

# The ECHO

*The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association*

Volume 58, Issue 5

March 2015

## Pike and Rose is Already Livening up Our Neighborhood

by Mark Nensel

It was a cold Saturday night on Feb. 7th, but several thousand people queued up and entered the newly constructed building, and after riding an elevator to the sixth floor found themselves amidst a psychedelic festival of light, sound, projections, billowing fabrics, music, drinks and socializing. It was the Pike & Rose Audio Visual Arts (PRAVA) Festival, the first in a planned series of contemporary arts events to be held at the new Pike & Rose complex at the western corner of Old Georgetown Road and Rockville Pike.

While it may be a cold, cold winter, and folks might want to stay indoors, light a fire, or crawl under the blankets and wait out winter, RCA-Land residents should take note: a dining, social and entertainment scene is starting to blossom within a five-minute drive of our neighborhood (or a 20-minute walk). Though just the first phase of the massive retail, office and residence complex has opened up, the Pike & Rose is already transforming the entertainment and dining habits of people all over the region.

The iPic movie theater is proving to be a smash hit, with shows selling out regularly. If you haven't been there, it is an unusual but easy-to-get-used-to luxurious movie-going experience, complete with fully reclining deep cush-

ioned lounge seats (with complimentary blanket, pillow and endless popcorn), plus wait-service for food and drinks, brought to your seat. It's not cheap (it costs \$22 a seat), but it's a lot of fun for a nice treat or gift. No matter the price, though, people are coming to the theater in droves. Reservations, where you can choose your own particular seats, can be made on-line at the iPic website, and are very-much recommended. For more information, visit the site at [ipictheaters.com](http://ipictheaters.com)

The Del Frisco, City Perch, Summer House and Stella Barra Pizzeria restaurants are all open and are attracting their own respective legions of fans (and long-time local favorite Le Madeleine is back; it re-opened in its new location on Old Georgetown Road on Feb. 19th). Other new restaurants to come include: pizza venue "&pizza"; Asian eatery ShopHouse Kitchen; Roti Mediterranean Grill; and a still un-named upscale restaurant created by the Neighborhood Restaurant Group.

Additionally, the collection of stores directly on the Old Georgetown &

Rockville Pike corner (with the Starbucks and Bank of America) have had an attractive facelift, with a new Chipotle restaurant and a Tutti Frutti frozen yogurt shop built especially for the complex and recently opened for business.

Several retail stores are already open, including a Gap, a City Sports athletic wear store, a women's boutique store called Francesca's, a children's boutique store called Yogaso, to name a

*(Continued on Page 11)*



*Pike and Rose under construction*

## Upcoming Events

### **RCA Executive Board Meeting**

March 5th, 2015 8:00pm-9:30pm, Viers Mill Recreation Center

### **RCA General Meeting**

April 2nd, 2015 8:00pm-9:30pm, Viers Mill Recreation Center

## RCA Executive Committee and Committee Chairs for 2014-2015

### OFFICERS

President  
Brian Hooker  
5003 Macon Drive  
brian.r.hooker@gmail.com

Vice President  
Mark Nensel  
11830 Rocking Horse Rd  
301-351-1957

2nd Vice President  
Matthew Tifford  
11235 Ashley Drive  
matt.tifford@randolphcivic.org

Secretary  
Diane LaGrega Bertocci  
11101 Rock Road

Treasurer  
Dan Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-938-7494

**Directors**  
Amber Tedesco  
12114 Otis Drive

Jason Ott  
12202 Gaynor Road  
301-230-2179

Mara Greengrass  
safety@randolphcivic.org

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND POINTS OF CONTACT

Echo Editor  
Mark Nensel  
11830 Rocking Horse Rd  
301-351-1957  
marknensel@gmail.com

Echo Production  
Dan Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-938-7494

Echo Advertising  
For more info contact  
echo@randolphcivic.org

Communications Committee  
(Primary Contact for Media  
Requests)  
Dan Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-938-7494

Membership and Welcome  
Committee  
Mara Greengrass  
safety@randolphcivic.org

Environment and Services  
Committee  
Matthew Tifford  
11235 Ashley Drive  
301-770-4377

Education Committee  
Amber Tedesco  
12114 Otis Drive  
301-641-2946

Yard Sale Signs  
Lorena Moyer  
4802 Macon Road  
301-984-8727

Webmaster  
Chad Salganik  
4818 Mori Drive  
202-359-6158

Public Safety Committee  
Mara Greengrass  
For more info contact  
safety@randolphcivic.org

External Affairs Committee  
Dan Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-938-7494

Ways and Means  
Dan Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
301-938-7494

## President's Message

by Brian Hooker, RCA President

I'm writing this message on a frigid but sunny afternoon after a tremendous Valentine's Day winter squall swept through Montgomery County. It used to be that after a storm like this, with high winds and freezing rain and snow, RCA-land would be in a complete black out. However, it appears that this time around our worse problems were just getting around in our vehicles. With the rain and snow freezing to the street surface, many of the hills in Randolph Hills were impassable. This led many travelers to abandon their vehicles and walk home. This was further aggravated by a stuck train signal at Randolph Road and treacherous driving/closures on Nicholson Lane. However, like the bright sun shining today I'm going to focus on the positive.

Ever since the backlash against Pepco following the epic derecho storm in 2012, and the significant investment in tree work following it, our neighborhood has seen a decline in power outages. This improvement in utility services and general tree maintenance was long overdue in our neighborhood and we are glad to seeing that it appears to have paid off.

Speaking of neighborhood improvements, we had a good discussion with two home improvement contractors at the February RCA General Meeting (see meeting notes). With the new development around White Flint (a.k.a. Pike District), including phase one of Pike & Rose, our neighborhood is becoming an ever more desirable place to find affordable single-family homes. If one looks at last month's Echo back cover you'll see a steady rise in home values across all of RCA-land since 2009. There are an increasing number of people investing in, and improving, their homes. Although we will continue to have struggles with certain neighbors over everything from trash, to parking, and home maintenance, I think folks should be encouraged that we live in a friendly, diverse neighborhood, close to so many amenities that I often find myself thinking "I didn't know we had one of those here!"

Take heart neighbors, Spring is almost here, and the days are getting brighter.

**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](http://www.randolphcivic.org)**

# Winter Wonderland

By Christiana Drapkin

December and the whole holiday season is long gone. By the time you hold your new Echo newsletter in your hand, winter is half over, and you'll probably be longing for spring with growing impatience. But it's nice to take a quick look back at what's made our RCA-land so special in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Santa came through TWICE, it seems, on the Montgomery County fire truck, and I hope a lot of kids got a chance to catch some candy canes, courtesy of the Boy Scouts.

We had our sixth year of door-to-door neighborhood caroling, each Monday in December, always an adventure, and no two nights the same. So many kids, now a year older and bolder; so many neighbors who we've barely crossed paths with all year; but also more neighbors who we see more regularly at the RCA community meetings, at the community yard sale, at our community cleanup events, family activities and 5-K races, and at the Music Fest. And we've welcomed friends who are a bit more far-flung from outside the neighborhood, but who love to be part of this lovely little tradition and come to visit us here in Randolph Hills. We had so much fun again, and I'm truly grateful for everyone who's pitched in to make our caroling outings a success, by hosting us at the outset or at the end. And, of course, we thank everyone who's gotten into the spirit of things, gotten into warm clothes, left the house in the dark and cold, and came out to make this happen.

Alas, the last Monday we got caught in an unrelenting downpour, but not after having a great start at our hosts in Franklin Park. We just sang more songs inside, where it was warm and nice, the aroma of hot cocoa and fresh-baked cookies welcoming us as soon as we entered, and the colorful decorations brightening the scene. After we headed out with the exclamation, "Oh, it stopped raining!" we were lucky for about half an hour. The neighbors we serenaded were all smiles, too. However, their smiles turned to expressions of disbelief as our intrepid little group of singers kept singing and barely noticed that the rain was coming down again. We kept going, oh one more house, one more, until our song booklets were turning into a soggy mess of grey pulp. Oh well, we skedaddled to our final destination earlier than planned, but no less welcome. Ah, to warm up with a cup of something hot and sweet! Perfect.

We all sang some more songs as a thank-you for our hosts and as a sweet celebration for all of us in the festive house. Some of us got a bit wistful, and we all said good-bye and Merry Christmas with a big hug, and with the heartfelt wish, "See y'all next year!"



**KIDS FIRST**  
**SWIM SCHOOLS**

**NEW**  
Location!

**\$10 OFF**  
Any 6 Week  
Session  
expires  
04/22/15

**Because EVERY  
KID SHOULD KNOW  
How to swim!**

**Randolph Hills Shopping Center**  
4888 Boiling Brook Parkway  
Rockville, MD 20852  
301-984-7946

**College Plaza Shopping Center**  
15120 Frederick Road  
Rockville, MD  
301-217-5910

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



## December General Meeting Minutes

By Diane LaGrega Bertocchi

- 1) Call to order by Brian Hooker: 8:08pm
- 2) Old Business:
  - a) Code Enforcement (Brian Hooker) - A recurring issue in RCA-land that is raised by residents is the over-occupancy of houses. The problems that arise from too many adults living in the same house are limited street parking and exterior maintenance issues associated with no one taking ownership of the maintenance. Most homes in RCA-land are single dwelling units, unless licensed to have an accessory apartment. Accessory apartments have very clear standards and a public permitting process associated with them. A single dwelling home that is occupied by a single person, owner or otherwise, is permitted to have up to 4 additional roomers without a license as long as they meet the square footage, bedroom egress, and other requirements. As long as one not exceeding the number of people per square foot, they are within code. If you feel there is an overcrowding situation near you, the most important thing to do is give the inspectors as much information as possible. More detail on Understanding

County Home Occupancy Limits is in the January/February 2015 ECHO page 11.

- b) Traffic calming – The Montgomery County narrowed the bump out at Rocking Horse Road and Boiling Brook Parkway westbound and they changed the “hot” right turn from eastbound Boiling Brook Parkway onto southbound Schuylkill Rd to a full stop. We requested a stop sign at Boiling Brook Parkway west bound to help with traffic flow near the Randolph Hills Shopping Center. The roundabout concept over the creek was also proposed, but it is very expensive, and we are not sure if the county would do it.

- 3) New Business:

- a) Presentation: Renovations and Additions in Randolph Hills - Lessons from the Professionals: Stuart Colvin, with CGC Builders, LLC, and Matt Covell, with Sandy Spring Builders, discussed and provided information on adding an addition onto a house in the RCA neighborhood. The bigger the project the more you need to bring up the code in Montgomery County. The smaller the project the less that needs to be done. Warning: There

are always unforeseen costs. A design/build approach is often better for staying on a budget compared to hiring an outside architect to develop the design. Does Montgomery County inspect the house before the project? What is expected to be up to code? It depends on the project. Montgomery County will inspect major jobs to make sure that the homeowner and contractor are doing things up to code. For an additional level onto the home the electrical, gas, and water would have to be up to code. The stairway from the basement to the first floor would have to be up to code to support the additional level. An owner may decide to tear down their house and rebuild a larger home, like homeowners have done in Bethesda. However, you can also use the existing the space and make the area an open floor plan with a little tweaking. How did they actually build the original homes? They built the foundation first, the walls second, roof third, and then laid



From Left: Stuart Colvin of CGC Builders, Matt Covell of Sandy Spring Builders and Brian Hooker of the RCA

down the hardwood floors. With the structure of the homes in the neighborhood, it is real easy to put an upper level on the home. You do not have to put any center supports in the house. How much does the county weight-in on the “look” of the house? The county does not worry about the “look” of the house, but they

do weight-in on code and safety issues. What is more expensive to add a top level or a bump out to the back or side? Usually doing a bump out to the side or back is more expensive because it involves extra foundation costs. How does adding an addition affect utilities costs? If the duct work for the house can be tied into the house easily, then you do not need replace the furnace or much electrical, which keeps costs down. How is the insulation in older homes updated when you renovate? To insulate the home properly in this neighborhood, you need to rebuild the wall out to add the right amount of space for the insulation because the space between the drywall and the outer wall is too small. Any new codes that would affect any additions to our homes in the neighborhood? The county is focused mainly on safety issues and there is no grandfathering in on anything. Every inspector is different, and may hit harder on some jobs for safety issues. Is it a big deal to run a gas line into the kitchen? No, most homes in this neighborhood can easily have a gas line installed to the kitchen. You do need a permit and a registered plumber.

How much and

(Continued on Page 14)



## Basement Remodeling

### FEAR OF UNCERTAINTY?

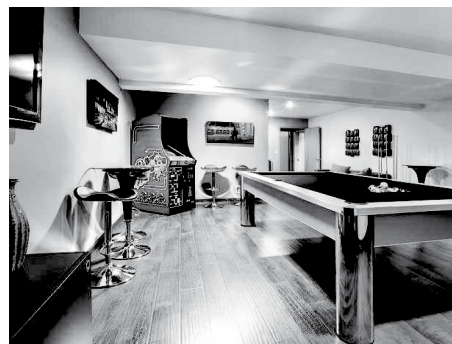
- Step by step process.
- Expertise and knowledge.
- Visualization of the project.
- Written estimate within 3 days.



## Transform Your Basement

### WHAT SETS US APART:

- Over 20 years of expertise and knowledge in remodeling.
- Quick communication and updates on the project.
- Professional guidance throughout the entire project.
- Transparent and honest pricing.
- Clear understanding of the remodeling process.



**Book a FREE hour**  
with a personal basement consultant  
**Call 301-637-4034**

or visit us on the web at:  
**[www.ModernStyleConstruction.com](http://www.ModernStyleConstruction.com)**

# The RCA Hotline

240-668-4722 (4RCA)

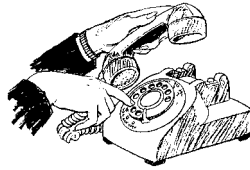
Calls Received November 3rd,  
2014 through January 13th, 2015

*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](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org) or submit an article for publication to the Echo editor.*

1-18-15 (Sun) at 2:41pm. Anonymous. On January 14th, 2015, at approximately 0700 hours, a peeping tom was seen on surveillance cameras between Olden and Coachway on Rocking Horse Road. The peeping tom exited the sidewalk, went up between two houses and was seen looking into a bathroom window. Peeping tom's description is as follows: approximately 5'9" to 5'10" white male wearing a green backpack, black knit hat, black overcoat, blue jeans and black shoes. Police advise that, if you see this man in the area, you should contact police immediately. Police were called and responded but, however, he was not caught. Please place this in your civic association newsletter ASAP

1-29-15 (Thurs) at 3:00pm. Not Anonymous. Received via [info@RandolphCivic.org](mailto:info@RandolphCivic.org). I'm most likely moving on to Troy Road in Randolph Hills. Can I ask if a quiet zone has been established since this article has been written? The train runs behind the homes directly across the street from my home so there is a little buffer but not much. Do the horns go all night still? <http://www.gazette.net/article/20120222/NEWS/702229590/1007/garrett-park-rockville-residents-work-toward-establishing-a-quiet&template=gazette>

2-5-15 (Thurs) at 4:32pm. Anonymous. I'm calling about [a house on] Boiling Brook Parkway. I'm a long time resident of this neighborhood; probably 25+ years. This house is a continuous problem. It's occupied probably by 10-15 people ... they have dope smokers constantly standing in front of the creek smoking marijuana. I have called the county and they have not been able to catch them. But, I want them to know that I've called immigration, I have called Montgomery County code enforcement, and I've also called environmental protection on them. They've got a car that's jacked up with half the tires off it. They've got front doors lined up against their brick wall in front of their house, all different colors, trash doors. [I'd like] the president of the association to go down there, walk in front of this house and publish an article about this. This is the kind of involvement that we want to see as residents up



here. [RCA Note: The volunteers, your neighbors, who make up the RCA thank you for bringing this to our attention and will look into it. The RCA is only as strong as the people who volunteer their time for the good of the neighborhood.]

2-7-15 (Sat) at 8:57pm. Anonymous (Because of the length of this call, the message was paraphrased): Comments about Echo article on issues some neighbors have with traffic on Schuylkill Road and the trouble they experience backing out of their driveways because of traffic. Caller says it's illegal to back out into a street. Caller suggests drivers should back into their driveways so they can drive safely into the street.

2-7-15 (Sat) at 9:03pm. Same Caller (Because of the length of this call, the message was paraphrased): Caller has lived in the neighborhood for over 50 years and has taken note of when leaves fall from trees. Sees no reason for sucking the leaves out of the street until they're all down on the ground. Wants the county to start picking leaves up once they are all off the trees.

2-7-15 (Sat) at 9:30pm. Same Caller (Because of the length of this call, the message was paraphrased): Keep your dogs in a fenced yard and keeps your cats in your house so you won't lose an unleashed animal to a traffic accident.

(Continued on Page 7)



**KAREN WOOD**  
**Piano Instruction**  
**(301) 512-8883**

*Accepting Piano  
Students of All Levels*

***Music can aide —  
Relaxation, Recreation,  
Motivation, Celebration,  
and Concentration***

Karen Wood has over 25 years of experience teaching piano to adults and children. She earned a Bachelor of Music with major in Piano and minor in Voice, and guides her students by standards of the National Guild of Piano Teachers.



## Hotline Calls

(continued from page 6)

2-11-15 (Wed), via RCA list-serve. Not Anonymous. So sorry to have missed this presentation! Were there any highlights? Are additions worth doing? Took a walk around the neighborhood lately - and about 70% of the houses look like crap. Houses and yards are not maintained. We've got "location" but that's about it. I'm really leaning toward the view that when this whole Pike & Rose and new White Flint do-over is done we are going to be considered the ghetto side of the track and lose any value we now have. What a shame.

2-17-15 (Tues), via RCA list-serve. Not Anonymous. In regards to house appearance and contractors - I'm sure contractors would love to have more business. But, not all homeowners can afford contractors. Perhaps they do not have the time either. Perhaps there are renters there, not a home owner. Perhaps they have more important health or family issues. Perhaps they work multiple jobs and lack the time to keep a standard the neighbors set. Also, perhaps they do not agree on what their neighbors deem to be an "attractive" looking yard and house. I know we try hard to maintain our house but if I had a neighbor come tell me we needed to have a contractor fix part of our property, I'd be fairly annoyed (and not do it to spite that neighbor). Unless a neighbor is in violation of a code, then it is their decision as to what their property looks like. I think it's helpful to have a list of resources available and let neighbors know help is available if they want it. But forcing our opinions on others I can't agree with. Perhaps highlight in the Echo some lovely houses in the neighborhood (use the carrot, not the stick...). I do wish home owners would upkeep their properties, but unless they are in violation, it is not my position to tell others what to do with their property.

## EDWIN LOPEZ

Insurance and Financial Services Agent

*Se Habla Español!*

3711 Plyers Mill Rd 2nd Floor  
Kensington, MD 20895

**301-990-3000**

Offering:

- Auto • Home • Life
- Mutual Funds\* • Variable Universal Life\*
- Variable Annuities\* • IRAs\* • 401(k)s\*

Securities offered through Farmers Financial Solutions, LLC. Member FINRA & SIPC.

**CALL ME TODAY!**



**friends** OF THE LIBRARY  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MD

[www.FOLMC.org](http://www.FOLMC.org) // 240-777-0020

## BOOKS, RECORDS, MOVIES, AND MORE!

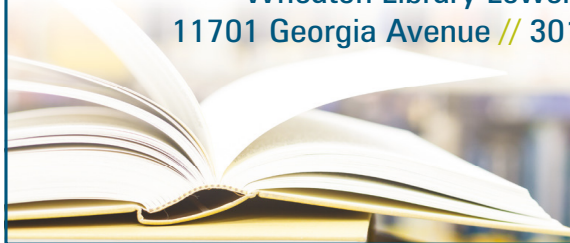
Shop at our used bookstores and give back  
to your community with every purchase.

### ROCKVILLE BOOKSTORE

Randolph Hills Shopping Center  
4886 Boiling Brook Pkwy // 301-984-3300

### WHEATON BOOKSTORE

Wheaton Library Lower Level  
11701 Georgia Avenue // 301-933-1110



# LOEHMANN'S PLAZA

5200-5290 Randolph Road • Rockville, MD 20852

## GROCERY

Safeway  
(301) 770-3665

## RESTAURANTS/ AND EATERIES

Boston Market  
(301) 984-0990

El Patio  
(301) 231-9225

Subway  
(301) 881-4672

## SPECIALTY

Chuck E. Cheese's  
(301) 468-2491

Direct Furniture  
Galleries  
(301) 770-3640

Dollar Tree  
(301) 231-6097

Flynn O'Hara Uniforms  
(301) 838-8958

Royal Martial Arts  
(301) 770-1007

Sherwin Williams  
(301) 984-7124

West Marine Store  
(301) 230-0945

## BEAUTY

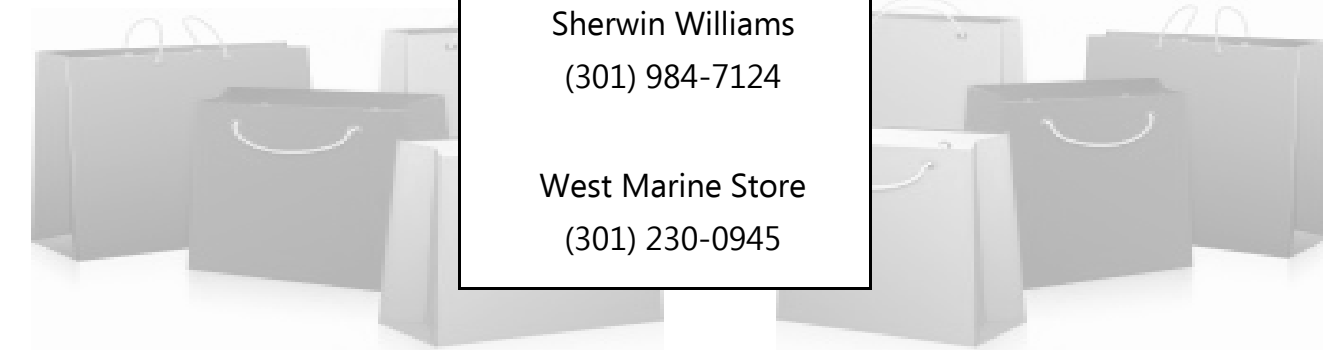
Hair Systems  
(301) 770-0358

Lifestyle Spa  
(301) 468-9770

## SERVICES

Congressional Bank  
(301) 984-6000

W.F. Tailor  
(301) 230-2299



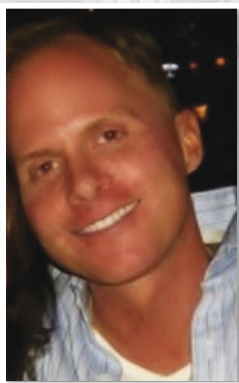


# Sell Your House in 7 Days!!!

My name is **Bache Fichter**; My **Company Round Hill Realty** is a Real Estate Investment Company, purchasing homes in need of repair in the Randolph Civic Association area. If it's time to sell, consider selling to me. Here's what my Company and I have to offer:

- We will buy your home **AS-IS**.
- **We pay top dollar!** In many cases you will net the same or more than selling with a Realtor. Many of your neighbors have sold to us. We make it very easy.
- We will close the sale on **YOUR Schedule**.
- **NO Commissions**.
- We will **PAY** your transfer and recordation **TAXES**.
- **NO Repairs, No Inspections, No appraisals** required.
- Overwhelmed about having to pack and move? Leave anything you don't want, **we will take care of it for you!**

If it's time to sell, give me a call! I'll be happy to view your home, and give you an honest opinion of its value and what I can do for you!



Call: **Bache Fichter**  
**301-602-1406**  
**[bachefichter@aol.com](mailto:bachefichter@aol.com)**

**Bache Fichter** owns and operates **Round Hill Realty LLC** a MD Real Estate Investment Company that purchases homes in your area. Bache Fichter is also a licensed Realtor in MD affiliated with **Barsch Realty LLC** (301.861.0006). This advertisement is not a solicitation to list your home for sale. Bache Fichter is not seeking listings; he is seeking homes to purchase directly from potential sellers in your area.



## Traffic Update for Cedar Lane and Rockville Pike

*Special from the Maryland State Highway Administration*

On Tuesday night, February 17, crews began shifting traffic lanes on MD 355 (Rockville Pike) for a new traffic pattern at the West Cedar Lane intersection. Traffic on MD 355 between North Drive and Locust Hill Road shifted to the west side of the road where widening of MD 355 recently took place.

While SHA will maintain three through lanes in both directions during peak travel times, drivers should remain alert for a changing traffic pattern at the intersection.

SHA recently removed the concrete median at the MD 355/Cedar Lane intersection. This work will allow crews to construct a new underground culvert beneath northbound MD 355 travel lanes. Most of this work will occur in the median of MD 355, requiring SHA to restrict left turns from northbound MD 355 to West Cedar Lane. This temporary left turn lane restriction will be in place through the remainder of the overall project.

Turning movements from West Cedar Lane onto northbound and southbound MD 355 will not be impacted by this phase of work and nearby sidewalks and trails will remain accessible. The shift was origi-

nally scheduled for January, but was postponed due to inclement weather. Later this year, all traffic will shift to the east side of the road to continue the culvert work.

The \$13.8 million intersection improvements at MD 355 and Cedar Lane involve widening northbound and southbound MD 355 (Rockville Pike) at the Cedar Lane intersection to provide new travel and turn lanes. New traffic signals will be in place at the MD 355 intersections with Wilson Drive, North Wood Road, Elmhurst Parkway and Cedar Lane. Additional improvements include sidewalk and a bike path. Weather permitting, construction will be complete in late summer 2016.

## Call for Nominations

*A Message from the RCA Board*

It's that time of year when we develop and strengthen the leadership pipeline that feeds the RCA. Every seat is elected annually except for Treasurer and Director spot which are 3-year terms. This year the position of Treasurer and one Director seat are open. The remainder of the seats (President, Vice President 1, Vice President 2, and Secretary) are also up for election and all of the people currently in those seats are eligible to run again. Please email your nominations to [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org), call the RCA hotline, or better yet show up to our RCA Executive Board meeting on March 5th at 8pm at the Viers Mill recreation Center. Thank you.

## Help Make our Community a Safer Place Become a RCA Block Captain



The RCA Safety Committee is reviving the neighborhood watch program. The goal of the program is to make our community a safer place and to increase communication regarding safety issues and other neighborhood concerns.

Becoming a Block Captain simply means joining the RCA Safety Committee email listserv and keeping an eye out for safety issues on your street.

Email [safety@randolphcivic.org](mailto:safety@randolphcivic.org) for more information and to learn how you can help.





**Pictures from the  
PRAVA Festival**

### **Pike and Rose**

*(continued from page 1)*

few. A new Sport & Health gym opened in early February as well and it is an excellent facility (in this author's opinion) and is still quite uncrowded, clean and eager to please.

And best of all, on March 6, a new performance space— an intimate 250-seat, 2,800 square foot venue – called AMP by Strathmore, will open its doors. Alt-rock musician Jay Farrar, of the bands



Son Volt and Uncle Tupelo, will be the inaugural performer, with two shows on March 6th and 7th. Other upcoming artists include Toshi Reagon on 3/8; kid-friendly band the Not-Its on 3/21; Yellow Dubmarine on 3/28; Talking Heads tribute band Psycho Killers on 5/2; the Chuck Brown Band on 6/2, plus many more. Visit the AMP website for more information and additional performers: [ampbystrathmore.com](http://ampbystrathmore.com).

So no more complaining, RCA-Land. Culture and cuisine have finally made it to the suburbs, and it's all right up the street. It's a sign of things to come for the 'Pike District', and we're going to be right next door to it.



# 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/>**

## RCF President's Message

by Ashley Salganik

The primary focus of the RCF is neighborhood beautification. We are pleased to be joining the Scouts this April for a community cleanup on Saturday April 11. The Scouts will focus on the stream and waterways with their Annual Stream Clean-Up. You have probably seen them in the past dragging out trash and litter from our local waterways and parks. While they focus on those areas, the RCF volunteers will be cleaning up the grassy areas near the roads and sidewalks throughout the neighborhood. If you have suggestions of places in our neighborhood that could use some attention during the cleanup, please let me know.

Please join us to beautify RCA-land. The more RCF volunteers we have, the more RCA territory we can cover.

There are two ways to participate. First, email me at [ashleysalganik@gmail.com](mailto:ashleysalganik@gmail.com) with suggestions for where we can focus our efforts. Second, join us at 9am on April 11th in the Randolph Hills Shopping Center Parking lot to collect your gloves, bags and assignments. Your whole family is welcome! It will be a great way to connect with your neighbors, and to keep our neighborhood a source of pride! See you on Saturday, April 11th!

## Troop 1083 News

By Shannon Finn

It's cold outside but believe it or not, spring is right around the corner so let's start getting ready! Troop 1083 conducts two major fundraisers each year: a Christmas tree sale in November-December and a mulch sale for which orders are accepted until late February. In both cases -- trees and mulch -- the troop provides free local delivery. Mulch deliveries will take place the weekend of March 13-15. We want to offer sincere thanks to all who supported us at the tree sale, and also to those who bought or will be purchasing mulch from us.

In December, Joel Garret completed his Eagle Scout service project. His project involved building a protective fence on the grounds of the University Park Church of the Brethren in Hyattsville. The grounds are adjacent to a busy street and the finished fence has already earned praise from the church's House Manager, as he reports it has made the area much safer. Great job Joel!

In late January, Troop 1083 Scouts attended the Potomac District Klondike Derby at Little Bennett Regional Park for two days and two winter nights of camping and gaming. The scouts slept out in tents and cooked outside too. Derby events included various tests of Scout craft, first aid and lifesaving knowledge and skills, and teambuilding exercises. WEBELOS II Scouts from Packs

1081, 943 and 493 joined the Troop Saturday evening for some activities, lessons in fire building and dinner onsite before returning home to their warm beds to sleep. This year's participating scouts also earned the Polar Bear patch as their camp-out occurred during overnight temperatures below 32 degrees.

In early February, Matt Olson completed the first phase of his Eagle Scout service project when he led his work crew in building the benches that will be used as the seating for an outdoor chapel on the grounds of the Church of Saint Andrew in Colesville. The second phase will be to install the benches. Stay tuned in the coming months; there will be a lot of Eagle project activity to read about!

On February 8, Scouts and their families gathered for the Winter Court of Honor (COH). All were thrilled to recognize and congratulate the Scouts on their awards and achievements! The merit badges were varied, but it looks like some good cooks are developing, as Cooking was the most popular of the many badges received. At this COH, Troop 1083 Scouts earned a total of 24 Merit Badges and six rank advancements. The nominations of six Scouts for The Order of the Arrow (Scouting's "Honor Society") were announced, along with one very special Vigil award recipient. Well done and congratulations to all!

Upcoming events include a ski trip to Ski Liberty, March WEBELOS Weekend at Cabin John Park, and whitewater rafting on the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers at Harpers Ferry. If you are a boy who has finished the fifth grade you can join us. We meet Monday nights at 7:30 at Viers Mill ES, or call

Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301-933-0048. Check out the Troop's web page at [www.troop1083.org](http://www.troop1083.org).

## RCF Board of Directors for 2014-2015

### OFFICERS

#### President

Ashley Salganik  
4818 Mori Drive  
301-468-0363  
[ashleysalganik@gmail.com](mailto:ashleysalganik@gmail.com)

#### Vice President

Michelle Canick  
11513 Ashley Drive  
[mcanick@hotmail.com](mailto:mcanick@hotmail.com)

#### Secretary

Lindsay Hoffman  
4602 Wilwyn Way  
[lindsayhoffman@aol.com](mailto:lindsayhoffman@aol.com)

#### Treasurer

Mark Nensel  
11830 Rocking Horse Rd  
301-351-1957

#### Directors

Bob Walker  
11813 Ashley Drive  
[amorworks1@aol.com](mailto:amorworks1@aol.com)

Karen Helfert  
11429 Ashley Drive  
301-468-0236

Alison Dewey  
5003 Macon Drive  
[sabaly@hotmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org) - Phone: 240-389-4723

## February Meeting

(continued from page 4)

how long does it take to add a popup (extra story to the house)? It can take about 4 – 6 months, with the permits and construction; cost 150K – 200K, depending on the job. How much and long for a back addition? About the same depending on the size of the addition, 150K – 200K and about 6 months. It should be noted that the bank does not always want to release neighborhood appraisals for new homes, so getting a loan or line of credit for adding an addition, can be tricky. It is always best to shop around.

b) MusicFest: Venue and Fundraising for 2015 (Matt Tifford) – Music Fest is May 3rd, 2015. We are researching different venues. Pizza CS is larger, compared to Mem Sahib Restaurant and located on Rockville Pike. However Pizza CS is not really in the neighborhood. Maybe we should look at MusicFest as a fun activity instead of a Fundraising event. Lowering the prices would encourage more people to attend. Another venue is El Patio at Loehmann's Plaza. The RCA could have the whole place from 2-5pm for \$1,200. Or we could do a Brunch Music Fest from 11- 2pm. There was a general consensus to look more closely at Loehmann's Plaza and not make it a fundraising event [the RCA Board will make a final vote on the MusicFest venue at the March 5th Board Meeting].

c) White Flint 2: No new news.

### Standard Business and Reports: Committee Chair Reports

#### Education Committee (Amber Tedesco)

a) Joshua Starr will be stepping down from Montgomery County Public Schools Superintendent as of February 16, 2015.

b) The county schools are under a hiring freeze. They are trying to reserve money for the 2015-2016 school year. This will mean if a position is open at your child's school there won't be a permanent teacher until 2015/2016 school year. The slot will be filled with short/ long term subs.

c) Board of Education held 2 hearings regarding "bell times" on 01/22/15. Written feedback was due on 02/02/15. Any change will be approved by the Board at their 02/10/15 meeting [Postscript: On February 10th, the school board voted to change school starting and ending times in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) for the 2015-2016 school year—moving middle and high school start times 20 minutes later and elementary school start times 10 minutes later. This change will not affect the order in which students go to school, but will lengthen the elementary school day by 10 minutes, making it 6 hours and 25 minutes. The additional 10 minutes will only be used for lunch or recess].

d) Viers Mill Elementary School will have to go

through the same process as last year for a principal. Montgomery County has changed their procedures regarding the hiring of principals and all (including the incumbent) will have to apply for the position and be approved.

e) Wheaton High School is slated to be finished with construction in 2015. It is not clear if the school will be ready for the 2015-2016 school year.

Safety Committee (Mara Greengrass) – Recommends avoiding Cedar Lane and Old Georgetown Rd. due to construction in the area.

Treasurer (Dan Hoffman) – The last of the membership drive money is in. We paid for three ECHOs already and our balance in the bank account is \$24,950.52. We still have five more ECHOs to pay for which are \$5,000/each. We have an accountant to file our taxes this year. The Treasurer position will be open with the new slate for the RCA board members which will be announce at the next meeting in March 2015. New positions that will be open are Treasurer, Director, etc. Please consider running for the RCA board.

The Montrose Christian School Re-zoning Application Hearing: The hearing was moved from the end of January to April 24, 2015.

RCA Meeting Adjournment: 9:20pm



*Rosa's Beauty Salon*  
For Men & Women  
4804 Boiling Brook Parkway, Rockville MD 20852

**Rosa San Martin**  
Hairstylist

Open Tues-Sat  
(301) 770-7171  
(240) 888-9287  
Appointments Only  
Prevía Cita Necesaria

Shampoo Sets  
Haircuts  
Highlights  
Colors  
Perms

Permanent Makeup  
Lip Liner, Eyeliner  
Eyebrows  
Curling Lashes  
Wax



## LANDSCAPES PLUS

Landscape Installation and Design  
Landscape Consultations  
Yard Cleanups, Mulching, Woodchips  
Lawn Renovation-Seeding,  
Fertilizing Shrub Pruning and Removal  
Perennial-Annual Gardens

**AVI CHERTOCK**  
(301) 593-0577

Landscapesplus@hotmail.com  
www.Landscapesplus.com



## 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.*

**BEST BUDDIES PETSITTING SERVICE:** Going out of town? Need your dog to be walked daily? Have a cat that needs to be boarded? Well we are a home away from home providing the best loving care for your pet depending on your needs. We board cats and dogs and we do not crate them. We have a fenced-in quarter acre lot right here in Randolph Hills! Dogs get two 30 minute walks daily and all animals get breakfast and dinner; we provide the food! Between walks, there is plenty of playtime. Prices reasonable and our schedule is setup to meet your needs. Pickup and drop-off service is provided if needed. Any medications can and will be administered. We are bonded and insured. Call Danny Beigel at: 240.654.0694 or go to [www.bestbuddiespetsitting.com](http://www.bestbuddiespetsitting.com) email us at [bestbuddiespetsitting@hotmail.com](mailto:bestbuddiespetsitting@hotmail.com)

**WATERCOLOR CLASSES.** Learn to paint in nearby Garrett Park! Small, informal classes for adults. All levels welcome, including complete beginners. Held in teacher's Victorian home. Martha Seigel, MFA, the American University, over 30 years experience. Call 301-946-5388.

**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](mailto:nikki.forry@gmail.com).

**Alterations and Sewing, Knitting, & Crocheting**  
30 years of experience reasonable.  
Call Kathy # 301-943-4014

# FREE CONSULTATION & EVALUATION Elite Athlete Training Services

#### E.A.T.S. Offers Performance Training For

- Strength & Conditioning
- Speed & Agility Training
- Post Rehabilitation & Injury Prevention
- General Fitness & Wellness

#### E.A.T.S. Offers Programs Designed For

- Middle School Athletic Development
- High School Athletic Development
- College & Pro Athletic Development
- Adult Recreational Athletic Development



## CONTACT US TODAY!

### E.A.T.S. Performance Center

4980 Boiling Brook Parkway Rockville MD. 20852

[www.EliteAthleteTraining.com](http://www.EliteAthleteTraining.com) / 240-498-9647

***SUPERIOR TRAINING... DOMINATING PERFORMANCE!***

*Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, Franklin Park  
and Montrose Park Market Update...*

<u>Address...</u>	<u>List Price</u>	<u>Sold Price</u>	<u>DOM</u>	<u>Subsidy</u>	<u>Date Settled</u>
4608 Olden Road	\$399,000	\$388,000	56	\$7,000	10-Dec-14
4811 Boiling Brook Pkwy	\$350,000	\$350,000	72	\$10,000	11-Dec-14
12106 Lauderdale Dr	\$432,900	\$432,900	73	\$12,987	12-Dec-14
11229 Ashley Dr	\$375,000	\$375,000	8	\$7,500	19-Dec-14
11804 Timber Lane	\$304,900	\$300,000	39	\$11,363	22-Dec-14
11501 Monongahela Dr	\$384,500	\$377,000	49	\$0	22-Dec-14
4709 Creek Shore Dr	\$389,900	\$380,000	14	\$0	22-Dec-14
11327 Schuylkill Rd	\$370,000	\$370,000	53	\$5,000	29-Dec-14
12106 Hunters Lane	\$407,500	\$390,000	70	\$0	5-Jan-15
11812 Timber Lane	\$372,500	\$370,000	108	\$0	6-Jan-15
4815 Creek Shore Dr	\$325,000	\$315,000	21	\$10,000	30-Jan-15
4604 Wilwyn Way	\$412,000	\$412,000	10	\$0	30-Jan-15
4713 Olden Road	\$349,900	\$330,000	120	\$0	3-Feb-15



*Spring is just around the corner!*



*If you're thinking of selling or buying a home this year,  
call Denise for advice, timing and marketing strategies.*

*Denise has twenty-five years of experience as a realtor in the area.*

*Now is a good time to sell...inventory is low. There are only 61 listings  
for sale in the 20852 zip code priced below \$600,000...  
and only 5 of these are single family homes.*

**Denise**  
**Szczur**  
**301-452-5544**



Long and Foster Realtors

(O) 301-468-0606

(C) 301-452-5544

email: Denise.Szczur@LNF.com

website: DeniseSzczur.LNF.com



*"Professional Service with a Personal Touch"*

