

The ECHO

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association

Volume 58, Issue 1

September 2014

Time to Renew Your Membership!

A Special Message From the Randolph Civic Association

It's that time of year again and your RCA membership is needed as we continuously maintain and beautify our neighborhood. Your \$10 membership and continued participation are critical to the success of programs like the Neighborhood Watch and publications like the Echo. This is also a membership drive 'outreach year', which means we will undertake the additional effort of knocking on a few doors and making some phone calls to increase membership. Several years ago we knocked on almost every door in the neighborhood. This outreach year we will be a bit more targeted and reach out to neighbors only after they have had some time to renew already. You can save RCA volunteers valuable time by renewing promptly and saving us from having to call or knock on your door. Remember, keeping this neighborhood beautiful, safe and vibrant is everyone's responsibility, and even \$10 makes a huge difference. So please take a moment and fill out the form we've included with this Echo. Put it in the self-addressed envelope and drop it in the mail. Also take a few moments and donate a little extra to the Randolph Civic Foundation (RCF). Please note that while donations to the RCA are not tax-deductible, they keep The Echo in print, and our other activities funded. Donations to the RCF are

tax-deductible. The RCF supports and sponsors activities such as community beautification and local youth groups.

Please fill out the membership form completely. Because of turnover, the RCA does not have every (new) homeowner's name, so please supply your name if the previous occupant has moved. The only thing that never changes is the address! If you did not get a membership form, envelope, or lost yours, please email info@randolphcivic.org to have one dropped off at your house. Alternatively, if you would like to have your membership form and dues picked up by an RCA volunteer rather than mailing them, you can reach us at info@randolphcivic.org and we'll make the arrangements.



Upcoming Events

RCA General Meeting

Special Presentation: The Redevelopment of the Montrose Christian School Property

October 2nd, 2014 8:00pm-9:30pm, Viers Mill Recreation Center

RCA Community Day and Kids Fun Run (see page 8 for more information)

October 4th, 2014 11:00am-2:00pm, Randolph Hills Local Park

RCA Community Bazaar (see page 14 for more information)

October 11th, 2014 8:00am-1:00pm, Loehmann's Plaza

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President's Message

by Brian Hooker, RCA President

Well, the summer hiatus of the Echo is over and I know it was sorely missed by all in RCA-land. Although the Echo was on a break the RCA stayed pretty busy. In June we met with Montgomery County Public School staff who are in charge of the Rocking Horse Center to learn more about what they do at the Center and to see where we can work together to relieve traffic and trash issues around the property (see accompanying article). In July we met with the developers of the Montrose Baptist Church property to learn more about their plans (see accompanying article). We are also continuing to work with MCDOT regarding the traffic calming measures on Boiling Brook. In August Randolph Hills had its first National Night Out event. Lastly, we welcomed our new membership coordinators and Echo advertising coordinator (see below).

If you missed the RCA's first National Night Out event don't worry it will be back next year. If you didn't know, National Night Out is an effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie and to send a message to those prone to criminal activity that our neighborhood is organized and looking out for each other. A special thanks to Mara Greengrass for organizing it this year. I think there is definitely the potential to grow this event.

With the first Echo there is also the annual membership drive. This is important because membership in the RCA shows the commitment of our neighborhood in working together to solve local issues. To help out the RCA with membership this year the Board is excited to be working with two new membership coordinators, Katy Hall and Nell Rumbaugh, to get even more residents engaged with the RCA. I and other Board members are glad to see the enthusiasm that Katy and Nell are bringing to the position. In order to help offset the cost of Echo printing we have also brought on Allison Alexander as our Echo advertising coordinator. This position was previously held by Lindsay Hoffman.

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RCA Telephone Number: (240)668-4722.

Recorded announcements of community events, 24 hours a day. Callers may leave messages.

Membership in the RCA is \$10.00 per year.

The *Echo* is the official publication of the Randolph Civic Association, Inc., P.O. Box 2202, North Bethesda, Maryland 20852. The *Echo* is published 8 times a year and distributed free to all residents of Franklin Park, Hilltop Square, Montrose Park, Randolph Hills, and Randolph Farms. Deadline for submission of articles varies; the next deadline is noted in each issue. If you would like to send an article in for consideration, please email the article to info@randolphcivic.org.

The Randolph Civic Association was formed in 1955 and incorporated in 1958. As stated in the original Articles of Incorporation, the purposes of the RCA are "to stimulate interest in all community problems and improvements that will better the general welfare of the community [and] to pay strict attention to any attempt to lessen the value of property within its borders..."

Web site: www.randolphcivic.org

Delicious Lunches Delivered to Local Schools

by *Christiana Drapkin*

If you have come to our Annual RCF Spaghetti Dinner in June, you've probably gone for a second helping of our tasty Italian meal that was provided by Vignola Gourmet. Giovanni Vignola and his wife Ashley run this local catering business, situated in our nearby Randolph Hills Shopping Center. Many of the Italian recipes were handed down through three generations of Giovanni's immigrant parents and grandparents. The older generation had started out with a pasta shop in the early 1980s, which grew into a popular family restaurant in Rockville. When the new Rockville Town Center was being built up in 2005, the family restaurant had to close; but they continued their catering business. A bit more than a year ago, Vignola Gourmet opened their takeout shop right here in Randolph Hills Shopping Center. It's become a hot-spot for the lunch-sandwich crowd and for busy families who want to have home-cooking quality and taste with the convenience of a take-out run.

What makes Vignola Gourmet extra special is the fact that they are now providing school lunches to a dozen schools here in Montgomery County and DC. This started out in 2008, when Giovanni began to worry about the food that his son didn't want to eat in school. They felt that school kids deserved food that was good, homemade and nutritious, and they looked into catering school lunches. Sadly, the budget for public-school lunches hovers around \$2.10 per meal. Not a workable budget for the quality ingredients and care they were aiming for.

However, when they supplied faculty lunches at a private school, the school administrators and parents saw the possibilities. That's how their first contract started out with one private school, to bring home-cooking taste and quality meals to their students. Not only school lunches were a success. Business lunches, corporate catering, galas, charity dinners, family functions and holiday parties increased the Vignola's clientele steadily. With the start of this new school year, the Vignola's now supply a dozen parochial and private schools with their custom-made menus.

I asked Ashley, whose background is in event planning and catering, how they know what their students like, and how varied their food choices are. I was surprised to learn that each school has their own preferences. The all-boys schools are ravenous for lots of carbs, meat with every serving. The most popular selection at some all-girls schools is the salad bar. The Vignola's like to work with their school

clients on the varied culinary offerings: Mexican food day, Asian day, pasta day, and taco day – all of it fresh and seasonal.

Ashley's husband, Giovanni, grew up in an old-fashioned Italian family right here in Maryland, where food played a leading role. He went back to Italy to train at a culinary school in Florence. Many of the recipes come directly from his maternal grandmother, who spoke barely a word of English, even after living in the new country for decades. Her south-of-Salerno Italian recipes stand in contrast to his father's distinct northern Italian cuisine, hailing from Vicenza; and both culinary worlds are represented in their shop. My favorites are the Porchetta sandwich and the Arancini rice balls. Then there's the ready-made lasagna or eggplant parmigiana which you can buy hot, or frozen until you pop them in your oven at home. Of course, for me, nothing beats the pillowy mozzarella balls, made fresh daily, together with some of my own homegrown tomatoes and basil from our Rocking Horse Community Garden.

Vignola's newest take-out offering is their customized New Pasta Bowl, where you pick your starch (rice, pasta, noodles), pick your meat, and pick your add-ons. You can choose from five different homemade pastas, including gluten-free spaghetti, choose from a number of different sauces, and top it off with your choice of toppings. I can't wait.

Check out their carry-out and catering menus:
Vignola Gourmet, 11612 Boiling Brook Pl.,
Rockville, MD 20852
Tel 301 770-4523
vignolagourmet@gmail.com
www.vignolagourmet.com
Market hours: M – F 11 – 7, SAT 11 – 4

**Don't Forget to Renew
Your RCA Membership!
Your membership helps
cover the cost of Echo
publication, community
events, the Neighborhood
Watch, and much more!
Use the form and envelope
attached to this issue
to renew today!**

June General Meeting Minutes

By Diane LaGrega Bertocchi

RCA General Meeting Minutes -- June 4th, 2014

By Diane LaGrega Bertocchi

1. Call to order: 7:50PM

2. Old Business

A. Rocking Horse Center: The meeting for what will happen with the Rocking Horse Center is postponed until June 18, 2014. Brian and Mark will be representing the RCA at the meeting.

B. District 18 Candidate Forum: The candidates' forum was held on May 1, 2014 at the last RCA meeting. It was a great way to meet to the candidates for the primary election on June 24.

C. Road Improvements:

a. Boiling Brook Pkwy and Rocking Horse Rd: There are stripes on Boiling Brook Parkway and Rocking Horse Rd intersection. Plastic posts will be inserted in the intersection to create calming measures to improve traffic congestion in the area.

b. "Hot Right" at Schuylkill Rd and Boiling Brook Pkwy: Strips are also located at the intersection Schuylkill Rd and Boiling Brook Pkwy. Plastic posts will be posted to encourage drivers to stop at the stop sign before turning right. Currently, it is legal to turn right without stopping, but residents are concerned about pedestrians crossing the street into the Randolph Hills Shopping Center.

3. New Business:

A. White Flint Update: Friends of White Flint presentation by Lindsay Hoffman:

Montgomery County is concerned about the demographics of the area and wanted to attract younger people who prefer to use other methods of transportation rather than a car to move around the area. Montgomery County selected White Flint Metro Station because there is already a metro station, buses and wasted space being used for parking lots that could be used for residential and commercial buildings, green space, stores, restaurants, hotels and other modern amenities. There will still be parking, but in the form of parking garages not open parking lots. Currently, residents use their cars for everything, even to run small errands in the area. Rockville Pike is not friendly to walk along because there is no buffer between the road and the sidewalk. The new development would encourage residents to drive less by offering other modes of transportation like rapid transit, bike lanes, and better sidewalks for walking. As the population density in the White Flint area increases, these new developments should help ease the traffic congestion.

a. Pike & Rose: Mid-Pike Plaza will give way to Pike & Rose. Pike & Rose is a 24-acre mixed-use development and the first major project to break ground in the White Flint District of North Bethesda, Maryland. The project will create a street grid of apartments and office spaces with restaurants and shops at street level to produce the feel

of city living. The development will be pedestrian friendly and located across Old Georgetown Road and Rockville Pike from the White Flint Metro Station. The area will have 16 properties, green space, residential, commercial, a new movie theater, restaurants, bars, and theater. Most of the projects will be phased in gradually.

b. Metro Pike Center: There will be a new mixed-use complex that will replace the Metro Pike Center shopping center and Staples at the intersection of Rockville Pike and Nicholson Lane. The west side will have three residential buildings and the east side will have a commercial building and a residential building. Four of the five buildings will have ground-floor shops and restaurants to create sidewalk activity. There will be a buffer with green space and trees between the sidewalk and the road to encourage walking, rapid transit, and a bike lane. A traffic lane may have to be removed to allow for this new development.

c. North Bethesda Market 2: North Bethesda Market II, the property bounded by Rockville Pike, Nicholson Lane, Woodglenn Drive and Executive Boulevard unfortunately was a victim of the economy. However, JBG is now ready to break ground. JBG is reviewing amendments to previously approved plans and proposing a mixed-use development. This area is proposed to have the tallest building in Montgomery County. Every developer is including a lot of green space in the development plans.

d. Traffic Mitigation: Currently people in the area always need to use the car. As the malls come down and the parking areas are redeveloped, more streets will be added to ease traffic congestion so one does not always need to get onto Rockville Pike to drive around the area. If we have even 0.1% fewer cars on the roads, there is a sense that the road flows better. Since the area cannot widen the traffic lanes, rapid transit provides a cost effective and reliable form of transportation. Rapid transit buses are a less expensive option compared to building a new rail system or new road and are reliable with dedicated lanes and more stops compared to metro to get around the county. The Rapid Transit Bus line will go from the Friendship Heights Metro to Clarksburg, MD. There will also be rapid transit line for Randolph Rd that runs from White Flint Metro Station to US29/Columbia Rd/ Colesville Pike. The RCA will be requesting a stop to serve our neighborhood.

e. Kennedy Shriver Aquatics Center: The parking lot in the area of the Kennedy Shriver Aquatics Center will go but there will be a new Aquatics Center, a White Flint Community Recreation Center, and green space for a park, a new parking garage, and a mixed use residential/ retail development.

For more information on the White Flint Development Plans please visit Friends of White Flint www.whiteflint.org or call 301-980-3768 or follow on Twitter: @White_Flint.

B. Montrose Baptist Church Application for Rezoning: Currently
Montrose Baptist

(Continued on Page 5)

June Meeting Minutes

(continued from page 4)

Church and School are zoned for residential single family homes. They want to rezone for high density townhomes; 15 units per acre. There will be a meeting with the board of appeals on September 22nd to decide on the rezoning of the area.

Questions from the audience: What will the rezoning look like? What are the rezoning options? Currently the RCA does not know what the rezoning will look like. The different types of rezoning for townhomes are 6, 10, or 12 units per acre. There is also the fear that they will open the road (Putnam Rd) by Montrose School. Residents are concerned about the traffic. Is the property included in White Flint 2? Loehmann's Plaza is included in White Flint 2, but the RCA is not sure about the Church and the School. It seems like the county wants density. Could we win a fight on decreasing the density where the Montrose Church and School are located? The county wants density near metro stations, but not everywhere. What is the density of other townhouse developments in the area? There are only two other townhome developments in the area and the density is not 15 townhomes per acre. What is the possible timeline? After it goes to the board of appeals, they decide pretty quickly to allow for the rezoning or not. The actual building of the townhomes will be many years out.

Committee Reports:

Safety – There was a car theft and the guy was caught. There was a sexual assault but the person was caught, and the assailant was known to the victim. There's also a new registered sex offender in the neighborhood. <http://www.dpscs.state.md.us/sorSearch/search.do?searchType=detail&anchor=true&id=3730956>

Reminder: It is illegal to harass or threaten a registered sex offender. However, it's not illegal to keep an eye out for him and report him if he appears to be doing anything illegal.

Lindsey Hoffman – will continue coordinating the ads for the Echo, if no one else wants will do it [the job has since been taken on by Alison Alexander]. It is \$250 a year and 10% of all ad revenue above \$4000.

Summer Break: No meetings until September 2014.

Meeting adjourned 9:15pm



as a Randolph Civic Association resident,
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Each guest may only redeem this offer once. Not valid with other offers. Expires 10/31/2014.

Join Your Neighbors Online



The RCA Yahoo Group is a great resource for keeping up with happenings in RCA land. Need a recommendation for a local handyman? Looking for a babysitter or dog walker? Want to learn more about local activities? Have an idea to improve our neighborhood?

Get in on the conversation at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/randolphca/>

The RCA Hotline

240-668-4722 (4RCA)

Calls Received May 23rd, 2014
through August 27th, 2014



General Note: The RCA gets a lot of calls about code violations (untagged cars, tall grass, etc). Please note that phone numbers for agencies that handle such matters are published on the website. You don't have to leave your name or phone number. The RCA reserves the right to not publish any calls that could be viewed as solicitations, personal attacks against neighbors or calls longer than 1.5 minutes due to the time it takes to transcribe and cost to publish. You can always email the RCA at info@randolphcivic.org or submit an article for publication to the Echo editor.

05-23-14 (Fri) at 11:59am. Anonymous. I would like to get a message out to Randolph Hills' residents that it is illegal for cats to be running loose. We've noticed an increased number of cats running between the streets of Topping, Oxbow and Red Fox. We're tired of finding dead birds in our yards and feces in our gardens. Cats have the same pet controls as dogs do. They're supposed to be on a leash, in your house, or in your yard. Thank you very much.

05-27-14 (Tues) at 5:26pm. Anonymous. Good evening. I see that there are some markings in the road at Ashley and Boiling Brook near the bridge where it looks like the county is intruding, once again, in wanting to put these ridiculous bump-outs that are unneeded and unwanted in the neighborhood. Please, please, please tell me I am wrong and that there is some other work going on. The way they have these bump-outs marked look like they will cause be nothing but problems with the traffic. Please tell the county we don't want or need these bump-outs. They are ridiculous. Thank you.

06-09-14 (Mon) at 2:34pm. Anonymous. I want to comment on the new design of the Boiling Brook Parkway and Rocking Horse Road with painted curbing which will eventually become concrete. It's going to be another mess. It's slow enough as it is trying to get around the school during school hours. This will make it more difficult. There's no need for something like that.

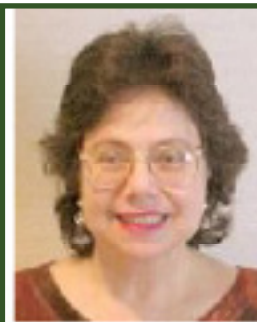
06-15-14 (Sun) at 6:38pm. Not Anonymous. I've got a couple of things. Has there been any discussion about slowing the traffic down on Ashley Drive with either a traffic calmer or even speed cameras? It's getting ridiculous. People are driving through here at 50 and 60mph and I've had a couple of near misses on my car parked on the street. Also, is anyone assigned

to maintaining the garden around the sign on Ashley at Coachway? If so, I'd like to volunteer to help.

06-18-14 (Wed) at 4:20pm. Anonymous. I'm calling about the bump-out at Boiling Brook Parkway and Schuylkill Road. I don't know if anyone's thought about it much or not but I've been in my car and tried to maneuver around the dashed lines and it's somewhat difficult. Also, if anyone's forward-thought about the 18-wheelers that go into the industrial area and, more importantly, the Metro buses that come through that intersection. I saw a Metrobus front of me making a right turn there and there's absolutely no way a Metrobus can make a turn there without impeding the traffic in the oncoming direction. Maybe making it a permanent stop sign there is the better way to go. Just my two cents.

06-19-14 (Thurs) at 1:53pm. Anonymous. I called previously. I can't understand what purpose it serves to extend the corners away from the schools. Not that many pedestrians or bicycles get involved in any type of mishap there. I think it will be crucial when any type of fire truck or emergency vehicle will have to take a different route to clear the corner.

08-13-14 (Wed) at 2:17pm. Not Anonymous. I live on Macon Road. Hoping someone can tell me what's going on with Montrose Baptist Church. I also currently live in Gaithersburg but I'd like to pay membership fees so I can receive a copy of the Echo when it comes out.



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RCA Board and Residents Talk Issues and Solutions with Rocking Horse Center Staff

by Brian Hooker

On June 18, 2014, just after school let out for the summer, two RCA Board members, myself and Mark Nensel, and two RCA residents James Lawson and Alice Stevens, met with staff of the Rocking Horse Center (Center) to follow up on a meeting request from the previous March regarding general issues facing residents who live around Rocking Horse Center. This was an opportunity to introduce the Center staff to the RCA and for the RCA to learn a little more about the largest workplace in RCA-land.

The Center, located across the corner from Macon and Galena, used to be the neighborhood's elementary school until it closed. As we learned back in June it is now home to six different Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) offices including the English as a Second Language (ESOL) Program; School Counseling, Residency, and International Admissions Office; Early Childhood Program and Services (Pre-kindergarten and Head Start); Division of Title 1 Programs; Child Find Office (special needs programs); Bilingual Assessment Team; and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services School Health Services Center (immunizations). Because there are so many different offices located at the Center, the staff that oversees the Center is not entirely sure how many employees actually work there. During our meeting, Ms. Woodson, the Center Director and Director of the ESOL and Bilingual Programs Office, noted that they were working on getting a better estimate of the total number of employees.

Many of the programs housed at the Center serve students and their families. Thus, depending on the activities taking place, there can be quite a lot of traffic and, subsequently, street parking spills all the way down Macon, Galena, and Hunters. The volume of activity on the street also creates a situation where sometimes trash is left in the gutter or the County right-of-way. In order to help with this issue the Center staff requested, and received three outside trash bins. Although I think the trash bins

could have been better placed along Macon Road, it is a step in the right direction in taking some ownership over issues that arise indirectly from Center activity. It was noted that if the three trash bins are abused by placing inappropriate trash in them, then the Center may have to remove them.

In order to alleviate traffic congestion in the street, it was suggested that the RCA get in touch with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to discuss bump-out options so that the corner of Galena and Macon would not be blind during the day. It was also discussed whether the MCPS bus stop at the corner of Galena and Macon could be moved so that traffic could better proceed down the portion of Macon Rd between Galena and Rocking Horse Road that does not prohibit parking on one side. We said we would look into MCDOT's continuing the parking prohibition along one side of Macon to the section of Macon between Galena and Rocking Horse Rd.

The RCA intends to keep engaged with the Center regarding several issues including maintenance, perhaps some beautification projects, and parking. Overall it was a good first

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Friday – Saturday 10am–5pm
Sunday 12pm–4pm

Randolph Hills Shopping Center
4886 Boiling Brook Parkway
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 984-3300
Monday – Thursday 10am–8pm
Friday – Saturday 10am–6pm
Sunday 12pm–6pm

Montrose Christian Redevelopment Update

By Brian Hooker, RCA President

In my June Echo article I asked for residents who had opinions about the re-zoning request for the property to reach out to me and share them. Several of you did reach out and shared concerns which I have attempted to summarize below.

Residents on the 5000 block of Macon are already abutting low density multiple family (3,000 sq ft per dwelling) and multiple family medium density (2,000 sq ft per dwelling) zones from the apartments on Parklawn. Thus any new high density development on the north side of Macon may make the area feel walled in. Residents raised issues regarding traffic and the existing bottleneck at Parklawn and Randolph. There could be an increase of cut through traffic on Rocking Horse Road due to increasing congestion at Parklawn and Randolph. Concerns about student capacity at Viers Mill Elementary School were also raised. Concerns may also express that any re-zoning should be done only after the White Flint 2 planning process which may be taken up by the Planning Board as soon as this winter (<http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/whiteflint2/>). In addition to larger issues were questions about how the units would be built, if it would be a low-income housing development, and if the developer would request re-opening Macon Rd to Putnam Rd.

On July 28, RCA board members and a local resident met with the potential developer of the Montrose Christian church property in the church offices to share the concerns above and learn more about the development plans. Palisades Development, represented by Mr. Steve Baldwin, began the meeting by apologizing for the manner in which the letter from Dr. Fentress of Montrose Christian was sent to residents back in first week in May. Mr. Baldwin explained that they wanted to get the zoning request by May 1st in order to be considered under the existing zoning requirements. Montgomery County passed the new zoning code on March 5, 2014 and they become effective on October 30, 2014. As a result the application process was a little rushed. Mr. Baldwin further explained that it was not a matter of something new in the new zoning regulations, but the fact that they were new and perhaps unfamiliar to County planners that led them to file the rezoning request under the old code.

In addition to the concerns listed previously, we expressed the neighborhood's concerns regarding the unknown nature of the future development, the lack of communication following the May 1st letter, and the lack of trust in Montrose Christian by neighbors abutting the property that stem primarily from recent lack of grounds maintenance. These factors have led to a generally poor reception of the rezoning request by RCA residents.

Mr. Baldwin continued to explain that although the requested zone (RT-15) could allow for up to 130 units on the site, he anticipates it will be more in the 100-105 range. He anticipates that the units will face forward onto Randolph Road which will have two entrances as well as an entrance

on Putnam. There are no plans to request re-opening Putnam Road to Macon Road. Mr. Baldwin explained that they are in the very early design phase of the project and that they are willing to work with the RCA on the development plans prior to the rezoning hearing. In fact Mr. Baldwin has agreed to discuss where they are in the development process and answer neighborhood questions at the October 2, RCA General Meeting. The re-zoning hearing before the Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings has been re-scheduled for January 23, 2015. I greatly encourage residents of RCA-land to come to the October 2 meeting to hear from the developer directly and ask any questions that you may have.

RCA Community Day is October 4th

by Alison Dewey

There will be something for everyone at this year's RCA Community Day! Enjoy a neighborhood cookout, hear local musical talent, and burn a few calories. Mark your calendar for Saturday October 4th to reconnect with your neighborhood friends and meet new ones.

The RCA Community Day, hosted at Randolph Hills Park, will start with the 3rd Annual Community Day 5K at 10:00am (registration opens at 9:30am) with the Kids Fun Run to follow. Bring your running shoes, cow bells and cheering voice!

The 5K course will take you through some of your favorite local streets south of Randolph Road and on the Rock Creek Park Hiker/Biker Trail. The Kids Fun Run will be held within the immediate area of the park. Details, including course information and sign-up information, are posted at Randolphcivic.org. Please check the site frequently for updates. Be sure to stick around for more RCA Community Day festivities afterwards. Enjoy your favorite grilled food, drinks and neighborly conversation at the Community Day picnic being held from noon to 2:00pm. This year's entertainment list will feature hyper local talent. Mark your calendars and come on out for the festivities on Saturday, October 4th!

What: RCA Community Day

When: Saturday, October 4th

5K: 10:00am (check-in at 9:30am)

Kids Fun Run: 11:00am (all ages welcome)

Cookout: Noon – 2:00

Where: Randolph Hills Park

Course Map: <http://goo.gl/maps/lbSYJ>

Who: Anyone can participate, bring a friend!

Running strollers are allowed; dogs are not.

Need additional information or want to volunteer to help? Email Alison Dewey at alisonandbrian@mac.com

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Venture Crew 27 News

By Peter Mapes

Venture Crew 27 is one of the largest and most active Crews in the National Capital Area and it meets right here in Montrose Park (the RCA-Land neighborhood directly across Randolph Road from the Safeway). Venturing is the Senior Division of the Boy Scouts of America and participation is open to young women and young men who are 14 years of age or who have finished the eighth grade. Venturers age out at the end of the calendar year following their twenty-first birthday. Meetings occur every other Sunday evening from 7:30 to 9 PM.

Crew 27 attends Goshen Scout Camps for two weeks every summer at Camp Bowman. The Crew goes during the last week of June and the week that includes the 4th of July. Nearly every member has completed National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) and we'll send a large contingent of new Venturers to NYLT this summer. Last summer the Crew sent 19 Venturers and 6 leaders to the National Jamboree near Mount Hope, WV and they camped with scouts from 30 different nations including Japan, England, Ireland, Taiwan, Korea, Germany, Chile, Kenya, South Africa, Mexico, Guatemala, Brazil, Scotland, France and Sweden for ten days. During the summer of 2015, we'll be sending a contingent of Venturers to Japan for the 23rd World Scout Jamboree.

Every summer we take a weeklong trip to some fascinating part of the country. Last summer we visited southwestern Ohio where we studied Native American culture and visited the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton. Our side trips included Fort Ancient (Google it – it is fascinating) and the outdoor drama Tecumseh in Chillicothe, OH where we saw a version of the history of the Shawnee during the American invasion of their homelands. This summer we headed for Michigan and the home of the legendary Paul Bunyan stories where we camped on the Lake Huron beach, canoed the Au Sable River (while watching a large bald eagle population), visited Mackinac Island, and spent a day at Cedar Point Amusement Park and another day at The Henry Ford Museum. Our Venturers are regular attendants at Philmont Scout Ranch, Florida Sea Base and the Charles Sommers (Northern Tier) Canoe Base in Ely, Minnesota.

Crew 27 sets its sights high and emphasizes leadership, ethics, outdoor education, camping, backpacking, water and life skills. We are joined with Sea Scout Ship 27 who can be found plying the waters of the Chesapeake in a 31 foot sailing vessel. If you think you would enjoy activities like these and are willing to work to plan and execute them (Venturers are completely youth led so the adults will not do it for you), contact the Crew President, Michael Maguire at (240)447-7709. If you are an adult with questions about Venturing, call Dr. Mapes (Crew Advisor) at (301)881-1446 in the evening.

Attention Dog Walkers:

Pee is dangerous to plants!

by Karen Helfert

In most cases, dog walkers in RCA-Land pick up dog poop (bless them), but the poop, if left where deposited, is mostly an obnoxious bother for home owners to deal with. Much more damaging to lawns and gardens bordering our sidewalks is dog pee. It may not seem like so obvious a problem, but it is in fact more insidious and damages appear later. Dog peeing on plants can damage or kill the plants, especially with repeated incidences.

Dog pee contains concentrations of nitrogen and salts...all waste products of a dog's metabolism. It's true nitrogen can be a fertilizer, but NOT in the high concentration found in dog pee. Dog urine also contains uric acid salts. Salts suck moisture from leaves and roots alike and kill beneficial soil microorganisms. In addition, the highly acidic or alkaline urine may alter the pH of the soil. Thus, the pee not only damages the plant itself, but over time it changes the chemical composition of the soil the poor plants are trying to grow in.

So dog walkers, be a good neighbor, and please try to keep your dogs (on a leash, of course) from peeing on homeowners' lawns and plants.

Rocking Horse Center

(continued from page 7)

meeting.

The next steps, as concluded and agreed on by all parties at the June 18 meeting, included: 1) the Center will finish installing outside trash bins, 2) the Center will follow-up with the RCA regarding the number of staff working at the Center, 3) the Center will follow-up with the RCA regarding a traffic/parking study, 4) RCA will work with the Center staff on potential grounds beautification projects, 5) RCA will investigate traffic/parking measures with MCDOT, specifically curb extensions on the corner of Galena and Macon and a parking prohibition along one side of Macon between Galena and Rocking Horse, and 6) both RCA and the Center will work to keep an open dialogue.

RCA-Land Neighbor Business and Services

by Janis Brown and Mark Nensel

Earlier in the summer, one of our ambitious and enterprising RCA-Land neighbors suggested that the Echo publicize the in-home businesses scattered throughout our neighborhood. Utilizing the RCA list-serve, she put out a notice to the group and was able to compile a sizeable list. The very handy results are here-with, organized alphabetically by category.

ARTIST & PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography for events, products, and portraits.
Dean Evangelista, Email: dean@evangelista.org

CHILDCARE

Babysitter. Emmett Gideos (High School Student), (301) 881-3898
Nanny/ Babysitter. Lilian (Lili) Motta, Email: Lilian_h_motta@yahoo.com.br

EDITOR

Editor of anything from resumes to the Great American Novel. Mara Greengrass,
(301) 802-1950

EDUCATION & ENTERTAINMENT

Musician/Music Teacher. Nell Rumbaugh, email: nell-bird7@gmail.com
Website: nellbird.com
Etiquette School of Greater Washington. Janis Brown,

(301) 801-3134

Website: EtiquetteGW.com

Magic Shows for Kids. Todd Eisenstadt, email: eisensta@american.edu

Math Tutoring. Mathnasium of North Bethesda, 301-468-6284, e-mail: northbethesda@mathnasium.com, Website: <http://www.mathnasium.com/northbethesda>

FINANCIAL

Tax Accountant. Tax Masters, Inc., Preston Hall
website: tax-masters.com/TM/HOME.html

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Ian Nigh & Ame Ramos, Owners
Website: rockcreekcrossfit.com
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Marty Thompson, Owner, (301) 984-1177
Website: Salon4rockville.com
Vital Skin Care - Esthetician & Massage Therapists
11402 Schuylkill Rd.
Vera & Temur Tsaguriya, Owners, (301) 775-7481
Website: vitalskincare4you.com
Personal Physical Trainer. Domenic Mazzaglia
11832 Rocking Horse Rd, 301-526-6130
Website: <http://www.olympicfitness.biz>
Soft-Tissue Injury Rehabilitation Specialist, Licensed
Massage Therapist (LMT), and Certified Personal
Trainer (CPT). James Graffenberg. 301-466-9728
Website: <http://stretchingtheworld.com>

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or email: remodelingmm@gmail.com
Website: www.remodelingmm.com
Lawn mowing. Emmett Gideos (High School Student), (301) 881-3898
Lawn mowing. T.J. Monahan, tjalta@hotmail.com
J&H Landscaping LLC, Jose, Owner,
(301) 468-0053 & mobile: (240) 426-1907

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Aimee Babcock-Ellis, MLS, (518) 225-7127 or email: aimeebe@gmail.com
Katherine Slye-Griffin, email: Kslye-griffin@gmail.com
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(Continued on Page 14)

Troop 1083 News

By Ben Pitkin

The summer of 2014 was busy for the Scouts of Troop 1083...but aren't they all? Let's pick up where we left off, at the end of the school year in June. As always, the Troop kicked off its summer with a beach campout near Ocean City. The specific camping location varies from year to year—usually it's at Assateague State Park, either just over the dunes from the mighty Atlantic or at a quieter bayside location. This year (as in 2011), the Troop camped in a secluded wooded spot by a lazy river at Pocomoke State Park, just a half-hour's drive from the beach. As it does every year, the weekend featured a morning spent go-carting, an afternoon at the beach, and a night on the boardwalk. The beach campout is always a Scout family favorite!

In the last week of July, over 30 Scouts attended a week of summer camp at the Rodney Scout Reservation on the Upper Chesapeake in North East, MD. They earned bucketloads of merit badges, extended old friendships and started new ones, and enjoyed arts and crafts, archery, swimming, boating, and the many other things one can only do outdoors in the summertime. It's a single week that provides lifelong memories for every Scout that attends. The odds are pretty long that you'll ever hear an older man say, "I went to summer camp as a Scout but I don't remember anything about it!"

In August, on successive Saturdays (the 9th and the 16th), **Ben Safford** led a work crew of several dozen Scouts, friends, and family members in building a contemplative maze at Silver Spring's Grace Episcopal Church as his Eagle Scout service project. The first phase of the work involved excavating and leveling a circle with a radius of about 15 feet—a task that proved more exciting than anticipated, with the discovery of buried treasures such as large rocks, roots, and re-bars from long-gone structures. The second phase involved trenching the maze's pattern into the ground, then placing bricks of different colors in the trenches to form an attractive and intricate pattern. Thanks to Ben's many hours of careful planning and dedicated advance work, the project went forth efficiently, and was completed on schedule.

2014/2015 will be another great year in Troop 1083. We have outings throughout the year, where we learn and have a lot of fun. Why not join us? If you are a boy who has finished the fifth grade you can join us. We meet Monday night at 7:30 at Viers Mill Elementary School. You can call Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301-933-0048, or check out the troop web page at www.troop1083.org.

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RCF President's Message

by Ashley Salganik

Greetings from the Randolph Civic Foundation! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer! I am excited to be writing this article since this is the first time I have had an opportunity to introduce myself since taking on my new role as the RCF President. I have lived in Franklin Park for nine years and I have really enjoyed living in this neighborhood. I am excited about this new role so please be sure to check out my message in each Echo for upcoming RCF events and opportunities to help support the neighborhood. Also, I would like to thank outgoing President Lindsay Hoffman for her service these last two years — she is a tremendous asset to our neighborhood.

As children go back to school - please drive slowly and carefully in our neighborhood as there will be children walking to and from their bus stop each morning and afternoon. School buses stop frequently, so please keep a safe distance from the back of the bus and be sure to stop and wait while a bus is loading or unloading.

Also, I wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the Randolph Civic Foundation is authorized to approve Student Service Learning (SSL) hours for children beginning in sixth grade and higher. So, if any RCA-land students wish to benefit their own neighborhood while getting closer to their high-school graduation, please email me at ashleysalganik@gmail.com. We're open to any ideas that will improve, better and beautify our community and would love to see our youth getting more involved.

We are looking forward to a fantastic Fall season; we hope to see you in the neighborhood soon!

RCF Board of Directors for 2014-2015

OFFICERS

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Lindsay Hoffman
4602 Wilwyn Way
301-775-9807

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11513 Ashley Drive
301-468-7310
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sabaly@hotmail.com

The Randolph Civic Foundation originated in 1996. It was formed to provide educational and charitable services to the Randolph Community. The address is: Randolph Civic Foundation, PO Box 489, Garrett Park, MD 20896-0489

www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org - Phone: 240-389-4723

Venture Crew 1083

By Ben Pitkin

From July 13th to July 19th, the members of Venture Crew 1083's High Adventure component spent a week on the High Knoll Trail at the Blue Ridge Mountains Council's Scout reservation in Virginia. This was the first time a 1083 Philmont Crew-in-training has visited High Knoll, in rugged high-altitude terrain in the Jefferson National Forest, southwest of Roanoke. It was a spectacular week and the learning experiences only sharpened the skills of an already well-prepared group as they continue training for their July 2015 trip to the Philmont Scout Reservation in New Mexico.

In the Scouting program, High Adventure refers to long-term outings, typically in wilderness settings. These outings require intensive preparation, with many weekends spent on "shakedown" hikes and campouts, practicing strict leave-no-trace camping principles; building long-range and high-altitude hiking stamina; discovering which items are indispensable, and which ones are just extra weight, on extended backpacking trips; learning to cook, clean, and purify drinking water on the trail; preventing injuries and, if needed, providing first aid in remote settings; managing any kind of weather within a very wide range of extremes; and protecting bears and hikers alike by suspending food, garbage, and other "smellables" at night from ropes strung between trees at least 20 feet off the ground.

High Adventure is a big-ticket endeavor, and along with unparalleled outdoor experiences, it teaches its participants how to work in creative ways to help defray some of the costs. In that way, they learn the importance of paying at least part of their own way—and how to go about it successfully. One such way is by sponsoring the RCA Spring and Autumn Bazaars, held in May and October in the (former) Loehmann's Plaza parking lot.

The coming Autumn Bazaar will be on Saturday morning, October 11. In addition to sponsoring the event, the Crew provides the food and beverage sales for hungry and thirsty bazaar-goers and vendors. Because the proceeds support the Crew's High Adventure component, every bit you do to help—and enjoying a burger and a soda helps—is most appreciated. Be sure to check the RCA Yahoo group for any late-breaking additional details about the Bazaar.

Venturing is open to coed youth aged 14 through 20. The Crew will meet every Monday night during the school year, from 6:30–7:30 pm at Viers Mill ES. Why not join us? Bring a like-minded friend so you'll already know someone else at the meeting! For more information, contact crew advisor Greg Skolnik at 301-942-3755.

CLASSIFIEDS

The Echo publishes classified ads free for RCA members, to a maximum of one ad per year per household. Additional ads may be purchased for \$5.00. The Echo makes no claims or guarantees regarding the quality of goods or services sold.

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New Parent Group Do you have an infant under 1 year old? Are you interested in meeting up with other parents of infants from the neighborhood for walks and activities? If so, please e-mail Nikki Forry at nikki.forry@gmail.com.

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President's Message (continued from page 2)

As we launch our membership drive I'm sure many residents will be hearing more from Katy and Nell over the next few weeks. Your membership goes toward such great things as the printing of the Echo, support for the annual Community Day and Fun Run in October, neighborhood watch events, including National Night Out. I hope everyone takes an opportunity to attend at least one RCA meeting between October and June.

RCA-Land Neighbor Business and Services (continued from page 11)

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RCA Community Bazaar (formerly the Fall Yard Sale)
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4606 Olden Road	\$449,900	\$450,000	9	\$5,000	28-May-14
11011 Troy Road	\$365,000	\$365,000	2	\$0	29-May-14
4601 Wilwyn Way	\$375,000	\$360,000	17	\$0	29-May-14
11815 Ashley Drive	\$429,900	\$433,500	18	\$0	30-May-14
11904 Hunters Lane	\$439,500	\$432,500	3	\$0	30-May-14
4302 Star Lane	\$424,900	\$419,000	10	\$2,200	11-Jun-14
4814 Mori Drive	\$399,900	\$408,500	6	\$0	20-Jun-14
11826 Rocking Horse	\$414,900	\$412,000	73	\$2,236	30-Jun-14
4625 Gemstone Ter	\$415,000	\$410,000	13	\$0	09-Jul-14
5108 Oakglen Drive	\$445,000	\$445,000	10	\$1,450	09-Jul-14
11206 Ashley Drive	\$389,000	\$387,500	22	\$9,500	11-Jul-14
4609 Creek Shore Dr	\$429,900	\$430,000	12	\$2,450	31-Jul-14

*If you're thinking of selling or buying a home this year,
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