

## Upcoming Events in the RCA-Land Community

**RCA Community Day and 5K Run:** Saturday October 1, Randolph Hills Park

**RCA General Meeting:** Thursday, October 6, Veirs Mill Park Activity Bldg.

**RCA Community Bazaar:** Saturday October 8, Loehmann's Plaza

# The ECHO

*The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association*

Volume 60, Issue 1

September 2016

### RCA President's Message for 2016-2017

by Matthew Tifford

After the summer break, the RCA hits the ground running rested and recharged. We have a busy year ahead, full of local policy initiatives and community events.

#### **October 1 RCA Community Day Picnic, 5k and Fun Run**

Mark your calendar for October 1. The 5k kicks off at 10 AM, followed by the Fun Run and then the picnic at 11:30 (more details within). Did you enjoy the Brazilian barbecue last year- amazing, right? Good news, it's back again for a second go round. As always lunch is on us though potluck contributions to the feast are certainly welcome.

#### **October 6 General Meeting: VMES Acting Principal Matthew Hawkins**

In October we have our first general meeting with guest speaker Acting Principal Matthew Hawkins, the new principal at Veirs Mill Elementary School. Unfortunately, we've had a lot of turnover at that position the last couple of years, so we're hopeful that Hawkins proves a good fit. If you currently have a child in elementary school there or are looking into the future for your family, you will definitely want to come and find out what's in store for Veirs Mill.

#### **October 8 Fall Yard Sale/Bazaar**

If you are looking for a deal, don't miss the fall yard sale at Loehmann's Plaza on Randolph Road.. Come shop the best bargains around, or show up early to get yourself a good spot and turn your old stuff into cash. RCA members in good standing get a free spot!

#### **December 1 General Meeting: Middle School Magnet Coordinator Representative**

For our December general meeting we will once again be focusing on schools- this time with a representative from our Middle School Magnet Coordinator's office. Rising middle school students have a choice between three ex-

**FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER  
AT THE NEXT RCA GENERAL MEETING  
Thursday October 6,  
Veirs Mill Park Activity Bldg.**

**Matthew Hawkins  
Acting Principal  
Viers Mill Elementary School**

cellent magnet programs, come to the December meeting to find out more.

**Future cut-through traffic problem:** The Montgomery County Planning Department has recommended that Macon Road and Putnam Road be reconnected as part of the Montrose Baptist Church redevelopment site plan. As always in this area, there are changes that can have serious consequences for our quality of life. In this issue you will find out more about what's happening with the Montrose Church townhouse project, and the Planning Department's proposal to reconnect Macon and Putnam (over by the old Safeway location). This change, if approved by the Planning Board, will almost certainly have a negative impact for a large number of residents due to increased cut-through traffic. Any chance of stopping this proposal will require significant community involvement. So, are you ready to have your voice heard on this issue? If so, please let us know, and plan on coming to the October meeting.

#### **Nextdoor.com in, Yahoo out**

For years our community Yahoo group was a terrific tool for communication in the neighborhood, but in the last couple years a new service, nextdoor.com, has really taken off in popularity. Nextdoor.com offers a lot of features that really set it apart from Yahoo, including a classifieds section and the ability to extend conversations to

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## RCA President's Message

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neighboring communities in addition to our own. Joining is easy- visit [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) to sign up. Through your address you will be automatically added to our community group.

### October Echo Election Guide

With the election fast approaching and the unfortunate demise of the Gazette newspaper, the RCA is working to put together an election guide for the October Echo. No, we won't be delving into the presidential election- just local elections, which in this year's election cycle is just one at-large Board of Education seat. We will be sending each candidate a list of questions regarding school issues of interest to our community. The questions, and each of the candidates answers, will be published in the October issue.

### Introducing "The Uh-Oh"

This occasional feature looks for humor in commentary on our shared experience living in these RCA neighborhoods. We hope you enjoy it!

### April 30, 2017 MusicFest @ 7 Locks Brewing

Finally, we have already begun planning for our 2017 MusicFest fundraiser in the spring and would love to showcase our neighborhood talent. Please contact us at [info@randolphcivic.org](mailto:info@randolphcivic.org) if you are interested in performing.

## Wheaton High School Open House Thursday October 13

By George Gadbois

For those unable to make it for the tour of the new Wheaton High School last May, or for anyone else, they are having their Open House on Thursday October 13 at 7 p.m.

Please attend and learn about the new Wheaton: the new building, program initiatives, academies and magnets.

**Montgomery County Police Numbers to Know:**  
**Emergency: 911 Non-Emergency: 301-279-8000**  
**2d District: 240-773-6700**  
**Crime Tip Line: 240-773-TIPS (8477)**

## RCA Executive Board and Committee Chairs for 2016-2017

### OFFICERS:

President  
Matthew Tifford  
11235 Ashley Drive  
[matt.tifford@randolphcivic.org](mailto:matt.tifford@randolphcivic.org)

Vice President  
Diane LaGrega Bertocchi  
11101 Rock Road

2nd Vice President  
Chad Salganik  
4818 Mori Drive  
202-359-6158

Secretary  
Colby Prevost  
[secretary@randolphcivic.org](mailto:secretary@randolphcivic.org)

Treasurer  
Mara Greengrass  
[treasurer@randolphcivic.org](mailto:treasurer@randolphcivic.org)

### DIRECTORS:

Chris Moran  
[christopher.r.moran@gmail.com](mailto:christopher.r.moran@gmail.com)

Brian Hooker  
5003 Macon Drive  
[director1@randolphcivic.org](mailto:director1@randolphcivic.org)

Mark Nensel  
[marknensel@yahoo.com](mailto:marknensel@yahoo.com)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND POINTS OF CONTACT:

Echo Editor  
Mark Nensel  
11830 Rocking Horse Rd  
301-351-1957  
[marknensel@gmail.com](mailto:marknensel@gmail.com)

Echo Advertising  
For more info contact  
[echo@randolphcivic.org](mailto:echo@randolphcivic.org)

Membership and Welcome  
Committee  
Mara Greengrass  
[treasurer@randolphcivic.org](mailto:treasurer@randolphcivic.org)

Communications Committee  
(Primary Contact for Media  
Requests)  
Mark Nensel  
[marknensel@gmail.com](mailto:marknensel@gmail.com)

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

Education Committee  
Lorena Moyer  
4802 Macon Rd  
301-537-4189

Yard Sale Signs for Community  
to use, contact:  
Lorena Moyer  
4802 Macon Road  
301-537-4189

Webmaster  
Chad Salganik  
4818 Mori Drive  
202-359-6158

Public Safety Committee  
Ken Kopczyk  
For more info contact  
[safety@randolphcivic.org](mailto:safety@randolphcivic.org)

External Affairs Committee  
Mark Nensel  
[marknensel@yahoo.com](mailto:marknensel@yahoo.com)  
301-351-1957

Ways and Means Committee  
Mara Greengrass  
[treasurer@randolphcivic.org](mailto:treasurer@randolphcivic.org)

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

**RCA Telephone Number: (240) 668-4722.**

**Recorded announcements of community events, 24/7. Callers may leave messages.**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/randolphcivic](http://www.facebook.com/randolphcivic) Twitter: @RandolphCivic**

**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 7 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](mailto: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)

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## RCA Executive Board Meeting Minutes September 1, 2016, Veirs Mill Park Activity Bldg.

by Brian Hooker

The meeting was called to order at 8:05pm by President Matt Tifford. The first order of business was discussing the Echo budget and publication schedule for 2016. The board voted to publish 7 Echo newsletters with bi-monthly issues in the winter and spring as follows: September, October, November/December, January/February, March/April, May, Summer. The Board also voted to increase the single issue advertising rate in the Echo to the following: eighth page \$35; quarter page \$60; half page \$100 and; full page \$160. Additionally the Board agreed to reach out to past business donors for the 2016/2017 year to help defray some operating expenses such as MusicFest and sign maintenance.

Regarding membership the Board also agreed that this year's membership drive would begin with the October Echo (delivery date end of October). The Board agreed to better communicate membership rates via the Echo in the January/February edition. The Board agreed to reach out to the Randolph Civic Foundation to try and revive the Welcome Wagon for new residents in RCA-land.

Community Day is currently scheduled for October 1, 2016. The Park Department is still working on the permit for the shelter and the possibility of Brazilian BBQ again this year discussed. All were in favor of continuing the Brazilian BBQ if the chef was available again this year.

MusicFest has been scheduled for April 30th and will again be held at 7 Locks Brewery on Wilkins Avenue. The Christmas Caroling will take place again this year on Mondays in December (12/5, 12/12, and 12/19). The Board expressed gratitude that Christiana Drapkin was once again heading up this fun community event.

The Board next discussed adding a voting guide to the October Echo for local, "down ballot" issues and candidates. The primary local elections will be for the Board of Education and the only likely referendum is one regarding term limits. The Board agreed to draft some RCA-centric questions for the Board of Ed candidates and publish their responses in the Echo. Some possible themes for questions included: Wheaton H.S. project-based learning initiative; Veirs Mill ES issues (e.g., class sizes); and narrowing the achievement gap in Down County Consortium (DCC) schools.

President Tifford wanted to line up guest speakers for the next several RCA General Meetings. Possible candidates included the MCPD Community Liaison Officer, the new Veirs Mill ES acting/interim principal, the DCC middle school magnet coordinator, and County Council representatives.

Brian Hooker gave an update on the White Flint 2 Sector Plan development and an update on the Loehmann's Plaza and the Montrose Baptist Church property. The preliminary recommendations for the White Flint 2 Sector Plan are now available on the County's website. Some notable points are that the plan includes rezoning for Randolph Hills Shopping Center and a new intersection for Parklawn Drive and Randolph Road. Loehmanns Plaza will not likely see any redevelopment for 5 years. A new kid friendly tenant is a possibility for the old Safeway location. Lastly, President Tifford let the Board know that he and Brian Hooker would be meeting with the Montgomery County Planning Department on September 6th to discuss their recommendation to open the intersection of Putnam Road and Macon Road to through traffic. The revised site plan for the Montrose Baptist Church property and associated public comment period for the revised plan will likely be in the fall of 2016.

Lastly, the Board approved the June meeting minutes by unanimous voice vote. The Board adjourned at 9:10pm.

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## Veirs Versus Viers

By John Kelly and Mark Nensel

While pulling together this issue of the Echo, I noticed on the front page that we have a box promoting the guest speaker at the next RCA General Meeting. We have Matthew Hawkins, Acting Principal of Viers Mill Elementary School, speaking at the Veirs Mill Park Activity Building.

Is it Viers? Or is it Veirs?

Why, oh why, are these words spelled differently, when we all know they refer to the exact same thing?

I did a quick search, and came up with a handy article from the Washington Post's Answer Man John Kelly, from November 15, 2009. He will explain it for us: "The school is Viers Mill. The road is Veirs Mill. The road used to be Viers Mill. Samuel Veirs ran a gristmill near where present-day Veirs Mill Road crosses Rock Creek. It was one of 14 mills along that stream. In the 1880 Census, the Veirs and Bro. Mill was valued at \$230,000, employed 14 people and had a 100-bushel a day capacity. It sold flour under the Veirs Mill and Bouquet labels.

As early as 1926, 'Viers Mill Road' signs began appearing along the route between Wheaton and Rockville. Why? In 1959, the Montgomery County Planning Board claimed family members spelled it both ways.

'I always spelled mine Veirs,' said Thomas Veirs Jr. 'My father was Veirs, and all the Veirses I knew were Veirs.' Samuel Veirs was his father's father's uncle. Thomas, who [was] 85 [in 2009, he passed away in April 2011] and [lived] in Rockville, remembers seeing the mill in 1942. 'It was falling down,' he said.

At one point in the 1960s the street signs said 'Veirs Mill Road' on one side 'Viers Mill Road' on the other. It was

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**TROOP**

**1083**

**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

# **RCA Community Bazaar/Yard Sale Oct. 8, 2016**

**8:00am-1:00pm, Loehmann's Plaza**

***PLEASE make RESERVATIONS!***

by contacting

Jessie at [jessiemcginley@gmail.com](mailto:jessiemcginley@gmail.com)

**RCA members get a free SPACE (which is 1 parking space)!**

**Non RCA members pay *\$10 per space***

Show up early to claim a good spot!

**WE DO NOT PROVIDE ANY TABLES OR SUPPLIES, JUST A PARKING SPACE!**

***RAIN OR SHINE!***

**Next YARD SALE, tentatively Sat. May. 6<sup>th</sup>**

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## RCA Community Day is Saturday October 1

by Alison Dewey

Be part of the excitement at the RCA Community Day at Randolph Hills Park! Enjoy a neighborhood cookout, hear local musical talent, and burn a few calories. Mark Saturday, October 1st on your calendar to enjoy your neighborhood friends and meet new ones.

The RCA Community Day, hosted at Randolph Hills Park, will start with the 5th Annual Community Day 5K at 10:00am (registration opens at 9:30am) with the Kids Fun Run to follow. The 5K course will take you through some of your favorite local streets south of Randolph Road and on the Rock Creek Park Hiker/Biker Trail.

The Kid's Fun Run will be held within the immediate area of the park. Details, including course information and sign-up information, are posted at [Randolphcivic.org](http://Randolphcivic.org). Please check the site frequently for updates. Be sure to stick around for more RCA Community Day festivities afterwards.

Enjoy your favorite grilled food, drinks and neighborly conversation at the Community Day picnic being held from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This year's entertainment list will feature hyper local talent.

So plan on it and come on out for the festivities on Saturday, October 1st!

**What:** RCA Community Day

**When:** Saturday, October 1st

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

**Kids Fun Run:** 10:45 am (all ages welcome)

**Cookout:** 11:30 am – 2:00 pm

**Where:** Randolph Hills Park

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

**Who:** Anyone can participate, bring a friend! Running strollers are allowed, dogs are not.

**Need additional information?** Email Alison Dewey at [alison.dewey@gmail.com](mailto:alison.dewey@gmail.com)

**Cost:** FREE

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## Veirs vs. Viers *(continued from p.3)*

around then that one of Thomas Veirs' cousins, Mary Gordon Malloy, started agitating to get the signs fixed. In 1967, the county board agreed to standardize them to the Veirs spelling as the signs wore out and were replaced.

That would have been the end of it, except that many things -- churches, an elementary school, an entire sub-development -- had taken their names from the old, erroneous signs. They kept the 'ie' spelling, and in the case of Viers Mill Elementary School, the principal ordered that signs leading to the school be switched to 'Viers' so as not to confuse the children. 'As educators, consistency is a major point we want to get across to our students,' John Burley told *The Post* in 1988."

Glad that's all straightened out now, yes?

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## Be Ready for the General Election

by Christiana Drapkin

### Update your Voter Registration NOW

Even if you've been working on Mars or were hiding under a rock for the past year, you're probably aware that we have the Presidential Elections coming up again, on Tuesday, November 9, 2016. Many other Congressional and so-called down-ticket races are also on the ballot, and we're sure you want to fulfill your civic duty and come out and vote.

Now is the time to make sure your current address is listed with the Montgomery Board of Elections. Did you go through a name-change? It's your responsibility to keep your data updated. Now it is easier than ever to check online whether your data are current. The deadline to register to vote, and make name or address changes, or changes to your party affiliation is Tuesday, October 18.

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Elections/index2.html>

Under this link you will also find the deadlines for Absentee Ballots which is November 1, and information for Military and Overseas Voters, Early Voting dates and locations, your voting district and precinct location, as well as the candidates that are running for office.

### Train as an Election Judge and Serve in Your County's Elections

Montgomery County is at the forefront of making elections as accessible to citizens as possible. Do you want to become part of the process and train to become an Election Worker? Training classes have been in session since late August. You will be required to pass an initial online test, and then attend a three-hour training class. You will get paid a stipend for your work on Election Day, on days you might serve during early elections, and you get paid for your training session. If you feel the need, you can go for some additional unpaid hands-on training at the Board of Election site. <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Elections/ElectionJudge/ImportantDates.html>

If you or other friends and family members are speakers of other languages, you will be more than welcome because your language expertise will be needed. Sometimes, the lengthy ballot form, or the whole process can get a little confusing, and it is our mission to get every citizen to the voting booth. Montgomery County aspires to having at least one Spanish speaker at every precinct location. In addition, the voter information hotline 240-777-VOTE can connect you with an election worker in many more languages.

Volunteer Students Aides, grade 6 through 12, can also serve during the elections. The Student Aid position is unpaid, but you can gain SSL credit for your training and service. Find out the details and register, with the consent of your parent on the Board of Elections website: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Elections/FutureVote/faq.html#>

## White Flint 2, Montrose Church, and Other Updates

by Brian Hooker

The White Flint 2 Sector Plan has entered a new phase with the new “preliminary recommendations” for the WF2 Master Plan now available on the planning department’s website (<http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/community/whiteflint2/>). Although the RCA did not get everything we were hoping for in the plan, including a bike/pedestrian bridge over the CSX tracks to Nebel Street or the pocket park at the end of Macon Road, we did get some new zoning to allow the redevelopment of Randolph Hills Shopping Center, a new configuration for the intersection of Randolph Road and Parklawn Drive, and some recognition of the possibility of Rocking Horse Center returning to its original purpose as an elementary school. Now of course all this is just preliminary recommendations. The draft plan will be released this fall and still has a public review period and approval by the County Council before anything can happen. So there is nothing imminent regarding WF2 development. The next phase is planning the staging of WF2 development. Staging in a Master Plan balances new development with new infrastructure, including transportation and public facilities. On September 29 planning staff will discuss with the Planning Board several WF2 staging alternatives. Planning staff provided highlights of initial WF2 staging thoughts at the White Flint Sector Plan Implementation Committee (WFIC) meeting on September 12.

Meanwhile planning continues for the Montrose Baptist Church site. The developer held a public meeting with RCA residents on the preliminary site plan in May and has been at work incorporating comments from various County regulators. The stormwater management system will be far more robust than what currently exists and the developer continues to support our wishes to keep the Macon and Putnam intersection closed to through traffic. However, the Montgomery County Planning Department has required that the developer add a connection

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## What’s Wrong With This Picture?

by Christiana Drapkin

Every springtime and fall there seems to be a rash of large household trash items along our streets. Doing some spring-cleaning and clearing out old household stuff may be a good thing. But not if the results sit on the grass strip in front of your house! The tumbled-over couches and ripped-open drawers of cabinets are an eyesore and quite an imposition on your neighbors, too. If you think the stuff is nice and reusable, hold a yard sale, or post your free items on [www.FreeCycle.org](http://www.FreeCycle.org).

We live in an awesome county with great services, and it could not be easier to get the help you need. Call 311 to schedule a pickup. Go on the website to schedule a pickup for bulk household trash, or browse around to find answers to all kinds of things you’ve always wanted to know. It’s [www3.montgomerycountymd.gov/311/Home.aspx](http://www3.montgomerycountymd.gov/311/Home.aspx)

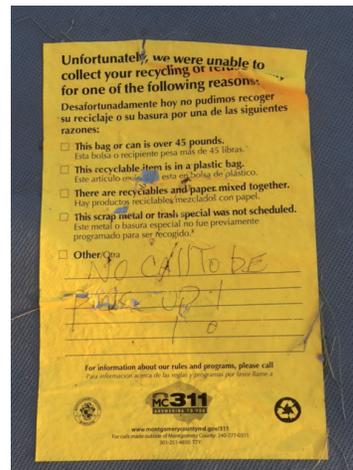
**Bulk Trash/Scrap Metal Pickup Request:** each residential property receiving Montgomery County provided trash collection service is entitled to 5 bulk trash collections per calendar year for large items that won’t fit in a regular trash can or trash bag. Properties receiving Montgomery County provided recycling collection service are entitled to scrap metal collections. There is no annual limit on scrap metal requests. Residents of a property must schedule bulk/scrap collections in advance with the County, either by filling out the form below or by calling 311.

To schedule a bulk/scrap collection, select the items to be collected from the options provided. Bulk/scrap requests must be submitted by 11:59 PM the day before the regularly scheduled County pickup day. The collection will be made between 7:00 AM and 9:00 PM on the County collection day. All items must be placed at the curb by 7:00 AM on the day of collection. The website details acceptable and unacceptable items.

Residents with private/subscription trash service via an individual or homeowner/community association contract are not eligible for County bulk trash service.

Residents wishing to cancel an existing bulk trash/scrap metal request need to call 311 by 7:00 PM the business day before their collection day. Please be a good neighbor,

do the right thing. If necessary, cut out this article and bring this over to your next-door folks, maybe they need some help.



Left: examples of recent roadside trash dumps by RCA-Land residents that were not called in for bulk trash pickups.

# RANDOLPH HILLS

*{reinvented.}*



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## Around the Neighborhood

### An Art Revolution is Happening Right Here

By James McAlpine. Photo by Isabella Gatti

At the corner of Boiling Brook Parkway and Parklawn Drive, a new art school is making radical strides to redefine how art is taught to adults, hobbyists, and aspiring professionals. The Compass Atelier is the brainchild of artist, teacher, and area native Glen Kessler. In 2014, Kessler founded the school and pioneered a unique yet painfully simple approach to teaching art. His Master Artist Program (MAP, for short) guides students through logical, step-by-step lessons that build sequentially to lead aspiring artists to a professional practice in just 3 years.

This approach may not sound radical, but in today's 'anything goes' art world it is! After nearly 2 decades teaching at

some of the top art schools in the country as well as local art centers, Kessler realized that what he calls the 'buffet-style learning' approach that every school uses was not giving students the skills they needed to survive as artists. "I had senior painting majors who couldn't draw and didn't know how to mix

color. They were a year away from graduation, with a mountain of school debt to pay off, and they hadn't been taught how to be professionals in their field. It's a broken system, but large ships are slow to turn."

So Kessler took his decades of experience and applied them to creating a solution to this problem. The result was to create his own school. He chose a 1,000-sq-ft light-filled space at the new Artists & Makers Studios, a thriving art center full of artist studios and gallery spaces, and launched The Compass Atelier. He enrolled his first students and in just 3 years of very part-time work, showed them that they could indeed master techniques and use them in the creation of a personally relevant body of contemporary art.

"A figure class here, an abstract class there--students can spend decades wandering around without really learning how to put it all together," says Kessler. "The

MAP coordinates all the lessons an artist needs to know in the most efficient way. The results have been breathtaking." His first classes of students, many with little or no experience, are rounding out their third (final) year. Almost all are now exhibiting professionally, winning prizes, and selling their work.

Current student, Kathleen Carroll, says "I have...begun to establish my career as a professional artist. My experience at CA has been life changing." And Tom Semmes, who had previously done his undergrad at the Rhode Island School of Design, says "[The Master Artist Program] really fills a need for the experienced artist and the amateur who wants a directed approach to improving skills and finding their 'voice.' I have been painting for years but there is only so much I can learn by a hit or miss approach and a random mix of art classes."

Kessler doesn't just teach his students how to make art.

Business learning is a major part of the curriculum. He likens being an artist to running your own 'company of one.' "In the studio, students are the manufacturing plant. But if a company only made things and didn't have a sales force, a PR department, and so on, it would end up with what most artists end up with...a warehouse full of

unsold goods," jokes Kessler. "Business has had a negative stigma in the arts for years, but we just think of it as part of a responsible education."

Kessler is a Bethesda native and loves the idea that this area can support such a major leap in artistic development. "This area is perfectly poised for this--close enough to DC, Baltimore, and even NYC, but not defined by those cultures." And with a co-op gallery in the planning stages, Kessler hopes to add another stepping stone to his burgeoning artists' career paths.

MAP classes start only every 3 years. The next slate of classes will start in April 2017, with applications being accepted through December.

*The Compass Atelier is located at 11810 Parklawn Drive in the new Artists & Makers Studios art center. For more info visit [www.TheCompassAtelier.com](http://www.TheCompassAtelier.com).*



## It's National Preparedness Month!

By Mark Nensel

September is National Preparedness Month. Communities large and small around the country are urged and advised to take the steps to prepare their families, their pets, their homes, their cars for any emergency possibility.

According to President Obama, in his proclamation of National Security Month 2016 on August 31, "Americans have been tested by trial and tragedy since our earliest days -- but year after year, no matter the hardship, we pull through and forge ahead. Fifteen years after the attacks of September 11, we reflect on our strength as a Nation when anything threatens us. Today, as the residents of Louisiana mourn the loss of loved ones and face tremendous damage caused by historic floods, we are reminded of what Americans do in times like these -- we see the power of love and community among neighbors who step up to help in extraordinarily difficult circumstances.

Preparing ourselves to meet the unknown challenges of tomorrow is a duty we all share, and when confronted with crisis or calamity,

we need to have done everything possible to prepare. During National Preparedness Month, we emphasize the importance of readying ourselves and our communities to be resilient in the face of any emergency we may encounter.

It is each citizen's responsibility to be as prepared as

possible for emergencies. Whether in the form of natural disasters like hurricanes and earthquakes, or unspeakable acts of evil like terrorism, danger can arise at unexpected times and places.

Fortunately, there are many things that individuals, families, and communities can do to improve their readiness. I encourage all Americans to take proactive steps to prepare for any situation that may occur including signing up for local alerts, checking insurance coverage, documenting valuables, creating a plan for emergency communication and evacuation, and having a fully stocked disaster supply kit on hand.

For information on how to better prepare for emergencies that are common in your area, or to learn about

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### BUILD A KIT

Include enough food, water, and medical supplies for your needs in your emergency kit to last for at least 72 hours.



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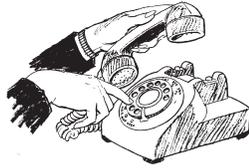
**Now Open!**  
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Silver Spring, MD 20910  
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**Newly Expanded!**  
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4886 Boiling Brook Parkway  
Rockville, MD 20852  
301-984-3300

Coupon expires October 31, 2016. Free book of equal or lesser value. Limit \$5.00. Coupon may not be combined with any other discounts or offers. One coupon per customer per day. No cash value.

# The RCA Hotline

240-668-4722 (4RCA), or  
info@randolphcivic.org



Calls and e-mails received June 18,  
2016 through Sept. 5, 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.

**August 9 (Tues) 8:49 AM; Not anonymous.** Yes, I'm calling for the 4700 block of Boiling Brook Parkway with a major complaint about this tree trimming that they're doing. I understand trying to get it away from the power lines, and when I talked to one of the guys they said they had to cut stuff out within 10 feet of the line which is understandable, but they're cutting trees on the opposite side of the road where the creek is that are 20-30 feet or more away. They're trimming them up and destroying the trees when they go and leave branches right under the power lines which is ridiculous. I understand why they have to touch the trees across their network near the power lines. Even if they came down in a storm in 10 years they wouldn't be near the power lines. I am not happy with what they're doing all up and down Boiling Brook Parkway here across the street where the creek is. There's no reason to take away those branches. No reason to destroy the shade. No reason to be stressing the trees like that, especially with 90 degree heat wave coming up for the next 10 days. I am not happy with the County. I don't know if it's just these fools on their own doing it or what - if it's the county, if it's the utility company, or who? That's one of the orange Asplundh trucks, but I believe it said they were with Altec (they had a sign on the side). But at least they are cleaning up after themselves, but they're cutting something that has no reason to be cut. Thank you.

**RCA response:** Altec are contracted by the power company PEPCO, and provide tree care products such as trimmers and chippers.

**August 27 (Sat), 3:57 PM; Anonymous.** Today is August 27th, Saturday. They were selling food out of the driveway/front yard at 11XXX Rocking Horse Rd. I'm a firm believer of people working and earning a living but selling grilled food or fast food dishes out of the front lawn of Rocking Horse Road, or any private home, is not acceptable. Today food, tomorrow could be food and beer. It adds to the traffic and people and it's just not the right way of earning a living. This should be stopped immediately. Thank you.

**August 2016 (date not specified); Not anonymous.**

I live at 12XXX Hunters Lane and I would like to have some information from the association about getting some trees planted along my property, both on Hunters Ln. and Mori Dr. Some old trees were removed by the county a couple of years ago, but they never replaced them. I contacted Montgomery County and I was informed that I can be put in a list of trees planting request, but it will take up to three years for them to complete the job.

I think three years is way too long for a simple task like that. My questions are: Does the RCA have a faster way to get these trees planted? If I agree to purchase and plant the trees, am I allowed to do that? I appreciate any information on this matter, and I also appreciate the dedication of RCA to our community.

**RCA response:** The problem is the county only has one tree planting crew for the entire county and the list is very long. It can take several years to get a tree after you make the request. You are allowed to purchase and plant your own tree, as long as it's on the approved tree list.

**August 2016 (date not specified); Not anonymous.**

Regarding intersection improvements, thank you for getting the county to paint the turn lane at Rocking Horse and Boiling Brook. Much improved - I have two suggestions that I think would greatly improve the intersection. The shrubs/weeds block view of traffic as one approaches the intersection. Perhaps it would make sense to get the county to clear the brush and trees around the drainage ditch (even replant lower non height ground cover) so that all the cars approaching have a significant advanced view of cars waiting, approaching all stop signs. There are blind spots which make it hard for good judgement as drivers attempt their turns. Lastly, if they have not already, in addition to the one way and do not enter signage, directional arrows would help greatly. Monthly I personally witness cars driving the wrong way on a one way street there near the shopping center from Schuykill.



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## RCF President's Message Sept. 2016

By Ashley Salganik

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer! I wanted to start off by thanking everyone that came to our Randolph Civic Foundation Annual Meeting and Spaghetti Dinner in June. The turnout was great and we all enjoyed the delicious pasta and salad provided by Vignola Gourmet, as well the magic show!

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

The Randolph Civic Foundation is a neighborhood, non-profit organization focused on the improvement, betterment and beautification of our community. We support activities like the local Scout troops, our annual neighborhood caroling and resident block parties. You can also see our work in the signs welcoming you to the neighborhoods and the benches at many bus stops. If you have any ideas for the RCF or want to help out, please contact me at [ashleysalganik@gmail.com](mailto:ashleysalganik@gmail.com).

## Troop 1083 News - September 2016

By Ben Pitkin

As usual, it was a big summer for the Scouts of Troop 1083. Back in June, it all began with the annual beach campout at Assateague State Park. The Scouts camped at nearby Pocomoke River State Park. The busy weekend included a Friday afternoon at the go-cart track, Saturday at the beach, and a night on the boardwalk in Ocean City. The beach campout is a longstanding Troop tradition, and it's always been a favorite!

In the last week of July, 24 Scouts and 8 leaders attended a week of summer camp at the Rodney Scout Reservation on the Upper Chesapeake in North East, MD. They earned boatloads of merit badges, extended old friendships and started new ones, and enjoyed arts and crafts, archery, swimming, boating, and the many other things one can only do outdoors in the summer-time. The weeklong outing ended with the traditional Saturday-afternoon welcome-home picnic. It was one for the ages!

Since the last Echo issue, three 1083 Scouts completed their Eagle Scout service projects. Michael Loebach led his volunteers in building an outdoor stage on the grounds of Grace Episcopal Church in Silver Spring. Noah Stitt's project involved building protective cases to contain and protect some aging wall display boxes at the Audubon Naturalist Society's exhibit center at Woodend Sanctuary in Chevy Chase. The glass-covered

## RCF Board of Directors for 2016-2017

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

#### Vice President

Alison Dewey  
503 Macon Drive  
[sabaly@hotmail.com](mailto:sabaly@hotmail.com)

#### Secretary

Paul Ricci  
4708 Wyanconda Rd.

#### Treasurer

Karena Cooper  
11830 Rocking Horse Rd  
[marknensel@gmail.com](mailto:marknensel@gmail.com)

#### Directors

Mark Nensel  
11830 Rocking Horse Rd  
[marknensel@yahoo.com](mailto:marknensel@yahoo.com)

Kate Bueno  
c/o 4818 Mori Drive  
[katekbueno@gmail.com](mailto:katekbueno@gmail.com)

Ryan Roberts

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](http://www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org) - Phone: 240-389-4723

cases contain stuffed specimens of rare birds and Noah's cases will remove the risk of the boxes falling or deteriorating. Jordan Pitts' project involved providing donated toiletries to families staying in the Ronald McDonald House while their children are hospitalized. Jordan led his team of volunteers in alerting the public of his collection drive, collected the donated goods in from of the Wheaton Plaza Giant, sorted them, and delivered them to the grateful recipients.

Also this summer, two 1083 Scouts passed their Eagle Boards of Review, thereby officially earning Scouting's highest rank. Cameron Lett and Joel Garrett reached that final milestone together on July 15th. In August, Cameron's Eagle Court of Honor ceremony was held on the 11th; and fellow Eagle Matthew Tiffany's Court of Honor took place just a few days later, on the 15th. Many of the Troop's Scouts with dual membership in Venture Crew 1083 took part in some very notable High Adventure activities this summer. Check out the Venture Crew article for details.

2016/2017 is shaping up to be another great year in Troop 1083. We have outings throughout the year, where we learn and have a lot of fun. Why not join us? If you are a boy who has finished the fifth grade you can join us. We meet Monday night at 7:30 at

Viers Mill Elementary School. You can call Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301-933- 0048, or check out the troop web page at [www.troop1083.org](http://www.troop1083.org).

### Deadlines for articles for upcoming Echo issues:

**October issue: Friday Sept. 30.**

**November/December issue: Friday Nov. 11**

Write to Echo Editor Mark Nensel at  
[marknensel@gmail.com](mailto:marknensel@gmail.com)

with your ideas and if you have any questions.

## Venture Crew 1083 News

By Ben Pitkin

The summer of 2016 marked the close of Venture Crew 1083's eighth year of operation. In the transition to Year 9, the Crew and its members are gearing up for High Adventure activities!

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

These practice hikes culminate in a weeklong trek at the High Knoll High Adventure Base in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Roanoke, Virginia. In July 2016, Venture Crew 1083 sent 10 youths and 3 adult advisors on the second of their two annual summer treks. (In the summer of 2015, they trekked the Lenhok'sin Trail in Goshen Virginia.) The boys hiked, camped, and lived out of their backpacks on the wooded mountain trails. They learned a lot about teamwork under pressure and they had an awesome time doing it. Hard work? You bet. Fun? Absolutely!

There will be more weekend shakedown hikes in the coming months. Then, in July 2017, this Venture Crew 1083 posse will head west to the Mecca of High Adven-

## White Flint 2 update *(continued from p.6)*

between Macon and Putnam in the next iteration of the plan that will come out later this summer. The RCA is adamantly opposed to opening the intersection. On Tuesday, September 6, RCA Board members met with Montgomery County planning staff to discuss their recommendation and our opposition to it. The RCA will be working diligently to ensure that a thorough traffic safety study is done evaluating new trips on Macon and surrounding roads. We will also testify regarding our opposition to this change to the Planning Board if/when it comes to that. We will continue to keep RCA-land up to date on this concerning development. So please stay tuned.

Regarding Loehmann's Plaza, they are close to finding a new, short-term (~5 year) tenant for the former Safeway location. It sounds like the new tenant will be

ture, Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. In twelve days on the Philmont trail, the distances are greater, the altitudes higher (roughly 7,000 to 12,000 feet), and the wildlife a bit more varied (as in, bigger and usually hungrier). A trip to Philmont is truly a trip of a lifetime!

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

The coming **Autumn Bazaar will be on Saturday morning, October 8**. In addition to sponsoring the event, the Crew provides the food and beverage sales for hungry and thirsty bazaar-goers. Because the proceeds support the Crew's High Adventure component, every bit you do to help—and enjoying a burger and a soda helps—is most appreciated. See the full-page ad elsewhere in this ECHO for more details.

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

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focused on children's recreation. Although it isn't clear when the new tenant will move in, this is a positive use of the site that will benefit RCA-land families. The redevelopment of Loehmann's Plaza is still on the drawing boards but we'll likely begin to see some plans over the next year or so for mixed use development.

Please make your voice heard regarding these important developments by attending public meetings and/or RCA meetings. We would also love to hear from you via email if you are unable to attend meetings.

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## National Preparedness *(continued from p.9)*

resources that may be available for increasing preparedness, visit [www.Ready.gov](http://www.Ready.gov) or [www.Listo.gov](http://www.Listo.gov).

Disasters have become more frequent and severe as our climate changes; both urban and rural areas are already feeling the devastating consequences, including severe droughts and higher sea levels, intense storms and wildfires, and more powerful hurricanes and heat waves.

Climate change poses an imminent and lasting threat

to our safety and national security, and it is critical that we invest in our infrastructure and integrate the preparedness efforts of our communities to improve our ability to respond to and recover from the effects of our changing climate and extreme weather events.

Let us recognize that each of us can do our part to prepare for emergencies, help those affected by disasters, and ensure all our people have the necessary resources and knowledge to protect themselves.

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# The UH-OH

*The Faux Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association*

## **'Mixing Bowl' interchange proposed for Rocking Horse Road / Boiling Brook Parkway Intersection**

*by Ned Astilegnave and Randy Hilliard*

A proposed new interchange could help ease the hellish intersection at Rocking Horse Road and Boiling Brook Parkway in Randolph Hills.

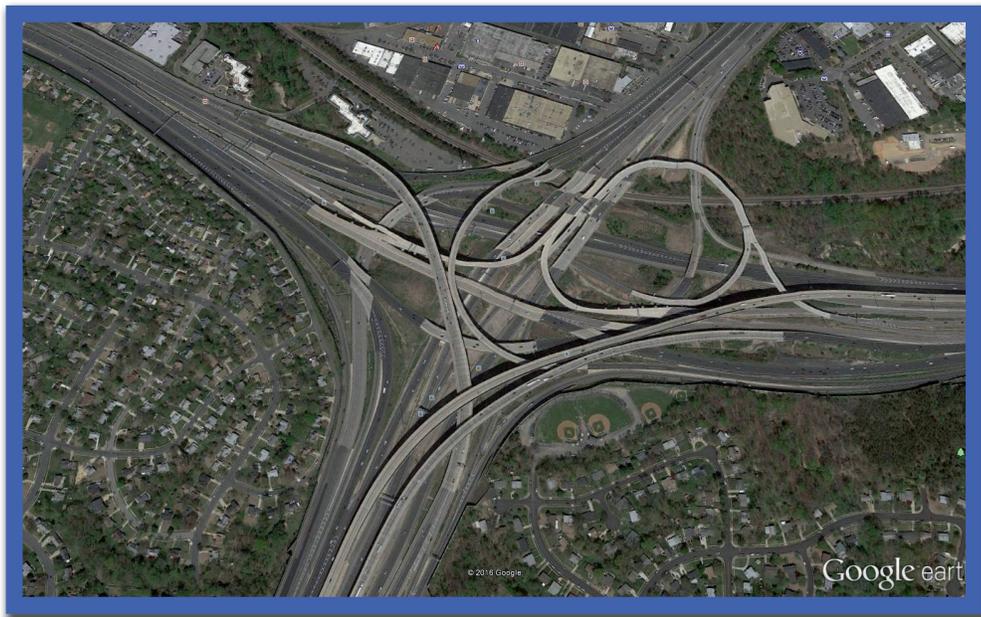
The elevated interchange would be built in place of the current Rocking Horse Road bridge that spans Boiling Brook. The area, at the entrance to Randolph Hills Shopping Center, is often the site of lengthy delays, accidents, and very rude and inconsiderate behavior all around, as drivers maneuver through an intersection that makes sense to no one.

"Who has the right of way? We have no idea," said James Gissen, a MCDOT traffic engineer working on the interchange plan. "Your best approach is to just go for it, and yell out the window."

The interchange project could get startup money next week, said State Transportation Secretary Pete K. Rahn.

Rahn said he will ask the state's transportation authority

for money to begin the project. Rahn would not say how much money he is seeking. At minimum, he could ask for several million in startup funds to begin planning and engineering for the project, which would not be finished for several years.



*Above left, the Rocking Horse Road - Boiling Brook Parkway intersection today.*

*Below left, the proposed new and improved interchange.*

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

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5103 Macon Road	\$250,000	\$295,000	\$0	3	9-Jun-16
4710 Oxbow Road	\$339,550	\$340,000	\$10,000	8	17-Jun-16
5009 Randolph Road	\$374,999	\$372,500	\$11,250	35	22-Jun-16
4800 Mori Drive	\$400,000	\$410,000	\$0	3	23-Jun-16
4601 Coachway Drive	\$359,000	\$359,000	\$1,790	43	24-Jun-16
12202 Gaynor Road	\$367,000	\$367,000	\$0	46	30-Jun-16
4607 Gemstone Ter	\$369,000	\$365,000	\$0	5	1-Jul-16
12217 Hunters Lane	\$394,900	\$392,000	\$7,000	24	12-Jul-16
4701 Olden Road	\$359,900	\$359,900	\$0	32	15-Jul-16
4803 Creek Shore Drive	\$411,000	\$411,000	\$5,500	6	15-Jul-16
4622 Creek Shore Drive	\$460,000	\$445,000	\$0	74	29-Jul-16
4805 Wilwyn Way	\$449,950	\$449,950	\$0	17	29-Jul-16
4710 Boiling Brook Pkwy	\$459,990	\$446,200	\$0	13	29-Jul-16
11513 Ashley Drive	\$459,950	\$465,000	\$0	6	29-Jul-16
11446 Schuylkill Road	\$360,000	\$348,000	\$8,000	31	01-Aug-16
4609 Olden Road	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$0	0	10-Aug-16
4702 Coachway Drive	\$329,900	\$325,000	\$0	16	12-Aug-16
5007 Macon Road	\$409,000	\$417,900	\$5,000	7	16-Aug-16
12205 Nordlie Drive	\$419,000	\$435,000	\$5,000	6	26-Aug-16
11108 Schuylkill Road	\$449,750	\$445,000	\$0	14	30-Aug-16
4819 Topping Road	\$410,000	\$407,500	\$7,000	14	09-Sep-16

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