



The REGENCY RECORD

Newsletter of the
Regency Estates
Citizens Association

Summer 2021

President's Message

I ended the President's message in the last Regency Record, issued in February, with the following sentence: *"Hopefully, by the time the next issue of Regency Record is published, our world will look very different and so much better."* That hope has been largely fulfilled, at least insofar as Maryland and Montgomery County are concerned. Infection rates and death rates are low and our zip code is one of those where over 70% of the eligible population has received at least one vaccine dose.

I remain concerned though about distribution issues and vaccine hesitancy in parts of the country, the lack of available vaccines and distribution issues in large parts of the world and the fact that children under 12 are still not eligible to be vaccinated. We are by no means out of the woods yet and it's always possible a mutation could evade the immunity we have acquired through vaccines. Nonetheless I am grateful for how far we have come and that I live in an area where for the vast majority of residents have recognized the importance of being vaccinated – not just for themselves, but

for the community in which they reside.

There's a lot of talk about the post-pandemic "new normal" and all of its dimensions. One aspect of this has been the desire for a lot of people to improve their quality of lives by seeking more space for their families. We are seeing this play out in Regency Estates with the unprecedented, rapid turnover of homes in the neighborhood, many incidentally, at above asking price.

It's been hard to keep track of all the families moving into the neighborhood, so I have a favor to ask you: If you have new neighbors, please let them know about RECA and ask them to complete the ["Contact Us" form](#) on our web site, so we can welcome them to our community and stay in touch.

I hope you have an enjoyable summer and please stay safe

Regards,

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NEWSLETTER

Editor-in-Chief: David Freeman
Editor & Designer: Rick Chen
Compositor: Mitangi Mehta
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

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AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

A Welcome Return to Near Normal for WCHS Class of 2021



WCHS commemorates the Class of 2021 graduating class with a festive balloon arch.

To say 2020 was a long year is certainly an understatement, especially if you are a high school senior. Imagine the disappointment of doing all that hard work — taking entrance exams, applying for college and finally being accepted — only to be told to stay home. But as schools across the nation begin to reopen for in-classroom learning, we share your excitement for the amazing journey you will finally begin.

RECA proudly congratulates Winston Churchill High School's graduating Class of 2021!



Photos courtesy of WCHS, taken during the 2021 Senior Car Parade.



August Membership Special

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August 1 – Labor Day

Contact rescpool@gmail.com for details

www.rescswimpool.org

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Plus, you can apply your \$199 toward your permanent membership certificate!

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AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Community Use of WCHS Track

a letter submitted by the WCHS Athletics Department

Dear Community Members,

Below, please find the updated schedule of hours for which the track will be available for use by the community. Please understand that all school facilities are closed to the community during school hours or during athletic practice hours & contests. In addition, all athletic fields, stadium restrooms, and school equipment is reserved for school use only, at all times. It is the intention of the school to keep the track open for community use as much as possible. However, if vandalism of the facilities/equipment or non-compliance with stated hours occur, the track will close in order to protect school assets. Again, if a contest is occurring in the stadium, the track is not available for use.

If you have questions, please feel free to email me at Jesse_R_Smith@mcpsmd.org.

Thank you for your understanding and acceptance of these changes.

6/17/21-8/7/21 Daily: 6am - 9pm

Thank you,
Jesse Smith, CAA Athletic Specialist Winston Churchill High School www.churchillathletics.com
Twitter: @DawgsSport



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AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Zooming in on RECA's Annual Meeting

by Rick Chen, RECA Vice President



On May 19, 2021, RECA held its General Meeting (GM) virtually for the first time via Zoom as a COVID-19 safety precaution. At the beginning of the meeting we featured Maryland Senator and long-time former RECA resident Brian Feldman as our guest speaker. The GM formal session followed.

Senator Feldman, who is the Vice Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, provided an update on various topics covered by the committee this past year, particularly in light of the pandemic. Some of the major areas within the committee's jurisdiction include health care policy, clean/renewable energy, economic development and unemployment. Examples of specific topics they discussed included:

- Police accountability - In light of tragedies like George Floyd's death
- Health equity - Discrepancies due to race
- Telehealth - Revising policies COVID-19
- Elections - Creating new voting centers in preparation for 2022 voting year

While most meetings were held via Zoom, the committee passed some 700+ bills in the last year.

After concluding Senator Feldman's presentation, the RECA board continued to the GM formal session, starting with a brief update on the development plans for interstates I270 and I495 by

Jerry Garson, RECA Treasurer. A write-up of his update is included in this issue [here](#). Other agenda items included:

- Approval of Minutes for the 2019 Annual Meeting
- President's report
- Treasurer's and auditors' report
- Appointment of auditors for 2022
- Board of Directors Elections

From the election results, all current board members whose term expired at the GM were reelected for another term using the Zoom voting feature. No new nominees were submitted. The RECA board was pleased to have more than 50 sign-ups and to have unanimous positive feedback for first virtual GM. That said, we hope to meet in-person again for future GMs, as safety allows.



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**Contact Michelle Belski, at 240-428-7715 or
Michelle.Belski@mccaedu.org for more information or to schedule a tour.**

*These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Board of Education of Montgomery County,
the superintendent, or this school.*

MSDE License Number 109128

AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

And Then There Were None

by Rick Chen

Outside our homes there's something odd that we haven't encountered in some time. No, I'm not referring to the surge of unmasked humans who are rushing to congregate post-herd immunity. Listen closely. Do you hear it? The silence! The siren-like sounds of billions of Brood X cicadas have finally disappeared.

When news of Brood X's emergence quickly spread during the late spring, some dreaded the thought of personally encountering these mysterious creatures, others anxiously awaited their arrival, and the rest just sat back with indifference. Check out this short list of some of unique activities folks enjoyed with Brood X:

4. Gardening

<https://blog.homesteadgardens.com/about-the-next-batch-of-cicadas>



3. Creating art masterpieces

<https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/cicada-shell-art/>



2. Having a rap session

<https://wamu.org/story/21/05/21/a-fairfax-entomologist-is-rapping-his-welcome-to-the-brood-x-cicadas/>



1. Cooking with them (!)

<https://www.thechurchillobserver.com/features/2021/06/14/cicadas-make-their-way-to-backyards-and-dinner-tables/>



I personally enjoyed the opportunity to view each stage of their life cycle, from nocturnal nymph to noisy red-eyed adults. While they were larger than most insects I encountered, they were much less ugly and smaller compared to the annual green cicadas that make an appearance towards the end of every summer. There is just something endearing about Brood X's clumsy fly path and curious nature. And being oblivious to above-ground predators. When they emerge again in 2038, assuming I'm still around, I will welcome them with open feelers.



A Place You Can Call Home

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ATTENTION NEW NEIGHBORS!



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

If so, please stay in touch 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.

AROUND THE COUNTY AND STATE

New Highway Alternative in the Works

by Jerry Garson, RECA Treasurer



The future of DMV interstates with Alternative 9.

On May 12, 2021 the State Highway Administration presented a new Recommended Preferred Alternative (RPA) for the Managed Lanes Study to the agency partners named Alternative 9: Phase 1 South. This new RPA will address existing traffic and long-term traffic growth, enhance trip reliability, provide additional travel options and improve the movement of goods and services within Phase 1 South. The RPA will provide significant pedestrian and bicycle commitments to improve the connectivity of area sidewalks and trails, including the addition of a multi-use trail on the new American Legion Bridge across the Potomac River.

The new RPA focuses solely on building a new American Legion Bridge and delivering two high occupancy toll (HOT) managed lanes in each direction on Phase 1 South: American Legion Bridge I-270 to I-370 with no action at this time on I-495 east of the I-270 eastern spur. The second

phase will be from I-370 to I-70 in Frederick County.

In the area of Regency Estates, they will be adding one lane on the spurs and on I-270 from Tuckerman Lane to Falls Road. The proposed entrances and exits from the High Occupancy Lanes will be at Westlake Terrace and Wootton Parkway.

Existing general-purpose travel lanes throughout the corridor will be retained and will remain free for use by all motorists. Drivers with less than three occupants in the vehicle would only pay if they choose to use the HOT lanes. HOV3+ will allow carpools, vanpools and other vehicles carrying three or more people to travel faster and more reliably in the new HOT lanes free of charge any time of day. Buses and motorcycles also will be granted free passage on the new HOT lanes free of charge, providing opportunities for a faster, more reliable trip.

AROUND THE COUNTY AND STATE

Street Names Matter

Street signs play an important role by helping us identify where we are in relation to our final destination. They are also opportunities to recognize historical figures and individuals who have made a positive impact in our local community. And when communities and times change, sometimes those initially honored by street names are not the heroes they once were. Allowing these signs' continued existence can make people feel unwelcome within their own neighborhood.

The Montgomery County Planning Department is taking steps to address this issue by changing the names of three signs in Potomac. Find out why:

<https://wtop.com/montgomery-county/2021/06/montgomery-county-to-rename-3-potomac-streets-after-black-historical-figures/>

Mid-year Laws Now in Effect

While we were busy planning maskless meetups and much-needed vacations, several new laws went into effect that you may have overlooked. Find out which ones below:

Maryland

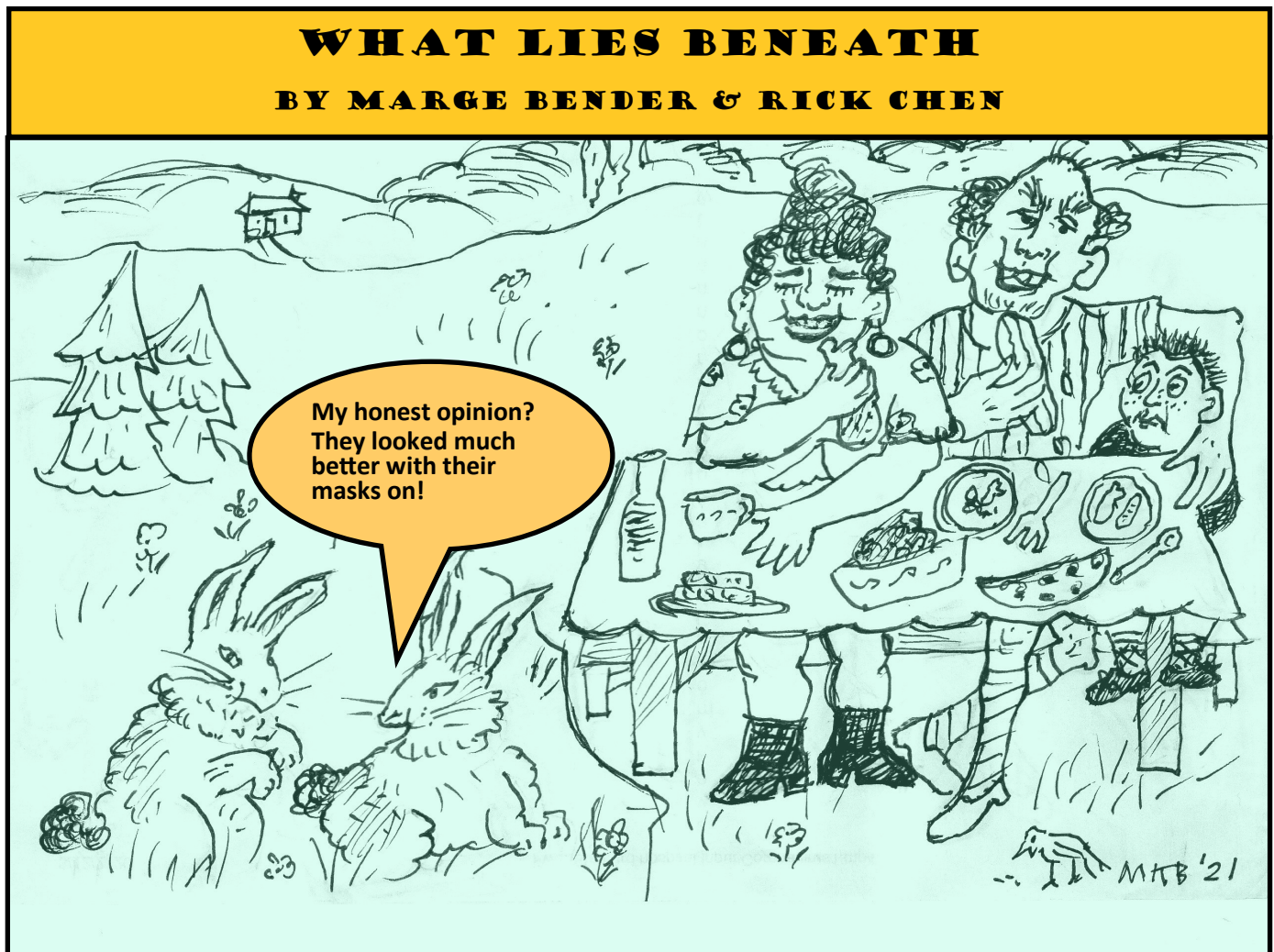
[Maryland Adopts 42 New Environmental Laws in 2021](#)

[Hogan signs college athlete endorsement bill, sports betting](#)

Virginia

[Governor of Virginia signs 14 new bills into law last minute](#)

[Virginia's environment wins big in 2021 General Assembly](#)



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

Ahoy! Geneva Day School's Summer 2021 Program sails into sight!



Youngsters aged two through six learn about themselves and the outdoor world in this developmentally appropriate recreation program that takes place within Geneva's gorgeous Maryland Green School gardens, inspiring playground (complete with pirate ship, teepees and jungle gym), as well as a thriving, nearby creek.

Weekly themes, such as Camping We Will Go, Hawaiian Luau, Rainforest Adventures, Stars and Stripes, Princesses and Pirates, Under the Big Top, Space Cadets, The Great Outdoors and Farm Animals, guide

exploration. Activities are shaped by STEAM and made all the more celebratory through special presentations.

Summer Program Director, Ms. Daisy Lizama, states, "I am looking forward to welcoming our returning and new families on June 7th. Our Program is the place where kids make great friends! It encourages them to relax and have fun through arts and crafts, sports, water play, singing, playing, laughing, talking and doing almost everything together!"

The Program is so highly sought that sessions and their wait lists have been full since spring. As always, Geneva Day School encourages a lifelong love of learning throughout all seasons, and especially the summer!

Call or visit us online to learn about Academic Year 2021-22 applications. See you outside!



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ALL THINGS INTERNET

compiled by Mitangi Mehta, RECA Board Member

Data Doctors: Comparing Amazon Alexa, Siri and Google Assistance



Q: How does Google Assistant compare to Siri when it comes to using voice commands?

A: The ability to use your voice to control devices is one of the biggest arms races in the tech sector at the moment.

Voice recognition technology has come a long way from the early Bell Labs research in the 1950s that could only recognize 10 spoken digits.

Voice recognition programs that touted a 90% accuracy rate started to appear in the 90s, which sounded great until we realized that every 10th word would be incorrect.

Today, the voice recognition technology in our smartphones is pretty incredible, especially when you use it for dictation, but it still has a long way to go.

As with all voice recognition platforms, the user must learn how to speak to their device instead of the device learning how to understand the user.

Simple commands like “what’s today’s weather look like?,” “call my office,” or “set a timer for minutes” work very well on both platforms, but when it comes to more complex questions, there is a difference. Learn more:

[Data Doctors: Comparing Google Assistant, Siri and Amazon Alexa | WTOP](#)

I Am Hacked! Now What?!



Have I Been Hacked?

No matter how secure you are, sooner or later you may have an accident and become hacked. Below are clues you might have been hacked and if so, what to do.

Your Online Accounts

Family or friends say they are receiving unusual messages or invites from you that you know you did not send.

Your password to an account no longer works, even though you know the password is correct.

You receive notifications from websites that someone has logged into your account when you know you did not log in yourself. Do not click on any links in such notifications to check your account; instead, type the website address yourself into your browser, use your previously saved bookmark, or access your account from a mobile app.

Your Computer or Mobile Device

Your antivirus program generates an alert that your system is infected. Make sure it is your antivirus software generating the alert and not a random pop-up window from a website trying to fool you into calling a number or installing something else. Not sure? Open and check your antivirus program to confirm if your computer is truly infected.

You get a pop-up window saying your computer has been encrypted and you have to pay a ransom to get your files back.

Applications seem to be crashing randomly or are loading very slowly.

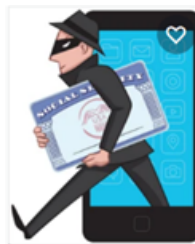
While browsing the web, you are often redirected to pages you did not want to visit or new, unwanted pages appear.

Financial

There are suspicious or unknown charges to your credit card or bank account that you know you did not make. Now What? - How to Take Back Control:

[I'm Hacked. Now What? | OUCH! February 2021 | SANS Security Awareness](#)

Identity Theft



What is Identity Theft?

Identity theft happens when a criminal steals information about you and uses that information to commit fraud, such as requesting unemployment benefits, tax refunds, or a new loan or credit card in your name. If you don't take precautions, you may end up paying for products or services that you didn't buy and dealing with the stress and financial heartache that follows identity theft.

[How to detect it: Identify Theft | OUCH! Newsletter March 2021 | SANS Security Awareness](#)



Make a Splash into Summer!

