

News & Views

March 2023

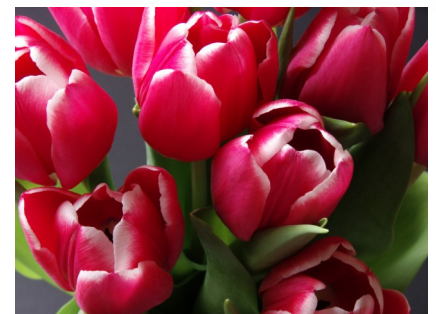


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FYI...

Save the date for the Baysox Game on May 2nd. More details to come!



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Status of Legislation to Re-structure M-NCPPC

By Patricia Fenn (Bi-County)

The following is a summary about the status of **HB 1057** which created the Prince George's County Blue Ribbon Recreation Workgroup Study and Proposed Bill **MC/PG 104-23**. The outcome of these bills have the potential to effect the pension and benefits of FOP 30 employees; active employees; retirees and their beneficiaries and people with disabilities.

HB 1057 passed last year, created the **Prince George's County Blue Ribbon Recreation Workgroup Study**. The Workgroup's charge is to study how recreation opportunities are delivered to residents. This includes looking at how to: 1) increase access to recreation services and programs; 2) increase access to public facilities and athletic fields; 3) increase access to county-based Minority Business Enterprise and small businesses related to the delivery of recreation services and programs; and 4) study the benefits, advantages and disadvantages and costs to transfer recreation functions to the County government, or leave the Recreation Department with M-NCPPC, or create a different entity to operate recreation functions.

Barry Dunn Consultants, hired by County Executive Alsobrooks, is scheduled to issue a memo in late

Status of Legislation to Restructure M-NCPPC (Continued)

March, that will form the basis of a Final Report to the 15-member Workgroup. Final recommendations, to be voted on by majority vote, are due to the 11-member County Council on April 11, 2023.

In response to several questions I posed to Ryan Middleton, Special Assistant to County Executive Angela Alsobrooks, he advised that the Consultant will send information about how benefits and pensions will be affected. The initial reaction of financial data sent thus far, just about operational costs, in the opinion of many, is that the cost to separate the Recreation Department will be astronomical (upwards of \$100 million)!

There are three user-agreements on how organizations reserve facilities and athletic fields. All are out-of-date: Policy #1333 by M-NCPPC; by the Prince George's Board of Education; and a Memorandum of Understanding between the Sports Division, M-NCPPC and the Prince George's Boys & Girls Clubs. All are in serious discussion and in need of updating.

The **Montgomery County (MC) House Delegations** did not approve **MC/PG 104-23** on a voice-vote of 18 of those in attendance on February 10, 2023. The bill shifted to the Prince George's County Bi-County House Delegation. Prince George's House Delegation did not hear the bill. It was formally withdrawn from consideration in the MD House of Delegates on March 15, 2023, by the PGC House Delegation Legislative Director Corey Jewell.

In the wake of the discussion about this bill, Delegate Lesley Lopez (D-District 39) fostered an agreement signed between MC Planning Board Chair Jeffrey Zyontz and County Executive Marc Elrich, dated February 6, 2023. The agreement establishes a Developmental Review Process Workgroup. The Interagency workgroup will examine the County's process for reviewing development projects to ensure economic competitiveness and to recommend possible improvements. Findings will be delivered by October 15, 2023, to the MC House Delegation.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Pat for keeping an eye on this for us!

Beneficiary Updates

By **Tonia Lanier**, ERS Member Relations Manager

You may be able to ease some of your loved ones' financial worries by advising them as to what retirement death benefits are available to them. Retirees should review and update their beneficiary designations periodically to ensure that current information is on file, especially beneficiaries' addresses.

A copy of the \$10k Death Benefit Revision Form was mailed to all retirees. Retirees should review their beneficiary designations and update them on the form if needed. If you need additional copies, please contact Chris of the ERS at ContactERS@mncppc.org or (301) 454-1415. You may also download the form from the ERS website: <https://www.mncppc.org/2268/Forms>.

Form 1095-C Mailed to Your Home Address

By Cynthia Henderson, Health & Benefits

Form 1095-C is an official document that employers must provide to employees each year to verify the months that you and your dependents were offered medical coverage and/or were covered by your employer's medical plan. This is mandated by the Affordable Care Act.

- Form 1095-C was mailed to the home address of eligible retirees earlier this month.
- The 1095-C form confirms the months that you and your covered dependents were/were not enrolled in a medical plan sponsored by M-NCPPC during 2022.
- You are not required to send the IRS a copy of Form 1095-C or other proof of healthcare coverage when filing your tax return. However, it is a good idea to keep this form in your file for your records.
- You will not incur a penalty if you were not covered by a health insurance plan in 2022.

For more information, please visit the IRS site for [Questions and Answers about Form 1095-C](#).

If you were covered under a medical plan sponsored by M-NCPPC in any month during the period January 2022 through December 2022 and did not receive a 1095-C, contact the Health & Benefits Team, immediately (301-454-1694 or benefits@mncppc.org). A 1095-C will be provided to you by mail.

Spring Clean Your Dental Routine: 4 Tips for Starting and Staying Fresh

Source: Delta Dental

Spring cleaning is all about shedding what no longer suits you and preparing for what comes next. As you transition out of your winter wardrobe and freshen up your home, don't forget your dental health routine! Here are four items for that spring to-do list to keep you smiling all season long.

- 1. Replace old or worn toothbrushes** - Replace your toothbrush at the start of every season, or every three months. As its bristles wear down, so does the effectiveness of your toothbrush. Even worse, bacteria and infectious agents can thrive among the bristles. Start the season with a fresh brush and be sure to toss it after you've had a cold, as well!
- 2. Check the expiration date on your mouthwash** - Yep, even your mouthwash has a shelf life! Using mouthwash past the expiration date can affect its taste as well as its effectiveness. Replenish with a new bottle and swish with confidence.
- 3. Restock your floss supply** - The recommended length of floss is 18 inches per flossing session. If you're flossing daily, as recommended, that adds up to roughly 45 feet of floss a month! Stock up to avoid running out at an inopportune time.
- 4. Schedule a dentist appointment** - Seeing your dentist regularly is a good way to spot — and stop — problems before they become bigger, pricier and more painful. If you can't remember the last time you got a checkup, that's your sign to make an appointment.

Travels to Northern Spain & Portugal 2022

*Spend eleven weeks on the road with **Sandy Tallant (MC Planning)** & **Drury Tallant***

WEEK 1 - Barcelona

We took the MARC train from D.C.'s Union Station to Baltimore the night before our flight to Barcelona. Nothing like a night at a suburban chain-style hotel as a counterpoint to our urban historic neighborhood on Capitol Hill. We walked along overly-designed roadways without sidewalks to have dinner at Ruby Tuesdays - the top pick of fast food chain choices. We had a non-eventful and fully packed AA flight across the pond.

Arrival in Barcelona is uneventful and we take the train into the city. Our apartment is very comfortable - it has two bedrooms and is quite large. There are vibrant green parrots, palm trees, and many sub-tropical plants in Barcelona that I am familiar with from a past life in Louisiana. We are around more people the first three days here than in three years during COVID... Spain is fully open!

The population is young and I am often offered a seat on the Metro. There are definitely fewer "old dogs" such as ourselves and many young beautiful Europeans. Weather and sights are grand, and the food is delicious. Tapas is amazing as are the mid-day "Menu de Dias." Food highlights - scallops with mango cream and fish roe, squid fritters, rice cooked in squid ink, assorted fish stews, and a Catalan flan made with fresh cheese. Other foods we consume are of high quality and delicious too! It's hard to get a bad meal - mostly the difference is levels of attention and sophistication. Dru goes out for fresh bread and pastries every morning trying a different bakery each day - it will be difficult to sample all of the pastry shops as hard as we try!

With an apartment kitchen, we prepare a bit of tapas ourselves at home in the evenings. After days of ten-plus hours of walking, we are glad for a shower and small evening snack. We have adjusted to a Spanish lifestyle - we debated if 9 PM was too early for our small dinner last night! We are in a non-tourist neighborhood and visit the neighborhood market (the Spanish version of Capitol Hill's Eastern Market) for cheese, wine, Spanish ham, vegetables and fruit. I see Spanish wines I have purchased at Whole Foods for \$2.00 and \$3.00 a bottle....I bought the most expensive bottle of Gran Reserve Rioja I could find at the store for \$7.00!

We walked the Rambla - the city's main pedestrian way; toured all of Antonio Gaudi's major works that we can; other art nouveau parks and buildings; the Miro museum; the Mies van der Rohe's Barcelona House; and the Picasso museum. On Saturday we experienced the city's beach scene in the Barcelonetta neighborhood and lunch on seafood paella and sangria with Italian friends now living in Barcelona part of the year. We took a day trip to Girona to roam its famous Medieval Jewish quarter, winding streets, defensive walls, and Romanesque and Gothic buildings. Our week here in this city of creative genius comes to an end. We leave for Tarragona tomorrow on the train.

To be continued... Week 2 - Tarragona, Valencia, and Cuenca

Travels to Northern Spain & Portugal 2022 (Continued)



Basilica Sagrada Familia by Antonio



Casa Batllo by Antonio Gaudi



Palau de Musica by Lluís Domènech i Montaner - UNESCO World Heritage Site

More News From Our Retirees

Charlie Brown (PGC/Parks & Recreation) shares that he and his wife Lynn had the trip of a lifetime traveling to Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji from January 12th to February 8th, 2023 (photos below). They loved the beauty of each country and the friendly people they met—they even found an Alabama fan in Hobbiton.



Brenda Iraola, PGC Planning and MC Parks (FASLA, RLA), was recognized as a Fellow Landscape Architect in 2021 after working with the public sector, M-NCPPC, for 27 years and private sector, Engineering Firm, for six years. Brenda is currently working at the University of Maryland, College Park Campus, teaching Landscape Architecture Construction Materials & Structures class to Junior 3rd year undergrad students.

Remembering Our Friends

We received word that **Doug Sherwood** passed away on February 12, 2023. Doug was a long standing member of the Retirees Association since 2004 and worked in the Department of Human Resources and Management's Budget Office. He retired in 2003 with 29 years of M-NCPPC service and also served on the M-NCPPC Credit Union's Board for many years.

Our sincere condolences are extended to Doug's family and many Commission friends and co-workers.



Welcome new members!

Helen Asan
Howard Berger
Brent Conner
Carolyn Ford
Karen Marshall
Alvin Miller
Farama Mokhtari
Terry Moore
Brian Pennington
Dean Smith
Leroy Spencer
Kathryn Stevens



Eileen Derro passed away on December 19, 2022, after a two-week struggle with lung cancer. Eileen worked in the Prince George's County Planning Department for 20 years before retiring in 1996.

Eileen was a long-time member of our Association. Her husband of 60 years, Frank, has also been a long-time active member.

Remembering members we lost

Joan Beall—12/13/2022
Bruce Brizendine—1/25/2023
Eileen Derro—12/20/2022
James Fields—1/17/2023
Jane Horn—2/11/2023
Doug Sherwood—2/12/2023

We Get Mail!

Lillian Tritle (MC Parks) writes, "It was good to see you and many retirees at the Holiday Party. One retiree sat with me and Rita Mills and I was surprised to learn that he retired 38 years ago! He said he was 60 when he retired and that makes him 98 years old. He was in great shape.



When I returned home, I looked up how many members retired in the 80's. I was surprised how many are still around. We have one retiree that retired 46 years ago in 1977! We have a total of 14 who retired in the 80's. Amazing! I hope I can attend 20 plus years of our Holiday parties.

2023 Regional Juried Exhibit

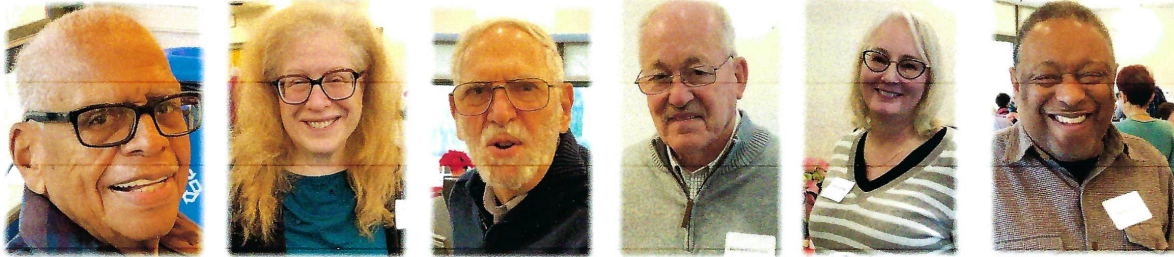
Congratulations to Maryland artist **Sam Dixon (PGC Planning)**. Sam's art was selected for inclusion for the Hill Center Galleries 2023 Regional Juried Exhibition that will run from January 11 - May 7, 2023. The juror selected only 113 pieces from the largest field of entries ever -- over 700 pieces from 170 entries. Sam's "Wine Bottle III," a high-quality, customizable, ready-to-hang framed fine art print was selected for inclusion in the exhibit. The evaluations were made on individual images, not an artist's entire entry. All artworks are viewable and available for sale on www.hillcenterdc.org. Check out Sam Dixon Prints the next time you're online.

Dan Rhymer (MC Parks) received an Award of Merit for his "Victory over Addiction" jewelry entry in the Arrowmont Biennial Show 2023. Dan also operates Hillbilly Weddings where he's performed over 5,000 ceremonies since 1995.



We Get Mail!

Thanks to Charlie McGovern (MC Parks) for the pictures below from the 12/6/2022 Holiday Party!



MNCPPC Retirees Association Holiday Luncheon * December 6, 2022 * Charlie McGovern



We Get Mail!

Retired Montgomery County Parks staffers **John Nissel, Lyn (Coleman) Widmyer, Jayne Hench** and **John Hench** get together for a drink in Charles Town, West Virginia.



Jeff Zyontz (Chair, MC Planning Board) writes, "Having moved from the ranks of my fellow retirees to full time employment, I can report that there are many benefits to retirement. As a retiree, my commute was negligible, my hours were completely under my control, there were never any problems filling out time cards, and my dry cleaning bill was zero.

Do not get me wrong. I am privileged and honored to hold my position as Chair. I will do everything I can to support the Commission and Departments while I serve... but I do not intend to be in my position in the long term. I am going to Spring Training this year. I have tendered my provisional resignation. If I am offered a professional baseball contract, I will not be coming back."

Reminders!

- ◆ Please make sure your dues are up to date. Dues are \$25 for three years. Make checks out to M-NCPPC Retiree Association and mail them to Margaret Kingsley, 13712 Pryor Road, Thurmont, MD 21788, or if more convenient, you can send dues to Margaret via PayPal (3012212047), Zelle (through your bank to Margaret.Kingsley96@gmail.com, or Venmo (@Margaret-kingsley-2).
- ◆ Those members without email are reminded that if you do have an email address or have access to one, please let us know. There are advantages to having an email address for members. Most importantly, it makes it very easy for the Board of Directors to communicate with you QUICKLY! We do send out event flyers to members without email via the USPS but we don't always have the time or volunteers to send out more "general information" to our no email members. So if you have access to email, you won't miss anything!

If you have an email address, please send that information to Margaret Kingsley at Margaret.Kingsley96@gmail.com.