 65% or better reduction in unexcused absence.

The Truancy Prevention Program is a rare opportunity to have a true and meaningful impact on children's lives. Collaborate with attorneys from the State's Attorney's Office, staff from the Montgomery County Public middle schools, school resource officers from the Montgomery County Police Department and other dedicated volunteers from our community.

Volunteer opportunities include tutors, mentors, facilitators, and site coordinators. Be a TPP volunteer.

Contact:

Rexanah P. Wyse,
Assistant State's Attorney/
Truancy Program Manager for
Montgomery County, MD
50 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850
Tel: (240) 777-7461
Email: Rexanah.wyse@montgomerycountymd.gov

The State's Attorney's Office appreciates your help in reaching out to our community for involvement in its Truancy Prevention Program.

THE USO WARRIOR & FAMILY CENTER BETHESDA

The USO Warrior & Family Center Bethesda is looking for volunteers to staff the USO center and assist guests with all of the amenities the center has to offer. Volunteers will be trained to provide local area information as well as support for events and activities taking place in the building. The Warrior and Family Center Bethesda is located at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC).

- Volunteers are asked to commit to at least 2 shifts per month.
- Morning and weekend availability is preferred but day shifts are available.
- Volunteers will interact with active duty military members as well as those Wounded Warriors receiving treatment at Walter Reed.
- Volunteers must be at least 18 years old and will be required to obtain an installation security badge.
- Having fun is mandatory!

To apply to be a USO volunteer go to:
volunteers.uso.org
Click "Register" and search for "Bethesda"



Warrior and Family Center™
Bethesda



Four MCPSRA Scholarship recipients were able to attend the June luncheon at Normandie Farm. A total of twelve scholarships were awarded this year.

EMAIL ONLY?

If you're like me, you want to hold a paper copy of anything you're reading... at least if it's longer than a paragraph. But I know there are some MCPSRA members who are perfectly comfortable reading from a screen. (A few *youngins* may even prefer it that way.) I know this because over 100 members have told me to send their Newsletter by email only.

Although I like to hold my newsletter in my hands, there are advantages to the email version:

- it's in color
- it arrives earlier than the print version, and
- it saves our organization money.

We are sending this issue of the Newsletter as an email attachment to all members for whom we have a valid email address. (Those getting this Newsletter by email received it more than a week before those of you who only get it in the US mail.)

If you are one of the 1215 members who are only getting the print version, it's because we don't have your correct email address. If you are one of these people, and if you would like to receive the color version of the Newsletter please send an email to MCPSRA.Newsletter@ebsinstitute.com.

Welcome New Members

Joined in May 2017

Banan, Purandokht	13713 Nalls Court, Silver Spring, MD 20904	240-839-1579
Beardmore-Thompson, Deirdre	4 Centerway Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20879	301-330-3578
Brown, Margaret P.	6 Cullinan Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878	301-910-2305
Dorin, Lidia	PO Box 60332, Potomac, MD 20859-0332	0
Durbin, Robert James	10425 Hebard Street, Kensington, MD 20895	0
Golia, Michael C.	1368 Carlsbad Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20879	301-250-6359
Gordon-Gilbo, Rosalind F.	206 Pender Place, Rockville, MD 20850	301-279-2840
Graham, Nancy Ann	7520 Sweetbriar Drive, College Park, MD 20740	301-345-9070
Henze, Jeanne	10 Hackett Court, Poolesville, MD 20837	301-351-1862
Hill, Patricia A.	14007 East Annapolis Court, Mount Airy, MD 21771	301-829-6159
Kelly, Laurie	136 Grant Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912	301-270-5006
Mohr, Diane	12516 Sandra Lee Court, Monrovia, MD 21770	301-253-2636
Narrow, Rochelle	8220 Inverness Hollow Terrace, Potomac, MD 20854	301-299-4023
Prandoni, Gabrielle	9909 Thornwood Road, Kensington, MD 20895	301-654-7499
Shapiro, Sandra	11553 Brandy Hall Lane, North Potomac, MD 20878	301-642-1424
Steinberger, Ann	1749 Glastonberry Road, Rockville, MD 20854	0
Sterling, Joyce M.	3612 Mount Olney Lane, Olney, MD 20832	240-498-2313
Stolorow, Mary Gail	12321 Quince Valley Drive, North Potomac, MD 20878	301-869-0753
Thomas, Clinton	9759 Pleasant Gate Lane, Potomac, MD 20854	0
Viriden, Jon F.	3502 Cohasset Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403	301-493-9627
Weiss, Ellen F.	1005 Houston Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912	301-495-0910

Joined in June 2017

Bayer, Bruce	12502 Farnell Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20906	301-942-3754
Boggs, Rosann	18924 North Meadow Fence Road, Montgomery Village, MD 20886	301-963-5089
DeGraba, Susanne G.	5617 Griffith Farm Road, Derwood, MD 20855-1665	240-418-9191
Hamdy, Mona	13234 Osterport Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20904	301-962-5671
Heshmat, Jenan	11757 Skylark Road, Clarksburg, MD 20871	240-620-9682
Paskow, Freida S.	11824 Goya Drive, Potomac, MD 20854	301-610-9611
Pickrel, Patricia P.	10405 Kardwright Court, Montgomery Village, MD 20886	301-742-5362
Reed, Mary M.	2952 Hughes Road, Finksburg, MD 21048	410-259-2383
Thomas, Margaret Louise	9301 Kobe Way, Montgomery Village, MD 20886	301-926-1521
Thompson, Madeleine	11424 Frances Green Drive, North Potomac, MD 20878	301-294-9105
Zuckerman, Joan	8611 Timber Hill Lane, Potomac, MD 20854	301-299-6965

Joined in July 2017

Harris, Carrie Deloris	7901 Longridge Court, Cabin John, MD 20818	301-229-4764
Katz, Sally	811 Pointer Ridge Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878-1130	301-385-9164

Joined in August 2017

Amick, Judith B.	14416 Lake Winds Way, North Potomac, MD 20878-4309	301-279-7675
Barrett, Linda	600 Hermleigh Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902	301-593-1657
Beaudoin, Janet Lea	13675 Sylvan Bluff Drive, Leesburg, VA 20176	301-606-1783
Cross, Marjorie L.	6240 Darlington Court, Frederick, MD 21703-2901	301-695-4733
Deatherage, Rebecca	16709 Sioux Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20878	240-620-4591
Doye, Doreen Y.	18313 Quondal Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20877-3863	240-793-6865
Dunkin, Jennifer	10725 Casper Street, Kensington, MD 20895-2815	301-933-0481
Edmonds, Celestina	9407 Darcy Place Upper Marlboro, MD 20774	240-338-6520
Frederick, Debra	4055 Norbeck Square Drive, Rockville, MD 20853	301-929-3391
Higgins, Janet B.	5905 Cromwell Drive, Bethesda, MD 20816	301-325-5873
McLurkin-Harris, Kimberly	PO Box 4534, Silver Spring, MD 20914	301-335-6334
Middlebrook, Carol L.	5111 Flanders Avenue, Kensington, MD 20895	301-946-7279
Moloznik, Renee L.	11823 Goya Drive, Potomac, MD 20854	301-424-9120
Morrison, Sylvia K.	14200 Shoreham Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20905	301-989-1446
O'Keefe, Tim	7214 Limestone Lane, Middletown, MD 21769-7531	301-371-9562
Onley, Dwight	7309 Glenside Drive, Takoma Park, MD 20912-6626	301-675-6905
Pelzer, Beverly	10306 Duvawn Place, Silver Spring, MD 20902-4828	240-432-0522
Rose, Karen Lynn	4404 Thornhurst Drive, Olney, MD 20832	240-246-5125
Rouff, Elinor	9200 Willamette Place #203, Frederick, MD 21704-7463	301-807-2937
Stephens, Jessica H.	15311 Forest Lake Court, Darnestown, MD 20874	301-437-1755
Willetts, Karen	1914 Carter's Grove Drive, Silver Spring, MD 20904	301-625-0028
Woolley, Aileen	15100 Westbury Road, Rockville, MD 20853	301-502-6195

MCPSRA TRAVEL 2017 -- 2018

2017

- October** 18, 2017 MD Scenic Railroad
November 29-30, 2017 New York City (space available)
December 11, 2017 Longwood Gardens (space available)

CRUISES:

Note: Cruises need to be booked early because of cabin selection, the best location of cabins and prices are the first to go.

2018

February 1-10 Southeast Coast and Bahamas Cruise

March 3-15 Southern Caribbean Cruise ***

*** SPECIAL NOTE: On the Southern Caribbean Cruise note the change in price.

Inside Cabin Category	N	\$972
Outside Cabin Category	H	\$1,169
Balcony Cabin Category	D2	\$1,957

Detailed information on the 2 cruises was in the December, 2016 newsletter and on our website which is found on at the bottom of the page.

GUESTS? On popular trips, to ensure members have preferred opportunity to secure reservations, guests may be limited to 3 per household. However, depending on the trip, feel free to check on numbers and availability.

SPECIAL NOTICE: PLEASE READ. All trips require some walking, some more extensive than others. Theatre trips usually have less walking, overnight trips with lots of tours and sightseeing require more walking. Trips like the Biltmore, a large home, with steps and gardens much more walking is required. **HOWEVER:** You may do as much or little as you see fit. Study each itinerary to help you understand and judge the physical activities involved.

Please make separate checks for each trip.

PLEASE OBSERVE THE DEADLINES FOR RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT

We have to make commitments by dates indicated so this is very important in making a trip go or having to cancel, which we do not like to do. **THANK YOU.**

NOTICE – PARKING FOR OVERNIGHT TRIPS.

Pickup for overnight trips will be at the Park-and-Ride, Georgia Ave. – same lot where we pick up for day trips. People coming from out of the area and in the vicinity of the Eyre Bus terminal can arrange to park and board the coach the Eyre location in Glenelg, MD.

Rt. 70 to Rt. 32 S. 5 miles to terminal at 13600 Triadelphia Rd. For arrangements, timing and information call Ellen at Eyre. 1-800-321-3973 x 325

TRAVEL QUESTIONS ???

Please check our website: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/mcpsretirees/
or call our Travel Committee Co-Chairs:

Frieda J. Price
301- 926-2286

Mary Ann Davis
301-253-6256

BEAUTIFUL LONGWOOD GARDENS AT CHRISTMAS TIME

December 11th, 2017

A Longwood Christmas rings in the holiday season with a musically inspired displays in and our doors. Explore the 4 acre conservatory with more than 16,000 seasonal plants, highlighting the beautiful poinsettias and a variety of lavishly decorated trees.

Outside – Thousands of lights and colorful fountains dance to music as illuminated stars twinkle above.

**There's so much beauty to see at Longwood, please check their web site for more complete information.

11:00AM -- Depart Park and Ride, GA. Ave @ Rt. 200 (Intercounty Connector)

1:00PM -- Arrive Longwood Gardens

7:00PM -- Depart for home

9:00PM -- Return time to Park and Ride

INC: Round trip transportation by Eyre motor coach, restroom on board, entrance fee, taxes, tolls, gratuities.

Not inc: Gratuity for coach operator, meals.

COST: \$70.00 per person

Payment Due: October 20, 2017

For additional information about the three cruises listed on page 4 please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Frieda J. Price 105 N. Summit Ave. #4 Gaithersburg, MD 20877

**FOR CRUISE RESERVATIONS OR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT GRAND AMERICAN TOURS
1-800-423-0247**

REMINDERS ABOUT THE MCPSRA TRAVEL PROGRAM

1. We all travel at our own risk. When signing up for one of the sponsored trips, participants accept all liability for any loss, damage or personal injury related to that trip and hold MCPSRA, its Officers and Board harmless should any accident, injury or loss occur.
2. Itineraries, times and details are approximate. Changes are sometimes necessary and unavoidable.
3. Trips are open to members, their families and adult friends (with limitations).
4. Smoking and drinking of alcoholic beverages are not permitted on the coach.
5. PLEASE OBSERVE THE DEADLINES FOR RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT. We have to make commitments by the dates indicated so this is very important in making a trip go or having to cancel for lack of participation.
6. About three to five days before a day trip, participants are called to remind them of the day and departure time of the trip. For overnight coach trips, about two weeks prior to the date of departure, participants will get a letter with up-to-date information, including parking details. One baggage tag per person will be mailed to each participant.
7. Write a separate check, payable to MCPSRA, for each trip. Include the name and date of the trip on each check.
8. Send your check with your completed reservation form. Your reservation will be definite upon receipt of your deposit/full payment, whichever is required. If a trip has to be cancelled because of insufficient numbers of participants needed by the published deadline, your check will be returned to you. Please feel free to call to find out if your reservation and payment were received.
9. Refunds are made only when your space can be filled.
10. Gratuities for driver and local guides are not included in the price of the trip.
11. **We do not provide transportation to and from the airport for trips that require flying.**
12. **If you will be traveling with guests that you have invited, please make sure they read this list of reminders.**

TRIP RESERVATION FORM

LONGWOOD GARDENS AT CHRISTMAS TIME December 11, 2017

NAME _____ Phone# _____ Cell # _____

NAME _____ Phone# _____

NAME _____ Phone# _____

Member of MCPSRA –Yes ____ No ____ If not, guest of _____.

Total number _____ Total \$ amount enclosed _____

I am paying by CC to Eyre. ____ Call Ellen at 1-800-321-3973 x 3252 Also send the reservation form to Frieda.

Make travel checks payable to MCPSRA—Send with reservation form to:

Frieda J. Price, 105 N. Summit Ave. #4; Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2935

To use credit card, call Ellen at Eyre, 1-800 321-3973 X 3252, and also send Reservation Form to Frieda.

Those interested in purchasing travel insurance for overnight trips should call Ellen at *Eyre Tour and Travel* at: 301-854-6600/ext. 3252, or 410-442-1330/ext. 3252, or 1-800-321-3973/ext. 3252.

TRAVEL CO-CHAIRS

Frieda J. Price

105 N. Summit Ave. #4

Gaithersburg, MD 20877-2935

Mary Ann Davis

23509 Woodfield Rd.

Gaithersburg, MD 20882-3017

Please visit our website: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/mcpsretirees/

IN MEMORIAM

MCPSRA is saddened to report the passing of the following members:

Marlene P. Baker
Clyde S. Behanna
Charlotte P. Beyersdorfer
Louise A. Cassity
Raymond E. Chalkley
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CONSUMER Connection

(The information below was provided to our members by the MRSPA Consumer Education Committee.)

IRS Scams Making the Rounds - and Tips to Avoid Becoming a Victim

MRSPA members have reported receiving calls supposedly from the IRS. The caller says the IRS is threatening a lawsuit or legal action against you and to call the number given immediately. The number from which the call originated may look like a local number.

What are some easy signs to look for that indicate a scam call?

Kyle Roder, a public information officer for the Police Department in Eau Clair, Wisconsin says that neither the IRS nor legitimate companies are going to cold call you and threaten you the way scammers do. The IRS is not going to call you at all. They're not going to elicit that fear from you. That's what all scams do, they play off of some type of emotion, whether it's fear or another factor like the joy of winning a prize. If you're getting a call or you're getting an email that's "very urgent," be careful.

What should you do if you realize you're on a scam call?

The best way to react in any scam on the phone is to hang up, or not answer in the first place.

If it's online, avoid clicking into anything suspicious or pushing any buttons. The more you talk to somebody, you could be providing information without knowing it, no matter how savvy you think you might be. They could be recording your voice so they can use it against you to obtain personal information or financial information in the future.

Telephone numbers can be spoofed now to look like a local phone number. The safest bet is always, if you don't know the number or you didn't initiate the call, **don't answer it**. Let the caller leave a message.

You can report a spam caller right on the IRS website, the Federal Trade Commission's site and the Better Business Bureau's sites. Also notify your local police department.

Senior National Parks Lifetime Pass Rates Increased from \$10 to \$80 on August 28th.

As reported on the MRSPA website, the "America the Beautiful- the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Senior Pass" increased for the first time since 1994. You can obtain an annual Senior Pass for \$20 - valid for 1 year from issuance. If you already have a Senior Pass, your benefits remain.

Things to buy in October and things to skip!

Best buys in October: Jeans, Camping Gear and Outdoor Supplies, Air Conditioning Units, Halloween costumes and candy (wait until the week before Halloween to get the best deals)

Worst buys in October: Television sets (if you missed the September deals, wait until Black Friday for better deals), Appliances (deals will be better in November).

Savings on the Road:

If your car is driven under 5,000 miles a year, ask your insurer for a low-mileage discount. Annual average savings: \$92.00.

Buy gas on Monday. It's the cheapest gas day in 23 states, according to GasBuddy. Thursday is the most expensive day. Stick to Mondays and save \$325 a year.

Be a chill driver. Hard braking and speeding can lower your gas mileage by 30 to 40 percent. At an annual gas consumption of 480 gallons, you could save \$460.

Take a driving class. Insurers can offer up to 15 percent off for older drivers who take an online safety course - that's up to \$675 over three years on a typical policy.

Get your house ready for Fall/Winter

Check for drafts. Feel for drafts around the edges of windows and doors. If necessary, replace seals and repair caulking around window and door frames. Consider buying heavier or insulated drapery for especially drafty windows.

Have your furnace inspected. Hire an HVAC professional to test for leaks, check heating efficiency, and change the filter. They can also do a carbon monoxide check to ensure air safety. It's also a good idea to stock up on extra air filters and change them every few months.

Winterize your air conditioner. If your home has central air conditioning it may be necessary to cover your outdoor unit for winter. If you use window air conditioning units, remove them or cover them to prevent air leaks.

Programmable thermostat. Buy a programmable thermostat. If you already have one, check the temperature settings. Setting your thermostat to lower the temperature automatically at night and when you're not home, can result in substantial savings.

Test home safety devices. Replace the batteries in all smoke detectors and carbon monoxide devices and test to make sure they're working.

Clean humidifiers. Replace old filters and clean inside compartment. Vinegar is inexpensive and works well.



MCPSRA luncheons are a time to enjoy meeting and talking with long time or new friends while enjoying a program and delicious meal.

Photos of the June Luncheon on pages 5 and 12 were provided by Joan Donovan.



MCPSRA members having fun in the Great Smoky Mountains as they helped the Eyre bus company celebrate their 70th anniversary.

UPDATE: MCPS INSURANCE PLANS

MCPS has mailed to all retirees in the school systems insurance programs a card announcing that on January 1, 2018 CareFirst will replace Cigna as the medical plan for all those currently enrolled in the Cigna plan.

If you are currently insured by Cigna you have the option of doing nothing and thus being moved to the same plan type with CareFirst on January 1, 2018. If you prefer you can change by selecting from the following plans:

- * CareFirst BlueChoice HMO
- * Kaiser Permanente HMO
- * CareFirst BlueChoice Advantage Indemnity/Medicare Supplemental Plan (fee for service plan)
- * CareFirst BlueChoice Advantage (POS/PPO)

The card you will, or have already received, also announces that there will be opportunities to review your insurance benefits by attending information sessions at one of several Retiree Benefits Open Enrollment Fairs between October 9 and November 3, 2017.

In early October, MCPS will mail information about the dates and location of the Open Enrollment Fairs.

All retirees are urged to review your current plan and consider attending one of the Open Enrollment Fairs to ask any questions you have about your coverage. These fairs give you an opportunity to discuss your coverage with a representative from each of the four plans listed above.

Tom Hickman
MCPSRA Co Insurance Committee Chair



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MCPSRA Luncheon and Business Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 2017

Normandie Farm 10710 Falls Road, Potomac, MD 20854

301-983-8838

www.popovers.com

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

Menu Choices:

Chicken Breast Marsala	\$23.50
Beef Lasagna	\$23.50
Filet of Salmon w/ Béarnaise Sauce	\$23.50
Penne Pasta w/roasted vegetables	\$20.00

Entrees include: Wedge salad with Raspberry vinaigrette, popovers, vegetable of the day, ice cream w/chocolate sauce, tea, coffee, soda. Cash bar available.

-----Cut Here-----

Thursday, October 19, 2017

Circle Entrée Choice

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Chicken Beef

e-mail address: _____ Fish Vegetarian

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Chicken Beef

e-mail address: _____ Fish Vegetarian

Total amount enclosed: _____

RESERVATION FORM AND CHECK MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, October 13, 2017.

Make check 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 PATRICIA_BENDLER09@COMCAST.NET

ANY FOOD ALLERGIES? PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

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MCPSRA Luncheon/Business Meeting NORMANDIE FARM

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

Next Luncheon Date
October 19, 2017

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

This is the October, 2017 issue.