

The ECHO

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association

Volume 59, Issue 4

January/February 2016

Why the RCA Matters for our Community

by Matthew Tifford

My wife and I moved into this neighborhood in the winter of 1998, and then in 2002 adopted our first child. It was this event, becoming parents, that drew our attention to the incredibly poor condition of our neighborhood playgrounds. In particular, Randolph Hills Local Park and Viers Mill Local Park, which are within an easy walk from our home. Because of their poor condition, we would end up driving to other neighborhoods where the park play equipment was in better repair. Since we were always out finding playgrounds, we also witnessed playgrounds that despite already being in much better condition than ours, were getting renovated with new equipment. All the while ours continued to deteriorate.

Perplexed by what I saw, I contacted the Department of Parks to find out when our playgrounds' equipment was slated for replacement. I was shocked to discover that while they did have a 10 year plan for playgrounds to be replaced, our parks were not on the list.

The short version of this story is that with the help of the Randolph Civic Association, I was able to organize a letter writing campaign and not only got us on the list but move us right to the top, for both playgrounds. Within a couple years, both parks received new playground equipment and many other upgrades.

In this county it is certainly true that the squeaky wheel gets the grease. But more importantly it's important to understand that wheels that do not squeak get nothing. If we hadn't taken action, and hadn't had a recognized and active civic association behind us, it is entirely possible that even now over a decade later, we would still have the same dilapidated playgrounds and parks that we had back then.

The same kind of story has unfolded again and again in our community, with different problems and lead by other motivated volunteers. It is easy to take your civic organiza-

tion for granted, assuming that your community is the way it is naturally or by chance. But the reality is that without our civic association our community would be a very different place.

Over the years, the RCA has worked to improve pedestrian safety, prevent crime and lobby for our interests in the White Flint Sector Plan. Because of our civic, we now have double the number of street lights, and a former garbage dumping area is now the beautiful Waverly-Schuylkill Park. Every year, the RCA along with our sister organization RCF, run numerous social events - for fun, community education, and beautification and cleanup efforts.

But it is entirely possible that we could one day soon lose our civic association from lack of participation and support.

This would truly be a tragedy for our community. While it's not hard to keep a successful organization like this going, it is extremely difficult to get one started. If we let it go, it likely will be gone for good. Let's not allow that to happen.

Please remember to support your civic by sending in your membership form and payment. We need your contributions, and just as importantly, your participation. Hope to see you at the next meeting on February 4!

**STILL INSIDE ON PAGE 9:
THE 2015-2016 RCA
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM!
PLEASE SEND IN YOURS IN TODAY!
WE ARE PROVIDING A PRE-ADDRESSED
ENVELOPE THIS TIME!**

**RCA ELECTIONS ARE COMING SOON.
PLEASE CONSIDER RUNNING FOR A POSITION
ON THE RCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.
VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! HELP TO RUN
YOUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION!**

Upcoming Events

RCA General Meeting: Thursday February 4, Veirs Mill Rec Center

RCF Adopt-a-Road Boiling Brook Pkwy. Cleanup: Sat. February 20, 9am, Randolph Hills Shopping Ctr.

Community Spring Cleanup: Saturday, April 16, 9am-noon, Randolph Hills Shopping Center

RCA Community Bazaar/Yard Sale: Saturday, May 7, 8am-1pm, Loehmann's Plaza

RCA President's Message: January/February 2016

by Brian Hooker, RCA President

Neighbors, the past couple months have continued to be quite busy for the Civic Association. Issues that we continue to work on include the Montrose Baptist Church development, White Flint 2 Sector Plan development, and issues concerning our public schools. Regarding the Montrose Baptist Church development, the RCA testified on December 11 in support of the application before the County's Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings. Thank you to neighbors on Macon, Hunter's, and Randolph Road that took time out of their busy schedules to come out to the hearing. The RCA was able to support the application by working with the developer and neighbors to identify concerns and means to address them. Montrose Church filed a covenant with the RCA in the application to limit the number of units on the site to 109. Without the covenant the zoning (RT-15) requested by the developer would have allowed for up to 130 units. The developer also testified at the hearing that they would not open Macon Road to any through traffic. The judge approved the rezoning application on January 15. The full transcript and judgement of the case is online (<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OZAH/reports.html>).

Regarding the White Flint 2 Sector Plan, the RCA continues to be active in helping shape how development in the White Flint 2 Sector should look. Most recently the RCA sent a letter to Interim Superintendent Larry Bowers requesting that they seriously consider turning the use of the Rocking Horse Road Center as an urban recreational park. This was an idea that originally came from a commercial property owner who believed, as do I, that it made no sense to have County offices in a residential neighborhood when there is vacant office space on Executive Boulevard. This situation was made all the more absurd when MCPS revealed that they commissioned a cost estimate to change an office building into a middle school in the WJ Cluster. It would cost the County between \$59-65 million to do that (see: Bethesda Beat, January 8th). As the Echo is going to press we have not received a response from MCPS regarding the long-term future of Rocking Horse Center. Also, regarding Rocking Horse Center, the RCA is pleased to announce that due to the tireless efforts of the neighbors and the RCA, the portable classroom trailers that showed

up unannounced in July, have now been dismantled and are ready to be towed off site this week. We are happy with this outcome but disappointed in the waste of taxpayer money by MCPS. Regarding the parking situation at the Center, we have received a copy of the parking lot concept plan from the County's Department of Permitting Services. However, MCPS has still not told us their intent or timetable for parking lot construction despite several inquiries sent to the Center's Director.

The RCA is also glad to hear that the new Wheaton High School successfully opened to students when they returned from winter break. If you live in RCA-land and attend Wheaton H.S., or are a parent of a student at Wheaton H.S., the RCA would love to hear how the transition is going and your thoughts on the new building. Please send me an email and we'll put your article in the next Echo newsletter. The RCA is very thankful of neighbor George Gadbois in his work with the Wheaton H.S. and helping to ensure that construction remained a County priority. Also, while on the subject of schools, MCPS is sponsoring a series of roundtable meetings regarding the over-crowding in the Walter Johnson (WJ) high school cluster. The first meeting was January 20th and the next will be on May 11th. The outcomes of these meetings will directly affect Montrose Park residents and could impact the rest of RCA-land depending on the outcome of discussions regarding the reopening of Woodward High School which was closed in 1987 before the "Downcounty Consortium" was established.

Lastly, I'd like to appeal to neighbors to renew their memberships to the Civic Association. Over the past few months I have come to realize just how important civic associations are in having a say in County matters regarding everything from public schools to future commercial and residential development. I firmly believe that the work of the civic associations like the RCA contribute meaningfully to the residents that it represents. For the RCA the most meaningful product is this Echo newsletter that is delivered to over 1,300 homes in RCA-land to ensure we are all able to keep informed about issues that impact our lives. So I urge you to please renew your membership so we can keep this newsletter and events like Community Day and MusicFest alive and well. Many thanks to the few hundred that have already renewed. My sincere thanks goes to each of you.

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

Randolph Hills Sales

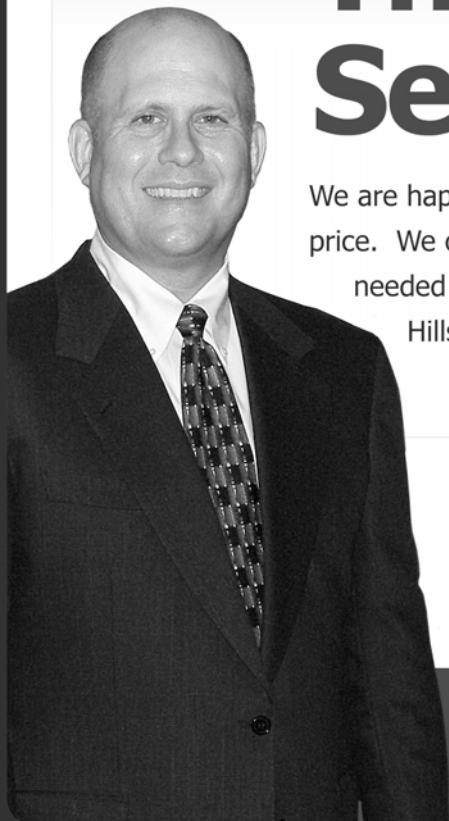
January 2016 Update

Last 10 Sales

Status	Address	Beds	Baths	Listed	Sold	Sold Date	Seller Help
Sold	11710 Rocking Horse Rd	4	2	\$399,900	\$395,000	12/11/2015	\$5,000
Sold	10913 Troy Rd	4	3	\$348,997	\$335,000	12/7/2015	\$4,500
Sold	4710 Wilwyn Way	3	2	\$415,000	\$410,000	11/13/2015	\$11,500
Sold	4716 Oxbow Rd	3	2	\$399,000	\$399,000	10/27/2015	\$6,000
Sold	4812 Creek Shore Dr	4	2	\$412,000	\$407,500	9/25/2015	\$0
Sold	4603 Coachway Dr	3	2	\$369,900	\$370,000	9/18/2015	\$11,000
Sold	11203 Ashley Dr	5	3.5	\$449,900	\$445,000	9/17/2015	\$700
Sold	4611 Olden Rd	4	3	\$379,900	\$360,000	9/11/2015	\$0
Sold	4619 Olden Rd	3	2	\$330,000	\$340,000	9/10/2015	\$5,750
Sold	11704 Rocking Horse Rd	3	1.5	\$315,000	\$315,000	8/25/2015	\$0

Thinking About Selling in 2016?

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January 7, 2016 RCA Executive Meeting Minutes

By Diane LaGrega Bertocchi

Call to Order – Brian Hooker called the meeting to order at 8:10pm.

Old Business

Sign Insurance – It was voted, approved, and the policy has been paid. It is highly recommended that we photograph and label photographs of all six “Randolph Hills” signs for insurance reasons.

2016 Membership Drive – Only 163 households have signed up for membership with the RCA, so far this year. This is a very low number. The January & February 2016 ECHO will be delivered with a colored return envelope, so neighbors are able to easily mail in their membership form with their dues. Envelopes were not originally included in ECHO with the membership form. Nell Rumbaugh will send another e-mail reminder in January 2016 to RCA members listed membership sign up from last year. Mark Nensel has the printer that will print the return address on the colored envelopes, to save money on printing costs.

New Business

Approval of Letter to Interim MCPS President Regarding Rocking Horse Center

Brian Hooker makes a motion to approve the letter. Mara Greengrass seconds. Passes.

Music Fest 2016 Committee – Matt Tifford spoke with 7 Locks Brewing, located at 12227 Wilkins Ave Rockville MD 20852, regarding hosting the event. The 7 Locks Brewing is very interested. The RCA will be able to collect donations at the event, but will not sell tickets. People will attend the event, enjoy the music, and pay for their own beer. There will be root beer for children and a food truck. Matt Tifford will organize the musicians for Music Fest. Amber Tedesco recommends a Saturday early evening; either April 30th or May 7th or Sunday May 1st, 2016. Matt Tifford will check the dates with 7 Locks Brewing.

New (old) budget item – The RCA maintains web hosting (\$50) and back-up service (\$55) per year for a total web budget of \$105/year, paid at the end of the year. Expenses for 2015 will be due immediately if accepted by the RCA Board. Brian Hooker makes a motion that the RCA pays for web hosting and back-up service on an annual basis. Amber Tedesco seconds. Passes. Budget Status Update - The membership numbers for calendar year 2015 are 163. RCA is financially sound, but membership is low for this time of year.

RCA Board slate of candidates - Elections are in April. The positions that will be opened for the upcoming year are President, Secretary, Vice President 1 & 2 and one Director. The RCA board is calling for nominations for the RCA board. If anyone is interested please contact the RCA.

Tax Update – Brian Hooker and Mara Greengrass

reviewed all the tax forms, spoke with the IRS, and filed the necessary tax forms for the past year. The RCA should be now be update on their tax filing. The RCA should be able to file taxes by the “postcard form” for the upcoming tax year 2015-2016, instead of using the long tax form.

Speaker for the Next Meeting: Brian Hooker recommend having Officer Janey, D1 Community Liaison Officer, and maybe Parks patrolman, to speak about safety. Matt Tifford recommends having a speaker come and talk about bowing hunting deer to help control the deer population in the area.

Standard Business and Reports

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – Brian Hooker makes a motion to approve the December 2015 minutes. Mara Greengrass seconds. All in favor – Passes with minor edits.

RCA Meeting Adjournment: Brian Hooker makes a motion to adjourn at 9:25pm. Amber Tedesco seconds. Passes.

Call 311 To Get It Done! montgomerycountymd.gov/311

Did you know that Montgomery County's 311 service has a Request Language Translation service? They do! MC311 Customers can make their request in any language spoken anywhere in the world.

Solicitar ayuda de traducción? Los clientes que prefieren hacer negocios con el condado de Montgomery, en un idioma que no sea Inglés puede solicitar ayuda de traducción. El Centro de Servicio al Cliente MC311 ofrece un servicio de interpretación de idiomas con más de 150 idiomas disponibles. Después de llamar al 311, presione 1, para español, o permanezca en la línea para el próximo representante de servicio al cliente que este disponible para pedir conducir la llamada en el idioma de su elección. Nuestro servicio de traducción estará disponible para usted.

Top Services offered include: 1. Ride On Real Time Arrival Information, 2. Requests to Discuss Property Tax Bill 3. Bulk Trash Pick-Up Request 4. Schedule DPS Building Construction Related Permitting Inspections 5. 22 Gallon Bin (Bottles/Cans/Jars Recycling). 6. Scrap Metal Pick-Up Request, 7. Ride On Trip Planning. 8. Name and Telephone Number of DPS Building Inspector. 9. Tax Payment Methods. 10. MANNA Food Center Referral. 11. Affordable Health Care Act or Health Care Reform. 12. 22 Gallon Bin Pick-up (Bottles/Cans/Jars Recycling). 13. Permit, Plan Review or Inspection Status. 14. Landlord Tenant (LT) Complaints, Disputes or Issues. 15. Information Printed on the Tax Bill. 16. Reporting a Dead Animal Along the Roadway. 17. Holiday Schedule for County Provided Trash & Recycling Collection. 18. How To Recycle/Dispose of Solid Waste. 19. Transfer Station Questions (Montgomery County). 20. Police Department Most Frequently Requested Phone Numbers. 21. Leaf Vacuum Program Information. 22. Field Check Required for Division of Solid Waste Services. 23. Department of Permitting Services Location and Hours of Operation.



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**Please recycle this Echo properly when you
 have finished reading it! Thank you!**

RCA Executive Committee and Committee Chairs for 2015-2016

OFFICERS:

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

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

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

Secretary
 Diane LaGrega Bertocchi
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 (Primary Contact for Media
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Education Committee
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 12114 Otis Drive
 301-641-2946

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

Webmaster
 Chad Salganik
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 202-359-6158

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 For more info contact
 safety@randolphcivic.org

External Affairs Committee
 Mark Nensel
 11830 Rocking Horse Rd
 301-351-1957
Ways and Means Committee
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NEXT RCA MEETINGS:

**RCA General Community Meeting,
 Thursday February 4, 8pm**

**RCA Executive Board Meeting,
 Thursday March 3, 8pm**

**RCA Meetings are held at the Veirs Mill
 Rec Center, near the corner of Garrett
 Park Road and Beach Drive.**

**Community members are welcome at
 all meetings.**

The Holidays in RCA-Land 2015

On this page, a collection of photos from our community carolers' adventures in December 2015, plus proof that Santa really did visit our neighborhood on December 22, 2015.



Thank You, and Good Will To All!

by Christiana Drapkin

My Christmas pounds are melting away slowly. But what I've gained and don't care to lose are my sweet and heartfelt memories of our seventh year, going holiday caroling through our neighborhood.

Thank you, dear neighbors, now friends, for having thrown caution to the wind – maybe for the first time, or for the seventh year in a row. Thank you for risking to look a bit ridiculous in the eyes for some unforgiving teenager, sporting blinking lights, reindeer antlers, elf hats. Thank you for singing with gusto, not shying away from that high note, launching into all verses of Twelve Days of Christmas. Thank you, parents for keeping your kids out on a school night, euphoric on a mix of sugar cookies and roaming around together in the dark. And thank you, for your gracious notes, letting me know, that you or your little ones are by now really counting on this homespun holiday tradition that we've started here in Randolph Hills.

Thank you, Charlene Schramm, for revising our song book which has grown to an impressive 40 pages, including Hanukkah songs, and more songs in Spanish which we'll nail by next Christmas, I'm sure. I am also grateful to the RCF for funding part of our printing costs of our song booklets. We re-use as many as we can each year.

Logistics can be quite a challenge: getting the word out, inviting not only our regulars but encouraging new participants! We never know what the weather might do, who's getting the sniffles, or who's staying home with the winter blahs. And it's not always easy to find volunteer families close to each other, who host us at the start and at the end of our outings, to make it easier for all of us to get back home safely. So my extra big thanks go out to our hosts, some of whom have invited us back year after year. How nice of you to open your doors, ply us with hot cocoa and cookies, and take us in, twenty, thirty or more, all with good cheer: Katie and Chris

Slye-Griffin, hosting us five years in a row already in Franklin Park! Kara MacWilliams and her huge mountain dogs! Michelle and Tom Canick and their son Paul, I've lost track of the years! Eric Wisotzky and Nell Rumbaugh and their sweet daughter Ava, complete with accordion accompaniment by Nell's aunt! Sara and Grant Hegge with their cool space-age tree!

And thank you, my sweet partner in all things creative, Bob Walker, who's started up the caroling outings with me, the installer of our street signs, the holder of the jingle bells, the keeper of dropped gloves,

the distributor of song sheets, and the cheerful cleaner-upper after another mad, fun Advent night out! I love you.

Christmas Toy Drive a Success

by Ashley Salganik

For the third year in a row, RCA partnered with Linkages to Learning to provide gifts for local children from our neighborhood elementary school. We collected gifts for 21 children, exceeding our participation from the last two years. Thank you to the generosity of our neighbors, it was very much appreciated.



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WJHS Roundtable Meeting Jan. 20, 2016 Notes

by Ilana Brunner

On Wednesday, January 20th, the Montgomery County Public Schools Division of Long-range Planning held its first public information meeting on the process of the Walter Johnson Cluster Roundtable Discussion Group. The meeting was run by Deborah Szyfer, a Senior Planner in the Division of Long-range Planning. Ms. Szyfer gave a short slide-show presentation followed by a question and answer session.

Ms. Szyfer explained that due to turnover and redevelopment within the cluster, there are current and/or projected deficits of classroom seats in Walter Johnson High School as well as the middle and elementary schools. She went over the deficits and they can be found in her slide show (see below for link). She explained that the purpose of the roundtable is to examine options and opportunities to add classrooms, and she emphasized that the charge is to do this within the cluster boundaries. The roundtable is charged with coming up with many approaches of how to do this and analyze what each means, including pros and cons, examining the size of schools, and the impact on educational quality. She said that the roundtable would look for both short and long term solutions, possibly even 10-15 years into the future. She said that conceptually there may be discussion of the need for additional schools within the cluster, but the boundary process (even within the cluster) is a different process and therefore the roundtable will not conduct any boundary discussions. Finally, she emphasized that the roundtable plays an advisory role; it does not make recommendations or decisions. It will present the options to the (interim or new) Superintendent, who will then propose a solution to the Board of Education pursuant to the established timeline, and the final decision rests with the Board.

Ms. Szyfer's slide show and the roundtable meeting schedule/timeline can be found on the MCPS website at: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/roundtable.aspx>. There you can also find a general description of MCPS' roundtable process and the BOE charge for a Walter Johnson cluster roundtable.

All meetings will be open to the public; however, roundtable meetings will be limited to verbal participation by roundtable members and invited speakers, except perhaps the last 5 minutes, which might be open to the public for questions. The website will be updated after each meeting with information about what transpired at the meeting, and it is the best way to stay informed.

The schedule mentions but does not yet have dates for "School PTA meetings to share approaches and gather feedback." Each school in the cluster is supposed to have such a meeting, and they are intended for the community in general and not just PTA members. Ms. Szyfer suggested following up with PTA presidents

to find out when meetings will be held.

In addition, according to Ms. Szyfer, MCPS will be developing a Google survey that it will put on its website for members of the community to evaluate and comment on the various approaches.

Ms. Szyfer also suggested that schools/PTAs submit position papers for consideration on the approaches.

Ms. Szyfer advised that anyone who does not like the recommendation submitted by the Superintendent to the Board of Education for consideration (in approximately mid-October 2016) should speak with Board members immediately after the recommendation is submitted.

Additional dates of note:

The Montgomery County Council is holding hearings on February 9th and 11th to discuss the FY17 Capital Budget and FY17-22 Capital Improvements Program, including education/schools. These will be followed by Education Committee meetings.

The Montgomery County Planning Department will meet on February 18th to discuss its Subdivision Staging Policy as part of its effort to update the policy by the end of the year. The Subdivision Staging Policy's purpose is to ensure that public facilities and infrastructure, including schools, grow to match the needs of the community as it undergoes growth and new development. More information can be found at: http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/research/subdivision_staging_policy/.

The second public information meeting on approaches for the Walter Johnson Cluster Roundtable is set for May 11 in the WJHS cafeteria at 7:00 p.m.

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2015-2016 RCA Membership

Please return this form to:
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As a resident of a home within the boundaries of the Randolph Civic Association (RCA), we request that you renew your membership. Your membership dues allow us to publish the Echo, beautify, protect and advocate for our community. Please fill out the following form by printing clearly:

Name:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	

All email addresses and all name/contact information are kept entirely private.
RCA does not rent, lease, sell or divulge any email addresses, names, or phone numbers.

Description	Amount
2015-2016 RCA Membership Dues	10.00
Additional RCA Donation (Supports publication of the Echo, advocacy, community events, and other civic improvements)	
Additional Randolph Civic Foundation (RCF) Donation (Supports activities such as youth groups, neighborhood beautification, and education - This amount is tax-deductible)	
RCF Sign and Entrance Beautification Fund (A targeted donation for improvements to our neighborhood entrances - This amount is tax-deductible)	
Please note: Make checks payable to the Randolph Civic Association.	Total:

Would you be interested in helping as a volunteer?

- ☐ Yes, please contact me by email
☐ Yes, please contact me by phone

¿Quisiera tener mas noticias en español?

- ☐ ¡Sí!

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What does your membership support?

Your membership allows us to continue producing and delivering the Echo and delivering it to your home, conduct the Neighborhood Watch, run our email list, continue our ongoing advocacy efforts, and that's just the beginning. Your membership and donations help create a strong community and improve our quality of life.



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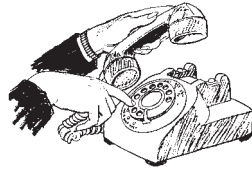
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For leasing opportunities, please contact: Bob Schwenger or Chris Wilkinson

The RCA Hotline

240-668-4722 (4RCA)

Calls Received November 16, 2015 through January 19, 2016.



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.

Nov. 16, 9:25 am; Not Anonymous: Hello, this is XXX. I live on Topping Road. I was wondering if it has ever been considered to continue the street [Macon Road] that runs down in front of the Rocking Horse Center. Specifically, has it ever been considered to continue that street onto into the Safeway parking lot. It sure would be convenient to the people in Randolph Hills. I'm sure it's been considered, just wanted to know if there is a reason for it not being so. Thank you.

RCA Response: Thank you for your question. The short answer is that the end of Macon was once connected to Putnam Road. However, with the development of Loehmann's Plaza and Montrose Church, residents requested that the road be closed in order to reduce the amount of traffic and it has been closed ever since. During a recent White Flint 2 meeting County planners asked if the RCA would support connecting a road behind the now closed Safeway. The RCA opposed the suggestion. The bottom line is that until the flow of traffic on Randolph Road and Nicolson/Parklawn improves there is no incentive for residents to open up neighborhood roads to be abused for cut-through traffic like Rocking Horse Road and Boiling Brook are currently abused during rush hour. The RCA strongly supports bicycle and pedestrian access connecting RCA-land to points further west.

Dec. 1, 2:03pm; Anonymous: Hello, I wanted to report that my dog was bitten by another dog on the street on Forestvale Drive and the intersection of Brentford Drive [Montrose Park]. I don't know the dog's owner it happened on Saturday, September 26th at about 5:30 p m and I would like to when you know that the dog be very careful and that everyone else be careful of that dog. Thank you bye bye.

RCA Response: Thank you for reporting this issue to the RCA. If this pet continues to be a concern please call Montgomery County 511. They will connect to animal control. If you continue to have issues finding a

solution let the RCA know and we can look into additional remedies.

Dec. 22, 9:21am; Not Anonymous: I realize this is a free, volunteer event and you can't cover every inch of the area but this is the second year in a row that this has happened. My four and eight year old heard the sirens of Santa on the fire engine and eagerly awaited his arrival just to wave. They played and waited patiently outside as they heard the sirens gradually come closer and closer to Olden, along with several other children on the street, only to see the fire engine drive right past the end of Olden on its way to another street. We thought perhaps Santa would come back along our road on his way back and after waiting outside for more than hour with no luck, my children decided to go in and watch from the window and hope. Still no Santa and at 4:30 we finally gave up. Please for those of us who look forward to this great thing you do every year, either provide a more detailed map of Santa's route so we can wait for him on a street he does travel upon, or have one of Santa's helpers see if there are children on the street you might skip. They were outside, waiting, and tried to wave as Santa sped by.

RCA Response: First, as the father of three young girls who go rushing outside at the faintest sound of the siren, I understand your frustration. Boy Scout Troop 1083, supported by the RCF and RCA, along with the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department put this event together every year. After receiving your email I contacted the Troop to let them know that Olden was missed. The most I can do is work with them to ensure that they don't miss any roads. However, I don't believe they have a prescribed route and on sometimes make mistakes. Again, apologies and we hope that it won't happen again next year.

Dec. 26, 12:12pm; Anonymous: Hi, I'm calling from XXXX Ashley Drive, and I wish to remain anonymous, and I'm calling trying to give a neighbor on Coachway a heads up that some of us are more than a little tired of hearing their dog bark for 3, or 4, or 5 hours at a time. It's warm out, but if this continues when it's cold out some of us have decided to call the humane society and just hope they see the message or somebody can get a message to them since they're not being very good pet parents and not very good neighbors. Thank you.

RCA Response: Thank you for submitting your comment. We hope by printing this message that the owner of the dog will work to be considerate of his neighbors in regards to his pet. Unfortunately, pet ownership is often more difficult than many people realize at the beginning. As I write this the County announced that due to the extremely cold weather that they will be enforcing regulations that state that "a person must not tether a dog under circumstances that endanger its health, safety, or well-being including: untended tethering of the dog during a weather emergency." The enforcement of this regulation is put into effect during periods of high heat and humidity, and during conditions of extreme cold, wind, and heavy snow which can all be damaging to dogs and other animals. If you see an animal left outside that appears to be in danger, please call the Animal Services Division immediately at 301-279-8000.

RCF President's Message - January/February 2016

by Ashley Salganik

Happy New Year, neighbors. The holiday season has now passed, and I'm hopeful that you were able to spend some time with friends and family. We may not be outside as often in the colder months, but litter doesn't seem to take a break. Neighborhood beautification is one of RCF's central missions. The next time you're out for a stroll on a sunny day, please grab a trash bag and fill it along the way.

While you get your calendars started for 2016, I will ask you to pencil in some upcoming events. Please put the following dates on your calendar to remind you to come out and support the Randolph Civic Foundation in the coming months.

April 16th - the RCF will team up with our area Scout Troops to do a big spring cleanup in our neighborhood. Please come out to help spruce up our neighborhood. If there are certain places in our neighborhood that could use some special attention, please email me at ashley-salganik@gmail.com.

June 2nd - More info will be coming, but please mark this date on your calendar to come out for a free pasta dinner at the Veirs Mill Rec Center.

I hope you stay warm through the next few months. I know I am already counting down to the spring and warmer weather.

Venture Crew 1083 News

By Ben Pitkin, Corresponding Secretary

The Klondike Derby is an annual winter Scouting event for the Potomac District of the National Capital Area Council. If you are a regular reader of the Troop and Crew 1083 articles, then (a) you already knew that, and (b) you are an attractive, intelligent, and all-around good person. Each year in mid-January, Troops and Crews from across the district gather at Little Bennett Regional Park in Clarksburg for two days and two chilly nights of camping and gaming. Participants sleep out in tents and they cook and eat their meals outside, too. Derby events include various tests of Scout-craft, first aid and lifesaving techniques, and teamwork in problem-solving. The skills competition takes place at each of about 20 stations scattered around the park; teams must complete the assigned task at a given station, then hustle to the next station using a conveyance they built beforehand (it's sort of a cross between a sled and a chariot—and preferably a "convertible," in case snow is a distinct possibility but not a sure thing). The Klondike is

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

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

quite literally no day at the beach: Completing every station in the allotted time is, by design, next to impossible.

On January 16th, teams from about 80 Troops and Crews competed in the 2016 Derby. Venture Crew 1083's team christened themselves the Lumpy Nachos. The Nachos of Lumpiness were able to complete 18 of the 20 stations, which enabled them to finish the competition in seventh place—that's right, they finished in the top 10%. Do you want to know how they came to be called the Lumpy Nachos? No, you probably do not.

The Klondike's closing ceremonies were particularly memorable for one team member. Nathaniel Harley was notified that his fellow Scouts had selected him to be a candidate for the Order of the Arrow. That's a high honor, and a sign of the respect his colleagues have for him!

Venturing is open to coed youth aged 14 through 20. The Crew meets at 7:30 pm every Monday night that schools are open during the school year; meetings are 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.

Please consider making an extra donation to the **Randolph Civic Foundation** this year.

Mail your membership form to
Randolph Civic Association,
PO Box 2202, North Bethesda, MD

Troop 1083 News

By Ben Pitkin

The Troop 1083 family extends its gratitude to the many friends and neighbors who supported us during our successful Christmas tree sale in November and December. It's always nice to see the familiar faces of our repeat customers, to meet new customers, and to greet old friends who stop by just to say hello. We truly appreciate the support we receive from the community!

The weekend before Thanksgiving, the Scouts went up to the mountains east of Gettysburg for their annual cabin campout. The theme was training: Trail to First Class for the newest Scouts; Junior Leader training, for those a little bit older; Outdoor Leader Skills for those older still; and adult leader training—you know, for the really old guys.

Also in November, Devon Rappaport passed his Eagle Board of Review, and thereby cleared the last hurdle in the long climb to Scouting's highest rank. Devon's accomplishment was the exclamation point to a year that saw a new record set for the number of Troop 1083 Scouts attaining the Eagle rank. Congratulations to Devon and the entire Eagle Class of 2015!

On Sunday, December 20, Santa Claus found the time to take a break from toy-making and list-checking at the North Pole to visit RCA-land for his annual pre-Christmas fire truck tour. While Santa rested his poor tired feet and rode high atop the truck, his old friends the elves from Troop 1083 and Venture Crew 1083 walked alongside, handing out candy canes to all the good boys and girls in the neighborhood. We know how lucky we are to have Santa as a friend, and to be able to join him on his visit to our community!

After Santa returned to the North Pole to finish his Christmas preparations, the Troop 1083 family went to the Rockville Elks Lodge for its annual holiday party. It was a special event, as always. Webelos II scouts joined the party and introduced themselves, and many old friends and former Scouts dropped by to say hi and to catch up.

The next day, December 21, the Troop took went bowling in Gaithersburg. A group of two dozen Scouts,

siblings, and parents spent a few hours knocking the pins down; a few others also went along, just to watch all the fun.

On January 16, the Scouts took a field trip to the Stephen F. Udvar-Hazy Center (the Dulles Annex to the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum) in Chantilly, Virginia. There they saw the space shuttle Discovery, the Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird spy plane, and many other famous military and civilian aircraft and spacecraft.

Also in January, Matthew Kimball and Nick Kurtz both earned the Bronze Palm, which is awarded to young men who continue to earn merit badges and to serve their Troop and their community as active Scouts for at least three months beyond reaching the Eagle rank.

On February 14, the Scouts will enjoy the annual skiing/snowboarding trip to Ski Liberty in Pennsylvania. Be sure to check out the March Echo for details!

If you are a boy who has finished the 5th grade, you can join Boy Scout Troop 1083. We meet Monday nights at 7:30 pm at Viers Mill ES. Call Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301-933-0048. Check out the troop web page at www.troop1083.org.

Do you want to write for the Echo? Do you have a story to tell, or an issue to discuss with your neighbors? Feel free to contribute; the Echo is *your* community's newsletter.

The deadline for article submission for the upcoming March 2016 issue is: Friday February 12th.

Write to Echo Editor Mark Nensel at marknensel@gmail.com with your ideas, and if you have any questions.

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Around the Neighborhood

Art Crawl on the Edge of RCA-Land

By Christiana Drapkin

Have you noticed how much more interesting and diverse our local businesses have become, that are within walking distance? Okay, let's make that a less-than-five-minute drive. I started off the new year, taking note of local First Friday of the Month art gallery openings which feature such a variety of local artists who have their studios in the commercial buildings around the edge of our neighborhood. Live music, wine and cheese, lots of excited guests, maybe some neighbors you'll run into, and gracious artists showing you their latest works. Cool, we're becoming our own arts scene. Take that, H-Street NE hipsters.

Go west on Randolph Road, make a right on Parklawn by the U-Haul, and take a left at the light onto Wilkins Avenue which is lined with commercial buildings. Continue to 12276 Wilkins, which some of you old-timers might remember as the former Channel-50 television studio building. Now it has eye-catching banners outside: "Washington Artworks," and it houses Montgomery County's largest visual arts center. Melisa Loewe is the president and CEO of this non-profit organization, and Natanya Khashan is their outreach & development manager. There are over 70 resident artist renting studios (ranging from \$100 to about \$800 per month). They hold numerous classes throughout the year. Whether watercolor and pastels are your thing, or smartphone photography, find out more about their classes by visiting their website: www.WashingtonArtWorks.com. Call them at 301-654-1998, or just go and drop in during their business hours. Make sure to find out which classes are appropriate for children and teens.

The same holds true for the Washington School of Photography, which also has its home here. Dona E. Jones is the camera club's president and is the go-to person for their upcoming exhibits and classes, from smartphone and digital photography to gelatin printing. Hobbyists

and professional artists are welcome, adults and young students. Check their webpage, and their calendar for events, classes, and shows at <http://wspcameraclub.com>. Their membership year starts in May, but one can join any time of the year.

On that same first Friday, I realized that there is another beautiful art venue and group of studios right here on 11810 Parklawn, "Artists & Makers Studios" at the intersection of Boiling Brook Parkway. So we headed over to their rip-roaring opening party which was mobbed by more than 300 art-loving gallery-hoppers. Next time you sit at that red traffic light, look a bit to the right where

you see the Montessori school and the dentist office, and discover the black-and-white banners "Artists & Makers Studios." Pull into their parking lot behind the building and discover their many studios, which opened last March. Judith Olivia HeartSong is the owner and executive director, and she'll proudly tell you about their juried shows, their roster of regional artists, and other events. The building is newly renovated, and the studios vary in size and equipment needed, with rents ranging from \$200 to \$1600 per month. Find more information at www.ArtistsAndMakersStudios.com.

While visiting on a quieter day, I spoke to a good number of resident artists, some of whom are quite happy to share their studio space with another practitioner or two.

I saw mosaic artists, painters, sculptors, printmakers, jewelers working in their well-lit studios, often with their doors open, talking to each other, maybe reviewing each other's work a bit, and really thriving in this communal space of shared creative energy. Of course, most of the artworks are for sale. It's quite exciting to find a one-of-a-kind piece of art that just makes you glad to look at, that you can purchase and take home, and where you can get the added satisfaction to know that you're supporting a local artist who you just met!

Maybe it's the beginning of a beautiful friendship.



Patricia DurJava, watercolor, acrylics and collage artist, in her studio at Washington ArtWorks on Wilkins Ave.

Around the Neighborhood

Building a Shed? Get a Permit- It's Not that Hard!

by Christopher Moran

Many of the houses in RCA-land did not come with garages. Even if we are lucky enough to have a garage, many of us find ourselves needing some extra outside storage space. Bikes, gardening equipment, tools, lawn mowers need to go somewhere out of the elements. What to do? One option is to build a shed.

Simple garden sheds are available at Lowes, Home Depot and many other vendors. You can build your own from a kit or have professionals install it. I purchased a kit from Lowes for about \$800 and built it myself, with help from my brother. For a foundation, we built on top of poured concrete cylinders and 4x4 runners. This may have been overkill; level patio blocks should do the trick.

Montgomery County has some important zoning rules you should consider before you build. The rules pertain to "accessory buildings" or sheds. I am providing a summary here, but you should look at the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services (DPS) website before you build: <http://permittingervices.montgomerycountymd.gov/dps/building/accessorystructures.aspx>. Houses in our neighborhood exist in both the R-60 and R-90 zones; the rules are similar, but again, you should check to be sure you are in compliance. Some basic rules on sheds:

- must be located in the rear yard.
- the footprint of the shed must be less than half the footprint of the main building on the lot (i.e., your house).
- 20 ft. maximum height, measured to the highest point of roof surface.
- The shed must be at least 5' from your rear and side property lines.
- If there is a street abutting the side or rear of your prop-

erty line, see the details on the website.

If you look at the DPS website, you will probably be confused and have some questions. When this happened to me, I almost gave up, and briefly considered building the shed without a permit. Bad idea! If I had begun building the shed without a permit I could have been ordered to stop construction and remove the partly constructed shed. Furthermore, if and when I ever want to sell my house I could have faced fines and been required to take down the shed. I decided to get the permit. I called DPS and they were VERY helpful. They helped me determine which setbacks applied and how to go about applying for the permit.



It was all quite simple. All I needed to do was:

1) complete a fairly simple "Application for Residential Building Permit" (available on the DPS website); and 2) provide a "site plan." My "site plan" was the survey of my property I received at my real estate closing, with a drawing indicating where I planned to build the shed, along with indications that it would be 5' from the edges of the property. Construction plans were not required because the structure was less than 200 square feet. I brought the application and 2 copies of the site plan to the DPS office at 255 Rockville Pike on the second floor. My plans were reviewed, I paid my fee (\$79.80) and was promptly on my way.

After building my shed I scheduled an inspection using an online tool. I had to take a day off from work because the inspectors do not schedule an exact time. The inspection was quick and mostly involved

verifying that I had complied with the setback requirements. Fortunately there were no issues and I passed.

My takeaway from this project was that the permitting process was not the Byzantine quagmire I expected; I was pleasantly surprised and now have the peace of mind that my shed is legal and documented.

I encourage everyone in RCA-land to do the same!

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Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, Franklin Park and Montrose Park 2015 Market Review!

Randolph Hills

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Average List Price	\$329,885	\$315,515	\$348,034	\$368,044	\$380,659	\$379,364
Average Sale Price	\$326,282	\$308,744	\$343,544	\$367,181	\$375,538	\$373,183
Lowest Sale Price	\$225,018	\$175,000	\$246,000	\$230,000	\$275,000	\$279,000
Highest Sale Price	\$400,000	\$440,000	\$405,000	\$435,000	\$450,000	\$451,000
Average # Days on Mkt	41	61	46	32	33	52
Sales per Year	33	29	43	36	36	36

Franklin Park

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Average List Price	\$369,417	\$341,500	\$364,933	\$355,740	\$400,511	\$393,280
Average Sale Price	\$360,833	\$327,257	\$360,533	\$364,040	\$393,267	\$380,100
Lowest Sale Price	\$345,000	\$290,000	\$305,900	\$315,000	\$360,000	\$350,000
Highest Sale Price	\$370,000	\$379,900	\$439,900	\$414,000	\$415,000	\$400,500
Average # Days on Mkt	35	64	86	114	33	69
Sales per Year	3	7	6	5	9	5

Montrose Park

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Average List Price	-	-	\$409,900	\$425,000	\$435,380	\$383,940
Average Sale Price	-	-	\$400,000	\$405,000	\$434,580	\$388,380
Lowest Sale Price	-	-	\$400,000	\$405,000	\$415,000	\$345,000
Highest Sale Price	-	-	\$009,000	\$405,000	\$450,000	\$445,000
Average # Days on Mkt	-	-	7	19	26	34
Sales per Year	0	0	1	1	4	5

Randolph Farms

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Average List Price	\$329,000	-	\$353,133	\$371,333	\$383,575	\$389,450
Average Sale Price	\$328,667	-	\$345,667	\$373,000	\$379,350	\$382,500
Lowest Sale Price	\$247,000	-	\$297,000	\$347,000	\$324,900	\$367,000
Highest Sale Price	\$370,000	-	\$400,000	\$407,000	\$432,500	\$398,000
Average # Days on Mkt	21	-	21	31	37	9
Sales per Year	3	0	3	3	4	2


Denise
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Happy New Year!

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