



# The REGENCY RECORD

Newsletter of the  
Regency Estates  
Citizens Association

Spring 2022

## President's Message

With the Covid pandemic abating I hope you are able to resume somewhat of a pre-pandemic existence and enjoy the spring weather and beauty of the blossoming neighborhood tree population.

I am writing this message from London, England where the pandemic has exploded to the point where approximately 1 in every 13 people had Covid last week and despite this, masks are rarely seen. I am so thankful that I live in Montgomery County, where most people still take Covid seriously!

On that note, we are in the process of figuring out how we can hold our annual meeting this year. The Board recognizes that while some residents are willing to attend in person (subject to appropriate safety measures of course), there are others who would prefer to attend virtually. One option

we are therefore considering is the viability of a hybrid event that provides the best of both worlds. More information to follow as we make arrangements.

There seem to be lots of change either happening or planned for the area. While the demolition at the center of Cabin John Village continues in order to make way for a road and more shops, plans are afoot to change the use of the land that currently houses the Montgomery County Detention Center at the top of Seven Locks Road. A big thanks to Board member Bill Wydro for researching the history of and plans for site. I'm sure you'll find his article in this issue of great interest.

Thanks to also to Mitangi Mehta for some great content and especially to Rick Chen for pulling this issue together.

Regards,

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### Featured in this issue

[Around the Neighborhood](#) -  
How the future of a local  
detention center may affect you

[Around the County and State](#) -  
How new SmarTrip Card updates  
impact your ride

[Comic Corner](#)

[All Things Internet](#)



# AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

## Diving into the nearby Detention Center: Its History, Future...and Potential Impact on Our Neighborhood

by Bill Wydro, RECA board member

### Part 1: Background and plan overview

Seven Locks Road crosses Wootton Parkway and dead ends just before reaching Falls Road. Currently the 40 acres in that section are being used as a Detention Center (MCDC), and some Montgomery County offices. That section of land has a fascinating history over the last few decades, and even stretching back to the late 1800s when a “Poor House” was built there, as well as a pauper’s cemetery.

The Clarksburg Correctional Facility (jail) was built and became operational in the around 2000. Before that the Detention Center, built in 1961, was the jail, and held up to 800 inmates. District 1 police headquarters was next door to it (now relocated to the Edison Center in Gaithersburg). A summary overview of future plans for that site:

#### Phase 1

A “Restoration Center” is already approved. The first step is to demolish the old police HQ building, a tower, and several other outbuildings. Currently, residents with mental illness or substance abuse problems are being inappropriately incarcerated or sent to emergency rooms when crisis stabilization and appropriate warm handoffs to community-based services would be more effective. This can be particularly critical for residents of color and low-income residents who face barriers in accessing care. To prevent inappropriate, unnecessary incarceration, the Restoration Center will operate 24/7/365 to provide alternative crisis stabilization services under the Crisis Now model while also serving other residents with mental health and substance abuse issues. The completion date is targeted for 2027.

#### Phase 2

Replacement of the Detention Center with the Criminal Justice Facility (major part of the Restoration Center). The new CJC will replace the sprawling, deteriorating MCDC complex which has outlived its useful life and is extremely expensive to maintain. The new CJC will be an integral part of the Restoration Center with Central

Processing/Detention, District Court Commissioners, Department of Health and Human Services Mental Health Assessment and Placement Unit; Pre-Trial Services Assessment Unit; Public Defenders Unit; the Police Warrants and Fugitive Unit, and a Crisis Center with Crisis Intervention Teams. The completion date is targeted for 2029.

#### Phase 3

School Bus/Ride-On Bus Depot and maintenance facility. Capacity up to 250 electric school buses, plus some electric and/or fuel cell Ride-On buses. Since at least 2012, the County has struggled to find an appropriate site to replace the MCPS Crabbs Branch Bus Depot to realize the Shady Grove Sector plan’s transit-oriented development vision. With this CIP [the county budget], this site is finally identified, is already owned by the County, and is well-located and appropriate for MCPS’ fleet operations. This project cannot proceed until the Restoration Center and CJC project are completed so funding for this project is not expected to occur until after FY28; this will remove a barrier to creating transit-oriented housing [Smart Growth] near the Shady Grove metro station. The MCPS school buses will be all electric by that time, and Ride-On buses a combination of electric and fuel cell powered. The completion date is targeted for some time after phase 2.



Map of the envisioned Detention Center site development





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Wanda Zelaya

301.802.0713

wandazelaya@gmail.com

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## AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

### Diving into the nearby Detention Center: Its History, Future...and Potential Impact on Our Neighborhood *(continued)*

#### Part II. Buses in My Backyard?

On February 28, 2022 the Department of General Services (DGS) made a presentation to the Rockville City Council about the plans for the Detention Center site. While there was no public or Council objection to the proposed Restoration / Criminal Justice complex, there were many questions and objections to the proposed bus depot.

Montgomery County has plans to create a MCPS school bus terminal and county transit facility to service Ride On buses at Seven Locks Road and Wootton Parkway (Detention Center site). The school bus terminal located in Shady Grove (16651 Crabbs Branch Way) will be partially relocated here. The new school bus terminal will house 200-250 school buses, a parking lot for school bus drivers, a bus repair facility for school buses and other county buses, and a bus wash station.

The County has not outgrown their current facility in Shady Grove but wants to redevelop that site as a mixed use area for homes or businesses due to its proximity to the Shady Grove Metro station. The egress and return of 200-250 buses and personal cars of bus drivers from the proposed new facility would be onto Wootton Parkway and Seven Locks Road. This egress route directly impacts, Potomac Springs (109 homes) Orchard Ridge (69 homes), Falls Ridge (147 homes), Falls Bend (55 homes), Park Potomac and homes and houses of worship on the other side of Montrose on Seven Locks, plus northbound Regency Estates traffic on Seven Locks, or coming from that direction.

This project doesn't account for the new community being built at Fortune Terrace, adjacent to Lifetime Fitness (408 residential units: 195 townhomes or condominiums and 213 senior living units) and its additional traffic. The County owns the land and does not need the City of Rockville's approval for the project as long as the project conforms to the City of Rockville's land use ordinance (development standards). The city has "Vision 2040" objectives for this land use area that are incompatible with the bus depot.



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## AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

### Diving into the nearby Detention Center: Its History, Future...and Potential Impact on Our Neighborhood (continued)

As testament to this, many residents raised objections to the bus depot during the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, which include the following:

- Numerous commuters exit congested 270 at route 28 to use Wootton Pkwy, resulting in backups nearby. Many school buses already travel these roads.
- Traffic study is needed – it must take into account rush hour and increased traffic from the projected new developments.
- Rockville has gone to great lengths to provide safe bicycle routes. Dramatically increasing vehicular traffic crossing this trail is counter to that goal.
- Buses need to go through safety checks starting as early as 4 a.m. - testing the lights, the horn, backing up sounds - how would that impact the neighborhood?

The County had initially proposed to move the bus depot to two other sites in Rockville (Carver Educational Services Center and Lincoln Park). The residents of these two communities were able to convince the County to consider other sites instead. This was accomplished by aggressive email writing campaigns to the City of Rockville Council and the Montgomery County Council as well as to individual representatives of both Councils by a very large proportion of residents in these two communities. Their emails focused on the deleterious effects of a school bus terminal in their communities.



**If you don't want this facility at Seven Locks and Wootton, make your voice heard. Sign the petition objecting to the proposed bus depot at the Seven Locks Detention Center site today:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/28awk8fu>



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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](http://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 NEIGHBORHOOD

## Environment Corner

by Marge Bender, RECA board member

*“To sit in the shade on a fine day, and look upon verdure is the most perfect refreshment.”*

- Jane Austen

As a fearsome war rages in Europe, we are deeply fortunate that spring is blossoming here in Maryland. This inspired me to recommend a couple books which may capture your interest in helping our planet:

### Simple Acts to Save our Planet – by Michelle Neff

Description: This book offers manageable activities that range from simple home updates, to gardening basics, to supporting the local community. It seeks to teach simple techniques to help protect the planet every day, like starting a compost pile to reduce food waste, utilizing travel mugs and reusable containers, and choosing eco-friendly products. By working to implement these simple strategies into one’s everyday life, you can take an active stand to protect the

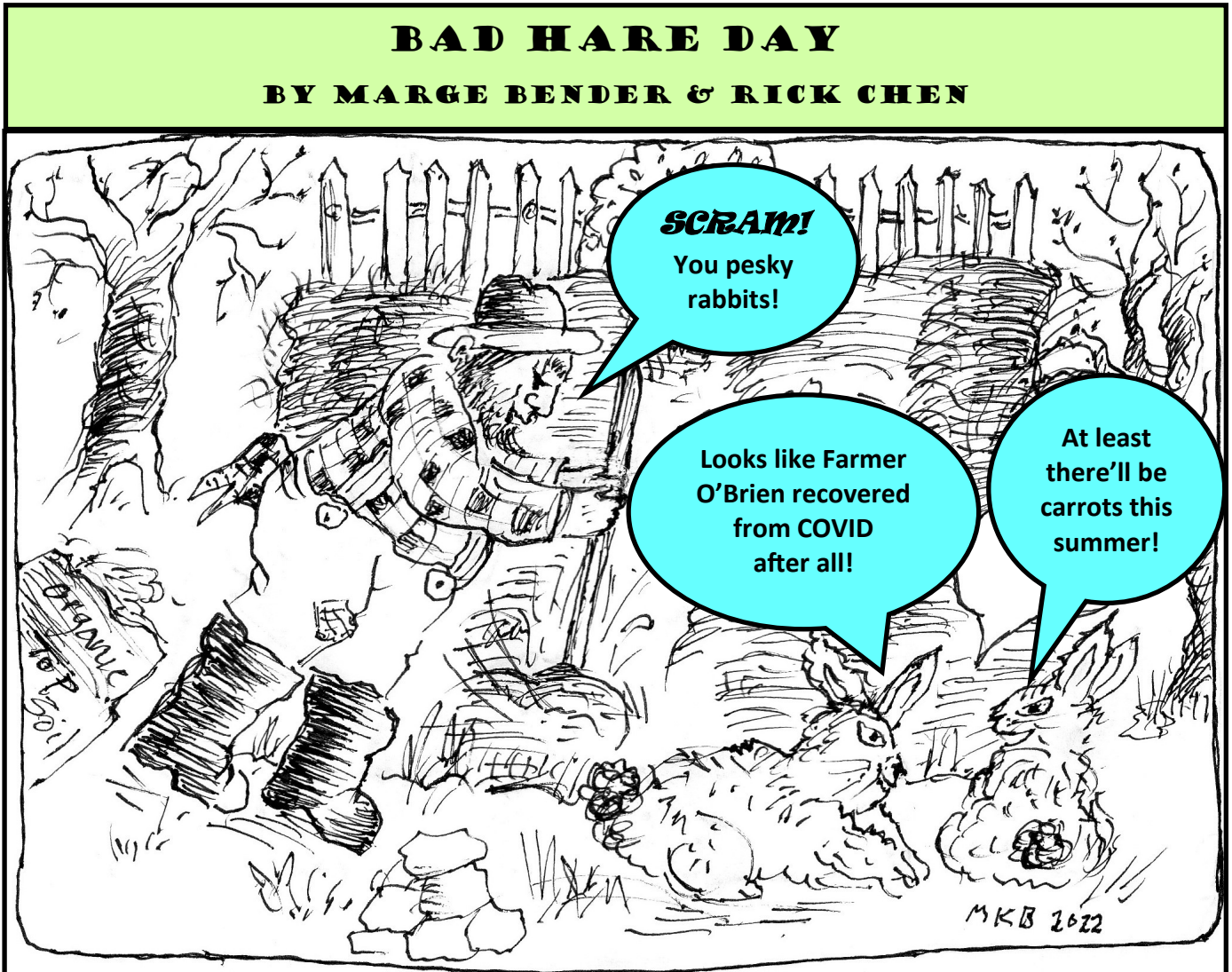
environment now— and make a real difference for the future.

### There is No Planet B. – by Mike Berners-Lee

Description: What can I do to change the world? In a world fraught with hunger, climate change, biodiversity, antibiotics, plastics and pandemics, what should we tackle first? Berners-Lee offers a big-picture perspective on the environmental and economic challenges of our day, laid out in one place, and traced through to the underlying roots – questions of how we live and think.

All around I see emerging signs of Spring, like glimmers of hope to come. The Barred Owls nesting in our neighbor’s backyard are proof that we can draw wildlife into suburban landscapes by planting trees and making habitats for small mammals. The owls can have privacy and some food sources. Beautiful owls perch on our neighborhood trees, looking into a partially uncut backyard. These taller grasses are a promise of possible meals. If we can make friends with our woodland creatures, surely there’s hope we can still get along as human beings!

Want to learn more about improving our environment? [Contact us](#) for any questions, suggestions or ideas.



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*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 COUNTY AND STATE

### Know Before You Go:

### SmarTrip Metro Card Updates

by Bill Wydro



If you have ridden Metro recently, you are aware that the faregates and fare machines have been upgraded, and have upgraded your SmarTrip card(s) if necessary. If you haven't ridden lately, you may or may not be aware that SmarTrip cards older than 2012 will no longer work. You can tell if your SmarTrip card is compatible with the new system if the sequence "0167" is contained in the long string of numbers on the back of the card. If not, you will need to replace your card. You can either mail in an old card (and if there is money on it, it will be transferred to your replacement) or keep your old card, order new ones from the WMATA site, and then transfer money from your old card to the new one (also on the WMATA site).

Even if you are Metro upgrade aware, here are some other features of the new system that perhaps you have yet to discover. The following capability is high-tech, and I think, really cool:

You can set up your cell phone to have your SmarTrip card in your phone's 'wallet.' It will work on both Metro Rail and Metro Buses. Here is an overview: <https://www.wmata.com/fares/mobilepay/>

Here is a guide on how to set up an iPhone or Apple Watch, and use Apple Pay: <https://tinyurl.com/22su8bvn>

For iPhone XS and newer phones, you'll even be able to swipe into the system with a dead phone, within a few hours of the phone dying.

Here is an extensive FAQ on iPhones/watches from WMATA: <https://tinyurl.com/munj4d8h>

And alternate set-up instructions from WMATA: <https://www.wmata.com/fares/MobilePay/ApplePay.cfm>

The set-up is a bit more complicated with an Android phone. (To use SmarTrip with Google Pay, an Android phone must be NFC capable and have Android OS version 5 or newer. To use the SmarTrip app, an Android phone must have Android OS version 9 or newer.)

Here's a video guide on how to set up an android phone with SmarTrip (BTW: Android wearables are not supported):

<https://youtu.be/V5Luf5HkkD0>

You cannot create a SmarTrip card in your phone's wallet from scratch. You must have a valid plastic card first. Once you have transferred your plastic card to your phone, the card becomes inactive and will no longer work. In the case of the iPhone and Apple watch, only one device's Metro card can be active at a time (there is a way to switch back and forth).

When using your phone to enter/exit Metro, have the wallet SmarTrip card active, and hover it over the same place you would with a plastic card. A circle with a checkmark will appear to acknowledge the system recognized your card (and in the case of exiting, that you had enough money on the card).

Separate from a cell phone 'wallet' is the SmarTrip app. It allows you to instantly add funds, buy money-saving passes, check balances, set up Auto Reload, and manage SmartBenefits from your employer. More info: <https://www.wmata.com/fares/MobilePay/SmarTrip-App.cfm>

I debated about beginning the article with this, but hopefully you got this far. It is wise to register your card with Metro. You can start at 'SmarTrip.com' or 'WMATA.com' (The former has links related to Metro cards and other transportation sites and the latter is all inclusive - Trip Planner, rail and bus route maps, card info, everything Metro related.)

Once you register your card, if you lose it, or it malfunctions, you can get a replacement that includes whatever money value was on the original card. You can also set up your card so that if the value on it drops below \$10, money is automatically added to it from a credit card you place on file.

In my case, I have multiple SmarTrip cards registered in my account. My wife and I have Senior SmarTrip cards, and we have 4 others for when we have family or guests visiting. The account is very convenient for listing the cards and verifying how much money is on each one, and for adding money to any of them. (One caution - when you add money online it may take a day or 2 before it actually becomes available.) You can also buy passes for any of your cards.

Another minor option - if you buy SmarTrip cards online, instead of the standard card face of DC monuments, you have a choice of 4 other card faces created in 2016 to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Metro system.

**Final comment, and perhaps this is the most valuable - EVERY Metro station has a bathroom that is available to riders if you ask the stationmaster for access to it.**

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

## Geneva Day School's Summer Program Shines

What do creek walks, gummy fish, and weekly themes have in common? They flavor a summer of SPECTACULAR learning and fun at Geneva Day School's Summer Program, now recognized as "Best Summer Program 2022" by readers of Bethesda Magazine.

"(This is) a phenomenal experience that warms the heart. . . The kids engage in different activities that are all hands-on, educational, and fun. . . They are not only engaging for children, but also for staff and volunteers," stated Summer Program Director, Ms. Daisy Lizama.

It is a special thrill to observe campers aged two through six revel in the same recreation, outdoor exploration, and other discoveries that excite those many years older.

Nine weeks of extraordinary themes include: Pets, Transportation, Nature Explorer, Party in the USA, Superheroes, Under the Big Top, Disney, Summer, and Campers Got Talent.


As campers and counselors dress according to a theme, they might also meet a "character" who comes to perform (try dancing with a Disney princess), or view a performance (catch awe-inspiring acrobatics from Under the Big Top's traveling circus), or meet animals that melt the heart (Nature Week promises fur and feathers!).

Just as Geneva looks forward to offering its award-winning program to those lucky enough to have snagged a spot within the first weeks of enrollment (slots went quickly!), the program looks forward to welcoming a new batch of counselors who are keen to take the lead for a summer of meaningful responsibility and fun.

Such an experience "builds community, friendships, and a lifelong love of learning," stated Ms. Lizama.

Local high school students with experience in childcare and a passion for the out-of-doors should consider applying. A lifelong love of learning really does begin in the summer


Please contact Summer Program Director Ms. Daisy Lizama: [d.lizama@genevadayschool.org](mailto:d.lizama@genevadayschool.org).



# Geneva Day School

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## AROUND THE COUNTY AND STATE

### New Laws in Effect in the DMV

Spring is here, and with new flowers and foliage come new laws! Here are some of the newest ones we know of.



#### Maryland

Maryland's minimum wage rate will [increase to \\$12.50](#) at employers with 15 or more employees.

The Maryland Board of Physicians will require a [license for genetic counselors](#) and establish a committee for professionals.

Residents of the state who decide to become organ donors will be able to decide if [they want their organs donated to research and education or transplantation and therapy](#).

Protections from excessive [medical debt for low-income residents](#) will begin in 2022 according to the law and [protects patients](#) making 200% or less than the federal poverty level, around \$53,000 for a family of four, The Associated Press reported.

The state's department of health will be required to provide residents with informational materials to [help residents plans for long-term care](#). The law requires the published material to be ready by April 1 and available in English, Spanish and any other language requested. It also requires that materials be accessible to people with limited literacy skills.

#### District of Columbia

D.C. residents can expect reduced noise from grounds care. A [ban on selling and using gas-powered leaf blowers](#) will start on Jan. 1, with fines of up to \$500 for those caught using the banned blowers.

Restaurants will be banned from [dispensing disposable items](#), such as napkins, utensils and condiments unless customers ask for them or use a self-service area.

Meanwhile, on Jan. 15, [vaccines will be required to enter D.C. establishments](#) including nightclubs and restaurants.

### Going, going...gone

*Take a quick look at recent major construction on Cabin John Mall, with more to come.*

*Photos by Steve Chojna, RECA Secretary*

#### February 2022



#### Early March 2022



#### Late March 2022



*This article was provided by one of our advertisers, St. James' Episcopal Church, Potomac.*

## Prayer on Demand at St. James' Episcopal Church, Potomac

"I wish there was a Peloton for prayer." That remark by a church member sparked some creative thinking for the Mental Health Ministries leaders group at St. James' Episcopal Church in Potomac. What would that look like, they wondered?

Their answer was "Prayer on Demand," a series of short videos in which a clergy person or member of the church leads the viewer in prayer—or accompanies the viewer as they pray together—to establish a supportive and motivating connection.

Filmed in back yards, chapels, and living rooms, these short videos introduce accessible guides for reducing anxiety and calming racing thoughts, as well as addressing heavier topics such as having thoughts of suicide, and feeling isolated and alone. Some videos

are simply a piece of music played by a member of the church.

The videos, which are being introduced in a monthly blog format, may be accessed from the parish website, at [stjamespotomac.org/parish-ministries/mental-health-and-wellness](http://stjamespotomac.org/parish-ministries/mental-health-and-wellness).

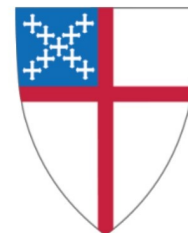
St. James' Mental Health Ministries hopes to add more prayers and offerings from parishioners in the coming months. Future topics may include prayers for beginning a work day, the loss of a pet, visiting relatives, confronting anger, and prayers to laugh, dance, and drum by.

St. James' welcomes newcomers at all times! Visit [www.stjamespotomac.org](http://www.stjamespotomac.org) and ask to join the email news list.



## St. James' Episcopal Church, Potomac

In your neighborhood at  
11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, MD 20854  
301-762-8040 ~ [office@stjamespotomac.org](mailto:office@stjamespotomac.org)



### Worship with us – in person and online at [stamespotomac.org](http://stamespotomac.org)!

**Sundays** 9:00 a.m. **Adult Faith Formation** (virtual and by phone)  
11:00 a.m. **Worship** at church, live streamed, and recorded video  
**Sunday School** in person for children preschool through grade five

**Also at St. James'** Children's School for infants – pre-k: [stjameschildrenschool.com](http://stjameschildrenschool.com)  
Mental health support, Racial Justice study, Creation Care, Outreach  
Bible & book studies, fellowship, community service



### Join us for Holy Week and Easter Services

**Palm Sunday** Eucharist, 11 a.m. April 10

**Maundy Thursday** Eucharist, 7:30 p.m. April 14

**Good Friday** services, Noon and 7:30 p.m. April 15, with quiet day at 1 p.m.

**Easter Sunday** Eucharist, 11:00 a.m. April 17, followed by outdoor Easter egg hunt





# ALL THINGS INTERNET

compiled by Mitangi Mehta, RECA board member

## Learn a New Survival Skill:

### Spotting Deepfakes



#### What Are [Deepfakes](#)?

The word "deepfake" is a combination of "deep learning" and "fake." Deepfakes are falsified pictures, videos, or audio recordings. Sometimes the people in them are computer-generated, fake identities that look and sound like they could be real people. Sometimes the people are real, but their images and voices are manipulated into doing and saying things they didn't do or say. For example, a deepfake video could be used to recreate a celebrity or politician saying something they never said. Using these very lifelike fakes, attackers can spin up an alternate reality where you can't always trust your eyes and ears.

Some deepfakes have legitimate purposes, like movies bringing deceased actors back to life to recreate a famous character. But cyber attackers are starting to leverage the potential of deepfakes. They deploy them to fool your senses, so they can steal your money, harass people, manipulate voters or political views, or create fake news. In some cases, they have even created sham companies made up of deepfake employees. You must become even more careful of what you believe when reading news or social media in light of these attacks.

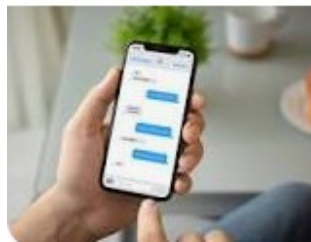
The FBI warns that in the future deepfakes will have "more severe and widespread impact due to the sophistication level of the synthetic media used." Learn to spot the signs of a deepfake to protect yourself from these highly believable simulations. Each form of deepfake — still image, video, and audio — has its own set of flaws that can give it away.

### Cybersecurity Tips For Vacation

As the weather changes and millions of people will be traveling again; specially those who put it off due to the last wave of COVID variant. If you are among the many, here are some tips to help keep you cyber savvy and safe.

[Here are several more tips, suggestions](#)

## Spot and Stop Messaging Attacks



#### What are [messaging attacks](#)?

Smishing (a portmanteau word combining SMS and phishing) are attacks that occur when cyber attackers use SMS, texting, or similar messaging technologies to trick you into taking an action you should not take. Perhaps they fool you into providing your credit card details, get you to call a phone number to get your banking information, or convince you to fill out an online survey to harvest your personal information. Just like in email phishing attacks, cyber criminals often play on your emotions to get you to act by creating a sense of urgency or curiosity, for example. However, what makes messaging attacks so dangerous is there is far less information and fewer clues in a text than there is in an email, making it much harder for you to detect that something is wrong.

A common scam is a message telling you that you won an iPhone, and you only need to click on a link and fill out a survey to claim it. In reality, there is no phone and the survey is designed to harvest your personal information. Another example would be a message stating that a package could not be delivered with a link to a website where you are asked to provide information needed to complete delivery, including your credit card details to cover "service charges." In some cases, these sites may even ask you to install an unauthorized mobile app that infects and takes over your device.

Sometimes cyber criminals will even combine phone and messaging attacks. For example, you may get an urgent text message from your bank asking if you authorized an odd payment. The message asks you to reply YES or NO to confirm the payment. If you respond, the cybercriminal now knows you are willing to engage and will call you pretending to be the bank's fraud department. They will then try to talk you out of your financial and credit card information, or even your bank account's login and password.



*Take time to slow down and relax.  
Happy Spring!*

