

Upcoming Events in the RCA-Land Community

Halloween 2016 in RCA-Land: Monday, October 31; **RCA Board Meeting:** Thursday, November 3, Veirs Mill Park Activity Bldg.; **RCA General Meeting:** Thursday December 1, Veirs Mill Park Activity Bldg.
RCA-Land 2016 Holiday Caroling: Mondays Dec. 5, Dec, 12, Dec. 19

The ECHO

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association

Volume 60, Issue 2

October 2016

Get involved, have a say, be an active member of your community!

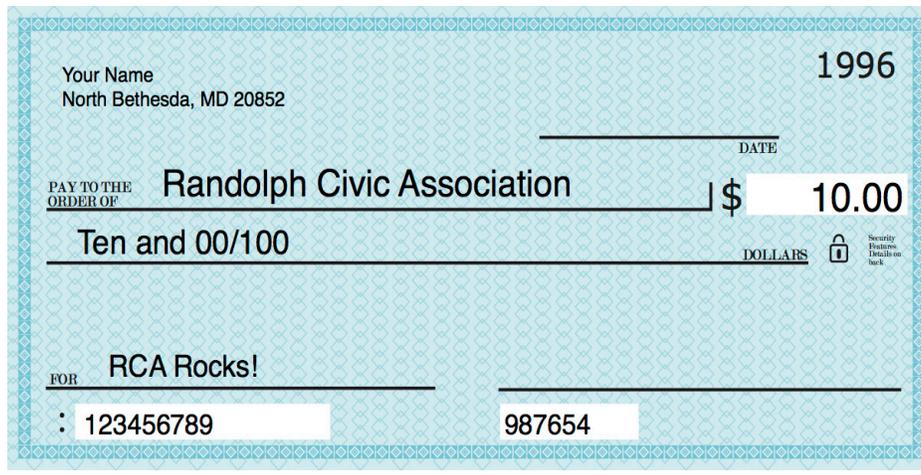
RCA President's Message October 2016

By Matthew Tifford

It's that time of year for RCA -- the membership drive -- when we volunteers start to get anxious. We've accomplished so much, and this organization is such a benefit to the community. But does the community at large see the value?

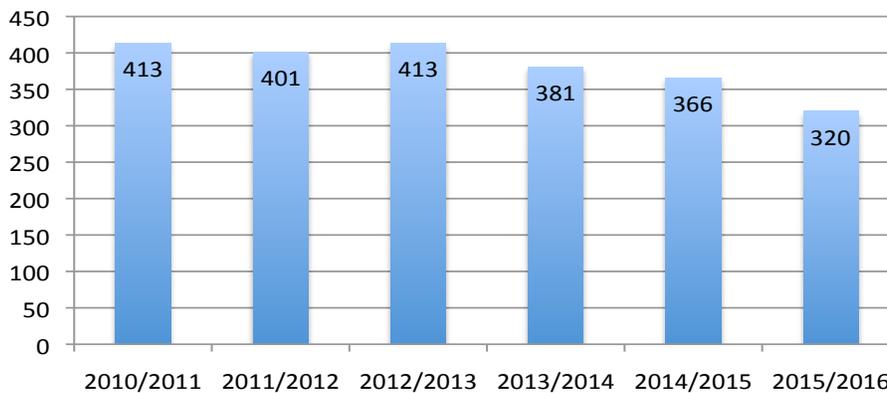
We have been very successful over the years lobbying county officials on issues important to our community. Without the efforts of the RCA over the years, this community would be very different -- and a much less desirable place to live.

A large part of our success has been due,



remarkably, to The Echo, our print newsletter. Because it is printed and delivered to everyone's house, we can truly claim to represent the entire community. The Randolph Civic Association is the only civic in the state that can make that claim. Everything we do is reported back to the entire community, with seven issues throughout the year.

The cost of printing The Echo has risen tremendously over the years, while at the same time our membership has dropped precipitously. There was a time, not so long ago, when the RCA boasted over 700 member households -- nearly half the community. Last year we all breathed -- (continued on p. 3)



*RCA Member households in the community dropped 15% year-over-year in the 2015/2016 membership drive.
 Since 2011, RCA Member households have decreased 22.5%.*



Neighbors!!
Join the conversation and stay up to date on community events.
Register with your street address at
www.nextdoor.com

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www.mymcpnews.com

NEXT RCA MEETINGS:
RCA Executive Board Meeting
Thursday November 3, 8pm

RCA General Community Meeting with featured
guest speaker: Middle School Magnet Coordinator
Thursday, December 1, 8pm

RCA Meetings are held at the Veirs Mill Activity
Bldg., near the corner of Garrett Park Road and
Beach Drive.

Community members are welcome at all meetings.

RCA Executive Board and Committee Chairs for 2016-2017

- | | |
|--|---|
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|--|---|

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 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.

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..."

Get Involved! *(continued from p. 1)*

a sigh of relief when we broke 300.

We hope that the lack of membership numbers is more due to people forgetting to send in their dues, as opposed to not seeing value in the organization.

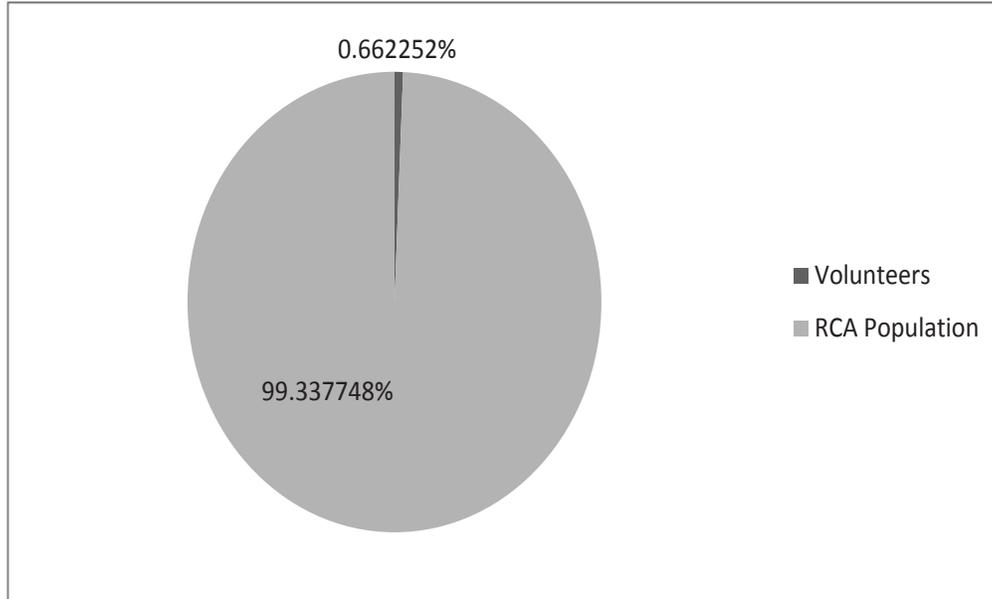
So, dear reader and neighbor, I put this to you: Do see value in the RCA? If the answer is yes, then I beg you to please remember us this year.

While you are thinking of it, go ahead and write the

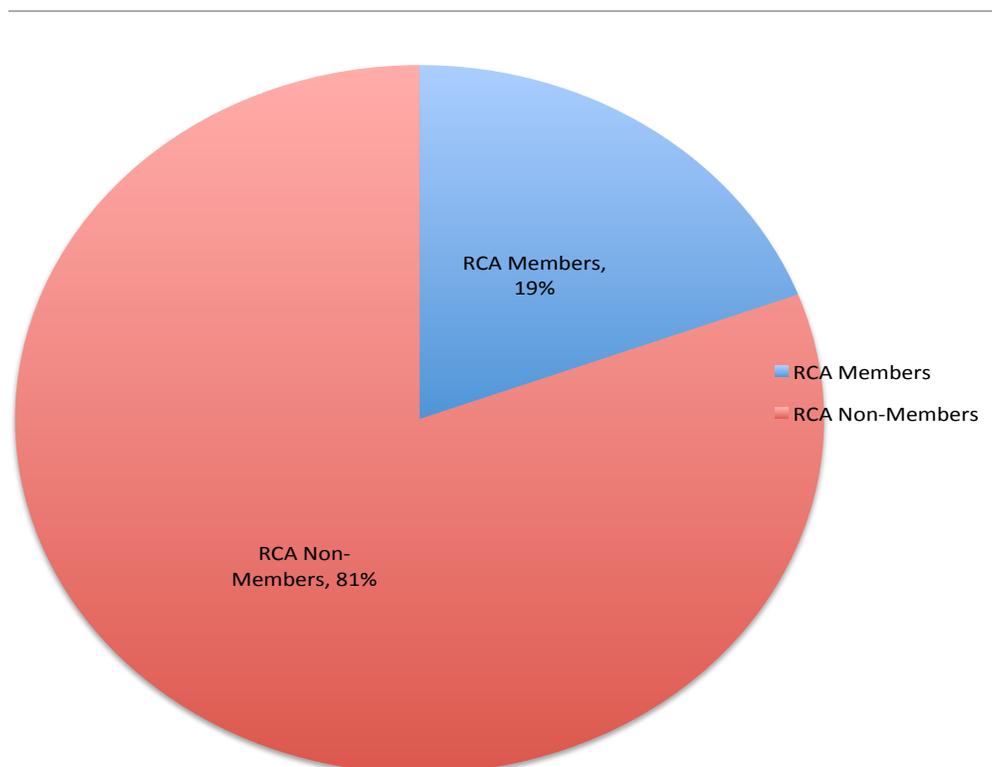
check or click our Paypal button on the website (www.randolpccivic.org under 'membership').

If you can't find a stamp, drop the envelope off at my house, 11235 Ashley Drive, or any other board member who lives near you.

Finally, if you don't have any other means to get us the payment, I would be happy to personally come by and pick it up. Just call our hotline: (240) 668-4722, and let me know. Have a wonderful October, and hope to see you around the neighborhood.



Above: The proportion of RCA volunteers versus the actual population of RCA-Land. Below: The proportion of contributing RCA Member households in the community versus the number of non-contributing households in RCA-Land.



Halloween House Decorating Contest!!

by Kate Bueno

Are you already dreaming up ghoulish ideas for your front yard? Thinking of spooky door decor and eerie pumpkin carving designs? Well you're in luck this year, because we're having a Halloween House Decorating Contest!

Get into the spirit by decorating your house for Halloween by the afternoon of Sunday, October 30th and you could win one of our three awards! Randolph Civic Foundation judges will be looking for the best house in each of these three categories:

Eeriest Haunt (best scary decor)

Boo-tiful Fun (best family-friendly decor)

Clever Cauldron (most creative decor)

Winners will receive a fall-themed door wreath labeled with their category.

If you see an awesomely decorated house in our neighborhood and want to share the hair-raising Halloween fun, post a picture to the RCF Facebook page! Happy Halloween!

**Don't forget to VOTE:
Election day is
Tuesday November 8.
Cast your ballot at
Rocking Horse Road Center
4910 Macon Rd.,
Rockville MD 20852
corner of Macon Rd. &
Galena Rd.!**

RCA 2016 Election Guide

Due to the unfortunate demise of the Gazette and the subsequent difficulty in getting good information about our local elections, the RCA has put together this election guide for voters in RCA-Land. Each of the Board of Education At-Large and District 4 candidates were sent the same three questions on issues of interest to our community. Their answers are published below. We also are happy to present an editorial piece from RCA Director Brian Hooker on ballot question B, popularly known as the Ficker Term Limit amendment. We hope you find them useful on election day.

The RCA's letter to the candidates

Dear [Candidate], The Randolph Civic Association, representing 1340 homes in North Bethesda, will be publishing an election guide for the October issue of our neighborhood newsletter, The Echo. The Echo is a print newsletter, published seven times per year and delivered by mail to all 1340 homes in our community.

The primary focus for this year's election guide will be showcasing Board of Education candidates. Our board has compiled three questions of particular interest to our members. Please consider taking the time to answer these questions as a way of introducing yourself to our members. Responses received by 8pm, Monday October 3 will be published in the election guide.

1. Why should parents of Downcounty Consortium students vote for you?
2. What specific steps would you take to lower the achievement gap in Downcounty Consortium schools?
3. What do you see as an achievable goal to reduce school overcrowding, and would you be willing to consider redistricting as a possible solution?

Response from Shebra Evans

Candidate for District 4 Representative, Montgomery County School Board

1. Why should parents of Downcounty Consortium students vote for you?

Evans: I have been an active education advocate for over 9 years serving the students of this county in many capacities. As an elected officer with the Montgomery County Council of PTAs I served as Vice President for Programs and Vice President for Educational Issues. These positions allowed me to spend time learning the needs of the community and better understanding the workings of our large and diverse school system. In addition, I represented the Wheaton Cluster in the Downcounty Consortium for many years and am intimately familiar with the challenges facing our schools serving populations with high rates of poverty and a growing number of students for whom English is not their first language. My experience and leadership with the local and county PTAs have enabled me to build strategic alliances that are critically important in moving MCPS forward in engaging students; engaging parents; engaging teachers; engaging administrators. As a candidate in the previous election (November 2014) for the At-Large seat on the school board my commitment has



Above: Shebra Evans, School Board Candidate

not waived as someone who would be passionate about the joy of public service and wanting to make a difference. Our community needs elected officials that can define the issues and work at the state, county, and local levels to make a difference in public education. My endorsements by the Montgomery County Education Association (MCEA),

MCPS Retirees Association (MCP-SRA), The Coalition of Asian Pacific American Democrats of Maryland (CAPAD-MD), The African American Democratic Club of Montgomery County, Municipal and County Government Employees Organization (MCGEO), The Brickyard Coalition and a host of elected officials and community leaders reinforce the depth of my community support and reflect the diversity of the constituents that believe in my leadership and the work I do on behalf of the children and families in Montgomery County. My children will be a daily reminder of my mission and commit-

ment to be an effective board member. Their future and the entire student population will remind me daily how important it will be for our economy to have an educated and skilled workforce.

2. What specific steps would you take to lower the achievement gap in Downcounty Consortium schools?

Evans: I am deeply committed to equity and excellence and selected to serve as co-chair of the African American Student Achievement Action Group (AASAAG) going on four years now. Recently, I helped *(continued on p. 5)*

Shebra Evans *(continued from p.4)*

to lead a critical community conversation about the urgency of closing the achievement gap (November 2015). This event allowed AASAAG to share our work and interests, update the community about new trends and initiatives to address the achievement gap, and most importantly to TAKE ACTION and form a common agenda focused on African American student achievement. Based on the community feedback from the "Taking Action" symposium, the AASAAG made the following recommendations for the MCPS FY 2017 Operating Budget to improve outcomes for student achievement. These recommendations reflect the focal areas of our work: structural racism, cultural proficiency and early intervention. Expand and support the Minority Scholars Program (MSP) to include all 25 high schools and the Blair Ewing Center. Establish an equity office that elevates and expands the Office of School Support and Improvement's existing equity unit to be led by an executive level position. The community wants to ensure the work on equity is managed and monitored at schools on an on-going basis. Establish Neighborhood Equity Teams where community stakeholders and MCPS staff engage on an on-going basis in the work of educational equity at local schools. What is most needed now is a shared commitment to do things differently, to rethink how we engage diverse perspectives in our efforts to close the opportunity gaps. This effort to think together will enable us to identify and mobilize the many untapped assets that lie dormant or under-utilized in our communities and align them in achieving a common goal.

In addition, careful consideration should be given to all day Preschool. As well as, additional enrichment opportunities for students that extend beyond the classroom. Additional training for teachers and supporting staff in the area of cultural competency could be beneficial. One solution will not address the needs of every unique learner that attends school in Montgomery County. However, it's about every student getting what he or she needs in order to improve his or her situation.

3. What do you see as an achievable goal to reduce school overcrowding, and would you be willing to consider redistricting as a possible solution?

Evans: In my role as a leader with MCCPTA, I gave CIP testimony highlighting the downturn of the economy and needing to find more cost effective means to building our schools. As a board member my feelings would not change on this issue and wanting to work to get the

most cost effective solution. My decisions will consider long term, positive impacts on the future of our students.

Response from Anjali Phukan

Candidate for District 4 Representative, Montgomery County Board of Education

1. Why should parents of Downcounty Consortium

students vote for you?

Phukan: I am a licensed certified public accountant and as such I can review the many audits done, and double check their accuracy to support documents and other audits to ensure soundness. I am also for releasing all audits to the public. I am a product of some Downcounty consortium schools, including Blair, and as such I can relate to the issues children experience there. I do not have children, and I adore them, so there will be no nepotism for my child's school verses yours - all schools deserve equal representation and support. I am pro-recovery support for all students and staff, a topic few candidates like to discuss that is crippling our education system and community.



Above: Anjali Phukan, School Board Candidate

2. What specific steps would you take to lower the achievement gap in Downcounty Consortium schools?

Phukan: I do not want to lower the bar to close the achievement gap, but I think we need to: A. Make school buildings more accessible to students outside of school days for student led learning, regardless of socio-economic status; B. Promote addiction recovery support for students, parents, and staff.

C. I also feel the sibling preference should be kept for traditional existing language immersion programs, but that we also need to allow for more immersion and bilingual schools in largely Hispanic areas, where students drop-out due to frustrations in learning.

3. What do you see as an achievable goal to reduce school overcrowding, and would you be willing to consider redistricting as a possible solution?

Phukan: I am for pro school-choice rather than bureaucratic redistricting. I also think we need more blended technology solutions for learning, where special education, disadvantaged, and other students can take courses online not offered in their school. These courses should be open to home-schooled students. In addition, some students may just learn better with online/blended options.

Response from Jeanette Dixon

At-Large Candidate, Montgomery County Board of Education

1. Why should parents of Downcounty Consortium students vote for you?

(continued on p.6)

Jeanette Dixon *(continued from p.5)*

Dixon: Downcounty Consortium parents should vote for me, Jeanette Dixon, for the At Large seat on the school board because I am the only candidate with recent school experience (retired as principal of Paint Branch HS in 2013) and the only candidate to have been a teacher, parent, and principal in MCPS. As the award-winning principal of a NEC school (Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award in 2012) who used to live in the DCC on Eton Road, I know what our students need. I will listen to our teachers and parents. I offer to put my unique personal life experience, 30 years of experience as an educator, my good judgment, and my knowledge of the staff and inside workings of the school system to work on behalf of ALL students. I have a reputation as someone who listens, is responsive, speaks her mind, and gets things done. I am also the only candidate for the At Large Seat who has adhered to the rule of this being a nonpartisan election by not asking elected politicians for an endorsement since politics does

not have any place in the education of our children. The central issue of this At Large election is who will best represent ALL of our students for the next four years, regardless of which school they attend. I believe I am the best equipped to help meet the challenges faced by our system. The incumbent has had eight years in office on a Board he graded as doing "C work" during one of our forums. I believe the Board can do better and can do "A work" if it works together as a team. After eight years it's time for a change to a proactive, inspired leadership that will make a difference for students. Please see my priorities for service on the Board on my website jeanettedixon.org, which also links to my social media accounts.

2. What specific steps would you take to lower the achievement gap in Downcounty Consortium schools?

Dixon: The achievement gap is a complex issue that will take time and a sustained community effort to lower and eliminate. I believe I can help with this because I have had success doing this at Paint Branch where we increased academic rigor, eliminating gates to Advanced Placement and Honors courses. Specifically I favor: Implementing universal Pre-K for all county 4-year-olds; Placing daily class work/notes on Edline so parents

can see what was taught and assist their student; Training teachers in culturally responsive teaching practices; Reducing class size and limiting testing so students can get more individualized attention and teachers have more time for instruction; Improving communication so that there is fairness and opportunity for all students and staff; Implementing an effective Alternative School program for students who do not do well in the traditional seven period day; Increasing dual language programs; Mandatory summer remediation/enrichment for elementary students who are not proficient in reading and math; Increasing the number of counselors and mental health professionals; Asking students, parents, teachers, administrators, and education stakeholders what they think would make a difference

3. What do you see an achievable goal to reduce school overcrowding, and would you be willing to consider redistricting as a possible solution?

Dixon: School overcrowding needs to be addressed by the county, MCPS, and developers working together cooperatively. We need to ensure that we have the appropriate infrastructure of roads, sewer lines, and utility connections. We also must look at the



Above left: Jeanette Dixon, At-Large School Board Candidate; Above right, Phil Kauffman, At-Large School Board Candidate

environmental impact of overdevelopment and insist that developers contribute to the cost of new schools to alleviate the overcrowding. We should not have middle schools that are larger than five of our high schools.

I am not in favor of redistricting as a solution to overcrowding. I think we do need to explore options for additional choice programs with parents and students. Placing new programs in schools that are underenrolled would be one way of addressing this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views.

Response from Phil Kauffman

At-Large Candidate (incumbent), Montgomery County Board of Education

1. Why should parents of Downcounty Consortium students vote for you?

Kauffman: These are tough times and they demand experienced leadership. I'm an incumbent member of the Board, now completing my second term. I've been the Board's president and vice president and I've chaired the Board's fiscal and policy management committees. I'm also a leader with the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, serving on their Board of Directors. Last year, I was appointed by the governor to serve on the Professional Standards for Teacher Education Board, *(continued on p. 8)*

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Phil Kauffman *(continued from p.6)*

which considers credentialing and licensing requirements for Maryland educational staff.

Before coming to the Board, I was actively involved in PTA for over 13 years. My PTA roots are in the Northeast Consortium schools, whose needs are very similar to those in the Downcounty Consortium. I am retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs, where I supervised a staff of attorneys responsible for the VA's health care contracting program.

These experiences provide insight into the challenges of how to make the best choices to support greater numbers of students with fewer funds. We must be vigilant in spending the money provided by the taxpayers of Montgomery County. Transparent and understandable accounting for over \$2.4 billion taxpayer dollars is essential to maintaining the public's trust. I will continue to advocate for increased fiscal transparency so the community knows what programs are funded and why.

I have also developed strong relationships with elected officials that enhance my ability to advocate for our students. I am proud to have the endorsement of the MCPS Retirees Association, County Executive Ike Leggett, County Council Chair of the Education Committee, Craig Rice, and numerous other elected and community leaders. I am also supported by our county teachers and retirees. For a complete list of my endorsements, please visit my website, www.philkauffman.com.

2. What specific steps would you take to lower the achievement gap in Downcounty Consortium schools?

Kauffman: We need to do better at this on many fronts. Our strategic planning framework has at its heart, academic success for all students regardless of their circumstances. The strategy has been to infuse and integrate resources and philosophy into the instructional programs in each classroom. For several years now, we have invested funds in differentiated instruction designed to reach all children despite gaps in their academic preparedness. We have invested in initiatives at the elementary level to significantly reduce class sizes in reading, for instance. In schools with high FARMS and mobility rates we have infused funds in the classrooms to address equity and preparedness issues. Other strategies include high standards for all children, culturally proficient instruction, equitable funding for our schools, human capital management, and community engagement. We have eliminated much of the "gatekeeping" from higher level AP and honors courses which has resulted in increased participation in those courses by our students of color. Our career lattice program, which incentivizes lead teachers to work in high needs schools is gradually being implemented but it is too soon to tell if it will achieve desired results.

We must continue to evaluate our approaches that address the gaps and use research-based strategies

to meet the needs of every school's unique population. We need to collaborate with the County to evaluate the many programs they fund outside of school that support student achievement and ensure that those programs are achieving results that justify those investments. We also need to do a better job of communicating to the community our work in these areas, specifically delineating how our resources are targeted at closing the achievement gap. The gap in academic achievement is unacceptable to us on the Board even though our African American and Latino students outperform their counterparts nationwide. I would like to see better accountability and assessment measures to truly document what is working and what needs to be changed. The County added \$37 million to the budget request, much of it targeted at equity and closing the achievement gap. But the Federal, State and County governments must comprehensively address the impacts on our children of poverty, access to health and social services, housing, language deficits, safety and other factors outside the control of the school system if we are to actually eliminate all achievement gaps.

3. What do you see as an achievable goal to reduce school overcrowding, and would you be willing to consider redistricting as a possible solution?

Kauffman: It is difficult to set goals as the amount of our capital spending is determined by the county council and the state. Montgomery County has consistently received less than our fair share of state construction dollars compared to our enrollment, so the burden of school construction falls mainly on the county. Accordingly, school spending competes with county priorities, including libraries, recreation centers, county buildings, roads, etc. The school system share of county capital spending is around 35% and has remained relatively constant, despite the needs for increased capacity, revitalizing and expanding our aging buildings, and maintaining essential facility needs like HVAC, roofs, etc. Thus, although we have a large capital budget, we have fallen further behind in our attempts to reduce school overcrowding, as many of our requests for capacity projects have not been funded or have been delayed.

There are plans to address capacity needs in the Downcounty consortium. At the secondary level, we will be fully building out the shell at Wheaton High, a project I proposed in our last budget. We are also studying building additions at the other 4 high schools. We have also approved building additions at E. Brooke Lee, and Takoma Park and a revitalization/expansion at Eastern Middle schools. At the elementary level, there are addition projects approved at East Silver Spring, Montgomery Knolls, Pine Crest, Piney Branch and Woodlin and a revitalization/expansion at Wheaton Woods.

Redistricting is always a solution I would consider. We just need to be aware that boundary changes must consider long term enrollment forecasts. There are times when a school seems to have space in the short term, but when looking long term, there is already future growth that would absorb that capacity. So it could *(continued on p. 9)*

Phil Kauffman (continued from p.8)

be a mistake to redistrict students without considering long term forecasts. But I would always consider redistricting if it makes sense, as it is unlikely we will have enough funding to build enough capacity and we must efficiently use the capacity that we have.

Editorial: What is Question B on the November Ballot?

By Brian Hooker

There are always some additional questions that appear on the ballot that nobody has ever mentioned or that maybe you heard about, but nobody understands. There are 3 County questions, A, B, and C, that will appear on the November ballot. Questions A and C appear to be fairly innocuous housekeeping measures on Montgomery County's Charter put forth by the County Council. Question B is the one that has gained the most debate in the County. This question was petitioned by veteran County petitioner, Robin Ficker. The question, as it will appear on the ballot is as follows:

QUESTION B

Charter Amendment by Petition
Term Limits - County Council and County Executive
Amend Sections 105 and 202 of the County Charter to:

- limit the County Executive and members of the County Council to 3 consecutive terms in office;
- provide that a County Executive and any member of the County Council who will have served 3 or more consecutive terms on December 3, 2018, cannot serve another successive term in the same office; and
- provide that service of a term includes complete service of a full term and partial service of a full term.

For
Against

On the surface this question seems fairly innocuous as well. Why not limit the Executive and the Council members to three 4-year terms? Isn't 12 years long enough for anyone? After all, the U.S. President is limited to two 4-year terms, why not our County representatives? Mr. Ficker argues that term limits will create opportunities for new candidates and fresh ideas. He further argues that lobbyists have more sway with long-serving Council members. The counterargument is that term limits unnecessarily limit good, qualified, public servants when they are already subject to elections every 4 years. The argument is that if they are performing poorly, then they will lose at the ballot box at the following primary or general election. They further argue that rather being less susceptible to special-interest lobbying, new Council members are actually just as susceptible to lobbyists, if not more so than their long-serving members. Lastly, opponents to the measure argue the measure will result in a vast loss of institutional knowledge by requiring that long-serving, even highly effective members to retire after a maximum of 12 years. This referendum, if adopted, would result in 4 or 5 of the current 9 Council members not being able to run again for the Council. It would also result in this being the last term for County Executive Ike Leggett. From my perspective this initiative seems to be an over-reaction to dissatisfaction with the status quo. The problem is that it seems to ignore that the status quo can be disrupted at the end of every Council member's terms in the primary or general election. It also does present, in my opinion, a serious issue of re-inventing the wheel on a shorter schedule since there is not as long of an opportunity for new members to learn from long-serving members before taking leadership roles. Also, shorter terms create shorter planning horizons that may limit the willingness of members to tackle more difficult, long-term issues.

Resources consulted for this article: Montgomery County Sentinel newspaper, Bethesda Beat, and the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County Voter Guide: <http://www.lwvmocomd.org/>

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The RCA Hotline

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



Calls and e-mails received Sept. 6,
2016 through Oct. 8, 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.

Sept. 13, 2016; Anonymous: After watching cars passing stopped school buses, I'd like to warn everyone that MoCo has equipped all buses with cameras and remind everyone of the laws governing drivers who encounter school buses with red lights flashing: the ONLY time you can legally pass by that bus is if it is on the opposite side of a divided highway of 4 lanes or more AND there is a median divider. In all other cases, you are required to stop and wait.

Neighbor Response: Now if we could get school bus drivers to stop speeding on Ashley Dr....they could never stop in time for a sudden child crossing or car backing out.

Poster reply: You could call the MoCo schools bus dispatch and report this. They will ask you the number of the bus in the side window across from the driver, but they can only take action if you report it.

Sept. 22, 2016; Anonymous: We and other neighbors in the Schuylkill/Ashley area have had recent issues with mail theft...mainly coming home to find opened and empty Amazon boxes or torn-up outgoing greeting cards. We are taking some security precautions but I just wanted to alert everyone to keep an eye out for yourselves and your neighbors.

RCA response: Unfortunately this is a common problem in other areas of Montgomery County as well. If anybody ever experiences this, please report it to the Police Non-Emergency number at 301-279-8000. This will allow them to track the activity and address it.

Sept. 29, 2016; Anonymous: Yeah, Montgomery County doesn't care about the trees or the tree problem. The people that came and cut my trees killed my trees, and they've done nothing about it. Now I've got a dead tree in front of my house. It's dropping branches on to my car, and it's in the county strip and they won't do anything about it. When they were destroying the trees, the trimmers did not speak English and couldn't understand me when I tried to talk to them, and they

didn't have any knowledge of how to trim a tree properly. So you know, what do you do? What do you do?

Community Day 2016 Roundup

By Alison Dewey

Thanks to all who came out for Community Day! We had an incredible turnout and a lot of fun despite the rainy weather. A big thank you to Claudio Martin & Mohammad for all his work on the grill; the Brazilian BBQ was delicious. There were many other volunteers who helped make the event possible: Ashley Salganik, Karena Cooper, Paul Ricci, Kate Bueno, Lorena Moyer, Ravaka Prevost, Mara Greengrass, Matt Tifford, Brian Hooker, Christiana Drapkin. Thank you!

It was wonderful to see so many new faces out enjoying the neighborhood activity.

A BIG High Five to all who withstood the rain to run and/or walk the 5K. Top Male was Kevin Weaver; Top Female was Molly Kim.

For the official event results go to:

<http://www.webscorer.com/race?raceid=82295>

Below is a full list of 5K participants:

Kevin Weaver	Ravaka Prevost
Molly Kim	Njiva Rakotonirina
Tara Inverso	Kristen Tessier
Travis Scala	Amelie Tessier
Chelly Scala	Nell Rumbaugh
Mark Nensel	Eric Wisotzky
Philip Tessier	Joel Cahalan
Jennifer Hobim	Gabriel Cahalan
Karen Mowrer	Ruby Cahalan
Clara Hooker	Christy Cahalan
Jean Luc Tessier	Lucy Grinnell
Nobuku Rakotonirina	Kimberly Walsh
Will Taylor	Taylee Cahalan
Cora Hooker	Ava Wisotzky
Lilian Motta	Chris Moran
Camila Kuhne	
Kei Rakotonirina	
Djalle Prevost	



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RCF President's Message October 2016

by Ashley Salganik

Happy Fall everyone! Our neighborhood is home to many young families with children who are beside themselves with excitement for trick-or-treating. Consider picking up a few bags of candy and turning on some lights to greet your neighbors on this night that kids look forward to each year. It's so much fun to see our sidewalks bustling with excitement! I am particularly excited this year for the **Halloween House Decorating Contest!** Check out the article in this ECHO dedicated to this new contest and how to participate.

On Halloween evening, drivers need to be extra cautious on our crowded streets when children are running about from house to house eager for more candy. And, families, please be mindful in your celebration. Ensure that children are trick-or-treating with an adult or trusted older child and that they only approach houses where the lights are on. If kids are wearing masks, make sure they can see (and breathe!) so that they can walk safely. Flashlights and glo-sticks are the perfect accessory with any costume! Have a very Happy Halloween!

Troop 1083 News October 2016

By Ben Pitkin

Happy New Scouting Year: 2016/2017 is under way! The first troop meeting of the year took place on Monday, September 19th. Just four days later, the Scouts embarked on their first outing of the year: a weekend campout at Smallwood State Park in Marbury, Maryland. Smallwood, located at a scenic spot on the Potomac River opposite Triangle, Virginia, had not previously been visited by the Troop. Over the years, the Scouts have accumulated camping experiences in settings that offer a surprisingly wide variety of terrains, altitudes, weather conditions, and plant and animal life. The Scouts appreciate how fortunate they are to reside in and around RCA-Land, which puts all of us in a region that is close to first-rate mountains, beaches, forests, estuaries, and urban and wilderness hiking and biking trails.

Troop meetings in October will focus on merit badges. Some of the Scouts are working on Citizenship badges that are required if they intend to earn the Eagle rank. Others are learning about Pioneering, Sports, Chess, or one of several other elective merit badges that were offered by the Troop's dedicated counselors. The October campout at nearby Cabin John park will include the fall Court of Honor, at which the Scouts will be recognized

RCF Board of Directors for 2016-2017

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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

for all of the rank advancements, merit badges, and special awards they have earned since June (spoiler alert: there are a lot of them).

Mark your calendar now for the annual Scouting for Food drive! It will take place on Saturday morning November 12th. Please remember to leave a bag (or more) of donated nonperishable food on your doorstep that morning, and the Scouts will pick it up for delivery to local food banks and ultimate distribution to needy families in the area. The residents of RCA-land should take pride in their generosity, as the Scouts round up truly impressive quantities of donated food each year. You and the Scouts make a big difference in the lives of people who most need it.

If you are a boy who has finished the fifth grade you can join us. We meet Monday nights at 7:30 at Viers Mill Elementary School. You can call Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301 933-0048, or check out the troop web page at www.troop1083.

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 November-December 2016 issue is: Friday Nov. 11th.

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

Eight Years and Going Strong: Our Randolph Hills Neighborhood Caroling

**Mondays: December 5, 12, 19,
from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

By Christiana Drapkin

Are you new to our neighborhood? Have you otherwise missed our annual holiday tradition of Neighborhood Caroling? Or do you remember our get-togethers fondly from our previous years?

When I moved to Randolph Hills – goodness, almost nine years ago – I got a sudden case of homesickness, and I wasn't sure how to make it through the holiday season in my new surroundings. So my partner Bob and I took the initiative to start something new, to make our first Christmas season shine. We showed up at the monthly Randolph Civic community meetings, joined the very useful Yahoo group listserv, and got connected with a good chunk of our 1350-household community. I posted some "Calls for Neighborhood Carolers" for the holiday season. Soon we got our first responses. We decided to meet every Monday in December, with our printed song sheets of familiar and half-forgotten Christmas carols and other fun winter songs. To make it sweet, we started off in one house with cookies and hot cider, and we would end up in another volunteer's house two hours later, to warm up with some more cookies and hot cocoa.

Dear neighbors, are you ready for our eighth season of door-to-door neighborhood caroling to ring in the holiday season? Will you meet up with our intrepid band of Randolph Hills residents, young and old, and help us make some down-home holiday cheer?

Each Monday in December, we'll assemble at 6:30 p.m. at a home here in the neighborhood, for cookies and some warm hellos. After about 15 minutes or so, we bundle up and head outside to walk the nearby street blocks. We stop in front of most houses where the lights are on, and where we think that someone is home, ring the door bell, and sing a Christmas carol or two. Often, our surprised neighbors open the door, smile and sing along. And of course, the kids love it! Around 8 p.m. we end up at the last house of our outing, where gracious hosts expect us for a concluding round of cookies, hot cider, and other goodies. Parents with young kids head home for a quick dash to bed, while some of us grown-ups linger a bit longer, get to meet and greet each other, have a glass of Gluehwein or eggnog, and reflect on another year that has passed by.

We have seen many families come and go over these years. It's with a little tear and a sigh that I remember some of our gracious hosts who have moved away: Cindy, ElleJae, Amber, Lindsay, Michelle and their families. So, we need a whole new roster of volunteer singers and

hosts who will open their doors to us, to let us in for about ½ an hour at the start or at the end of our musical outing. It is not too early to drop me a line to let me know if you're willing to host us and/or if you'll want to join our caroling group. – It takes quite some organizing work to get this all together. We want to cover different parts of our neighborhood: over by Schuylkill Road, on either side of Boiling Brook, and in Franklin Park. But that will only happen if we get our start- and endpoints arranged.

An added bonus this year for caroling hosts: You can now apply for a hosting grant from the Randolph Civic Foundation. Your expenses, up to \$100, will be covered. See the RCF website for the grant application.

Give me a call at home: (301) 770-7940 or send me an email at ChDrapkin@aol.com. In December you'll see the "Neighborhood Caroling" signs at some street corners as a reminder. I will be so happy to hear from you and set up our new season of neighborhood holiday caroling with your help and support. Thank you. Christiana Drapkin



*From RCA Community Day 2016: Above, the 5K start;
Below, Brazilian BBQ!!*



The UH-OH

The Faux Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association

County Officials Announce new Garbage Fairy Bulk Pickup Program

By Ned Astilegnave and Randy Hilliard

In preparation for the autumn basement clean-out and tenant eviction season, and the mounds of unsightly refuse that come with it, Montgomery County, MD has kicked off its new bulk pickup Garbage Fairy Program.

Originally proposed as a pilot program this past January to fill the lull between visits from Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny, the program is aimed at serving residents who are more inclined to pursue magical solutions rather than more mundane efforts like dialing 311.

“When residents want to dump all their oversized junk out by the curb, they are supposed to first contact MC311 to arrange for pickup,” Superintendent of Public Works Ricky Smith said. “However, many residents prefer to believe that once placed at the curb, their moldy carpets, sofas and non-functional treadmills will be magically transported to another world. Finally we’ve been able to turn this belief into a reality. Under the new program, county garbage fairies will swoop in while residents are sleeping and spirit

the junk off to a magical land of rainbows and unicorns. (It’s a win-win for both the county and the fairy community.”

Prior to the program’s implementation, officials said residents were prone to placing large appliances, furniture, bicycles, and tires at the curb for pick up, without first contacting MC311 for bulk pickup. Since standard garbage trucks are not equipped to accept large items, and magical garbage collecting creatures didn’t exist, they would just be left to sit at the curb often for weeks.

Since the program began, however, Finance Committee Chairman Glen Griffiths said the county has seen a “significant reduction” in its bulk pickup fees.

“Cumulative savings have exceeded \$18,000, equal to nearly 200 tons of debris that was magicked away with fairy dust instead of being hauled to the landfill,” Mr. Griffiths said. “We estimate this is only half the potential savings the county would get if all residents took advantage of this program.”

“Obviously, these numbers aren’t as exciting as last year’s Shopping Cart Return Fairy program,” added Griffiths, “but every little bit helps.”

More information on the county Garbage Fairy Program is available at www.mc311.com.



Above, Garbage Fairies at work in RCA-Land; below, Garbage Fairy Land

2016-2017 RCA Membership

Please return this form to:
The Randolph Civic Association, P.O. Box 2202, North Bethesda, MD 20852

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
2016-2017 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

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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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11446 Schuylkill Road	\$360,000	\$348,000	31	\$8,000	01-Aug-16
4609 Olden Road	\$400,000	\$400,000	0	\$0	10-Aug-16
4702 Coachway Drive	\$329,900	\$325,000	16	\$0	12-Aug-16
5007 Macon Road	\$409,000	\$417,900	7	\$5,000	16-Aug-16
12205 Nordlie Drive	\$419,000	\$435,000	6	\$5,000	26-Aug-16
11108 Schuylkill Road	\$449,750	\$445,000	14	\$0	30-Aug-16
4819 Topping Road	\$410,000	\$407,500	14	\$7,000	09-Sep-16
11013 Schuylkill Road	\$439,900	\$440,000	8	\$0	12-Sep-16
4709 Oxbow Road	\$384,990	\$384,000	91	\$12,000	15-Sep-16
11516 Patapsco Drive	\$290,000	\$290,000	0	\$0	30-Sep-16
4715 Macon Road	\$389,750	\$374,500	88	\$0	04-Oct-16

Denise's recent sales...



Address	Sold Price
4819 Topping Road / Rockville	\$407,500
11108 Schuylkill Road / Rockville	\$445,000
4609 Olden Road / Rockville	\$400,000
11513 Ashley Drive / Rockville	\$465,000
5114 Elsmere Avenue/ Bethesda	\$810,000
4805 Wilwyn Way / Rockville	\$449,950
9616 W. Bexhill Drive/ Kensington	\$670,000

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

*Denise has more than twenty-five years of experience
as a realtor in the neighborhood and surrounding areas.*

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