

Retirees Association, Inc.

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

www.mcpsra.org

Volume 2019-20, Issue #5

June, 2020



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Carol Dahlberg
President - MCPSRA

---Carol Dahlberg

- we will enjoy the company of fellow retirees when we gather again for our luncheons;
- we will review scholarship applications and conduct interviews for MCPS staff as they pursue academic goals in the future;
- we will resume collecting resources and materials and assembling *toolkits* in preparation for the next Title I summer program.

We are in very strange times! COVID-19 has impacted our lives in many ways. Despite my message in the April newsletter that we would be seeing each other at our April luncheon, that did not happen. We will not be gathering for our June luncheon either. No scholarships are being awarded this year (breaking our decades-long practice of supporting MCPS staff in their academic pursuits); and our Toolkits Project is on hold.

In addition, the Polar Vortex slid south leading to cold and windy weather into mid-May rather than the warm welcome of Spring we were all hoping for.

However, during these challenging times, many MCPSRA members have been donating their time and resources to help others in need. They have helped sustain businesses through curbside pick-up, on-line shopping and in-person shopping following recommended safeguards. They have found several ways to keep in touch through teleconferences, Zooms, emails, notes, cards, and letters.

MCPSRA continues to be “your voice in retirement.” Your Board of Directors is still meeting monthly by teleconference. Russ is sending email blasts to our members for whom we have email addresses. And we will resume person-to-person activities when it is safe and appropriate as follows:

In June we will welcome this year’s MCPS retirees by recognizing their dedication and service electronically and by mail. We will also explain to them the role that MCPSRA and MRSPA play in protecting their benefits. Vice-president (Debra Munk), membership chair (Juliette Trevino), and I will be working together with MCPS Human Resources to make this happen.

We are fortunate that our newsletter for June has come together with the submission of articles, the editing by Russ Wright, and the printing and distribution by the MCPS Print Shop.

Reminder: Support the MCPSRA-recommended candidates:

- U. S. House of Representatives – MD Congressional District 8 - Jamie Raskin
- Montgomery County Board of Education At Large - Sunil Dasgupta
- Montgomery County Board of Education District 4 -Shebra Evans

Check our website: [mcpsra.org](http://www.mcpsra.org).

PS. A special thank you to Bill Mills for the photograph of Steve Raucher on page 4.

MCPSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers:

President	Dr. Carol M. Dahlberg john.dahlberg234@gmail.com	301-253-2212
Vice President	Dr. Debra Munk debramunk@yahoo.com	240-426-8407
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. Stephen M. Raucher sraucher@comcast.net	301-460-9092

Committee Chairs:

Archives	Juliette Trevino jgtrevino@comcast.net	301-460-9670
Auditing	Harvey Strine strineah@verizon.net	301-251-0478
Budget Development	Dr. Stephen M. Raucher sraucher@comcast.net	301-460-9092
Community Service	Frieda J. Price fjprice@verizon.net	301-926-2286
Consumer Education	Reginald J. Ott regjott@verizon.net	301-384-4901
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
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
---Josiah Henson Project	Mary D'Ovidio ldovidio01@comcast.net	240-246-7818
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	Lou D'Ovidio ldovidio01@comcast.net	240-246-7818
Public Relations	VACANT	
Recognition	Joan Donovan jcjdonovan@aol.com	301-253-6099
---Co-Chair	Juliette Trevino jgtrevino@comcast.net	301-460-9670
Scholarships (MCPSRA)	Joy G. Schwab	301-253-3294
--- (MCPSRA) Co-Chair	Elizabeth A. Stonesifer wonderfulnice@aol.com	301-460-5155
---Louise S. Walker	Kenneth E. Huff kenandmarylou@gmail.com	301-622-2161
Trips	Margaret Brown margdell@gmail.com	301-910-2305
---Co-Chair	Nancy Sanders NancyOSanders@gmail.com	301-963-1357

BUSINESS MEETING/LUNCHEON

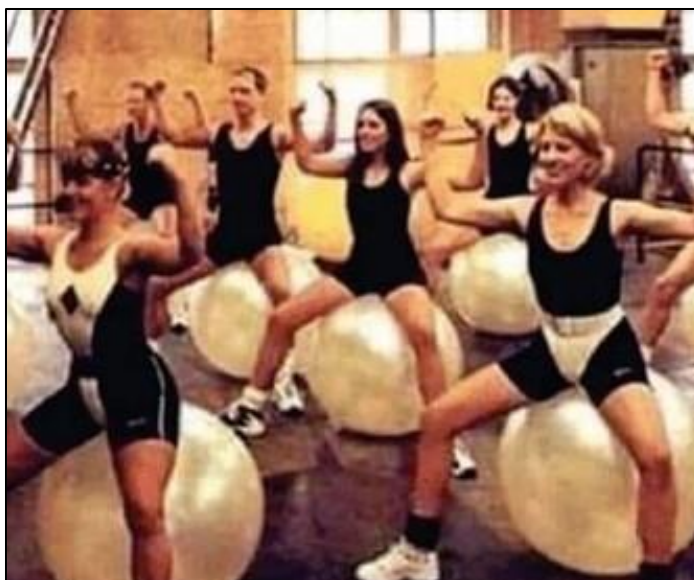
Business meeting/luncheons are held four times a year at the delightful Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac, MD 20854.



Normandie Farm Restaurant has More than Popovers

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 Virus situation, our June 11 luncheon has been cancelled. Hopefully by the time October rolls around, we will be able to return to Normandie Farm. The dates for 2020-2021 are:

October 15, 2020
February 18, 2021
April 15, 2021
June 17, 2021



A teacher asked her class of 4th graders to suggest a headline for this photo. The winning entry was:

“Never swallow your bubblegum.”

TOOLKITS PROJECT

ON HOLD

by Joan Donovan



During this period of great uncertainty and anxiety, there is one thing we can all agree is true... our lives have forever been changed by the COVID-19 pandemic. A new normal will emerge. We are a resilient society that is determined to grow stronger and be prepared and more knowledgeable in the future on how to fight and eradicate diseases that threaten us all. *Hope* survives and thrives with positive thoughts. Although we must remain socially distanced from one another our character and our commitment to children does not change with a virus. We must be drawn together around the education and well-being of our county's children. They ARE our future!

Through our Toolkits Project, in the past sixteen years we as an association have been dedicated to addressing the needs of our county's school children most affected by the economic challenges their families face every day. During those 16 years, we provided over 22,000 kits of school supplies to needy in-coming kindergartners who attended a special Title I summer program called Extended Learning Opportunities Summer Adventures In Learning (ELO SAIL). We were already making plans and working on several tasks at the MCPS Department of Materials Management warehouse in preparation for this summer's program. Then COVID-19 hit and the lockdown followed. That made it necessary to suspend all hands-on work on the project. We cannot resume until all schools and facilities reopen and a schedule of summer and fall school programs is developed and announced. We remained in communication with the Title I coordinators as well as Lanny Taylor at the DMM warehouse. As the weeks passed (then months) it became acutely evident that we had some difficult decisions to make regarding the feasibility of continuing to order the items and boxes for the kits. There was no certainty that the Title I summer school program would even be held. There is no estimate of the number of children that might enroll if it is held.

We are also aware that some items included in the kits may not be available since they are made in China or Japan and that shipping of school supplies is not currently a priority.

As the postponement of children returning to in-school classes continues, it becomes increasingly certain that the demands on Lanny and his staff at the DMM will be to provide supplies for the 208 MCPS schools first once the announcement is made. Therefore, our association's Board of Directors during a telephone conference meeting of 17 of its members on Thursday, May 7, passed a motion to postpone our project until 2021.

(Continued on page 5 see Toolkits)

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 March 2020

Robin Parsons

1725 21st St. NW, Washington DC 20009

202-462-8978

Joined in April 2020

No new members joined in April.

The COVID-19's Impact on MCPSRA

Dr. Stephen M. Raucher, Treasurer

The Covid-19 virus has impacted every one of us... from physical isolation from friends and family, to no longer eating in our favorite restaurant; from shortages of household cleaners and toilet paper, to our inability to attend meetings and religious services in person. Our lives have been changed dramatically! You may not be surprised to learn that our Retirees Association has also been dramatically affected as well? Here are some of the significant "changes" MCPSRA has been forced to make due to this virus pandemic.

Impact on Operations and Programs:

- **Scholarships:** MCPSRA has "always" awarded scholarships to MCPS Teachers and Staff for summer study. However, with schools closed, the pure logistics of distributing and processing applications became impossible. In addition, the volatility of the stock market and its significant financial losses had a negative economic impact on our scholarship funds. As such, for the first time in decades, MCPSRA will defer awarding scholarships this year. [See a statement from the Scholarship Committee on page 5.]
- **Toolkits Project:** For more than a dozen years, MCPSRA has provided "toolkits" to incoming kindergarten Title I children attending the ELO SAIL program each summer. This year, however, the MCPS Warehouse is closed. Items normally purchased (such as plastic boxes) are currently unavailable. Summer programs themselves are on hold. Because of all of these factors, MCPSRA reluctantly had to suspend this important project for this year. [See article on pages 3 and 5.]
- **Membership Recruitment:** Every June, MCPS holds a reception for new retirees at which MCPSRA gets to "meet and greet" potential new members. As of this writing, that reception is in limbo as is our participation.
- **Quarterly Luncheons:** As we all know too well, dine-in restaurants are closed. Social distancing thus prevents us from having a membership meeting as part of a fun filled luncheon. MCPSRA has had to cancel its April and June Luncheons. While we hope to resume in October 2020, no one knows what the virus (or the economy) will require by fall.



Steve Raucher

The Board had approved a Budget for 2020-2021, which was printed in the last issue of this newsletter. It was to be voted upon at the April Luncheon Meeting. That budget reflected increased emphasis on scholarships and projects, as well as a more realistic estimate of dues revenue. To fund that budget, the Board agreed to propose a \$5 increase in our annual dues. However, any dues increase requires a vote by the membership [Bylaws Article IV]. So, thanks to COVID-19 causing MCPSRA to cancel its membership luncheon meetings, there was no way to adopt the proposed budget.

At its May 7 Board Meeting (held by teleconference), the Board rescinded its approval of the previously published draft budget and adopted a revised budget with NO DUES INCREASE. That budget still reflects a realistic estimate of dues revenue, based solely on maintaining our current membership. Hopefully, the economy will recover sufficiently by next spring that MCPSRA can transfer additional funds from the investment accounts to increase the number of scholarships funded by this revised budget. A copy of the revised budget is on page 6.

I'm certain there are (or will be) more impacts on MCPSRA and on us until this pandemic is over. Some say life will never return to the "normal" we were used to last February. My hope is we will return to enough of the normal that has allowed MCPSRA to serve the needs of children and retirees in the past. Until then stay well and stay safe.

Steve Raucher

Scholarship Report by EA Stonesifer

The 2020 Scholarship program fell victim to COVID-19. Due to the closing of schools and many divisions in MCPS, the appropriate and equitable dissemination of materials and applications became impossible.

In addition, the screening process (which involves the collection of applications, evaluations of each, and interviews of selected applicants by the committee) was not possible during this spring.

The fluctuations of the Stock Market at the time also had an impact on the MCPSRA investments necessary to fund the scholarships.

While the Scholarship Committee was disappointed in not being able to grant the 2020 scholarships, it looks forward to resuming the program in the spring of 2021.

EA Stonesifer, Co-Chair

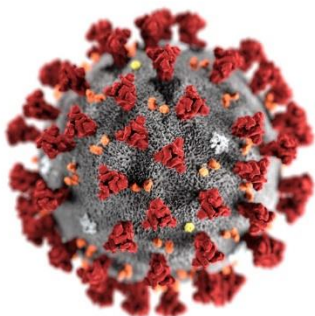
Toolkits (Continued from page 3.)

When schools do reopen, there will be a greater need for our toolkits than ever before. Because of the devastating increase in unemployment and economic downturn in our county and nation, it is our intent to continue our project as soon as possible. (We may have to wait until next summer.) Logistically we cannot provide a kit for every child entering kindergarten in the more than 26 Title I elementary schools this year but we will continue to work with Title I and do what we can. Therefore, we MUST continue our fundraising efforts in anticipation of the increased need for kits in the future. Last summer's expenses exceeded \$29,000. To date approximately \$20,000 has been donated this year. We are going to need considerably more to meet the anticipated drastic increase of kits requested in the future. PLEASE continue to support our project! Fill out the form on page 3 and mail it along with a check to the address listed. Make checks payable to: **MCPS Educational Foundation** and with **Toolkits Project** on the memo line. Through good times and bad, we all are good people doing good work for of our community. Thank you and stay safe!

MCPSRA Budget - Revised FY 2020 / 2021

	FY19 /20	Requested	Approved
Archives	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Auditing	\$1,200.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
Budget	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Committee for Montgomery	\$1,100.00	\$1,150.00	\$1,150.00
Community Service	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Donations/Contributions from MCPSRA	\$1,050.00	\$1,050.00	\$550.00
Hospitality	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Insurance & Benefits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Josiah Henson Special Project	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Legislative	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Membership	\$700.00	\$700.00	\$250.00
Membership Honorarium	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Newsletter	\$10,500.00	\$10,500.00	\$10,500.00
Political Action	\$300.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Program	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$200.00
Recognition	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$100.00
Scholarship	\$9,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$6,000.00
Special Projects - Toolkits	\$2,250.00	\$2,500.00	\$500.00
Trip Committee	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Website	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$150.00
Officers	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Contingency	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00
Total	\$29,450.00	\$32,750.00	\$23,000.00
Membership Dues @ \$10/member	\$24,950.00	\$23,000.00	\$23,000.00

COVID-19 Is Not the Only Pandemic We've Experienced by Russell Wright



COVID-19 Virus (CDC diagram)

Yogi Berra called what we are experiencing today “like déjà vu all over again.” I know that you have survived other pandemics and so have I. According to the CDC, I have lived through 3 of them (1957-58, 1968, and 2009.)

I was born in 1944. In the fall and winter of 1957-58 the Asian Flu pandemic hit the world. It was caused by the H2N2 virus. It struck Montgomery County when I was in the 8th grade at Colonel Joseph Belt Junior High School in Wheaton. The CDC says that the Asian Flu killed 116,000 people in the US and 1.1 million worldwide. (Note that in 1957, the population of the US was about half what it is today. An equivalent death rate today would mean 214,400 deaths.)

I actually remember the Asian Flu. I was 13 when it hit me in the fall of ‘57. I had a fever so high that one night, on my way to the bathroom, I passed out. I remember the year because when I passed out, my right eye struck a light switch as I fell. I woke up with a bright red spot on the white part of my eye (an eyeball

bruise). The spot was still there when I recovered from the flu and returned to school. It made me a celebrity. Everyone wanted to see the bright red spot on my eye.

In 1968, another pandemic struck. It was called the Hong Kong Flu, and it was caused by the H3N2 virus. (Notice the N2? It's there because the H3N2 virus contained part of the genetic code from the Asian Flu that made me a celebrity at Belt Junior High.) The Hong Kong Flu was first spotted in the United States in September 1968. The estimated number of deaths from that pandemic was 1 million worldwide and about 100,000 in the United States. Most excess deaths were in people 65 years and older. (In 1968 the US population was 194.6 million. An equivalent death rate today would mean 168,700 deaths.) The H3N2 virus continues to circulate worldwide as a seasonal influenza A virus.

Our most recent pandemic (before COVID-19) happened in the spring of 2009. It was called the Swine Flu. It was first detected in Mexico and spread quickly across the United States and the world. The Swine Flu killed 12,000 people in the US.

If you are a member of MCPSRA you were probably born before 1957. If you are reading this article you must have survived the pandemics of 1957-58, 1968, and 2009.

I sincerely hope and pray that we all survive the pandemic of 2020 and that it doesn't become known as the pandemic of 2020-21.

(The death totals and other facts found in this article come from the CDC website at www.cdc.gov .)

ARE YOU GETTING YOUR NEWSLETTER AS AN EMAIL ATTACHMENT?

We are sending this Newsletter as an email attachment to all members for whom we have a working email address.

Here are the advantages of the email version:

- it's in color
- it arrives earlier than the print version, and
- if you only get the email version it saves our organization money.

If you are not getting the email 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 email version of the Newsletter as an email attachment please send an email to MCPSRA@zoho.com. **Use this same address to let us know if you want the newsletter by email only.**

Volunteers by Frieda Price

For families in need of food and other household supplies, a local food bank can help. **Food pantries** and food banks exist to help low-income families get by. They provide free and reduced-priced food items for families who may not qualify for other government assistance programs.

The **Manna Food Center** in Montgomery County offers volunteer opportunities for volunteers age 7+ all year long! Volunteers are needed at their Gaithersburg warehouse, their new Silver Spring Market, and throughout the community. Last year over 36,000 volunteers donated more than 61,000 hours to help feed the hungry in Montgomery County.

Go here (<https://www.mannafood.org/volunteer-with-us/>) to volunteer with the Manna Food Center.

A Volunteer Opportunity from the Civic Circle

The Civic Circle seeks a retired elementary school teacher with an interest in social studies to advise us on our exciting new “seven steps to democracy” curriculum for students in Grades 3-5. Our Montgomery County, Maryland-based nonprofit uses music and drama to teach kids basic democracy lessons, including civil discourse (Listen!), media literacy (Learn!) and voting (Choose!), and we are taking our program online. We seek a retired teacher of Grades 3, 4 or 5 with a passion for social studies, to advise us for as little as one hour, or on an ongoing basis. Options to move into a Board Member or Advisory Council post. For more information, please visit www.theciviccircle.org and contact Eliza Newlin Carney at ecarney@theciviccircle.org.

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.

1. In this unsettling time around this pandemic, it is important that you are wary of contacts from unproven and unexpected email contacts and phone solicitations.
 - Be aware that any contact who asks for personal information, social security number, or any request that you verify information by phone or email should be ignored and deleted immediately. If companies and financial agencies contact you, do not provide information to them over the phone or by email unless the contacts are known and trusted.
 - Fraud is rampant and we must remain vigilant to avoid being duped by agents whose main intent is to take advantage of the unsuspecting.
 - You are encouraged to contact the attorney general or Consumer Protection Office or FTC online at 877-382-4357 to report all fraudulent contacts received.
2. In the August/September edition of the AARP magazine, there was a brief article which highlighted the importance of protecting medical data. It highlighted the following:
 - **Monitor bank and credit card accounts and insurance-benefits statements for costs you didn't incur.** Act promptly to correct records.
 - **Treat your insurance numbers as if they're as sacred, private and as valuable as your SSN.**
 - **Shred any medical paperwork you don't need to retain;** that includes prescription-drug labels.
 - **Avoid revealing on social media any surgery, medical procedure or visit to a specialist.**

Adapted from Scam Me If You Can (Portfolio-Random House/AARP) by Frank Abagnale, AARP's Fraud Watch Network ambassador.

Additionally, if you are searching an agency that can offer information and service to you besides AARP, contact National Council on Aging (NCOA) - a non-profit which provides services to anyone over 60 years of age.

HOW ABOUT SOMETHING A LITTLE BIT LIGHTER?

The word "Lexophile" describes people who love words and love to play around with words. They create wordplays like this: "You can tune a piano, but you can't tuna fish", and "To write with a broken pencil is pointless."

An annual competition is held by the New York Times to find the best wordplay sentences created by lexophiles. This year's submissions:

I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.

This girl today said she recognized me from the Vegetarians Club, but I'd swear I've never met herbivore.

I know a guy who's addicted to drinking brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.

I got some batteries that were given out free of charge.

A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

A will is a dead giveaway.

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

Police were summoned to a daycare center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

Did you hear about the fellow whose entire left side was cut off? He's all right now.

A bicycle can't stand alone; it's just two tired.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine last week is now fully recovered.

He had a photographic memory but it was never fully developed.

When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.

Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?

When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.

When chemists die, they barium.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

Some Interesting Quotes from People You Will Remember:

I have never hated a man enough to give his diamonds back.

- Zsa Zsa Gabor



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

I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury.

- Groucho Marx



In Memoriam

The following MCPSRA members have passed away:

FEBRUARY

James A. Miers
Patricia A. Ondish

APRIL

Peggy W. Anselmo
Jean M. Fullenkamp
Marguerite S. Hetrick
Hellen Jane Lundberg

MARCH

Ellen A. Gardiner
Ora E. Isaac
Shirley A. Melmed
Betty Jean Morgan
Shirley M. Serber
Donald E. Smith
Florence D. Snowden
Elissa Weinroth



Photo by Mandel Ngan

Josiah Henson Project

MCPSRA has been a dedicated sponsor of the Josiah Henson Park Project for several years. We set aside in our budget, \$5000.00 as a grant to match member donations. (Use the form below to contribute.)

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") to MCPSRA Treasurer, Dr. Stephen Raucher, 5515 Manorfield Rd., Rockville, MD 20853.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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
NORMANDIE FARM**

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

Next Luncheon Date
October 15, 2020

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

This is the June, 2020 issue.