



# The REGENCY RECORD

Newsletter of the  
Regency Estates  
Civic Association

Winter 2024



## President's Message

Happy Holidays!

As one of the most festive times of the year, we are also reminded by our MCPD Community Officer Bruce Beardsley that it's a time to be more vigilant to potential crimes. During our Neighborhood Safety Zoom meeting last month, he shared that assault and robberies happen most frequently when potential victims are returning alone to their cars in the evening from places like malls, restaurants or a party. With shorter days bringing earlier nights, be sure to stay aware walking back to your vehicle and to be off your phone. You can read more tips and a recap of the Zoom meeting on page 2 of this issue.

We'd also like to welcome a couple new neighborhood business advertisers. Rewild is a specialty plant store that aims to inspire and create a retreat from the urban setting,

rooted in the belief that plant care is self-care. Mark Willcher Landscape Design & Build offers personalized design, installation and maintenance services for landscape projects of any size in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area including Northern Virginia, Frederick, and Baltimore. Rewild's ad appears on page 3 and Mark Willcher's on page 4, so check them both out to begin reaping the benefits of flora and landscape feng shui!

As shared in our previous issue, we have an open invitation to residents to share any personal stories or news of interest. If you feel inspired to share a story, whether your own or another's, feel free to contact me. Wishing you all a healthy and merry holiday season, and a happy new year!

Best,  
Rick

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### In Our Neighborhood

Neighborhood Safety Zoom Recap

Wildlife in Winter Need Plants

Comic Corner

On Cleaning Out and Organizing  
One's Home Office

#### Around the City and State

Renewing Auto Registration: Don't Get Deleted

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Rick Chen

Vice President: Jan Peterson

Treasurer: Jerry Garson

Secretary: Steve Chojna

### MEMBERS

Al Belsky Glenn Lesak

Marjorie Bender Peter Stocksclaeder

Don Carney Bill Wydro

David King

### NEWSLETTER

Editor-in-Chief: Rick Chen

Designer: Hannah Freeman

Advertising: Rick Chen

[rick.chen@regencyestates.org](mailto:rick.chen@regencyestates.org)

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Regency Estates Civic Association

P.O. Box 34744

Bethesda, MD 20827-0744

E-Mail: [comments@regencyestates.org](mailto:comments@regencyestates.org)

Website: [www.regencyestates.org](http://www.regencyestates.org)



## In Our Neighborhood

### Neighborhood Safety Zoom Meeting Recap

by Peter Stocksclaeder, RECA Board member



On November 14th, the RECA board hosted a Zoom meeting for RECA members, with Officer Bruce Beardsley from Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD). He discussed MCPD activities and general policing trends in the county at large, and addressed RECA-community-specific questions. The RECA board thanks Officer Beardsley and all the community members for their engagement. If you were not able to participate in the meeting, the recording is available [here](#). We're pleased to share key highlights below.

Officer Beardsley is a 30-plus-year member of MCPD and has worked on multiple teams in his tenure in the department. His role now is working with MCPD's community outreach and relations team. This team works with civic groups like RECA to build and enhance communications and information between MCPD and the local community.

A major example he cited is that the Rockville District, which we are part of, is approximately 150 square miles in size and has over 50,000 people, and is extremely ethnically diverse. He shared our district extends from Montrose Road all the way to Poolesville. Because of this significant size in tandem with the various shifts and ongoing staffing concerns, generally there are fewer than 10 officers on the street in the various patrol areas at a time. As a result, there may be delays in response times, especially if they have multiple officers responding to specific calls.

He noted that one of the largest-growing immigrant groups in the district is of Chinese ethnicity, and has driven MCPD to develop more written and other communications

materials in Chinese to extend educational outreach. He also noted that general concepts of police work vary greatly among ethnic groups, and it is extremely important for them to continue to enhance these community relationships to bridge the many cultural gaps that exist.

Officer Beardsley shared, in response to an initial question, that MCPD does still have a ride-along program. There is an online form for this, or you can contact him via the non-emergency general number at 301-279-8000.

Officer Beardsley further addressed several topics during the call that are of interest to many RECA members:

- Thefts from autos continue to be a key trend and happen everywhere in the county. Suspects generally fall within the 14-35 age range and is a target of opportunity. MCPD has not observed a trend that is seen more commonly on the West Coast, where thieves will use wireless scanners to try to locate and connect to devices in cars with Wi-Fi/Bluetooth, to target more higher-end areas and items for break-ins. It's good practice to remove expensive items from your car, or lock them out of view in the trunk if this is not possible (for example, laptops and similar expensive equipment).
- Specifically in Bethesda, MCPD has observed more reports of high-end home thefts involving gangs from South America. These groups move up and down the East Coast. They typically try to avoid physical contact as much as possible by watching houses to see if there is anyone inside. They also generally avoid residences with dogs.
- If you have a security system with cameras, make sure they are working. Much of the info that MCPD has been able to gather is due to the availability of video evidence. Ensuring that cameras are set up properly and video is recorded is key, as they have had instances where a report was made but the cameras were broken. MCPD's recommendation is that security cameras be hard-wired, as some suspects have been arrested carrying electronics that block or scramble Wi-Fi signals.
- A general reminder to all, especially as the holidays approach, bring your Amazon/FedEx/UPS/USPS packages inside as soon as practical — "porch pirates" are still a significant issue.
- Another general reminder is that the government (local, state or federal) is not going to call you for money. This is still a common scam, and any government agency that is contacting you for legitimate reasons will only do so by mail.
- Staffing is an ongoing concern due to funding trends and other demands. In general, how they staff shifts is



depending on call volume and statistical trends. If you have a concern, it is best to call to get it on record — MCPD cannot act on things for which no data exists. The overall staffing trend is one they are working to change but will take a lot of time and work to accomplish.

- Since Rockville and Gaithersburg are their own incorporated areas, they do have their own police forces but will assist them on calls when requested. They also assist Metro with policing when necessary around the various Red Line stations. As a side note, Maryland State Police barracks on Montrose and Seven Locks is primarily a traffic-only barracks and their primary concern is 270 and the Beltway.
- Sex offenders are required to register and be fingerprinted at the MCPD headquarters in Rockville. All information is available online as per the applicable state laws. If you know of any sex offenders living in your immediate vicinity, install cameras as a precautionary measure.
- The general policy of MCPD to not discuss or collect information concerning a person's immigration or citizenship status.

If you have any additional questions or general concerns regarding safety/crime in Regency Estates/ Potomac/Rockville, please feel free to contact Officer Bruce Beardsley via email at [Bruce.Beardsley@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov](mailto:Bruce.Beardsley@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov) or phone at: 240-762-8773 (office).



An advertisement for REWILD. The background is a dark green, textured surface with a Christmas tree on the right side. The word "REWILD" is written in large, bold, orange letters at the top. Below it, in smaller white text, is "Plants • Workshops • Design". The main headline is "Give the Gift of Green!" in large, white, serif font. Below the headline, in smaller white text, are the categories: "Houseplants", "Planters", "Orchid Arrangements", and "&amp; More!". At the bottom, in small white text, is the offer: "\*FREE repotting with a purchase of a pot or plant\*", the address "7937 Tuckerman Ln STE C, Potomac, MD 20854", and the website "REWILDDC.COM".

## Wildlife in Winter Need Plants

by Marge Bender, RECA Board member



With the above title in mind, do you ever wake up in the morning thinking, “What can I do to make any difference in these chaotic times?” This question has been discussed lately by a growing group of passionate Potomac residents.

Recently, Montgomery County Council member Evan Glass discussed a bill he will be offering in 2025. This bill will require more native plants along roadways and county properties. Why this emphasis on native plants? Is what feeds our special animal, insect and human populations in this Southeastern climate region. Meanwhile, during these dark days of winter, RECA neighbors can investigate

plant preparation for spring. Nearby Good Earth store on Falls Road has native plants for sale during that season. The Potomac Garden Club and native plant growers offer a wealth of information and are searchable on Google and nearby.

Doug Tallamy, who wrote *Nature’s Best Hope*, suggests “homegrown corridors” to sustain wildlife. This is where we as individual property owners can make a difference:

- Leave leafy blankets for creatures to survive the cold
- Leave old plant stalks intact for insect nurseries over winter
- Allow decaying logs to remain on the property. Fungi, lizards, beetles and all manner of life need rock and logs for shelter

With a change in climate, we need to change many long-held beliefs about yards. Namely, that winter cleanup looks better and boosts property appeal; lawn chemicals and leaf-blowing make pretty and healthy grasses; the more grass the better (not true); and finally, that long grass means a slovenly homeowner. These ideas in 2025 are outdated. Hopefully, Potomac residents will seize the opportunity for change.

Contact me to learn more: [bendi1@verizon.net](mailto:bendi1@verizon.net).

# DISTINCTIVE LANDSCAPES

INNOVATIVE | SUSTAINABLE | MAINTAINABLE

Exquisite Garden Design & Installation

Decks & Patios | Custom Fences | Arbors & Pergolas

Garden Walks & Walls | Water Features & Lighting

Planting & Maintenance

BEST of BETHESDA AWARD WINNER | WASHINGTONIAN AWARD WINNER

**Mark Willcher Landscape  
Design & Build**

*Building Sustainable Gardens  
Since 1980*



[www.markwillcherco.com](http://www.markwillcherco.com)

☎ 240-672-3191

✉ [info@markwillcherco.com](mailto:info@markwillcherco.com)





# 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



Readers of Bethesda Magazine again recognize us as "Best Preschool" (seven "first place" wins!)  
 Enriching curriculum. . .  
 Geneva Method  
 Join us as a two. . .  
 We will grow with you  
 Maryland Green School




## Plover

PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

We help each other smile.

# Hello neighbours!

We make dentistry easy!

Visit us at  
 Cabin John Village Mall

e-mail: [smile@ploverpd.com](mailto:smile@ploverpd.com)  
 phone: 240-642-3161

[ploverpd.com](http://ploverpd.com)

## On Cleaning Out and Organizing One's Home Office

by Donald Carney, RECA Board member



*Mini Chest of Drawers from Korea*

Some time ago, I decided it was finally time to clean and organize my office. I wanted to create an efficient and comfortable workspace. What seemed like a simple task turned out to be more challenging than I expected.

I had seen this day coming for a while. In anticipation of the cleaning, I began sorting through papers I rarely used, putting them in bankers boxes. My plan was simple: if I didn't need a paper within six months, it would be discarded. But when the day finally arrived to tackle the task, I realized I had accumulated far more than I'd anticipated and had not touched virtually any of the papers. They had to **go**.

One of the first things I tackled was a large, multi-story cabinet in my office. This cabinet held everything from books and personal care items to a small chest of drawers from my time in Korea, filled with tiny compartments holding various office tools.

I immediately began sorting through everything, eliminating items I no longer needed. It had been 20 years since I first set up my office, and I was stunned by the amount of electronic gadgets and cables I had amassed over time. There were power cables, data cables; some that could do both, and some that could do neither. There were also remote controls for devices I could no longer identify.

Letting go of these items was not easy, as I convinced myself that I might need them someday. But after years of disuse, I realized it was time to part with them.

I also came across some old camera equipment. One item was an old film camera, which I felt no hesitation in discarding. Digital photography has long since replaced film for me, and it seemed clear that it was time to let go. I also found a tiny camera tripod, only a few inches tall. It was cute, but given that I now rely entirely on my phone for photography, it had no practical value anymore.

As I continued to clean, I discovered many little items I had forgotten about — post-it flags, post-it notes, binder clips and staples. I ended up sorting these into the small drawers of my Korean chest of drawers, where they would be out of sight but still accessible when needed.

Among the most perplexing discoveries were the keys I found scattered throughout the office. Most of them were a mystery to me. Some were for locks I no longer used, others for bikes, and a few for doors I didn't even remember. In the end, I couldn't bring myself to toss them, so I consolidated them into one place, just in case one might come in handy someday — perhaps if I ever get locked out of my house, though I now rely on an electronic lock.

I also found old glasses and contact lenses. It's hard to part with things that once played such an important role, but my prescription has changed significantly over the years, especially astigmatism, which really makes the old ones tough to use. I've slowly begun donating some of them, though I still hold onto a small reserve, just in case. It's a hard habit to break.



One of the most difficult categories to address was diplomas, certificates and other achievements. My parents, who recently passed away, had always been so proud of my accomplishments. For a long time, I kept these papers as a way of honoring their pride. But the truth is, most of



these documents are relics of the past — achievements that no longer hold much significance, except as memories. As hard as it is, I've been letting go of them one by one, knowing that I no longer need physical reminders of things I've already accomplished.

At this point, I've made significant progress. My cabinet is nearly empty, and my office is much cleaner and more organized. I've gotten rid of boxes of materials that used to clutter the space. Some of those materials have found a new home in my kids' bedrooms now that we're empty nesters. As I continue to declutter, I find it harder to imagine going back to a time when I kept so much stuff. It's liberating to let go of things but it sometimes takes more energy than planned.

# **ALLEGRETTO**

MUSIC THERAPY STUDIO



*Offering  
Adaptive Piano Classes for  
Children and Adults with  
Mental or Physical Disabilities*

**301-379-6681**

**allegrestostudio@yahoo.com**



## Around the City and State

### Renew Your Vehicle Registration Recently? Be Careful You Don't Get Deleted

by Rick Chen, RECA President



As most auto owners know, vehicle registration is a necessary evil that usually comes in the form of an email reminder every one to two years to renew, depending on your cycle preference. I've typically opted for the two-year renewal so I can have a year to not worry about it.

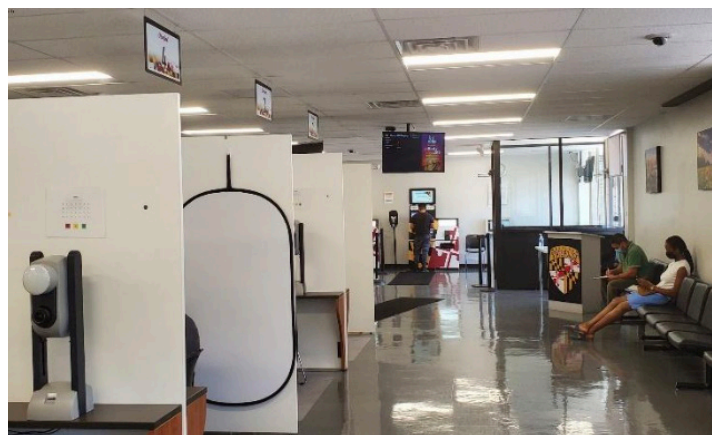
My latest registration was due for the end of December 2024. I'm reminded of this date every time I open my trunk since the stickers are staring right at me. As it got closer to fall, I was thinking the reminder email should be coming soon. A month passed without an email. And then another. Now firmly into the month of expiration and still email reminder-less, I decided to pull up the previous year's MVA registration email to see when it was sent. Here it is — November 23, 2022. Hmm, maybe this year's was slightly delayed because of Thanksgiving? Playing it safe, I saw there was a link to renew online within the same email and clicked it. I was directed to enter my tag and title on MVA's home page. After typing in the required info, I hit enter. "The information you entered does not match our records for a vehicle in our system." Maybe I typed too quickly? I gave it another go. "The information you entered does not match our records for a vehicle in our system" flashed onscreen once more. At this point, I was a bit frantic.

I had purchased my Honda Civic free and clear in 2016, and have done my "civic" duty to keep it fully insured and fully registered throughout this whole time. What's going on here? I begrudgingly decided to call MVA and mentally prepared myself for a 20-minute wait. More than 30 minutes later (and having memorized the smooth jazz background music at this point), I finally get a human voice to which I shared my predicament. "Sheila" tells me that her records show MVA pulled my registration offline

shortly after I received the 2022 email reminder. That was odd, as I did successfully renew online, received the decals sent from MVA, and have been using them for the past two years without a hitch. Sheila said it can still show up in the system after decals have been mailed and that I'd have to make an in-person appointment at one of the MVA branches. Thankfully, she was able to find one open appointment in the next two hours in Kemp Mill Silver Spring. Time to get out of bed.

I had never been to this Silver Spring branch, though it had been some time since I'd gone to any branch. Aside from online registration renewal and maybe emissions testing, MVA didn't cross my mind beyond that. Apparently sometime during the last time I visited in-person to now, they had fortunately upgraded from a walk-in-grab-a-ticket-and-wait-forever process to an online system where most folks would arrive at the branch with a spot secured for their time. Seeing hard-earned tax dollars at work, I mean really work, is truly a thing of beauty. But I digress.

Armed with my current auto insurance cards, vehicle registration stub and license plate decal photos, I entered the surprisingly light waiting area and waited for agents to call my number. Within 10 minutes, I was up. After sharing my issue, I was met with the agent's wrinkled expression. Uh-oh. She then motioned for her manager to come by. Anxiety level heightened. To make matters worse, they switched from speaking English to their native language, staring intently at the computer screen obscured from my view as if it held some dark secret. I barely cracked open a, "What's going on?" Without making eye contact, the manager hurriedly shared that apparently when I bought my vehicle, the dealership made some processing error that flew under the radar until MVA upgraded their system recently to catch it — hence my vehicle not being in their system. She would need to talk to her higher-ups to have paperwork processed to update the backend and fix my issue. This seemed strange but I went with it for expediency.





I was asked to take a seat for 15-20 minutes while they worked to resolve my issue. Twenty minutes quickly became 30 minutes. I tried not to focus on the clock but hearing the raised voices of other disgruntled customers added to the tension. Forty-five minutes in, the manager called me over to say their records were now updated. Worried that this issue may come up again at some point, I asked her if she could share the specific error the dealership made so I could reach out to them if necessary. Unfortunately, she said that information was not available for her to see; only that there was a dealership error. I decided to let it go, thanked the manager, and quickly paid in-person for my next two-year renewal.

So was it really a dealership issue? Or a canned response to cover MVA's own backend error? Have you ever had this happen to you? What do you think *really* happened? Perhaps this story is a bit on the dramatic side, though, the important lesson learned is that you can never be too early checking your vehicle registration status. And if you haven't received an email reminder within a month before expiration, contact MVA immediately just to be safe.

The silver lining of this stressful experience was that within the same plaza was a large Jewish grocery store that was new to me. Making the most of my trip, I stopped

in and grabbed some challah bread and bagels. They turned out to be a tasty buy and brightened my crummy (or crumby) day.



## Thinking of Selling Your Home in 2025?

Allow me to put my experience and expertise to work for you. My career sales in Regency Estates and Highland Stone total 67+ properties. With that track record you can feel confident that I'll be successful in selling your home for the best price and terms with minimal inconvenience to you!

If you're beginning to think about moving, for whatever reason, give me a call or send a text or email. I'd love to hear from you. I'll give you honest input & recommendations with confidentiality and without obligation.

  
Lorraine Gottlieb  
PotomacRealEstateExperts.Com

I Specialize in Selling  
Homes in the Churchill  
School Cluster



Lorraine Spero Gottlieb

RE/MAX Realty Services

240-731-7885 (Direct)

Email: [lorrainegottlieb20854@gmail.com](mailto:lorrainegottlieb20854@gmail.com)

[www.lorrainegottlieb.com](http://www.lorrainegottlieb.com)

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

## Geneva Day School's Heartwarming Support of Save the Children's Hurricane Relief Fund



GDS students practice cash register ringing-up together – Shake Shack style.

"We always teach the children to be empathetic," stated Director Lizama, head of Geneva Day School, where young children are helped to see from others' perspectives. Such empathy is exercised everywhere, from the classroom to the playground, and even when reviewing national events.

The great need wrought by Hurricanes Milton and

Helene this past fall received special attention from Geneva Day School's caring community of parents, and yes, even the smallest of scholars, who are increasingly empathetic.

How to help youngsters from Florida to North Carolina, affected by these record-breaking hurricanes? The Geneva GPA invited family, friends, and neighboring schools to the local Cabin John Shake Shack on October 22 for a preschool-promoted "burgers, fries, and smoothies" extravaganza. Throughout the day, patrons of this location communicated the words, "Geneva Day School," so as to ensure 20% of purchases went to the Geneva-supported Save the Children Hurricane Relief Fund. Generously, Geneva Day School matched all proceeds.

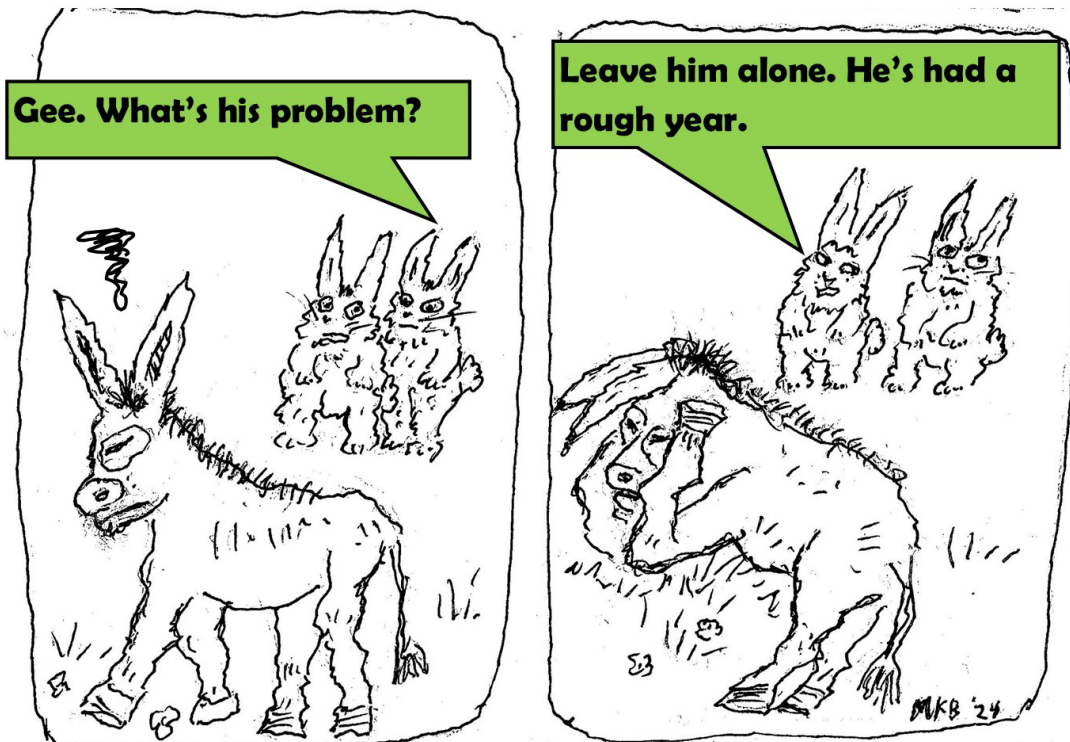
"A lot of children have lost their homes. They don't have a school to go to, so this will help their well-being," explained Director Lizama. School supplies, clothes, other incidentals, and even therapy sessions were offered to the compromised youth.

Upon reviewing the success of this initiative (which was so celebrated, it was even highlighted in local WTOP radio news for several days), it is clear the Geneva Method is heartfelt and sometimes, so heartwarming that it is... Burgers and fries hot!

## Comic Corner

### WHEN THINGS DON'T GO EEEYORE WAY

By Marge Bender and Rick Chen







R E  
C A