



The REGENCY RECORD

Newsletter of the
Regency Estates
Citizens Association

Spring 2020

President's Message

There are two timely topics I wanted to discuss:

Thefts from cars -As you will have seen from the RECA Alerts in January, we experienced some vehicle break-ins. These were not confined just to Regency Estates, but nonetheless in a neighborhood that experiences comparatively little crime, they were disconcerting. While MCPD were very responsive and increased patrols in the neighborhood, it is very important to remember the basics that will make your vehicle unattractive to thieves – lock your car and ensure that no valuables are left visible.

On the topic of keeping your car and home secure, I recommend installing devices such as video doorbells, wireless video cameras and motion activated lights, all of which certainly act as deterrents. Please be vigilant and if you see suspicious activity, contact Montgomery County Police.

Coronavirus: As I write this, cases of coronavirus, known as COVID- 19, are increasing throughout the country. While thankfully

there have been no known cases locally, it can only be a matter of time before there are. While this virus is scary, made more so because of the extensive press coverage, the fact is that far more people have become sickened and even died because of 'flu than the coronavirus. Furthermore, while the virus is adept at spreading, the methods of prevention are straightforward: **Wash** your hands frequently. **Catch** coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues then throw them away. **Use** your sleeve if you don't have a tissue. **Don't** touch your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands. **Avoid** contact with people who are unwell. And a tip I learned several years ago – only ever touch your face with the back of your hand.

Naturally if there are any matters related to the corona virus that may impact Regency Estates, I shall of course send out RECA Alerts as the situation dictates.

Regards,

David Freeman, President

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AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD



Tragic Accidents Spur Traffic Safety Efforts

The Montgomery County Public School System (MCPS) is pledging to do all it can to promote safety after drivers hit two students near buses last year on December 12 and December 13: The first, a 9-year-old student at Bradley Hills Elementary School, [killed moments after stepping off her school bus](#); the second, a 17-year-old at Walter Johnson High School, injured while [crossing the road to reach his bus](#).

Help us keep kids safe in Regency Estates by observing the following:

DO NOT drop off children or pick them up from the residential side of Postoak Road, which places them in danger by having them cross the street through traffic.

DO NOT ALLOW children to jump out in the center of the parking lot and dodge cars to get to the front door.

PLEASE ENCOURAGE CHILDREN to take the extra few minutes to get to safety using a sidewalk or crosswalk.

Drivers, **PLEASE DO NOT ENTER** through the exit lane of the Hoover parking lot during afternoon pickup.

Drivers, **PLEASE NEVER GO AROUND OR PASS A BUS** that has its stop sign out! It's not only against the law but that quick decision could change so many lives, it's just not worth it.

Return of the Gainsborough Speed Cam

Our resident speed camera is back on Gainsborough Road! With the recent serious incidents in our MCPS community involving students, we must be careful of our driving habits.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a nationwide program that aims to significantly improve safety for students who walk and bike to school.

The site provides details on school bus safety law: https://www.safeschoolsmd.org/about-mcss/mcss-images/MCSS_BSIG_Front1.pdf



Construction Underway for Cabin John Townhomes

In Potomac, developer EYA is introducing its newest neighborhood just steps away from vibrant new shopping and dining at Cabin John Village, and the remarkable amenities of Cabin John Regional Park.

<https://www.eya.com/townhomes/potomac-md/cabin-john-village>





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ATTENTION NEW NEIGHBORS!



**Have you recently moved into
Regency Estates?**

If so, please contact us by completing the 'Contact Us' form on our web site, www.regencyestates.org

We'd be pleased to drop by, welcome you to our community with a gift bag and add you to our directory so that we can keep you informed about local news, events and emergency situations.

**Geneva Presbyterian
Church**

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Potomac, Maryland 20851

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www.genevapotomac.org

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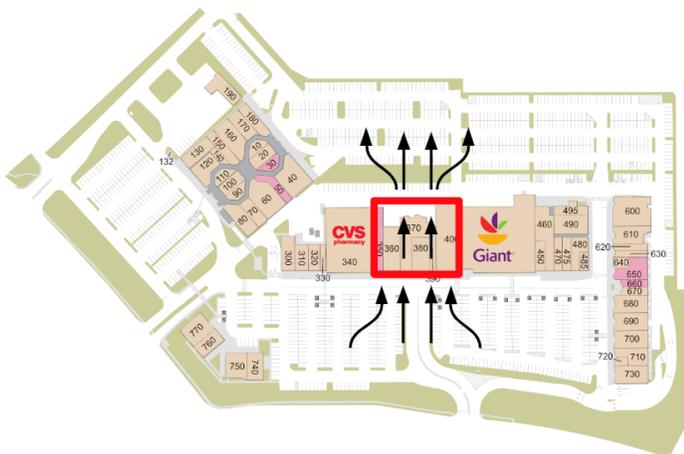
AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The Future of Cabin John Mall

Many of you have witnessed dramatic changes to our neighborhood shopping plaza, Cabin John Mall (or Cabin John Village as it is now called), and may be wondering what’s “in store” for the future. Here are a few things we know and like to share.

Creating an Open Layout

In the next phase of Cabin John construction, likely this year, the main strip center will essentially be cut in half. Everything from CVS to Giant will be torn down to create a central thruway for cars and pedestrians. If you enter by car from Tuckerman Lane, you’ll be able to park in the front lot or drive right through to the back lot. On foot, you’ll be able to travel from front to back via sidewalks. Rebuilt storefronts will face out to the new road, much like the thruway in front of Gregorio’s and Lahinch where new string lights have been installed.



The upcoming cut-through will demolish the homes of four Cabin John tenants — China Gourmet Bistro, The Grilled Oyster Co., Capital One and Breadsmith — along with the empty space that once belonged to BGR. Some of these businesses may end up closing, some may find new homes at other local shopping centers, and some may reopen at Cabin John when construction is complete.



Enhanced Parking

The parking lot is sporting new lights and new greenery, and most of its spaces have been widened from eight feet to 8 1/2. That means fewer worries about bumping your car door against your neighbors. (Does it mean fewer spaces overall? We haven’t gotten a straight answer to that question.) New bike lanes and new bike parking are on the way.

Dining Diversity

In the past few months, we saw the opening restaurants Sisters Thai and Playa Bowls, specializing in Southeast Asian cuisine and health food respectively. A shared outdoor seating area is still in progress, including some new greenery that was added this summer. Stay tuned for updates on future changes!



Are You Thinking of Selling Your Home?

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8513 Wilkesboro Lane - Contract



9201 Cranford Drive - Sold



8502 Bells Mill RD - Sold

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AROUND THE COUNTY AND STATE



County Executive Marc Elrich Signs First Racial Equity and Social Justice Act

Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich signed the [Racial Equity and Social Justice Act](#) on Tuesday, Dec. 3. Montgomery County is the first jurisdiction in Maryland to sign racial equity legislation, which ensures all residents are welcome, treated with respect and have opportunities to succeed. Elrich was joined by newly elected County Council President Sidney Katz and Vice President Tom Hucker, councilmembers and community leaders.

Watch the news conference [here](#).

Montgomery County's Priorities for the 2020 Maryland General Assembly Session



The Office of Intergovernmental Relations has released [Montgomery County's Priorities](#) for the session of the Maryland General Assembly, which will convene on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020.

Highlights include the Kirwan Commission recommendations, public school construction, I-495\I-270 traffic mitigation and the state preemption of the local authority.

[Read the full outline of the County's priorities here.](#)

Maryland Uses Surveillance, Data to Track Motorists, Traffic



Motorists in Maryland may be aware of the cameras that enforce speed and red-light violations, but the state's tracking practices include other layers to assist in law enforcement efforts, and for traffic and planning purposes.

<https://marylandreporter.com/2019/12/10/maryland-uses-surveillance-data-to-track-motorists-traffic/>

Maryland Roads Score High on Quality and Spending



Maryland nearly made the Top 10 of Best Roads in the country in rankings for a consumer website.

Maryland came in at 38, in reverse scoring chart where number 1 was worst and number 50 was best. Maryland scored better than any of its neighbors, while also outspending them per mile of road, according to ConsumerAffairs.com, a web-based consumer news and resource center.

<https://marylandreporter.com/2019/11/19/maryland-roads-score-high-on-quality-and-spending/>

AROUND THE COUNTY AND STATE

Census 2020: It's Important. It's Easy. It's Safe. And it's Right Around the Corner: April 1, 2020

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a count of every person living in the United States every 10 years, mandated by the U.S. Constitution in Article 1, Section 2. The data collected by the decennial census determines the number of seats Maryland has in the U.S. House of Representatives and is also used to distribute billions in federal funds to its local communities.

The law requires the Census Bureau to keep all information confidential and use it only to produce statistics.

Why the Census?

- Critical Distribution of Federal Funds
- Funds Government and Community Programs and Services
- Helps Business Leaders with Investment Decisions
- Used for Reapportionment and Redistricting

A sample census form is located [here](#).

Primary Election Dates for 2019

Early Voting for the Primary Election will start on Thursday, April 16, 2020 and run every day through Thursday, April 23, 2020 from 10 am until 8 pm.

The nearest Early Voting Site will be in the Potomac Community Recreation Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac, MD 20854 between Glen Road and Bells Mill Road.

Other close by sites include the Executive Office Building, located at 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850, as well as Jane E. Lawton Community Recreation Center, 4301 Willow Lane, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

The Primary Election will be on Tuesday, April 28 2020, from 7 am until 8 pm; voting will be in Winston Churchill High School in the cafeteria.

Unaffiliated voters can only vote for the Board of Education at Large and District 4.

The sample ballot for Congressional District 6 can be found [here](#).



Congratulations to Avi Chittum on attaining Eagle Scout rank!

RECA is pleased to recognize Avi's service to Regency Estates through the neighborhood curb painting project, facilitated by board member Steve Chojna.



This article was provided by one of our advertisers, Geneva Day School.

A Lifelong Love of Learning Begins in the Summer at Geneva Camp for Young Children

Sports, water play, cooking, theater, gardening, arts and crafts and more!

Geneva Day School Campers, ages 2-6, learn about themselves and the outdoor world through a developmentally appropriate Summer Camp, which Director Suzanne Funk describes as a wonderful opportunity to continue to learn in a structured but fun, recreational program. Friendships with peers, discoveries of all sorts, and exploration of the outside environment take place here.

For more than 25 years, the Camp has flourished within the School's invigorating playgrounds, verdant gardens, and inspiring, nearby creek. Readers of *Bethesda Magazine* distinguished it as a Top Vote Getter within

its newly dubbed category of 2020 Summer Day Camp, just as the School overall received 2020 Best Preschool.

The program is so well loved, that many of its graduates return later in life to serve as Counselors-in-Training. Once they undergo such training, as shaped by the Geneva Method, and have lent a hand to the Summer Camp, they may be selected to become Counselors, guiding a new round of campers through the magic of summer.

Weekly themes and special presentations such as Transportation, Rainforests, Princesses and Pirates, Farm Animals, and Space inspire outdoor exploration, just as other activities may be driven by STEAM.

Camp sessions are available for full or part-time days, and for as many days during an eleven week period as your family or campers might require.

Discover how a lifelong love of learning really does begin in the summer. See contact information below to learn more.

 **Geneva Day School** 
11931 Seven Locks Road Potomac, MD 20854

Ages 2 through Kindergarten
Encouraging a lifelong love of learning
genevadayschool.org
301 340 7704



ALL THINGS INTERNET

By Mitangi Mehta



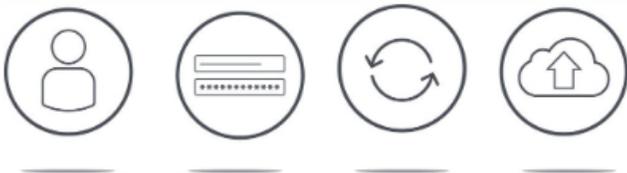
Data Doctors: Have a Smart Home Device?

What to Know

The FBI office in Oregon chimed in on the security issues associated with IoT (Internet of Things) devices that millions are installing around their homes.

Everything from thermostats to lighting systems to doorbells and major appliances are connecting to the internet. The FBI is warning that these IoT devices could be the gateway that allows cyberthieves to gain access to your router and everything attached to it.

<https://wtop.com/tech/2019/12/data-doctors-have-a-smart-home-device-what-to-know/>



Four Simple Steps to Staying Secure

Making the most of technology safely and securely can seem overwhelming and confusing. However, regardless of what technology you are using or how you are using it, here are four simple steps that will help you stay secure.

<https://www.sans.org/security-awareness-training/resources/four-simple-steps-staying-secure>

Messaging / Smishing Attacks



Have you been a victim of Smishing Attack?

SMiShing is short for "SMS phishing." **Phishing** is the act of attempting to acquire personal information such as passwords and details by masquerading as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication. SMiShing is when a user is tricked into clicking and/or downloading a virus on a mobile device such as cell phone.

Most of us use cell phones for browsing to look for information, using apps to conduct bank transactions, etc. So bad guys (aka hackers) are trying new ways to include tricking you with messaging technologies such as text messaging, iMessage/Facetime, WhatsApp, Slack or Skype. Here are some simple steps to protect yourself and spot / stop these common attacks.

<https://www.sans.org/security-awareness-training/resources/messaging-smishing-attacks>



ALL THINGS INTERNET

By Mitangi Mehta

Cybersecurity Explained to 5-Year-Old and 90-Year-Old

If cybercrime continues to develop at its present pace, it might easily become the greatest threat to every person in the world. To help you with minimizing the risks, we took a rather unique approach and created this guide on cybersecurity for all your family.

Specifically, we're going to show you what it takes to explain cybersecurity to children as young as five and to grandparents as old as 90.

And it will be a fun challenge.

<https://www.globalsign.com/en/blog/cybersecurity-explained-to-5-year-old-and-90-year-old/>

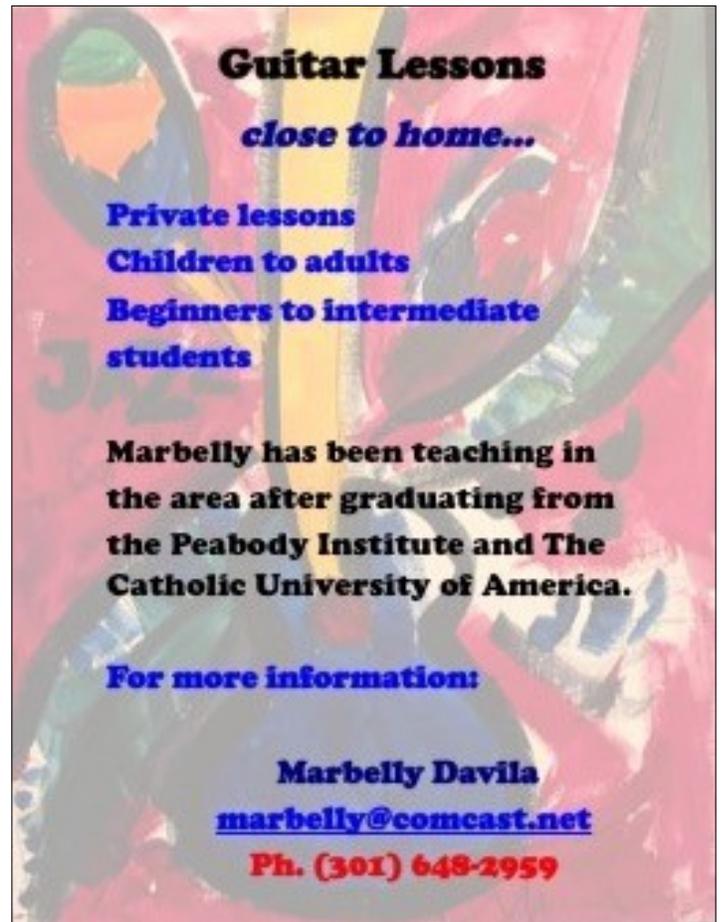
The Privacy Battle Brewing Over Home Security Cameras

Ding-dong, your doorbell is looking a bit creepy.

Ring video doorbells, Nest Hello and other connected security cameras are the fastest-growing home improvement gadgets since garage door openers. These cameras, often built into buzzers, alert your phone when someone is at your door and save footage online. Mine has helped me get deliveries and catch porch pirates stealing packages. Earlier this month, one caught a man licking a family's doorbell for three hours!

What's not to love? Invading people's privacy — and Big Brother at our doorstep. It's up to us to set the rules to avoid Big Doorbell.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2019/01/31/doorbells-have-eyes-privacy-battle-brewing-over-home-security-cameras/>



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Marbelly has been teaching in the area after graduating from the Peabody Institute and The Catholic University of America.

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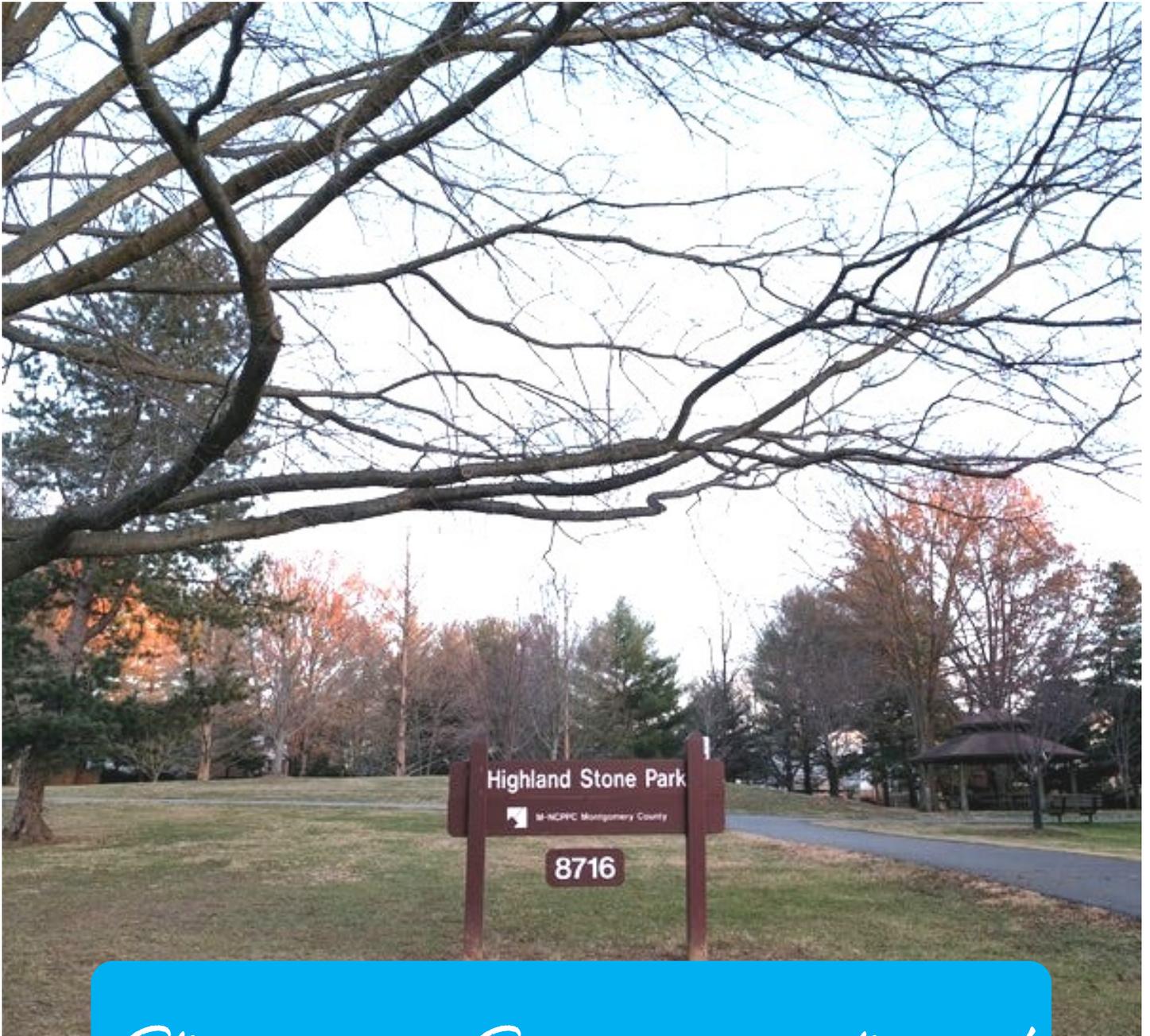
Marbelly Davila
marbelly@comcast.net
Ph. (301) 648-2959



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Stay warm - Spring is on its way!

