

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



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

Volume 2021-22, Issue #5

June 2022



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Debra Munk
President - MCPSRA

The school year is ending...but what do we care? We're retired and every day is like the day after school ends, right? This is such an exciting, but challenging time of life. For most of us, life up to retirement was well navigated (and consumed) by our careers. But once we stepped out of our hectic work lives, we faced decisions that were less charted. What to do? Where to live? How to stretch retirement resources? How to maintain good health? I, personally, have found that this long-awaited life after career to be a little unsettling. In fact, I'm still trying to figure it all out.

But one decision I have not regretted was to become involved with MCPSRA. I joined right after retirement because I thought it was important to support an organization that would protect my benefits. But it has become so much more than that. MCPSRA continues to be a way to connect with old friends, participate in luncheons, contribute to service projects, and now... enjoy trips. I am thrilled that emerging from COVID restrictions has allowed us to resume our fabulous luncheons at Normandie Farm. Look for your reservation form later in this newsletter.

MCPSRA has recently entered two exciting partnerships: Interfaith Works and Montgomery County Recreation Department's SOAR (Senior Outdoor Adventures in Recreation) for vigorous senior adults, age 55 and over, and Day Trippers Programs.

Interfaith Works is a 501c3 non-profit that provides emergency shelter, supportive housing, essential needs (like clothing, food, and employment programs) to over 35,000 residents of Montgomery MD every year. MCPSRA has committed \$1000 in matching funds. So, if you include Interfaith Works in your donation plan, please let us know so

we can match your donation amount. Additionally, we have planned a **MCPSRA Service Day** at the Interfaith Works Clothing Center at 751 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, on June 21, 2022, from 8:00 am-12:00 pm. Come join us for donuts and clothes sorting. You will need to sign up ahead of time (just email me your name and how long you plan to stay at: munk.debra@yahoo.com.) Please bring your proof of vaccination card and a mask with you. You will be amazed by this amazing operation that supplies clothing free of charge to Montgomery County residents in need.

While some of us are still venturing abroad, many of us want to explore closer to home. For this reason, MCPSRA has partnered with Montgomery County Recreation Department in doing day trips in our area. There are two programs: SOAR (Senior Outdoor Adventures in Recreation) for vigorous senior adults, age 55 and over, and Day Trippers where Seniors can bring along younger friends and family members. (In fact, I'm going sailing for the first time on a SOAR trip in June!) Bernadette Rager, our new Trips Chair, has provided more information about day trips in this newsletter.

Good News! MCPSRA has resumed the Toolkit program after a two-year hiatus because of COVID. Because costs for supplies have increased, your financial assistance is needed more than ever so we can provide Toolkits for Kindergartners participating in this summer's Extended Learning Opportunities Summer Adventures in Learning (ELO SAIL) Program at selected Title 1 schools. See the Toolkit Project article included in this newsletter.

We are excited to again offer scholarships to MCPS employees pursuing degrees and professional development. We have received many applications from all sectors of the MCPS staff: schools, administrative offices, warehouses, and depots. The scholarship committee is reviewing the applications and the recipients will be informed of their award status this month. I look forward to recognizing awardees at our fall luncheon.

(Continued on page 3)

MCPSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD)

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



69 MCPSRA Members Attended Our April Luncheon

June 16, Final Luncheon of the Year

After two years of COVID lockdown, we were once again able to gather face-to-face and celebrate with friends and colleagues. Sixty-nine retirees and guests attended the MCPSRA luncheon on April 21. It was great!

Our final luncheon of the year will be June 16. I hope many more of you will be able to enjoy the good food, good friends, good times. Russ Wright (MCPSRA Newsletter Editor) is flying in from Florida to attend.

Unfortunately, June 16, will also be a very sad time. It will be our last luncheon at Normandie Farm—at least as we have known it for the last seven years. As you may know, Normandie Farm is closing as of July 1, 2022, after being a Montgomery County landmark for 91 years.

Where will we meet for our 2022-23 luncheons? I don't know. MCPSRA is investigating other venues. If you have any suggestions for possible luncheon sites, please let me know. (We need a space that can accommodate between 60-125 people.) Meanwhile, the following dates are tentative for next year:

October 27, 2022

February 23, 2023

April 27, 2023

June 15, 2023

Please mark them on your calendars.

LeeAnn Kaye

President's Message Continued from page 1

Finally, I need to recognize the hard work of the MCPSRA Board over the past year. We have met monthly, sometimes by Zoom, sometimes in person. I don't think I have ever worked with a more committed group and could not run this organization without each one of them. We have several chairperson vacancies for next year (Community Service, Consumer Education, Membership, and Public Relations); so, if you have the time and want to have some fun, let me know. (Thanks to Bill Mills for the photograph on page 2.)

Happy Summer!
Debra

THIS SUMMER'S TOOLKITS PROJECT IS A GO!

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were very disappointed that we had to suspend for the last two years assembling and distributing toolkits to kindergartners in the Title I Extended Learning Opportunities Summer Adventures in Learning (ELO SAIL) Program. We are delighted to report that we are resuming our project this year and are planning to provide at least 2,100 kits to in-coming kindergartners at approximately 32 participating Title I elementary schools in July.



Diane Wells and Pam Grant



Kevin Soisson

The project team includes MCPSRA Special Projects Committee members Joan Donovan, Trish Bendler, Diane Wells, and Pam Grant plus Camiele Jones-Akinkuowo, Title I Co-Ordinator, and Kevin Soisson, Department of Materials Management manager who replaced Lanny Taylor after his retirement. Rodrigo Godinez at the Title I Office will assist Camiele in assuring the success of our project this summer.

The team has been hard at work since March working on crucial tasks in preparation for assembling this summer's kits. Over 72,000 clear bottle caps have been bagged with 30 caps in each along with 48,000 colored ones with 20 caps for each kit. The plastic shoe boxes were donated to us by Tom DuMars and the MCPS Science Department since that size of container is no longer used for the science kits that are sent out to schools. The Educational Systems Federal Credit Union is partnering with us again this year by providing the pencils and rulers. Kevin and the MCPS Educational Foundation have ordered all the other items that go in the kits (a few items have proved difficult to acquire such as the scissors) and the cost of all items has greatly increased since we did the kits in the summer of 2019. Title I is in the process of updating all the lesson plans that are included in each toolkit.

We are most grateful to all of you who have continued to donate to our project during the pandemic when we could not assemble and distribute the kits. Your commitment to our project and your compassion for the neediest of our county's school children is deeply appreciated. It is what has kept this project going during the 19 years since it was initiated in 2003 by Dr. Jerry Weast and visionary members of MCPSRA who knew that such a project would enable and enrich the lives of children who had few or no school supplies at home to support their learning at school. We continue to need your support. Please fill out and mail in the form below **(MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MCPS EUDCATIONAL FOUNDATION)**. Thank you SO MUCH!

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 2022

Marianne K. Brown
Maureen M. Hassett

615 North Maple Ave., Brunswick, MD 21716
300 Cloverly Forest Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20905

301-712-8139
301-989-0625

Joined in April 2022

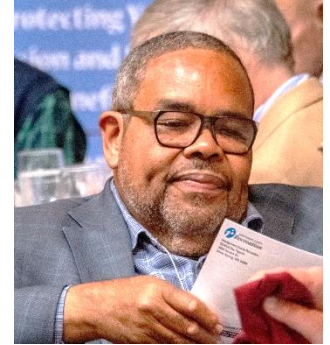
Elaine E. Pearre
Donna L. Will

15501 Comus Rd., Clarksburg, MD 20871
2001 Gold Mine Rd., Brookeville, MD 20833

301-802-1900
301-774-6159

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.



Reggie Ott

Spring Cleaning, Spruce-Up and Scams



As you and your neighbor are working in your yard, be aware of the following:

If someone approaches you, offering to do a job with leftover materials at a great price and it seems too good to be true, it probably is! Ask for references where they performed previously and don't give out any of your information especially credit card information. If they offer to do a job for you at a super low price by obtaining a deposit from you, avoid it. Don't allow yourself to be pressured. Any work done for you should be checked out and done to your expectations.

Be vigilant of strangers coming to your door offering to clean up your yard and asking permission to come inside. If you do not know them, don't let them in.

Be vigilant!

How to donate safely to Ukraine Relief Efforts

The following 30 organizations have earned high marks for being financially efficient and transparent: (MRSPA and MCPSRA are not recommending these charities, but providing them as guidance for locating a safe charity)

Medical Services:

UNICEF USA; International Medical Corps; Heart to Heart International

Medical Supplies:

Americares; Project C.U.R.E.; World Vision; MAP International; Heart to Heart International; UNICEF USA
MedShare; Direct Relief; Project HOPE; Operation USA

Non-Medical Supplies:

Operation USA; Mercy Corps; Americares; Matthew25: Ministries; MedShare; International Relief Teams; World Help; Project HOPE; American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; Operation Blessing International; GlobalGiving; ActionAid USA; UNICEF USA; Save the Children; Episcopal Relief and Development; Catholic Relief Services; World Hope International; Good360

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Heart to Heart International; Catholic Relief Services; GlobalGiving; World Hope International; Convoy of Hope; UNICEF USA; ActionAid USA; World Help; Operation Blessing International; International Relief Teams; Water Mission; World Vision

Long-Term Assistance

Center for Disaster Philanthropy; Catholic Relief Services; World Help; Operation Blessing International.

Emergency Housing

World Vision; UNICEF USA; A Chance In Life; World Help

Other (cash/cash vouchers, logistic supply)

World Vision; American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; Islamic Relief USA; Heart to Heart International; Church World Service; ActionAid USA; Americares

It's that time of year: Spring and Summer Yard Sales

- Looking for great buys? Check out yardsalesearch.com or garagesalefinder.com or simply enter your zip code. They will give you a list of the sales, addresses, time and sometimes photos.
- Additionally, watch for great deals in May and June on Mother's Day and Father's Day gifts.
- In June, watch for deals on outdoor goods, camping items, and fishing gear.
- May is **National Mental Health Awareness Month**.
- **National Donut Day** is June 3rd. Many donut shops will be offering free donuts or a donut with another purchase.
- Check on lower gas prices using **GasBuddy.com** during the week. Prices are usually higher on Saturday and Sunday.

Notes taken from **Consumer Connection**, A publication of the MRSPA Consumer Education Committee
May-June 2022

In Memoriam

The following MCPSRA members have passed away:

JANUARY

Rosa V. Shelton

MARCH

Carl E. Bell

Kenneth E. Huff

Stanley R. Gnatowski

Myrtle Johnson

Ralph E. Mahoney, Jr.

Phyllis E. McCurdy

Ronald W. Shurie

Gerald S. Smith

FEBRUARY

Dorothy M. Carroll

Gail D. Fitch

APRIL

Patsy H. Herold

Margaret H. Lamphier

Warren A. Major

Betty L. Mascetta

MCPSRA COMMUNITY BOARD

As a service to our members, The MCPSRA will include 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.



May is National Mental Health Awareness Month

Maryland's Helpline offers 24/7 call, chat, and text support for Marylanders in need of help, guidance, and information related to a behavioral health concern. Trained specialists can provide crises intervention, risk assessment for suicide, homicide, or overdose prevention, and assisting linking community behavioral health providers and accessing community resources.

To get connected to Maryland's Helpline, call 211 and press 1, text 1, text your zip code to 898-211, or visit 211md.org.

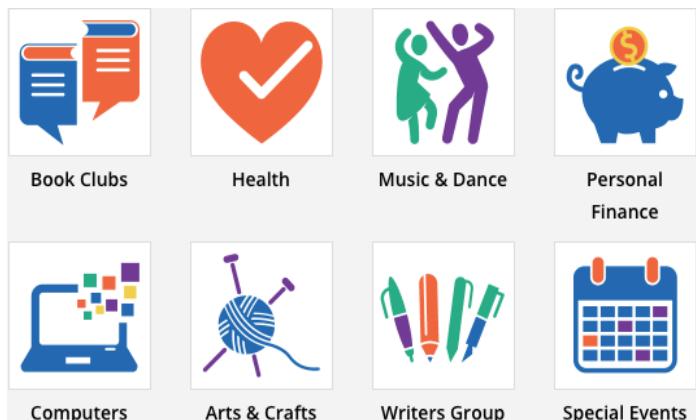
The State of Maryland also has a website that provides seniors with a guide to a range of services and information to keep us well and moving. Go to <https://aging.maryland.gov/Pages/senior-centers.aspx> to check out an overview of Maryland's Senior Center services.

COVID-19 Updates

Although Montgomery County's mask mandate was lifted on February 22, 2022, there is still a need to keep current on [COVID-19 Updates](#), including vaccine clinics and [rapid test kit distribution and N95 mask pickup locations](#). To get the latest information, the County's Covid-19 Update page will provide the most up-to-date information.

Take Advantage of Montgomery County's many [Benefits for Senior Citizens](#).

Montgomery County offers a wide range of activities and supports for our senior citizens. Go here (<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/activitiesandprograms/seniors/>) to explore County supports, activities, and opportunities for MoCo seniors. Besides the [Seniors Centers](#), our county offers [transportation](#) to the centers and provides other transportation options, when and if needed. There are also many opportunities for seniors to [volunteer](#) in County programs, provide office support, give presentations on topics of interest to seniors and even participate in performances to appreciative audiences. If you don't find anything in the Senior section of interest, check out the [Aquatics](#), [Classes](#), and/or [SOAR/Day Tripper](#) sections. There are programs in each section geared to those fifty-five and over. Oh, and did we mention fun? For more information, contact the Senior Center or Active Adult Program location nearest you.



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 their book clubs, computer help, tax preparation, music performances, and health and wellness programs. Go to the URL above to read about the most current events and opportunities.

Remember that our State Organization (MRSPA) offers opportunities for travel. Here are the trips that are planned for this spring and fall:



MRSPA TRIPS AND TRAVEL 2021-2022



America's Music Cities Featuring Nashville, Memphis, & New Orleans, May 20 – 27, 2022
(Mayflower Tours) Contact Debbie Martinez at (810) 797-5710 or (630) 673-0773 or Debbie@mayflowercruisesandtours.com.

Oberammergau and Passion Play, May 22 – 31, 2022 (Collette) Contact Leigh Ann Keller at Action Travel at (301) 843-0887 or admin@actiontraveltours.com.

Alaska Cruise/Tour, July 8 – 20, 2022 (Cruises Plus) Contact Judy Warsaw at (410) 494-1414 or judycruisesplus@aol.com.

Mackinac Island, September/October 2022 (Collette) Contact Leigh Ann Keller at Action Travel at (301) 843-0887 or admin@actiontraveltours.com.

More trips are coming soon!

Check our website at www.mrspa.org, click *Travel* to locate more information on trip.

All MRSPA trips are open to MRSPA members, their family and friends. Please use **Code: GO-28192** *anytime* you travel with Grand Circle Tours to access a special deal for you and MRSPA, even if it's not a MRSPA sponsored trip.

The Montgomery County State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

Do you need help navigating Medicare?

SHIP offers free local Medicare counseling to Montgomery County residents. The local SHIP is part of a national network that receives funds from the Federal government. SHIPs are not connected to any insurance company or health plan. SHIP staff and trained volunteers can help with such Medicare questions as

- Costs,
- Enrollment,
- Coverage,
- Coordination with other insurance, and
- Sources of assistance with paying for health care costs.

Extensive information about Medicare and the services offered by the local SHIP can be found on its website at www.medicareabcd.org. You may also leave a message at 301-255-4250 to be contacted by a staff member or trained volunteer by telephone.

Food Access

Do you need help accessing food?

The Montgomery County Government offers multiple free services for those in need including meal deliver, food giveaway events, and grocery delivery. Detailed information may be found at the website below including details on how to access these services, as well as how to donate and support these services.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/get-help/food.html>

Or call Food Access at 311.

Get a copy of your vaccination record

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, they can email you a copy of your record. To request a copy, email c19vaccination@montgomerycountymd.gov or call 240-777-2982. They cannot provide duplicate CDC vaccination cards.

COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card

Please keep this record card, which includes medical information about the vaccines you have received.
Por favor, guarde esta tarjeta de registro, que incluye información médica sobre las vacunas que ha recibido.

Last Name _____ First Name _____ NI _____

Date of birth _____ Patient number (medical record or IS record number) _____

Vaccine	Product Name/Manufacturer Lot Number	Date	Healthcare Professional Clinic Site
1 st Dose COVID-19	_____	____/____/____	_____
2 nd Dose COVID-19	_____	____/____/____	_____
Other	_____	____/____/____	_____
Other	_____	____/____/____	_____

“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. Connect-A-Ride (CAR) is a free information and referral service that helps adults over fifty 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 sixty-five 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 SmartTrip Card or Medicare Card with photo ID required. For Metro schedule information, call 311.

Profile in Retirement – Barbara (Bonnie) Leister

Thirty-five years ago, this month (May), Bonnie traveled from Singapore to Montgomery County to interview for the principalship of Wyngate Elementary School. After her successful interview, Bonnie spent all 29 years in MCPS at Wyngate prior to her retirement.

Bonnie always enjoys getting-together for lunch or happy hour with colleagues, some retired, and others still working (albeit fewer are still working part-time or full-time). “While we laugh and chat about our former lives in MCPS, it is just great to have friends who walked a similar path. Having spent 29 years in one school, it is still amazing the number of times I encounter a former parent or student! Just this week, in two different gift shops in Bethesda, a parent said, ‘Hi,

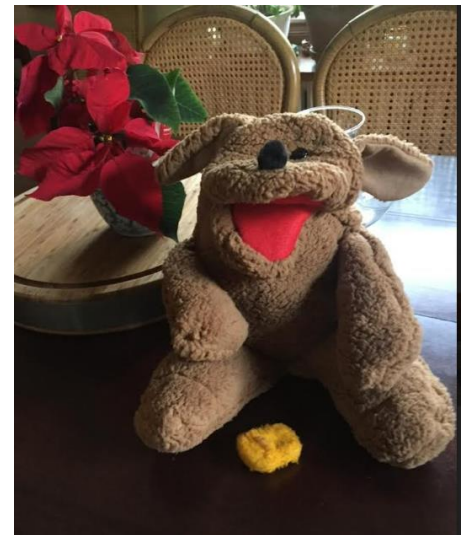
Ms. Leister, how are you enjoying retirement?’ It was also a pleasant surprise when a former student brought me a glass of wine at one restaurant.

It took me awhile to adjust to retirement life, but I am busy every day pursuing my interests, which include traveling. I must admit that traveling has been limited due to Covid, but I traveled in early May, and in the summer once again to Lake Keuka, then to see family in Florida. Hopefully in the next year my love of expatriate living will be kindled with a trip to Europe.



Although I like to fly (private plane), Covid intervened, so I have only flown a few times. However, I love to cook so at my grandson’s suggestion I am compiling and working on “Grandma’s Favorite Recipes,” a cookbook of Asian and American family favorites for them. I also have taken up quilting. I find creating and making the design is my favorite part, with quilting the least favored part. Having a great granddaughter has enabled me to make Halloween costumes again. I love Halloween, so this year she wanted to be a lion, so I made the costume. I also made her the bunny quilt and a puppet that swallows food! *(Pictures below)*

Gardening has always been interest, too. However, I normally start each day walking two miles! All these interests were put on hold until I retired!



MCPSRA Trips are Back!

MCPSRA is partnering with the Montgomery County Recreation Department in scheduling day trips. This in a combined effort to offer trips at a reasonable cost to our members. Trips are all day trips picking up travelers at the Olney Manor Recreation Park, 16605 Georgia Ave., Olney, MD and returning there at the end of the trip. Buses do not stop at any other location.

There are two types of trips, SOAR (Senior Outdoor Adventures in Recreation) for vigorous senior adults, age 55 and over, and Day Trippers (children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.)

For more info on upcoming trips and registration, visit WWW.MOCOREC.COM or call Paula Rodgers, Senior Facilities and Programs Supervisor, 240-777-4933. Registration begins May 16, 2022, for trips between June 21 thru Aug 21. Trips tend to fill up rather quickly...so don't delay!

Questions about upcoming trips? Call Bernadette Rager, MCPSRA Trips Chair, at 301-774-0345.



A Bit of Humor from Skip Rideout

- My doctor asked if anyone in my family suffered from mental illness? I said, "No, we all seem to enjoy it."
- My bucket list: keep breathing.
- Just once, I want a username and password prompt to say, "close enough."
- I'm a multitasker. I can listen, ignore and forget all at the same time!
- Retirement to do list: Wake up..... Nailed it!
- Common sense is not a gift. It's a punishment because you must deal with everyone else who doesn't have it.
- I'm at a place in my life where errands are starting to count as going out.
- I don't mean to brag, but I finished my 14-day diet food supply in 9 hours and 20 minutes.
- It's weird being the same age as old people.
- Never sing in the shower! Singing leads to dancing, dancing leads to slipping, and slipping leads to paramedics seeing you naked. So, remember... don't sing!
- I see people my age mountain climbing. I feel good getting my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.
- We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story anyway.

**“...After retiring from MCPS,
I discovered [Osher at JHU]
and now I never want to leave!
You have helped to create
an organization for vital
and curious retirees,
where we can always
continue to learn....”**

*Nancy Schultz, 2010
Osher at JHU Member*

Keep learning with Osher at JHU's
noncredit courses both in-person and online.
For more information, call 301-294-7058
or email osher@jhu.edu.



MCPSRA LUNCHEON AND BUSINESS MEETING

Thursday, June 16, 2022

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: Noon Program: 1:00 p.m.

Menu Choices

Roast breast of chicken, thyme au jus, rice pilaf, steamed zucchini & carrot sticks	\$30.00	Entrees include: salad, dessert, coffee, tea, soda, POPOVERS Cash bar available.
Blackened filet of cod, citrus drizzle lemon butter, rice pilaf, steamed zucchini & carrot sticks	\$30.00	
Vegetable lasagna	\$30.00	

-----Cut here-----

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Circle Entrée Choice

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Chicken Fish Vegetarian

Email address: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Chicken Fish Vegetarian

Email address: _____

Total amount enclosed: _____

Reservation form and check must be received by Friday, June 10, 2022. 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

patriciabendler0@gmail.com

ANY FOOD ALLERGIES? 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
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 June 16, 2022

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

This is the June 2022 issue.