



The REGENCY RECORD

Newsletter of the
Regency Estates
Citizens Association

Fall 2019

President's Message

I hope you had an enjoyable summer!

With the start of the new school year, I wanted to bring attention to the topic that results in more frustration, irritation and problems and, most importantly, correspondence to me. The subject is driving and parking in the neighborhood.

There are several aspects to of this, but all ultimately stem from the fact that Winston Churchill High School is in our neighborhood. Whether the subject be permitting, parental and student driving, enforcement or permitted parking on residential property, there are plenty of opportunities to be dissatisfied with the status quo. The RECA Board continues to do what it can to address the issues. As you may be aware, we had a good meeting with MCPD and the Principal and her team last year to discuss all matters WCHS related. Since that time, there has been a noticeable improvement

in traffic flow around the school; I recently send out a RECA Newsbrief about safe driving in the neighborhood and the new (and still not clearly understood) permitting process. To top things off, this issue includes a comprehensive set of questions and answers about parking, both on and off-street, which I hope you find informative.

The RECA Board will continue to try and keep on top of all things driving and parking related in the neighborhood. Our aim is to ensure that the neighborhood is safe for drivers and pedestrians alike, and that the County law is complied with. Please let us know if there are any specific driving and parking issues that we've missed from consideration and we'll do what we can to investigate and resolve.

Regards,

David Freeman, President

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NEWSLETTER

Editor: David Freeman
Compositor: Mitangi Mehta
Design: Rick Chen
Database Manager: David Levin
Advertising: David Freeman
david.freeman@regencyestates.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

Regency Estates
Citizens Association
P.O. Box 34744
Bethesda, MD 20827-0744

E-Mail: comments@regencyestates.org
Website: www.regencyestates.org

In This Issue

[Around the Neighborhood](#)

[Winston Churchill High School
Revised Traffic Flow](#)

[Around the County and State](#)

[Everything You Need to Know
About Parking](#)

[All Things Internet](#)



AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Spring-Summer Recap

RECA Annual General Meeting

RECA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at the Dance Studio of the new Student Center at St. Andrews Episcopal School, 8804 Post oak Road.

During AGM, the five current board members seeking re-election were nominated and approved: Al Belsky, Marjorie Bender, David Freeman, David King and Mitangi Mehta.

Over forty Regency Estates residents were present for the AGM. In addition to the formal business of the Annual Meeting, we had the following two guest speakers:

- **Tara Bond, Community Services Officer, Montgomery County Police**, discussing "Policing in the Community." Ms. Bond addressed neighborhood safety and provided tips, such as always locking your car doors, not leaving valuables in vehicles and never leaving garage doors open.
- **Delegate Kathleen Dumais**, Majority Leader in the State House. Ms. Dumais talked about many of the legislative items such as veto overrides, education, providing for Maryland families, healthcare, environment, criminal justice reform, public safety and guns and public health.



Fellow neighbors listening and engaging at the AGM

RECA Community Picnic

The RECA Community Picnic was held at the Regency Estates Swim Club on Saturday, May 18, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We had the great fortune of wonderful weather. A very special thanks to David King who did most of the work including being the head grill master. We had a great turn out of nearly 50 families.



Grillmaster David King serving up some good eats

RECA and Tri-Community Yard Sale

Yard Sale entrepreneurs from Regency Estates teamed-up with residents of Montgomery Square and Potomac Woods for their annual tri-neighborhood yard sale over the weekend of June 1 and 2.



A RECA resident setting up for his sale

Buckhannon-Harker Block Party

The Buckhannon-Harker block party on September 8 was a great success this year with perfect weather. Neighbors were able to catch up with one another, while the egg toss competition was back with a nail biting finale between Cameron-Arturo and Mr. and Mrs. Mehta.

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD



Winston Churchill High School Revises Parking Plan to Improve Area Traffic Flow

Drop Off/Pick-up Directions *From Ms. Heckert, Principal, Winston Churchill High School*

Every spot in the parking lot has been numbered for BOTH staff and students. This is a change from last year. ALL staff have assigned parking spots in the lot. All students that have been given a lot spot have been notified which number spot is theirs. **Students and staff can only park in their designated number.** ALL visitors must use the visitor spots in the Gainsborough lot by the flag poles.

AM Information:

In the morning all buses drop off in the bus loop off of Gainsborough. Student drop off can only occur in the victory lot drop off (one way) or the stadium lot.

PM Information:

Buses pick up in two locations—the bus loop and the lot off Victory Lane. Cars will not be permitted to enter the victory lot until after the buses have departed from WCHS. Students may also be picked up in the stadium lot.

Additional Changes:

The historical “senior lot” off of victory is now STAFF parking only. The spaces behind the cafeteria are also now STAFF parking only. The students granted parking spots on the lot will either be assigned a spot in the former staff lot (by flag poles/main entrance) or behind the school by the tennis courts. This will help with dismissal and safety so students are not dismissing in a lot with buses.

Please arrive early due to traffic congestion in our neighborhood. Also, please practice SAFE driving practices and be patient.

Visitor parking

There are designated spots for visitor parking in the lot accessible from Gainsborough. They are numbered 394 to 406. Please remember that all other spots are numbered and assigned to staff and students.

Track Use Update: As of September 16, 2019

Effective September 16, WCHS started securing the stadium during physical education classes to ensure safety for staff and students during the day in which the track/fields are used as their classroom. Therefore, the track will be open to the community from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

From 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. the track will only be available for WCHS classes to use and will be closed for community use. The track will reopen for community use from 2:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. unless there is a stadium event. Please also remember that portions of the track may not be accessible from 2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. due to team practices.

Again, the stadium and track are closed to community use during a stadium event. The safety of students and staff is the number one priority and WCHS appreciates the



AROUND THE COUNTY AND STATE

Plastic Straws and Stirrers

The Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) will begin issuing official warnings and fines of up to \$800 for the continued use and distribution of plastic straws and stirrers for businesses and organizations in the Washington, D.C. area. If the DOEE receives a tip that a business is using plastic straws, they will issue a notice of violation. If the business continues using the straws, the DOEE has authority to issue fines measuring between \$100 and \$800.

Free Transportation

The Maryland Transit Association is required to offer free transit ridership to all permanent Executive Branch State employees, including employees of units with an independent personnel system. College and university employees will also benefit under this new law. In Montgomery County, all K-12 students ride free on Ride On buses by showing their school ID or youth cruiser card.

Ride On Flex

Traveling in a Flex zone? Lucky you!

If your trip starts and ends within a single zone, Flex is a convenient new option for you and an incredible value. Welcome to transit on demand—for \$2 or less!

MCDOT's new on demand transit service helps you get around in defined Rockville and Wheaton/Glenmont zones. Ride On Flex has no fixed stops or fixed schedules – it comes when you book a ride during regular service hours. Best of all, you pay only standard Ride On fare to ride Flex—no more than \$2!

- Connects riders in the zones to transit hubs, commercial centers, public services—and home.
- Uses mobile app-based booking for all rides through the Ride On Flex app.
- Features brand-new 11 passenger buses with wheelchair accessibility and free WiFi.
- Accepts reservations only for same-day, on demand service—you are offered the next available time.
- Accepts ride requests to and from any location within the serviced zone.
- Takes only cash and SmarTrip® cards, passes and tokens.

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Transit/flex/>



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AROUND THE COUNTY AND STATE

Everything You Need to Know About Parking

With parking issues being one of the main causes of complaint in Regency Estates, we thought we'd provide some information about County laws with respect to four the p's: permitted vehicles, parking, paving and permits. This information has been compiled based on information obtained from the Montgomery County web site.

Home-Based Businesses

Can I operate a home-based business from my property?

County residents can operate businesses out of their homes—subject to certain restrictions.

There are three types of home-based businesses allowed: no-impact (which don't need to register with the county), registered (which need a permit from the Department of Permitting Services) and medical practitioners (must also register.) The person who performs the occupation must live in the house. On-site employees are limited to one in a 24-hour period. The number of visits to a no-impact business is limited to five customers/clients a week. A registered business is allowed no more than five customers/clients a day or 20 a week.

The on-site parking for home occupations is limited to two spaces. Lawn maintenance companies operating as home occupations are allowed only one single-axle trailer or truck at a time.

Permitted vehicles on residential property and in neighborhood streets

Can I park commercial vehicles on my property?

There is a parking limit of one small or light commercial vehicle. A small or light commercial vehicle is best defined by it not being a large or heavy commercial vehicle. Large or heavy commercial vehicles are defined as follows: a gross vehicle weight of more than 10,000 pounds; a manufacturer's rated capacity of more than one ton; more than 21 feet long (including any object loaded onto the vehicle); or are more than eight feet high (including racks, but not antennas). These vehicles are prohibited from parking either on neighborhood roads or off-street in residential neighborhoods.

Why doesn't the law prohibit all commercial vehicles from being parked in residential neighborhoods instead of just prohibiting large or heavy ones?

Some commercial vehicles are no larger than some personal vehicles, which is why the law was written to allow one small

or light commercial vehicle on your property. The parking of large commercial vehicles has been a growing problem in Montgomery County for the past decade. These large vehicles limit the line of sight on neighborhood roads, making it difficult to make turns on narrow streets. Additionally, large vehicles endanger pedestrians because oncoming traffic cannot see them. No vehicle, regardless of size, will be permitted to block the public sidewalk.

What about parking of recreational vehicles?

Recreational vehicles can't park on the roads in residential neighborhoods. In residential zones you are allowed to park one recreational vehicle on private property; however, it must not be used for dwelling purposes for more than three days in any month. Additionally, it cannot interfere with utility lines and may not be parked so as to obstruct the public sidewalk.

Can I park inoperable or unregistered vehicles on my property?

Inoperable or unregistered vehicles are not allowed anywhere on the property. Any vehicle on your property must be registered and operational. If you are issued a notice of violation, you will have 30 days to get the vehicle registered, repaired or removed from your property.

Can inspectors lift up the cover placed on a car on someone's property to determine whether a vehicle is registered or not?

No, it is your private property.

How long can PODs remain in people's driveways? Can they be in yards? On the street? Who enforces this?

The Department of Permitting Services enforces the placement of metal storage containers commonly known as Conex boxes, sea containers or pods. Pods can be placed on private property (in driveways or in yard) for up to seven (7) days without a permit. For pods on residentially zoned property for eight (8) days or more, a building permit is required, the pod must be located in the rear of the property and the pod must meet setback requirements for accessory structures.

Paving and parking areas on residential property

Can I park on unpaved areas on my property?

Vehicles parked in front yards must be on surfaced areas.

How much of my front yard can I pave?

In Regency Estates, residents can pave no more than 30 percent of their front yards or 320 square feet — whichever is greater. Your existing driveway is included in this paving limitation. Any surfaced area paved before October 26, 2010 does not have to be removed if the paved area is not increased. However, the occupants must comply with the parking limitations.



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Everything You Need to Know About Parking (continued)



Can people who have paved their yards in excess of current County limits replace broken pavement with new pavement?

If the paving was done prior to October 26, 2010, broken pavement can be replaced with new pavement. However, no increase of pavement is permitted.

Is there any limit on how many cars I can park in my driveway?

No more than one vehicle may be parked for every 160 sq. ft. of paved surface in your front yard.

Does a carport or a garage count as paved area in determining what percentage of a lot can be paved?

No. Paved area on the side of the house does not count when determining what percentage can be paved. The law only applies to the front yard – not the side or back yard.

Can residents who have corner lots, park vehicles on the side of their house (on grassy area—not paved)?

Yes, but the cars must be behind the front plane of the house. However, if a vehicle is parked on the grass and causes damage to the grassy area, then it becomes a violation regardless of where it is parked, side or back. Temporary, short-term parking only is permitted on unpaved areas in the side and rear yard.

Can residents who have corner lots, park on a paved driveway on the side of their house?

Corner lots technically have two “front yards” – the front and side yards. A paved driveway is allowed on either the front or side yard and cannot exceed the allowable amount – 30%, in the case of Regency Estates. You are allowed 320 sq. ft. of surfaced area for parking in your front (or side) yard even if it exceeds 30%.

Is it permissible to have cars blocking a public sidewalk when parked in my driveway?

No. Current law prohibits any car from obstructing a public sidewalk.

Street Parking

When parking on a residential street is there a regulation that states how far from a neighbor’s driveway a vehicle must be? Who should I call to report a violation?

Vehicles cannot be parked within five feet of a driveway. Call the Police non-emergency number and officers can write a ticket and/or locate the owner and have the car moved.

Is there any limit on how many cars I can park on my street?

The street belongs to all the families on the street. There is not a limit on how many cars you can park on the street. However, if you live on a street where parking permits are required, parking of your cars is subject to any permit restrictions.

Are heavy commercial vehicles allowed to park on residential streets?

Heavy commercial vehicles and recreational vehicles are prohibited from parking on residential streets, except temporary parking for loading and unloading.

How are right-of-way restrictions enforced for properties with no curbs?

The Police Department will determine if there is infringement on County right-of-ways and take enforcement action.

How Are These Laws Enforced?

Enforcement is primarily by complaint. Home occupations, the paving of front yards and off-street parking issues are the responsibility of the Department of Permitting Services. Unregistered and inoperable vehicle issues are handled by the Department of Housing and Community Affairs. On-street parking complaints fall to the Police Department. Typically, for Permitting Services and Housing & Community Affairs, an inspector investigates the complaint and issues a Notice of Violation if he or she finds just cause. If the violation is not corrected and/or dismissed within 30 days, a citation may be issued accompanied by a \$500 fine. On-street parking violators can be ticketed by the Police.

Parking Permits

Do I need a parking permit if I live in Regency Estates?

That depends on whether parking on your street required a permit. Generally the streets nearest Winston Churchill High School do. The easiest way to check is to look for the parking permit street signs.

If I have parking permit, can I park on any streets in Regency Estates where permits are required?

No. There are different permits for different streets - blue, yellow, green or purple. A vehicle with a purple permit cannot park during enforced hours on a street that requires yellow permits, for example.

If I normally park my vehicle on my property and it does not have a permit, what times can I park on the street?

You cannot park your vehicle on the street without a permit in ‘school hours’. While there are obvious times that are not school hours (i.e. holidays, breaks, weekends), you must be careful during weekdays and check the signage where you want to park. The permit times vary, not only street to street, but often on the same side of a street!

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Everything You Need to Know About Parking (continued)

How do I obtain a parking permit if permits are required on my street?

You must register for a digital permit at <https://montgomery.thepermitportal.com/Register/Create>. During the registration process you must provide a copy of your vehicle registration and proof of residency. Permits cost \$20 per vehicle per year.

You can find all about residential parking permits, at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Parking/RPP.html>.

How do I obtain a visitor permit?

You can obtain a visitor permit in the same way as a residential parking permit. During the application process you will be asked if you want a digital visitor permit or a physical one. The latter is strongly recommended as reassigning the digital permit to a different vehicle each time you have a visitor is time consuming.

Can I sell my visitor permit to a student at WCHS?

Selling visitor permits is against the terms of the permit. This will be vigorously enforced.

Dockless E-Bikes and E-Scooters Pilot Program Expansion

Montgomery County offers both docked and dockless bikeshares. As a member of the regional Capital Bikeshare system, County Bikeshare stations connect riders to thousands of bikes throughout Montgomery, Arlington and Fairfax counties, Alexandria and Washington, D.C.

Starting June 15, 2019, MCDOT expanded the dockless e-bike program while also testing the introduction of dockless e-scooters to areas east and west of the original pilot area. MCDOT will conduct a demonstration project with up to four selected companies to deploy dockless e-scooters and e-bikes at no cost to the County. The demonstration project is expected run for six months with an option for extension.

Montgomery County rules for dockless e-bike and e-scooter sharing:

- Must be 18 or older to rent and e-bike or e-scooter.
- Must show a valid driver's license.
- Dockless vehicles can only be parked within the service area assigned to that dockless company. Riders will not be able to end their trip outside the service area.
- Speed limit for e-scooters is 15 mph.
- Dockless vehicles are prohibited from riding on the sidewalk or on streets where the speed limit is 50 mph or higher.
- Dockless vehicles must be parked in the public right of

way and cannot interfere with traffic operations, block driveway access, crosswalks, ADA ramps, pedestrian access, bus stop, fire hydrants or impede access to private property or businesses. For proper ways to park a dockless vehicle, watch this video from the Seattle Department of Transportation.

- Dockless vehicle companies require that riders wear a helmet when riding.

MCDOT requested feedback via survey and the results are posted on <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-DIR/commuter/bikesharingCSS.html>

Real ID

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration has recalled the driver's licenses of 8,000 residents because they failed to meet requirements to be in compliance with the Real ID Act — a federal law designed to tighten security for state-issued identification.

That means if any of those drivers are pulled over by police for any reason, the officer could confiscate their driver's license.

If you are one of the 8,000, the MVA says you can avoid having your license confiscated by presenting the required paperwork — proof of age and identity, your Social Security number and Maryland residency — to an MVA branch.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/transportation/2019/08/15/maryland-recalls-real-id-drivers-licenses/?noredirect=on>

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Art Show at Geneva Day School Invites Time Travel

On Friday, May 17, Geneva Day School hosted its 39th Art Show by transforming into a gallery of masterpieces



generated by students over the course of the year both in classes and through specialized art programs. "This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the innate artistic talents of children at all ages and give them an opportunity for expression," stated Director Suzanne Funk.

For decades, Geneva's innovative, spiraling curriculum has provided Elements of Art to 3 and 4 year olds, Works of Wonder to PreKindergarten, and Art Through the Ages to Kindergarten. Each program creates enthusiasm for art by asking students to tap their senses, think critically and imagine. Concepts such as lines, shapes, colors, textures and spatial relationships are introduced in Elements of Art and then revisited the following years through a deepening exploration of what is visual and tactile.

By the time students are enrolled in PreKindergarten, they know to recognize repeating patterns in Nature and apply such knowledge through replication of Native American Indian art. Spangled by spirit beads and dream catchers, the Art Show also displayed drums, necklaces, masks, clay pots, rainsticks, sand creations and totem poles in a room devoted entirely to this aesthetic. A nearby wall offered student "legend" illustrations.

Kindergartners ecstatically explore Art through the Ages by donning their "time travel caps." In September, they participate in a "dinosaur dig" to retrieve "prehistoric bones" and create rubbings. They soon visit the "era of the caveman" by examining primitive drawings. Through simple strokes of charcoal, they render their own stories on "cave walls." A visit to early civilization in Ancient Egypt spurs a study of the pyramids; students recreate funeral traditions by volunteering to be wrapped as mummies and then come to life again to tell their stories through friezes and hieroglyphics.

Ancient Greek and Roman Art yield a discovery of vase, fresco, and tile-making processes just as Medieval and Renaissance Art provide a more intimate study of the Masters. Students paint the "Sistine Chapel ceiling" beneath tables lined with paper so as to replicate Michelangelo's experience. They are then encouraged to create according to other techniques: illuminated letters, tile mosaics, a version

of stained-glass windows and portraits of both individuals and families.

In an embrace of Modernity, students discover Impressionism, Pointillism, and Mondrian patterns, among other movements. They create landscapes, cityscapes and seascapes, as well as abstract pieces that crescendo with Alexander Calder-esque mobiles and Jackson Pollock "paint splattered canvases." One such gorgeous canvas the Kindergarten Class created collaboratively and offered for auction at the School's Annual Fundraiser. Another was "stained" according to Morris Louis technique. Such masterpieces are known to go for hundreds of dollars. One year a couple purchased an entire folding screen created by the Kindergarten class in the style of Piet Mondrian; they describe it as a treasured possession within their home.

Earlier in the month, Kindergartners took a celebratory field trip to the National Gallery of Art where they revelled in seeing firsthand the works they had studied. Docents remarked how knowledgeable the students, as they knew many "secrets of the paintings" (one such secret is Jackson Pollock's "Lavender Mist" is permanently embedded with an insect) and moreover, were just as well behaved as high schoolers.

Likewise, current Geneva Day School students provided "tours" to hundreds of parents, extended family and friends during May 17's event. They spoke with confidence about how the School's every classroom and corridor had converted into a gallery; mobiles were suspended with care, statues and models arranged beguilingly on tables, paintings, collages and 3-D inventions blossomed from the walls. It was as if the School were a symphony of color.

Heightening this impression were student-musicians (some currently enrolled at Geneva and others graduated) who serenaded with their piano and violin-playing. Chloe Brokt, a 10 year-old violinist from Stone Ridge, traced love of her instrument to her earliest exposure to music at Geneva; a professional had played for her class and she was forever inspired. At intervals, guests of all generations broke into dance and song.

"Geneva's Art Show is a wonderful way to show our respect of and admiration for the children's imaginative, creative, and unique masterpieces," said Mrs. Barbara Korb, the School's Art Specialist. "The Show brings the Geneva Day School's community together to delight in their children's talents."

Truly, a lifelong love of learning is ignited by the School's commitment to teaching art in this extraordinary formula; a spiraling curriculum achieves its apogee through Art through the Ages, while every child's artistic output is celebrated within the context of chronological discovery. Geneva Day School travels the corridors of time through an Art Show that makes this tradition a true Event Horizon.

ALL THINGS INTERNET

By Mitangi Mehta

Disposing of Your Mobile Device



How often do you replace your mobile device? Most likely every year. Did you wipe all the data on that mobile device? / the majority of us don't know how to wipe the data or transfer it. We have more valuable information on our mobile devices

than we have valuables in our wallet. We store contacts, photos, login information to bank, insurance, etc.

In this article, a Cyber Security professional explains how to wipe data: <https://www.sans.org/security-awareness-training/resources/disposing-your-mobile-device>

Got Backups? What are backups?



If you use a computer or mobile device long enough, something will eventually go wrong. You may accidentally delete the wrong files, have a hardware failure or lose a device. Even worse, malware, such as ransomware, may wipe your files and/or hold them captive. At times like these, backups are

often the only way you can rebuild your digital life.

Learn more:

<https://www.sans.org/security-awareness-training/resources/got-backups>



Equifax Data Breach Settlement

In September of 2017, Equifax announced a data breach that exposed the personal information of 147 million people. The company has agreed to a global settlement with the Federal Trade Commission, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and 50 U.S. states and territories. The settlement includes up to \$425 million to help people affected by the data breach.

Learn more:

<https://www.ftc.gov/enforcement/cases-proceedings/refunds/equifax-data-breach-settlement>

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