

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Maryland Association for Family and Community Education, Inc. Newsletter

SEPTEMBER - COLLECT DUES

- All CHARACTER COUNTS!® Essay and Artwork Contest starts – “Responsibility”
National Literacy Month
- 4 FCE Blanket Making Day, 10 AM – 8 PM.
Extension Office Garage
- 7 Extension Office Closed (Labor Day)
- 8 Montgomery County Association Meeting, 9:45 AM Refreshments: Lunch Bunch.
“Off the Beaten Path” Speaker Ralph Buglass, a Montgomery County native and avid history buff, will speak on the "Top 10" lesser-known spots in Montgomery County.
- 12 Blue Grass on the Farm at the Agricultural History Farm Park
- 14 Maryland FCE Board Meeting, 10 AM
MC Extension Office
- 17 Set-up Yard sale. See page 5.
- 18-20 Yard sale
- 25-27 Rain date for yard sale
- 28 FCE Blanket Making Day, 10 AM – 3 PM.
Extension Office Garage

OCTOBER

- 2 10 AM Harvest Festival Set-up
- 3 10 AM Harvest Festival
MC Extension Office
- 6-30 Close Encounters with Agriculture 4th grade program, Montgomery County Extension
- 11-17 National FCE Week
- (11) 12-13 MD FCE Annual Conference, Holiday Inn Express Kent Island, MD
- 15 Rural Women’s Day
- 16 World Food Day
- 18-24 CHARACTER COUNTS!® Week
- 23-25 Craft Sale 15500 Gallaudet Ave, Silver Spring

Newsletter Deadline: November 1

Send all articles, Bulletin Board items, or address changes for the newsletter to:
Jean Purich at jcpurich@cs.com.

NOVEMBER

- 1 LOOK WHAT’S HAPPENING deadline for items to Editor
- 10 Montgomery County Association Meeting
9:45 AM Refreshments: Derwood
“How Food Insecurity Impacts Students”
Speaker Pam Hosimer, former Nutrition Educator for SNAP Education will explain this topic.
- 15-21 National Family Week
- 17 Executive Board Meeting, 10 AM.
Newsletter Folding, MC Extension Office
- 20 FCE Blanket Making, 10 AM – 8 PM.
MC Extension Office garage
- 26 Office Closed (Thanksgiving)

DECEMBER

- 1 State Dues/Membership Forms to NAFCE
- 7 10:00 AM Maryland FCE Board meeting MC Extension Office
- 8 Montgomery County Association Meeting
9:45AM Cookie Exchange and Crafts, MC Extension Office Garage. Refreshments
Burtonsville.
- 15 Send yearly reports and outreach hours to President, Jeanne Purich

MARYLAND FCE CONFERENCE

Register NOW for the 2026 conference on October 12th – 13th. The registration form was in your last newsletter and is on the web.
<http://www.mdafce.org/lwhnews.htm>

We are on The Web!

The web site is a great place to look up information and events. So, if you need to find something, don’t forget to check out –
www.mdafce.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I normally do not talk politics, but heading into the end of the year, we have a lot to look forward to. The biggest event we have is the US midterm elections. The key issues are economy, immigration, and the war in Iran. In case you have forgotten, all members of the US House of Representatives and 1/3 of the members of the Senate are up for election. What is interesting is only about 60% of the eligible voters cast ballots in the presidential election but that percentage falls to about 40% for the midterms. This election is less about civics and more about cartography and mathematics. Everyone should use their opinions about immigration, tariffs, economy, the Iran war and the fairness of elections to cast their votes.

Stay safe and have fun in whatever you do for the rest of the year. Don't forget the annual Maryland FCE conference coming in October.

Libby Wade, President
dunade@aol.com

301-831-8661

NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROGRAM

MARYLAND FCE CONFERENCE

The 2026 Maryland FCE State Conference will again be held on Kent Island on the Chesapeake Bay. Rooms are reserved at the Holiday Inn Express, 1020 Kent Narrows Road, Grasonville MD 21638. We have planned interesting speakers, musical entertainment, the opportunity to walk and sit along the shore of the Chesapeake Bay, and even a river cruise for those who register before all places on the boat are full.

Breakfast is included for those who stay at the hotel. Lunch and dinner will be included in your registration package. You may want to arrive on Sunday, October 11th, for a two-hour cruise out of Denton MD on the Choptank River (sign up early — only 16 places available!) and Chesapeake Bay cuisine at Fisherman's Inn. <https://fishermansinn.com/>



The official conference program will begin with registration at 10:00 AM on Monday, October 12th and will continue through mid-afternoon on Tuesday, October 13th. We will conclude the conference with a ticket drawing for gift bags, as we did last year.

Full registration details may be found in this newsletter and online at <http://www.mdafce.org/lwhnews.htm>.

For additional information, please contact me.

Kathie Mack
kpmack2@gmail.com

301-270-5367

OUTREACH PROJECTS LAYTONSVILLE VETERAN'S HOME

Upon delivering our donated items, I knock at the front door and right inside is their office area where administrative personnel accept my deliveries. A few times there appeared to be no administrative personnel there, and so one of the residents would accept the donations. They always gratefully accept them.

At first, I was delivering donations of mostly toiletries, magazines, and notepads. I was asked to inquire further if there was something more that we could provide. I was told games, bedding, men's/women's clothing and any other household items.

When asked to write about this outreach program, I still felt that I knew very little about the organization for which we provide these donations. So, I did a google search and it brought up an organization associated with the veteran's home called Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH). I called and verified that Laytonsville Veterans Home is under their organization. MCCH operates 40% of the county's permanent supportive housing solutions for families and single adults, including veterans. I encourage you to look at their website: mcch.net and see the great work that they do in helping to take the homeless off the streets of Montgomery County. Also, on the website under the "Ways to Help – Donate" tab are lists of items that are requested.

Upon talking to the contact Leigh O'Donogue, Program Manager of VA Safe Havens at MCCH, she thanked me profusely and said to tell you all to keep up the good work with our donations.

Pat Fewell
prfewell@gmail.com

301-908-0208



NEWS FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC POLICY

There is so much going on in the public policy sphere, that I “almost” find myself tongue-tied, not sure which direction to take on! One area that has made the news most recently is the reports coming from the sailors/marines stationed aboard the aircraft carrier USS Lincoln that has been deployed in the Middle East for at least 9 months with no break for port calls or liberty. Resupplying of food, breakdowns of toilets, and low morale, are things being reported to the family members by this crew. When the president was questioned about such a long deployment, he said it wasn’t really much. It seems that this attitude, for much of this administration, runs along with this pattern of being only interested in what affects the administration directly, not concerned about anything that impacts others negatively. When you serve in the military, you put everything on the line for the Constitution and our country. If the sacrifices of our military are not valued, then something is truly broken.

As we are two and a half months from the midterm elections, we the people need to focus on voting for those candidates that reflect our values on public policies: such as voting rights, mining/oil/roads into national parks and protected land that is to be held for our descendants to see, no-bid government contracts, the dwindling of our social safety nets (Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, SNAP), and the dismantling of the civil service that kept our programs and agencies operating effectively.

In conclusion, get information on all sides of the issues, the war that appears not to have a strategy or end game, immigration policies, free press (free speech), and programs that helped others in need around the world (USAID, Voice of America), etc. There are promises that have not been kept – lower fuel prices, lower food costs, and support for farmers. There, I didn’t have too many problems with being tongue tied!

Debra Rausch, VP for Public Policy
rauschda@gmail.com

301-498-8806

“I have not failed. I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work.” — Thomas Edison

“Great works are performed not by strength, but perseverance.” — Samuel Johnson

WHERE DO ALL THE GOODIES GO? THE RANCH



Do you ever wonder what happens to all those magazines, toiletries, lotions, sheets, and socks that FCE collects each blanket-making day? Along with our annual spring collection of plants, some of the items are delivered to “The Ranch,” a 501(c)3 clean-and-sober-living residential facility spread out over 200+ beautiful acres west of Frederick, MD.

Begun in 1974 by the Maryland Sheriff’s Association as a ranch for at-risk youth, The Ranch re-focused its mission in 2015 to provide programs for adult men with substance use disorders.

According to their website (<https://www.ranchmd.org/>), “the goal is for each individual to learn the life skills needed for leading a healthy life as a contributing member of the community.”

Besides the items that we collect, their website also indicates a need for the following: New comforters (twin bed size), pillows, underwear, PJs, gloves, caps, clothing for job interviews, exercise clothing, coats and jackets and work/steel-toe boots. Financial contributions to cover the cost of these items can also be made through the website’s “Donate” button.

The men often arrive with virtually nothing, so the staff have always expressed their gratitude for the many contributions that the FCE has made.

Please continue to bring in your much-needed items, which are listed on pg. 17 of the 2026 FCE Handbook.

Helen De Roo
hfpdr@verizon.net

301-871-2128

FCE FRIENDSHIPS

When you are state president of FCE one of your responsibilities takes you all over the state to visit in each county to share state, national and ACWW news during your term in office. A gift of these travels to meetings and sharing ideas with many people has benefits - some you never realize at the time.

I was Maryland FCE president 1993-'95 and was fortunate to be able to attend the National FCE and ACWW Conferences during my term. During that time the FCE president of Delaware, Jean Skibinski and I found ourselves conversing, meeting and often traveling together to serve on various committees and projects.

Following our terms of office Jean gave me a lovely book of family recipes she, her husband and sons had compiled. From the book I share a fine recipe for everyday:

A RECIPE FOR FRIENDSHIP

Assemble a group of folks in assorted sizes, shapes and personalities. Measure carefully: one cup of friendly words, one cup of courtesy and patience, and two heaping cups of understanding. Sift carefully to remove all malice and ego. Add a dash of wit and humor, a pinch of personality, a handful of forgiveness and an ounce of praise. Mix until well blended. Cook slowly, keeping temperature low. No boiling, stewing or steaming are necessary. Season to taste with the spice of life. Top each serving with a goodly amount of kindness, charity, and temperance. A little bit of love and tolerance improves the flavor. Serve in generous portions.

Meaningful friendship, beneficial learning and creating for the betterment of individuals and society is very important for strong healthy lives and communities.

For many years we had over sixteen thousand active FCE members in Maryland. Today we have less than 100 members. What happened? The world needs homemakers and organizations like ours. Why do you come to FCE? What do you give to FCE? Think about it. Be active in the organization. Make memories. Bring a friend to the next meeting!

Barbara Perry, Derwood Club



STAMP DONATIONS: TRIMMING TIPS AND VETERAN SUPPORT

Why Trimming Matters

One evening last winter, I sat on the sofa watching television while trimming donated stamps. I kept two shoeboxes beside me: one for the trimmed stamps and one for the paper scraps. After a few hours, both boxes were equally full—one with usable stamps and the other with discarded paper.

It was surprising to see that donated stamps could produce as much leftover paper as usable material. That experience helped me understand why *Stamps for the Wounded* ask donors to trim stamps before mailing them. Because the organization has limited storage space at its Virginia facility, removing excess paper helps volunteers store, sort, and process donations more efficiently.

How to Trim Stamp Donations

- Leave at least ¼ inch of paper around each stamp. The surrounding paper can be torn or cut with scissors.
- Remove as much extra paper as possible, including envelope backs and flaps.
- Don't worry about making the cuts precise.

Thank you for taking the time to trim your stamp donations. Most important, please know that your donation itself matters far more than perfect trimming.

Stamps for ALL Veterans

Do you know a veteran who may be interested in stamp collecting? Veterans of all ages and health status are eligible to receive stamps and stamp supplies from *Stamps for the Wounded*.

To participate, veterans complete a short form found on the website shown below. Supplies are then sent on a regular basis, based on each veteran's collecting interests.

There is no cost to participate. Stamps, covers, albums, supplies, postage, and other materials are donated to SFTW by groups across the country, including MCAFCE. SFTW volunteers sort the donated materials, prepare boxes tailored to veterans' collecting interests, and mail them to participants. Please share this wonderful program with friends and family who may know a veteran interested in collecting stamps.

<https://www.stampsforthewounded.org/for-veterans/>
Louise Lewis

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443 677-5958



Montgomery County News

FAIR BOOTHS

FCE presented and maintained **4 Fair Booths** at the MC Agricultural Fair. They were: Blanket Making by Kathie Mack; New to MOCO Recycling by Cathy Reals; Vaccines by Jeanne Purich, and Ticks & Mosquitoes by Sharon Hume. Thanks to all who participated and to those that came to the Fair to sit at the booths. We spoke to many people, and gave out our blanket calendars and information about FCE.

BACK to SCHOOL SUPPLIES



We will continue to collect school supplies through September. Items can be dropped off on blanket days, at our September Association meeting, at my house, or to Kathie Mack.

Thank you very much for your help.

“OFF THE BEATEN PATH”

Ralph Buglass

September 8 (Tuesday)

9:45 AM Extension Office

Ralph will have an illustrated presentation on the "Top 10" lesser-known spots in Montgomery County with historical importance, amazing natural beauty, or are superlative in some other way. He comes to us from the Montgomery History Speaker's Bureau.

FCE BLANKET MAKING DAYS

September 4 (Friday) 10 AM to 8 PM

September 28 (Monday) 10 AM to 3 PM

November 20 (Friday) 10 AM to 8 PM

Making this project a success is all thanks to your hard work, time and effort. Don't forget there are 2 blanket days in September and none in October due to the office being used for the entire month for Close Encounters with Agricultural. **We need yarn and fleece**, we do not need fabric, except for kids' prints. Call Kathie at 301-270-5367 for more information.



YARD SALE

Set-up Thursday September 17
September 19, 20, 21 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)
15500 Gallaudet Silver Spring

The tables are on the front porch for you to drop off your items for the yard sale. We will need help for the set-up day on Thursday and on the sale days. This is a major money maker for the scholarship fund. Sign-up sheet available.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Set-up October 2 - 10 AM (Friday)

Festival October 3 - 10 AM to 5 PM (Saturday)

Multipurpose room, Extension office

We will be in the multipurpose room with kids' games and grab bags, a bake sale and our wonderful crafts for sale. In the small conference room, we will have kids' crafts. We **NEED HELP** on both days. If you can, please bake for the bake sale — cookies, brownies, quick breads, etc. — NO pies or cakes. Please pack the cookies or brownies in 2-to-4-piece packs as they will be purchased for immediate consumption.

STATE CONFERENCE

Holiday Inn Express Kent Island

October 12 - 13 (Tuesday and Wednesday)

Register NOW for a wonderful conference, fun and some games, don't be late. Interesting speakers, good food, lovely setting, friends — what more could you want? Be sure to read the VP for Program report on page 2 for details.

“HOW FOOD INSECURITY IMPACTS STUDENTS”

Pam Hosimer

November 10

9:45 AM Extension Office

Pam, a former Nutrition Educator for SNAP Education, will explain how food insecurity impacts students and society. It is sure to be a very interesting talk.

Hope to see you soon.

Jeanne Purich

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301-641-4878

NATIONAL FCE CONFERENCE JULY 2026



From July 20-23, 2026, Family and Community Education members from many FCE clubs across the country gathered at the Holiday Inn in Erlanger, KY for our annual conference.

<https://www.nafce.org/2026national-conference-info>

Jeanne Purich, Amber Beall, Pat Fewell, and I represented Maryland FCE at this conference. Jeanne was, in fact, the conference chair! We represented the club located the farthest east. The farthest west was Hawaii FCE; the farthest north Alaska FCE, and the farthest south Southwest FCE. Many members came from the center of the country, from Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, and Tennessee. It is wonderful to meet and talk with members from so many different places.

Just as at our Maryland FCE conference, we had interesting and informative workshops (this year all led by FCE members), a business meeting, presentation of awards, a ticket auction of donated items, a craft session, and of course we shared meals together.

Our sessions included:

- The W's of ACWW — explaining the Who, What, Why, and Where of Associated Country Women of the World, the international parent organization of FCE. <https://acww.org.uk/>
- Autism — latest research and expanded knowledge
- Fiduciary Responsibility — what it means to have a legal, ethical, or financial relationship of trust with another person or group, such as being the treasurer of an organization like FCE.
- Artificial Intelligence — the good, the bad, and the ugly about AI.
- Screen Time for Children, Young Adults, and Seniors — the perils and pitfall of spending too much time staring at a TV, a computer, or your phone (especially endless scrolling on your phone).

Photos are being gathered to be posted on the [nafce.org](https://www.nafce.org) website during the next few weeks. Photos from past conferences give an idea of the fun we had: <https://www.nafce.org/national-conference-info-and-pictures>

Kathie Mack, MDAFCE Vice President for Programs
kpmack2@gmail.com 301-270-5367

2027 Dues - Do Not Delay – Pay Today! MEMBERSHIP

It's time for the 2027 FCE membership drive!! Please renew your FCE membership for 2027 AND recruit a new member. Don't forget to submit your signed FCE membership form, along with a form for any new member you recruit. We had 84 members in 2026, with 3 new members. With your help, we can get over 100 for 2027. Don't forget that with every new member you recruit, both you and the new member will be eligible for a special drawing to attend the 2027 Maryland FCE conference for FREE.



Special invitation to all teen members supporting our blanket making project: if you are under 18, you can join our organization for \$5.00. Why? With your signed application, you will become a member of our charitable 501 (c) 3 organization, at the national, state and county levels. Wouldn't that enhance your college application or internship/employment resume? Please consider and contact me for a membership form.

Jeanne Gillis, Membership Chairman
jeannegillis2326@gmail.com

SCHOLARSHIP

At the May MCAFCE Board meeting, funding for 2 scholarships to Montgomery College was approved. These scholarships are donated in the memory of Mary Irene Waters. Each scholarship was for \$2,500. Accordingly, funds were sent to Montgomery College earlier this summer. Your support for our various fundraisers makes a difference!

Jeanne Gillis, Scholarship
jeannegillis2326@gmail.com

WHEN WARTIME SHORTAGES SPARKED A CLEANING REVOLUTION

The outbreak of World War II brought about significant changes in many aspects of daily life in the United States and across the world, including the way people cleaned their clothes and homes. Before the war, traditional soaps—produced mainly from natural fats and oils—were the primary choice for washing and cleaning. However, the war effort created a massive demand for these essential fats and oils, diverting them away from consumer goods to the production of explosives, lubricants and food.

As a result, soap became scarce and expensive, prompting scientists and manufacturers to search for alternatives. This challenge led to the development and popularization of detergents. The cleaning product industry rose to the occasion, supporting drives to gather waste fats from homes for the war effort and boosting production of detergents that did not require this in-demand ingredient.

Detergent use spread rapidly during the 1940s. It offered several advantages over traditional soaps: detergents performed better in hard water, produced less soap scum and maintained effectiveness even in cold water. By the end of the war, detergents became a staple in many households, marking the beginning of a new era in cleaning technology.

The transition from soaps to detergents during World War II not only addressed immediate wartime needs but also set the stage for the diverse range of cleaning products we rely on today. Modern detergents continue to evolve, reflecting advances in chemistry and sustainability, and growing consumer demand for efficiency and convenience.

Why Are They Called Soap Operas?

Ever wondered why those dramatic serials on daytime TV are called “soap operas”? The answer goes back to the early days of radio and television. In the 1930s and 1940s, serialized drama programs were hugely popular among homemakers, who made up most of the daytime audience.

These shows were often sponsored by cleaning product companies, who used the opportunity to advertise their products directly to their target market. The “opera” part comes from the melodramatic, emotional storylines that mirrored those of traditional operas, albeit set in suburban kitchens and living rooms.

Thus, the term “soap opera” was born, and cleaning and storytelling have been closely tied ever since. It’s fitting, because cleaning, much like storytelling, is an act of care that weaves together the fabric of our daily lives. Each sweep, scrub and tidied space tells a story of love—for our homes, for those we share them with and for ourselves. In this way, cleaning goes beyond a chore and becomes an ongoing narrative of care and connection.

A Century of Cleaning Trivia

We love everything cleaning, so we thought we’d share some cleaning trivia. Over the past hundred years, the way we clean our homes and public spaces has changed drastically. Here are just some of those ways:

- The vacuum cleaner was invented in 1901. The earliest models were so large they had to be pulled by horses and parked outside buildings, with long hoses snaking in through the windows. It wasn’t until the 1920s that portable electric vacuum cleaners became a common household item.
- Laundry detergents as we know them didn’t exist until World War II. Before then, people used soap flakes or scrubbing boards.
- The first synthetic sponge was produced in 1941, but people have used natural sea sponges for cleaning for thousands of years.
- Self-cleaning ovens were first introduced in the 1960s. They use high heat to burn off spills and splatters, making clean-up easier.
- In the 1920s, housework like cleaning and laundry took about **52 hours a week**. Today, the average American spends around six hours a week cleaning. Cleaning innovations have come a long way to save us time and effort!

Whether you’re a cleaning enthusiast or just love quirky facts, we hope you’ve learned something new and will share cleaning trivia tidbits with friends and family. Who knows—you might inspire others to tackle that messy closet or try a new cleaning hack!

Bulletin Board

Speedy recovery for Marcie Burroughs who is recovering from a fall and Andrea Abrams who had a broken ankle.

Best wishes and speedy recovery to Jenny Dotti who had hip replacement.

Don't forget the annual conference, October 12 & 13. Registration is in the summer newsletter, on the web, or contact Jeanne Purich or Kathie Mack.

**Holiday Inn Express Kent Island
1020 Kent Narrows Road,
Grasonville, MD 21638
Phone: 410-857-4454**

From West:

From the beltway, take **50** east across the Bay Bridge; take Exit **41**, head **right** on the ramp for **MD-18** toward **Kent Narrows West**; Turn **left** onto **MD-18/Main St** toward **Piney Narrows Rd/MD-18/Main St**; Turn **left** onto **Kent Narrows Way N** (Road name changes to **Kent Narrows Way**): Turn **left** into parking lot



Dinner on Sunday at 5:30 at Fisherman's Inn.
3116 Main St, Grasonville, MD 21638
<https://fishermansinn.com/>

**Maryland Association for
Family and Community Education
15500 Gallaudet Avenue
Silver Spring Maryland 20905**

