



Potomac **Community** Village

PCV POST April 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April 28 marks our "PCV Safe Home" kick-off. Please join us on Zoom for *Unleashing Your Hidden Powers to Enhance Your Home Safety* and hear our featured speaker, Louis Tenenbaum, a nationally-recognized expert, discuss key issues for aging safely in our homes. This special event is free and open to all, so please encourage others to register. Below is information on how to register for this important event.

In addition to the April 28 Zoom presentation, we're introducing the *PCV Safe Home Bonus Program* for members. This program offers members a rebate for a home safety improvement, such as installing grab bars, ramps or railings, for up to \$100 or 50% of the cost, whichever is less. PCV members will soon receive specific information on both programs.

The inauguration of the "PCV Safe Home" program is a perfect time for Potomac residents to join PCV and take

advantage of the help and guidance we offer, as well as the rebate program. New members will discover that Potomac Community Village has not only survived the pandemic, but adjusted by creating innovative programming and services to help our members cope during this difficult time and into the future.

I'd also like to point out that non-members are invited to join us for an outdoor walk on Saturday, April 23, at Great Falls Park. Get to know us in person and enjoy nature as we walk on River Trail. RSVPs are required. See below for details.

With the spread of the coronavirus less of a concern, and state and county restrictions easing, we continue to explore how our Village can best serve our members with both safe indoor and outdoor events. We're looking for people to offer their backyard for outdoor members' events, to offer to lead walks for our members and friends, to plan trips to outdoor locations, such as nearby gardens, and to plan some indoor restaurant events, such as brunches, lunches or desserts. Please share your ideas and let us know how you can help by contacting us at info@PotomacCommunityVillage.org, or 240-221-1370.

Thank you to all our Members and Volunteers for their continued support of the Village.

Owen Ritter,

PCV President

UPCOMING PCV EVENTS

Advance registration is required for PCV-hosted events. PCV Members log into your accounts and click on the "Register" button for the desired event. If you are a Member without a login password, please inform us at info@potomaccommunityvillage.org and the password creation email will be sent to you. Non-Members should click on the "Register for this event" link and follow instructions to provide the required information and then again click "Register for this event." The Zoom link will be provided in the confirmation email.



PCV's Book Discussion on April 19

This month's **PCV Book Group** discussion is on *The Guest Book* by Sarah Blake.

We will meet on Zoom on **Tuesday, April 19, from 1:30 - 3 pm** to discuss the novel. Read a review from the *The Washington Post* by clicking [REVIEW](#). To register click [BOOK CLUB](#).

Book Group is free and open to all PCV Members and Volunteers and is open to non-Members to try out once.

Upcoming Book Discussions

May 17 *The Girl with Seven Names* by Hyeonseo Lee

June 21 *Snow in August* by Pete Hamill



PCV Walk on the Canal:

River Trail on April 23

Get your first peek at emerging spring flowers! Everyone is invited to join PCV on our nature walk/hike on the Canal. PCV members and anyone, including those who'd like to find out more about PCV and consider joining, can register for this event. We'll meet on **Sat, April 23, 1:30 - 3 pm** at the Great Falls Tavern. The walk is open to all and parking at Great Falls

Park is free for National Park Pass holders, \$20 for others. For more information, including carpooling, and to register click [WALK](#).



Unleashing Your Hidden Powers to Enhance Your Home Safety on April 28

**A Special Zoom Presentation with Louis Tenenbaum
Inaugurates PCV's Safe Home Program**

PCV kicks off its "PCV Safe Home" program on **Thurs, April 28, 7:30 - 9 pm** with a free and open-to-all Zoom presentation led by Louis Tenenbaum, a leader in the national aging-in-place movement. Mr. Tenenbaum will discuss both the broader issue of aging in one's home from a real estate & political perspective as well as local aging and home safety issues. He will update listeners on current proposed legislation to implement a tax credit for senior home modifications, and discuss existing county

and state credits and incentives. To register for this free event click [SAFE HOME](#).

Welcome New Members

Marshall Barrett

Jack Kerrigan

Thank you for Renewing your Membership

Kathleen and Richard Fuller

Diann K. Onsted

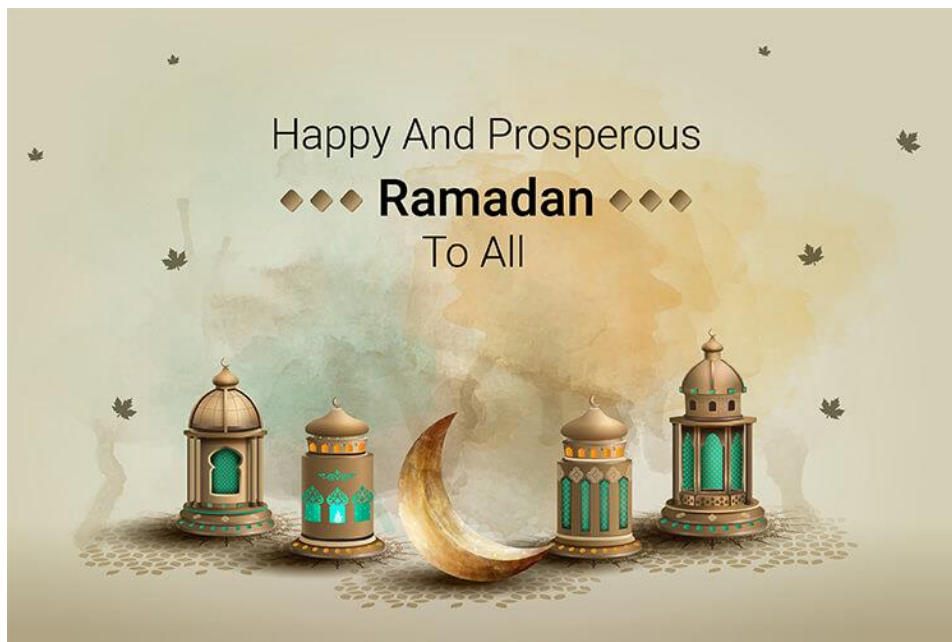
Bena Siegel

A Special Thank You to

Laura and Jerry Jacobs

for their generous donation to Potomac Community
Village given in gratitude to

Margie & Owen Ritter





Here's What We did in March



PCV Members Enjoyed an Outdoor Get-Together at Great Falls Park

On March 16, PCV members took advantage of a spurt of nice weather and joined together at Great Falls National Park on the Maryland side, to enjoy each others' company. The conversation ranged from PCV and its future to the state of affairs in the world today! As spring appears, we look forward to more outdoor get-togethers, including one planned on April 23 (see Upcoming PCV Events, above).

See more photos of past PCV events by clicking [PCV PHOTOS](#)



The Ritchie Boys

Preserving the History of Camp Ritchie's Military Intelligence Training Center and the Unique Group of GI's Who Trained There in World War II



PCV Members Heard a Fascinating Talk about the Ritchie Boys

On March 23, PCV Members tuned into a Zoom presentation with first-hand information on "The Ritchie Boys," the special intelligence force of immigrants, refugees and others who were recruited by the U.S. Army during WWII for their knowledge of enemy lands and cultures. Our speaker Bernie Lubran, president of the Friends of Camp Ritchie, talked about his father, Walter Lubran, who was one of the Ritchie Boys and a German emigree whose job was Interrogator of Prisoners of War.

**Members Got Out to Walk
on March 26**

PCV Members enjoyed a hike and walk along the Tow Path on the C&O Canal on March 26. Pictured below is a photo of members who met for the walk.



Looking Ahead.....



Encore 15th Anniversary Concert Celebration

Music Center at Strathmore

Saturday, May 14, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

You may already have heard of Encore Creativity. It is a chorus whose members are 55 and older. There are several groups around the DMV and they are expanding to Delaware and New York City as well. Anyone who wishes to sing can join. No auditions required. In any case the 15th Anniversary Concert should be lots of fun – and the price is up to you. You can go for free if you wish or make a donation \$5, \$10 or whatever you choose, per ticket. The link to buy tickets is below. Note that this is expected to sell out quickly so register soon by clicking [ENCORE](#).



Members' Corner

*A new Column of Contributions from our Members**

Contributed anonymously by a PCV member:

April 22 is Earth Day, first celebrated on April 22, 1970. It's a day on which each of us should pay even more attention to climate change issues. Visit online sites through these links for ideas on how to mark Earth Day in a meaningful way this coming year:

From the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, read "How Can I Act on Climate Change?" Click [ACT](#).

Print this lively and useful poster and hang it in your home. Click [POSTER](#).

Schedule a free home energy checkup, or a low-cost home energy audit. Click [CHECK UP](#).

There are also low-cost loans available to homeowners to implement energy savings at their homes, through the county's Green Bank program. Click [GREEN](#).

** To suggest a short article for the PVC Post, please email editor, Caroline Lewis at calewisinc@gmail.com. We will include your name as author, or you may contribute it anonymously.*



OF NOTE...

Maryland Primary Election Date Change

The Maryland Court of Appeal judge tossed out a map of the state's congressional districts after ruling the map was subject to "extreme partisan gerrymandering." A new map, redrawn by legislators, per the court's ruling, was approved and will mean that much of Potomac will be in **district 8**, not district 6. You can see the approved map by clicking [MAP](#). The delay caused by the ruling means that the state's June 28 primary election was moved to a new date of **July 19**. Please take note.

Many Seniors will receive State Tax Reduction

Per a deal Maryland state leaders just announced, many seniors will receive up to a \$1,750 tax cut next year. Up to 80 percent of people 65 and older will see their state income taxes reduced in 2023, as part of Maryland's larger tax cut package. Read an article about this in *The Washington Post* by clicking [TAX CUT](#).

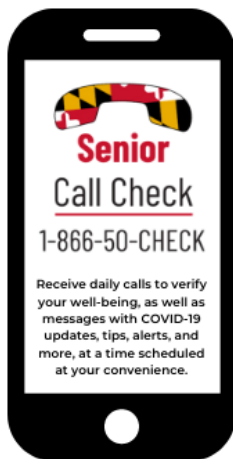
Montgomery County Libraries Expand Hours

Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) has expanded hours of branch service to include Sundays, effective Feb. 27. The hours of operation had been reduced during the COVID-19 health crisis.

Escalated Cyber Security Threat

Your digital devices are vulnerable to a malware attack anytime they're connected to the internet, but the war in Ukraine has raised the risk of Russian cyber attacks on personal and corporate computer systems. For information please Click [SECURITY](#).

Maryland's Free "Senior Call Check"



A **free** daily call to check
on Maryland residents
65 and older!



• Landline • Cell Phone • 

"Senior Call Check" is Maryland's free service providing a daily automated call to seniors 65 and older. A daily call to those who register is made and if there is no response, is followed up to make sure you or your loved one is safe. Call 1-866-50-CHECK, or register online at Aging.Maryland.gov., or click [CALL CHECK](#) for detailed information.

National Drug Take Back Day is April 30

National Drug Take Back Day is Saturday, **April 30, 10am - 2 pm**. Items you can dispose of include tablets, capsules, liquids, creams, e-cigarettes and vape pens.

Take back locations include:

- Suburban and Sibley Hospitals, where the collections will be outside, with staff there at the outside locations.
- CVS Pharmacies, at 7955 Tuckerman Lane, Potomac; 9920 Key West Ave., Rockville; 7809 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda; 19100 Montgomery Village Ave, Gaithersburg; 19901 Frederick Ave., Germantown.

For a complete list of drop off locations, click [DRUGS](#).

PLEASE JOIN COUNCILMEMBER
SIDNEY KATZ FOR A

Virtual Senior Resource Forum: Healthy Living

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6
10:00 - 11:00 AM



Hear from representatives of the Department of Recreation and the Department Health and Human Services and learn about classes and programs available to seniors to live a healthy and balanced lifestyle.

PLEASE REGISTER HERE:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_QtnBBjukQc291n47tFdDgA

Questions? Contact us at
councilmember.katz@montgomerycountymd.gov

BILLBOARD

Other Events of Interest

Area organizations are presenting programs for varied interests. Among events included on the PCV Calendar of Events for the month of April are:

- Congressman Jamie Raskin discusses his book "Unthinkable," sponsored by Potomac Friends of the Library (**April 2**) on Zoom. Click [RASKIN](#).
- County Council Member Sidney Katz presents Virtual Senior Forum on Healthy Living (**April 6**) on Zoom. Click [KATZ](#).
- Also on **April 6**, Aging In Place, The Village Movement with Barbara Sullivan, National Dir. of the Village to Village Movement, click [VILLAGES](#).
- The National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade (**April 9**) for free and Bandstand tickets, click [PARADE](#).
- Canal Community Volunteer Days (**April 23**). Sign up by clicking [CANAL](#).
- Senior-Focused, Countywide Candidate Forum (**April 24** and **May 1**). Sign up for the online webinar by clicking [FORUMS](#).

The PCV calendar has details for these events, as well as others. These events are free and open to all. To see all the events click [Homepage](#) and select the EVENTS tab. Generally advance registration is required. Please see the individual listings for further relevant details.

Activities with Nearby Area Villages

With so many Villages nearby, there are many activities and programs open to all. Why not participate and possibly meet people from other area Villages? The Silver Spring Village has created a website with events for everyone. To peruse upcoming events and to register, click [AREA VILLAGE EVENTS](#).



COVID UPDATE

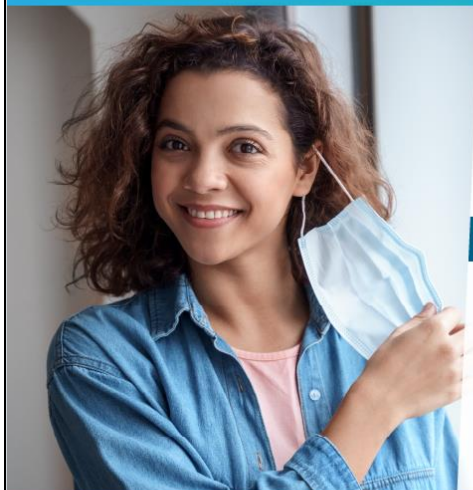
Free At-home COVID-19 PCR Test Kits Available at County Multiple Locations

Montgomery County residents can pick up free at-home polymerase chain reaction (PCR) COVID-19 test kits at locations throughout the community. The "[20/20 GeneSystems](#)" tests are available to County residents while supplies last. Residents can receive a maximum of two test kits per person (each kit contains one test) per visit.

In-person PCR testing continues at multiple sites throughout the community. At-home PCR tests can be picked up, self-administered and then returned to marked drop boxes at the pick-up locations. A schedule of testing locations and other details can be found by clicking [PCR TEST](#).

County Indoor Mask Mandate Lifted... but with Caution

EFFECTIVE: Feb. 21, 2022 | 11:59 p.m.



• • • • MONTGOMERY COUNTY • • • •

MASK UPDATE



Indoor Mask Mandate Lifted

Montgomery County will suspend its mandate requiring masks or face coverings indoors in locations accessible to the public.

Does not impact mask requirements for Public Schools.

COVID-19 Information Portal:
www.MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/COVID19



MONTGOMERY COUNTY
MARYLAND

In an update from County Executive Marc Elrich on February 24, "The indoor mask mandate in Montgomery County was lifted this week in accordance with the decision by the County Council. Nevertheless, I will generally continue to wear a mask in indoor public spaces because wearing a mask, as well as being fully vaccinated and boosted, are the best ways to reduce the risk of transmitting and getting COVID-19. With substantial transmission, people who are unvaccinated or not boosted should continue wearing masks in order to stay as safe as possible."

He continues, "It is also important to remember that businesses and other organizations can continue to require customers or visitors to wear a mask in their establishments.

Current guidance on what masks are recommended can be found by clicking [CDC MASK](#). CDC details about the omicron variant are available by clicking [OMICRON](#).

Booster Shots. The Food and Drug Administration has authorized a [second booster shot](#) of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna coronavirus vaccines for people 50 and older, a decision intended to help shore up protection against severe illness. This fourth shot was then recommended by the CDC, and can be administered 4 months after the first booster was given.

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services along with private organizations such as pharmacies and health care providers, offer booster shots to everyone over the age of 18. A helpful link for appointments for all three vaccines (Pfizer, Moderna and J&J), can be found by clicking [VACCINE ELIGIBILITY](#). Additionally, to access the easy-to-use Maryland State COVID Vaccine/booster site, click [MD VACCINE APPT](#).

For complete County information visit the County's Multi-lingual COVID Site by clicking [COVID INFO PORTAL](#).

If you need help to make an appointment at a County-operated vaccination site, please call the COVID-19 call center at 240-777-2982 Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.

Free Taxi Cab Service. For residents 65+ and those with disabilities, free taxi rides to get vaccinations or testing are sponsored by the Montgomery County Department of Transportation. Instructions to get a free taxi code can be found by clicking [TAXI](#).

PCV Help Desk is Here for You

PCV has received accolades about our volunteers who telephone Members on a somewhat regular basis. Many have developed great friendships, and both caller and recipient have received much fulfillment from the resulting conversations. In other cases, the recipient and caller found they have similar interests or have lived abroad in similar countries and have much to reminisce about. Occasionally, they both know a foreign language and maintain their ability to communicate in that foreign tongue, together. In other cases, it is a simple chat to find out how the other is doing and if PCV can help in any way!

Please call the PCV Helpdesk at 240-221-1370, or email 20854Helpdesk@gmail.com if you would like to be connected in this fashion.

The Help Desk can be called on for short-term or one-time help. PCV can help with errand running or occasional meals if you're dealing with, for example, an arthritis flare-up or recovery from surgery. Please call, so PCV can connect you to a friendly volunteer.

PCV Help Desk 240-221-1370 Mon-Fri 9 am-5 pm
20854helpdesk@gmail.com
<https://www.potomaccommunityvillage.org>
info@potomaccommunityvillage.org