Montgomery County Public Schools

Retirees Association, Inc.

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

Volume 2020-21, Issue #4

April, 2021



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Carol Dahlberg *President - MCPSRA*

Welcome to spring! The spring equinox happened on March 20. If you are getting this newsletter



after that date, winter is gone and forgotten. It's

time to go outside and enjoy the flowers. Forsythia, pansies and crocuses are blooming (or will be

blooming soon.)

We hear every day how MCPSRA members continue to support others in their communities through their volunteer activities. The Board of Directors zooms



monthly to conduct your business. The annual MRSPA Legislative Workshop was held virtually on January 26, 2021. The MRSPA Board of Directors voted to support the override of Governor Hogan's veto of the Kirwan Commission *Blueprint for MD Schools* regarding education funding.

We are working to build our membership by sustained outreach to MCPS retirees (electronically through Outlook and with direct mailings). Your assistance is still needed to help recruit members as membership has declined. (See award on page 7.)

Note from MRSPA:

MRSPA is running a Membership Special from March 1 to June 5, 2021. NEW members who sign up during this time, will be charged only \$10 state dues plus our local dues. IF new members sign up for dues deduction, they will pay NO state dues for the 2020-2021 membership year, because the \$10-off incentive totally offsets the MRSPA annual dues. All new members who join during this time will be billed for the 2021-2022 dues in June like everyone else or have the dues deducted on July 31, if they choose dues deduction.

Nominations have been made for MCPSRA officers for next year. They are as follows: President, Dr. Debra Munk; Vice-President, Mr. Reginald Ott; and Secretary, Dr. Donna Hollingshead (see pages 7, 8, and 10). In addition, Dr. Stephen Raucher has been nominated for MRSPA treasurer for 2021-2024.

Again this year, we will award \$1500 scholarships to MCPS teachers and staff to help defray the costs of course work in a recognized educational program for the summer and fall of 2021. Information on how to apply will be made available in MCPS schools, offices, warehouses and depots.

I would like to recognize Kenneth Huff for the contributions and leadership he has provided to retirees for over 21 years as a member of Board of Directors of MCPSRA/MCTRA. During these years, he served as the Assistant Treasurer, Budget Development Chair and Louise S. Walker Scholarship Chair. Ken recently retired from the MCPSRA Board of Directors.

Carol McVeigh Dahlberg

MCPSRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD)

Officers:		
President	Dr. Carol M. Dahlberg	301-253-2212
	john.dahlberg234@gmail.co	om
Vice President	Dr. Debra Munk	240-426-8407
	debramunk@yahoo.com	
Immediate Past President	Dr. Stephen M. Raucher	301-460-9092
	sraucher@comcast.net	
Recording Secretary	Mary D'Ovidio	240-246-7818
	ldovidio01@comcast.net	
Treasurer	Dr. Stephen M. Raucher	301-460-9092
	sraucher@comcast.net	
Committee Chairs:		
Archives	Juliette Trevino	301-460-9670
	jgtrevino@comcast.net	
Auditing	Harvey Strine	301-251-0478
	strineah@verizon.net	
Budget Development	Dr. Stephen M. Raucher	301-460-9092
	sraucher@comcast.net	
Community Service	VACANT	
Consumer Education	Reginald J. Ott	301-384-4901
	regjott@verizon.net	
Hospitality/Luncheons	LeeAnn Kaye	301-598-5480
	geolakaye@gmail.com	
Co-Chair	Trish Bendler	301-540-5160
	patricia_bendler09@comca	
Insurance and Benefits	J. Thomas Hickman	301-929-9660
Lasialativa	CTMAR28@yahoo.com	201 706 2002
Legislative	Fred S. Evans	301-706-3993
MCDSBA Projects	fredevans1970@gmail.com Joan Donovan	301-253-6099
MCPSRA Projects		301-233-0099
Co-Chair	jcjdonovan@aol.com Trish Bendler	301-540-5160
CO-Criali	patricia_bendler09@comca	
Josiah Henson Project	Mary D'Ovidio	240-246-7818
Josian Henson Project	ldovidio01@comcast.net	240-240-7010
Membership	Juliette Trevino	301-460-9670
Wembership	jgtrevino@comcast.net	301 400 3070
Newsletter Editor	Dr. Russell G. Wright	301-806-7252
Newsletter Editor	russwright408@gmail.com	301 000 7232
Nominating	Dr. Stephen M. Raucher	301-460-9092
Troning	sraucher@comcast.net	301 100 3032
Parliamentarian	Nickie Neary	301-869-0057
	nearynic@msn.com	301 303 3037
Political Action	Lou D'Ovidio	240-246-7818
	ldovidio01@comcast.net	
Public Relations	Dr. Donna Hollingshead	301-385-2147
	DonnaShimodaHollingshead	
Recognition	Joan Donovan	301-253-6099
C	jcjdonovan@aol.com	
Co-Chair	Juliette Trevino	301-460-9670
	jgtrevino@comcast.net	
Scholarships (MCPSRA)	Elizabeth A. Stonesifer	301-460-5155
. , ,	wonderfulnice@aol.com	
Louise S. Walker	Margaret Brown	301-910-2305
	margdell@gmail.com	
Trips	VACANT	

BUSINESS MEETING/LUNCHEON

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



Normandie Farm Restaurant has More than Popovers

April 15, 2021 June 17, 2021

April 15 MCPSRA Luncheon Cancelled

Once again, the MCPSRA, April 15 luncheon is cancelled. Unfortunately, this is another causality of the Covid 19 pandemic.

However, there does seem to be some light at the end of the tunnel. More vaccines are available and more of us are being vaccinated. Restrictions regarding indoor dining are continually being revised. Will we be able to gather once again for our June 17 Luncheon at Normandie Farm? Keep your fingers crossed and your eyes on our June, MCPSRA newsletter.

If you can't wait to satisfy your popover craving, check out the Normandie Farm website, popovers.com or call 301. 983.8838. They are open and serving.

Take care, stay safe and let's hope that if June doesn't work, we'll be good to go in October!!

Luncheon dates for the 2021-2022 school year are yet to be determined. Stay tuned.

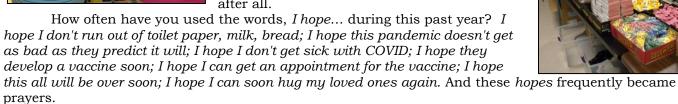
LeeAnn Kaye

THE POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING



During the past year, we navigated together through a pandemic that none of us had ever experienced or imagined. At times, our confidence may have waivered and our thoughts slipped into feelings of depression and hopelessness. Each passing month, holiday, and season brought new challenges. But when you search back through your memories and recall

those most difficult times during other crises when the situation seemed just as hopeless, you also remember that whatever the crisis was it eventually passed. And once the crisis passed, you realized that it wasn't hopeless after all.



Unfortunately, there are many residents of Montgomery County who have had to utter, I hope... for other life-altering things such as: I hope I don't lose my job; I hope I can feed my family; I hope I can pay my rent; I hope we are not evicted; I hope someone will help us.



Now, is the time for all of us who are able, to reach out and perform random acts of kindness for those individuals and families in Montgomery County who still are experiencing feelings of hopelessness. It is our innate human nature to be compassionate and charitable in an effort to improve the well-being of those less fortunate than ourselves, and may your caring spirit guide your generosity.

Hopefully you will consider supporting our **Toolkits Project** this year. We need your help more than ever. We are optimistic that Title I will again be able to hold the Extended Learning Opportunities Summer Adventures In

Learning (ELO SAIL) program in July or August for in-coming kindergartners and Head Start students. We anticipate that the number of toolkits required will be considerably higher than in years past. We are tentatively planning on assembling 2,500 kits. This year, our 17th year for our project, is like none other. If there was ever there a time when our toolkits were needed, it is this year. The new ELO-SAIL kindergartners and Head Start students will most likely have few or no school supplies at home. They desperately need basic supplies when they start their educational careers this fall. Please consider supporting our project, especially this year, by filling out the Sponsorship Form below and mailing it with a generous tax-



deductible donation to the address listed. Make sure that the check is made payable to: MCPS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION with "Toolkits Project" on the memo line. We believe in the power of positive thinking! We know that our toolkits make an enormous positive impact on the lives of the children we serve. Thank you SO MUCH for gifting hope to so many needing children and their families.

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		MCPSRA TOOLKITS SPO	NSORSHIP FORM	I	
		owing information and mail it along with e) to Mrs. Joan Donovan, 13 Hilton Cou			with
ADDRESS:					
I would like to sp	onsor #	toolkits at \$10 per kit.	Donation enclose	ed: \$	_
Optional: In mer	mory of	In honor	of		_
Send a	acknowledge	ment to			
		e a receipt at		or mail me a receipt	-
, or no re					
Do NOT	'include my	name on the toolkits labels			

Welcome New Members

Joined in January 2021

Sylvia Kranish	1702 Cody Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20902-4025	301-593-8497
Lisa Marie Latour	420 Kent Square Rd., Gaithersburg, MD 20878	240-731-0171
Andrea Schneider	8528 Bradford Rd., Silver Spring, MD 20901	240-501-0969
John K. Spitzberg	PO Box 471, Willow, AK 99688-0471	828-230-6902

Joined in February 2021

David Jacobs	110 Sunnyside, Silver Spring, MD 20910	202-431-6122
Bharati Umarji	1122 Betts Trail Way, Potomac, MD 20854	301-762-3668

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. You can access the Consumer Connection Newsletter by clicking on the MRSPA website (www.MCRSPA.org), clicking on "Committee", and clicking on "Consumer Connection Newsletter".
- Do Not Call does not stop it all. The easiest way to protect yourself from solicitations and scams is to pay attention to your caller ID. If you do not recognize the number, even if it is local or seems legit, let the call go to voice mail. If it is a friend, you will get a message and you can call right back. If you inadvertently answer a call that turns out to be unwanted, just say "Thank you for calling" and hang up immediately. Do not engage in conversation.

These people want your money and they are good at getting it!

- It is Tax Season! Be on the Lookout for Scammers!
 - 1. The IRS will never call you, demanding payment.
 - 2. The IRS doesn't use social media, text, or emails
 - 3. The IRS will not ask for gift cards as payments.



Adapted from MRSPA Consumer Connection-March April 2021

Small Bits of Humor (more on pages 8 and 11)

Having plans sounds like a good idea until you have to put on clothes and leave the house.

When I was a kid, I wanted to be older... this is not what I expected.

I'm at a place in my life where errands are starting to count as going out.

PROFILES IN RETIREMENT by Donna Hollingshead

This section of the newsletter is dedicated to hearing from the MCPSRA members! Stay Connected with other retirees by sharing your latest news. Your submission may be a few lines or up to one page with photos to add interest. Note that submissions may be edited as space permits. Email your update and photos to dshallingshead@gmail.com or mail to D. Hollingshead, PO Box 4145, Frederick, MD 21705.

Samuel Quarcoo@mcpsmd.org (substitute teacher)



"I have been helping a school in Ghana for the past 21 years and still do. Last December 28, 2020, the Washington Post ran a feature article of my activities in Ghana. I will be going back to Ghana in July to help out again. The link below shows a copy from the Washington Post about my activities as it was shared with the community.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2020/12/28/ghanarockville-woodmont-country-club/



Here is a summary of an MCPS News article:

In 1999 Mr. Quarcoo gave a presentation on his African homeland of Ghana to Wheaton Woods grade 3 students. Part of the presentation included information and photos on his old neighborhood and how the students living there did not have basic school supplies. The Wheaton Woods community offered to donate funds to purchase supplies. This was the beginning of Mr. Quarcoo's decades-long commitment to collecting and delivering school



supplies to his hometown school. "Where I grew up, life was tough - I didn't come from a wealthy family. But I always had a place to rest my head, food to eat, and clothes on my back. Many of the kids I sent the supplies to had nothing at all." Over the years, with Mr. Quarcoo working two jobs, as well as the generosity and support from many inside and outside of MCPS, he has expanded his efforts to provide school supplies (including computers, uniforms, and shoes) for two additional schools in Ghana. He is also donating masks and hand sanitizer during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are very proud to have Mr. Quarcoo as a member of our organization. By fighting to preserve his retirement benefits, we are helping him continue to support the children in his native land.

MCPSRA FY 2022 Budget

Thanks to the overwhelming support, and vote of confidence, expressed in response to the "Emergency Powers Referendum," the Board was able to adopt Next Year's Budget (below) on behalf of the membership. As you will see there are a few items that are "new or different" which are highlighted below.

We will be able to continue to match donations to the Josiah Henson Park. To date, MCPSRA has matched over \$4,800.

- 1. The budget includes printing costs for a revised brochure and the cost of printing and mailing an updated Membership Directory
- 2. We will not only continue to produce, print and mail 5 Newsletters, but, in addition, we will have a subscription to Constant Contact to allow Newsletters and other communications to reach our members electronically in a timely fashion. [Please note that to receive Constant Contact we need your current e-mail address]
- **3.** In order to do all these things, and to offset the annual decrease in paid membership, it was necessary to increase dues (first time in over 10 years) from \$10 per year to \$15 per year.

If you have any questions about the budget, please feel free to contact our Treasurer, Dr. Steve Raucher sraucher@comcast.net.

MCPSRA Budget FY 2021 / 2022

	FY20 Actual	FY 21 Budget	FY 22 Budget
EXPENDITURES			
Archives	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Auditing	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
Budget	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Committee for Montgomery	\$1,150.00	\$1,150.00	\$1,150.00
Community Service	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Donations/Contributions from MCPSRA	\$150.00	\$550.00	\$100.00
Hospitality	\$10.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Insurance & Benefits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Josiah Henson Special Project	\$1,320.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Legislative	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Membership	\$653.00	\$250.00	\$500.00
Membership Honorarium	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Membership Directory	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,350.00
Newsletter	\$9,410.00	\$10,500.00	\$10,000.00
Political Action	\$152.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Program	\$94.00	\$200.00	\$400.00
Recognition	\$44.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Scholarship	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	\$9,000.00
Special Projects - Toolkits	\$434.00	\$500.00	\$2,500.00
Trip Committee	\$24.00	\$0.00	\$200.00
Website	\$42.00	\$150.00	\$300.00
Officers	\$24.00	\$100.00	\$200.00
Contingency	\$207.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Total Expenditures	\$16,614.00	\$32,000.00	\$37,500.00
REVENUE			
Membership Dues	\$22,730.00	\$23,000.00	\$31,500.00
Trip Net Income	\$1,100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Transfer from Surplus	\$1,455.00	\$9,000.00	\$0.00
Transfer from Scholarship Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
Total Revenue	\$25,285.00	\$32,000.00	\$37,500.00

In Memoriam

The following MCPSRA members have passed away:

JANUARY
Harry J. Brennan
Marguerite R. Bridge
Mattie W. Brown
Anne L. Radin

FEBRUARY
Robert E. Anastasi
Adda Barrett Clark
Lola C. Gimmel
Henry B. Heller (husband of Bonnie)
Mary Frances Jones Mooneyham
Helen F. Matheny

Election of MCPSRA Officers for 2021-2023

Per the "Emergency Powers Resolution" the "normal" [pre-covid] Election of Officers, scheduled to be held at the April Luncheon Meeting, will instead be held, via ZOOM, at the Board of Directors Meeting on Thursday, April 1, 2021. Per Article VI Section 2 of the MCPSRA Bylaws "Nominations may be made from the floor provided the consent of the nominee has been obtained." Any member wishing to attend this meeting and/or wishing to add a nomination should contact President Carol Dahlberg (mailto:John.dalberg234@gmail.com) to get a ZOOM link.

Positions to be filled this year are: President, Vice President, and Secretary. These are two-year positions (July 2021 – June 2023). The position of Treasurer is a three-year term, and will be up for election next year.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by the Immediate Past President [Steve Raucher] consisted of Harvey Strine, Joan Gorman, Doris Nickoles, and William Stief. Their recommendation of the following candidates was submitted to the Board in February.

President: Dr. Debra Monk Vice President: Reginald Ott

Secretary: Dr. Donna S. Hollingshead

These candidates are very well qualified and have served MCPSRA faithfully. More information about each candidate may be found on pages 8 and 10.

AWARD

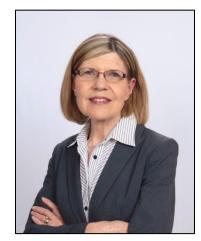
MCPSRA received an award for the Largest Numerical Membership Increase during the 2019-2020 school year. We were competing against other Maryland school retiree associations of similar size. Thank you to all new members, to current members who helped us recruit new members, and a special thank you to Juliette Trevino our membership chair.

Remember, the more members we have the better able we are to fight to keep our benefits.



Dr. Debra Munk Nominee for MCPSRA President

Debra Munk began her 33-year career with Montgomery County Public Schools as a part-time English teacher at Poolesville Jr/Sr High School. She transferred to Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School where she taught English and became dean of students, her gateway into administration. After a year as English resource teacher at Richard Montgomery High School, she became an assistant principal at Sherwood High School, during which time she completed her doctorate in Educational Policy and Administration. She spent four years in central office as the secondary English coordinator, completely overhauling the grades 6-12 English curriculum. Desiring to return to school administration, she spent a year as assistant principal at Francis Scott Key Middle School, and then took a hiatus from MCPS to accept the principalship of Middletown Middle School in Frederick County. This was followed by three years as principal of Middletown High School. The call to return to MCPS ended in an



appointment as principal of Rockville High School, where she served for 8 years before becoming a consulting principal, coaching new and struggling principals. She ended her career as a high school director, overseeing numerous high schools in the district. Although she retired in 2017, she continues to work as a consultant with the Office of Shared Accountability, overseeing standard setting of the district's English Language Arts, ESOL and math assessments. A passionate quilter, she opened her own long arm quilting business, Rock Creek Quilt Designs, in Summer 2020. She has served as vice president of MCPSRA for the past three years. Debra and her husband, Russell, are the parents of seven children, 25 grandchildren, and 7 great grandchildren.

More Humor

Don't be worried about your smartphone or TV spying on you. Your vacuum cleaner has been collecting dirt on you for years.

If you can't think of a word say "I forgot the English word for it." That way people will think you're bilingual instead of an idiot.

Cronacoaster (Noun): The ups and downs of a pandemic. One day you're loving your bubble, doing work-outs, baking banana bread and going for long walks and the next you're crying, drinking gin for breakfast and missing people you don't even like.

I see people about my age mountain climbing; I feel good getting my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.

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!

During the middle ages they celebrated the end of the plague with wine and orgies. Does anyone know if there is anything planned when this one ends?

Josiah Henson Museum & Park

Project Update by Lou D'Ovidio

Unfortunately, The Josiah Henson Museum and Park remains closed due to Covid-19 restrictions. The county has made no decisions about reopening as of this date.

We encourage you to visit this website to view some interesting information about Josiah Henson, including a new biography.

https://www.montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/josiah-henson-park/





There you will find information on the Henson project development, the new biography, the archaeology program, a brief biography including ties to the Underground Railroad and the Henson Park site history.

The new Henson Museum looks amazing and I cannot wait to see it in person.

Please consider contributing by using the form below.

Thank you for joining with MCPSRA in supporting The Josiah Henson Project.

Make a contribution using the form below. Programs at the Henson site have served Title 1 schools and will be expanded.

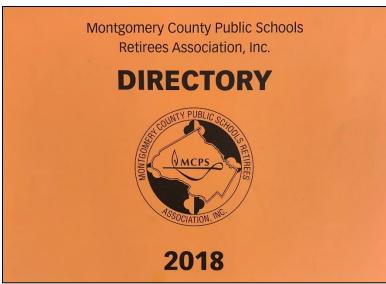
	MCPSRA-Henson Project Donation Form
	ne following information and mail it along with a check (payable to: "Montgomery County Parks Foundation") to n Raucher, 5515 Manorfield Rd., Rockville, MD 20853.
NAME:	
ADDRESS:	

A New MCPSRA Directory is Coming but Time is Running Out

This is your last chance to update your listing!

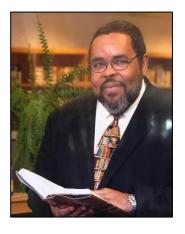
We are planning to have our new membership directory ready this summer. Check your listing in the 2018 directory to make sure all your information is correct. Don't just verify your address, phone number, cell number, and email address. It's also important to include your middle name or middle initial.

If you find errors, omissions, or changes you wish to make, please send the information to Juliette Trevino at igtrevino@comcast.net



Reginald Ott Nominee for MCPSRA Vice President

- Nominated to serve as Vice President of the MCPSRA Board of Directors.
- Served on the MCPSRA Board of Directors for 3 years and for the last two year serving as the Consumer Education Chairperson
- Retired from MCPS as administrator and educator in 2013.
- Served for two years as Vice President for Mosaic Harmony, a community choir based in Oakton, Va.; currently, Fundraising Chair for that same board in my second year.
- Served as board member for Catholic Charities in Washington, DC. in the 1980's.



Dr. Donna S. Hollingshead Nominee for MCPSRA Secretary



Dr. Donna S. Hollingshead is the nominee for the MCPSRA secretary. She is currently the Public Relations Chairperson on The MCPSRA Board. In this position she provides information of interest and need to the MCPSRA members including two new articles in the newsletter: 1) "Profiles in Retirement:" an opportunity to hear from members regarding their latest interests and latest news to connect with one another; and 2) "The Community Board:" to provide free and useful information to retirees/seniors on topics such as adult learning, food access, navigating the Medicare system, and opportunities for community service within Montgomery County.

Donna retired in 2019 as Associate Superintendent of School Administration in the Office of School Support and Improvement. She was also an Adjunct Professorial

Lecturer at The American University School of Education. Post retirement, Donna served as Administrator to the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation. She currently serves on the Montgomery County Salvation Army Advisory Board.

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. Send items for consideration to dshollingshead@gmail.com or D. Hollingshead, PO Box 4145, Frederick, MD 21705.

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. **SHIP**s are not connected to any insurance company or health plan. **SHIP** staff and trained volunteers can help with such Medicare questions as



WITH MEDICARE

- 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 put in touch by telephone with a staff member or trained volunteer.

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.

Even More Humor...

Chocolate is God's way of telling us he likes us a little bit chubby.

It's probably my age that tricks people into thinking I'm an adult.

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.

April 15, 2021
Cancelled due to COVID-19

The MCPSRA Newsletter is published in October, December, February, April, and June.
This is the April, 2021 issue.