

The Echo

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association and Randolph Civic Foundation

Volume 51, Issue 6

April 2008

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Police Ticket Illegally Parked Cars

by Richard Zierdt

Will yours be next?

On Tuesday, March 11, 2008, Montgomery County police officers from the 1st district ticketed about 30 cars in the 11200 block of Ashley Drive and some on Schuylkill Road for parking on the wrong side of the street (you must park with the right side tires next to the curb). While the cars ticketed were probably in violation, after decades of non-enforcement, this police action caught everyone by surprise. The RCA had nothing to do with, and was completely unaware of, this police action.

I talked with one of the officers who issued the tickets, Officer Storm. He explained that this action was random, and that other streets (Dewey) and other neighborhoods in this district were also targeted.

Each ticket is \$35.

More facts need to be determined, such as, what is police policy, if any, about what might be construed as "dragnet" style enforcement? What determines when a neighborhood – or a street – will be targeted? Every

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Upcoming Events

RCA Executive Meeting

Thursday, April 3, 2008, 8:00 p.m.

Guest speaker:

Andrew Frank from M-NCPPC

RCA General Meeting

Thursday, May 1, 2008, 8:00 p.m.

Guest speaker:

Commander McSwain of the MCPD



New Meeting Location!

RCA Meetings will be held at the Veirs Mill Rec Center (4425 Garrett Park Rd) until further notice.

Meetings are held on the **first Thursday of every month at 8 p.m.**, except January, July, and August. Usually, we alternate between General and Executive meetings.

All are welcome at every meeting.

Upcoming Guest Speakers:

RCA Executive Meeting, April 3, 2008:

Andrew Frank from M-NCPPC. Mr. Frank will be talking about the Streambed Restoration project in Waverly-Schuylkill Park.

Note: Mr. Frank was previously scheduled to speak at the March 6th meeting, but was rescheduled.

RCA General Meeting, May 1, 2008:

1st District Commander Darryl McSwain of the Montgomery County Police Department will discuss police/community relations and address residents' concerns.

Spring is here! Make plans now for the RCA Yard Sale!

The Spring RCA Yard Sale is scheduled for **Saturday, May 10, 2008** at Loehmann's Plaza. Mark your calendars!

See page 8 for details!



RCA Executive Committee for 2007-2008

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Mike Saunders
12107 Hunters Lane
301-468-9268

Vice President

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4718 Topping Road
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301-938-7494

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301-984-7783

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(continued)

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4718 Topping Road
301-770-5386

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Silver Spring, MD 20906
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Scout Liaison

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Scout Unit Commissioner

Mike Saunders
12107 Hunters Lane
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Leora Hernandez
11814 Dewey Road
Silver Spring, MD 20906
301-933-0460

Girl Scout Leader, Troop 2138

Deanne Marino
11129 Schuylkill Road
301-560-4840

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION DELEGATES

Montgomery County Civic Federation:

Kevin Kline, Matthew Shore, Eileen White, Richard Zierdt
www.montgomerycivic.org

North Bethesda Congress: Matthew Shore, Richard Zierdt

MUNICIPAL AREAS FOR RCA

County Council District 1 (representing all of RCA):

Councilman: Roger Berliner 240-777-7828
email: Councilmember.berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov
Mr. Berliner's aides: Colleen Lauer, Cindy Gibson, Karen Williams, Rebecca Lord

Councilmember: Nancy Floreen 240-777-7959
email: Councilmember.floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov
Ms. Floreen's aides: Merle Steiner, Joyce McCaffrey, Jocelyn Rawat

General County Council Offices: 240-777-7900

County Executive: Ike Leggett 240-777-2500

Montgomery County Public Schools: 301-279-3000

School Board Offices: 301-279-3617

School System Information: 301-279-3391

School Board Member for District 3

(representing all of RCA):

Ms. Patricia O'Neill 301-320-7600

Maryland Legislative District 18 (representing all of RCA):

Senator: Richard Madaleno 301-858-3137

Delegates: Ana Sol Gutierrez 301-858-3181

Al Carr 301-858-3638

Jeffrey Waldstreicher 301-858-3130

Maryland General Assembly Website: <http://mlis.state.md.us>

Montgomery County Delegation Office:

All Senators & Delegates: 301-858-3010

U.S. Congressional District 8:

Christopher Van Hollen 202-225-5341

email: chris.vanhollen@mail.house.gov

U.S. Senate:

Barbara Mikulski 202-224-4654

Benjamin Cardin 202-224-4524

Election Precinct:

04-15 Vote at Rockinghorse Center, 4910 Macon Road

Montgomery Co. Board of Elections: 240-777-8500

751 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, Maryland 20851

www.777vote.org

Maryland State Board of Elections: www.elections.state.md.us

Governor Martin O'Malley

Office of the Governor

100 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

410-974-3591

governor@gov.state.md.us www.gov.state.md.us



RCA Telephone Number: 301-881-2722 (881-2RCA).

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

Membership in the RCA is \$10.00 per year.

The *Echo* is the official publication of the Randolph Civic Association, Inc., P.O. Box 2202, North Bethesda, Maryland 20852. The *Echo* is published 8 times a year and distributed free to all residents of Franklin Park, Hilltop Square, Montrose Park, Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, and Westminster. Deadline for submission of articles varies; the next deadline is noted in each issue. Copy should be sent to the Editor, Eileen White, 11225 Ashley Drive, North Bethesda, Maryland 20852, 301-984-2579, email eeewhitedesign@comcast.net.

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

Police Ticket Cars

(continued from page 1)

now and then, police agencies in the Metro area conduct "Operation Smooth Operator" in an attempt to reduce aggressive driving. Along with the Operation is also a public-awareness campaign and radio spots, which many drivers will hear. In contrast, there was no attempt at public awareness before this March 11 action. I am trying to contact the District Commander, Darryl McSwain, about this.

The RCA is on record as supporting the enforcement of the prohibition of blocking the sidewalk. Interestingly, no such cars were ticketed during this enforcement effort, but they might be in the future.

My sense is that there is little that can be done about those owners who received tickets, but at least we're aware now of what can happen. Please folks, park on the right side of the street and do not block the sidewalk. ■

Update: Commander McSwain was contacted, and he will speak at the May 1 General Meeting.

Minutes of the RCA General Meeting

by Kevin Kline, Secretary

March 6, 2008

The meeting opened with Girl Scouts from RCA's Troop 1028 performing the flag ceremony, presenting the Colors (American Flag) and leading the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. President Mike Saunders passed out a meeting agenda, and passed by unanimous vote: the December General Meeting minutes as published in the March 2008 *Echo*. Also passed by unanimous vote: Treasurer Dell Pillers/Cline report that the RCA is behind in its funding efforts.

A general discussion of membership ensued. Membership is at a respectable 531. Past membership efforts, including the RCA Welcome Wagon and binders we once planned to give new neighbors, were discussed. President Saunders urged RCA'ers to take the initiative and welcome newcomers on your street. Expanded emailings to RCA'ers is a new idea – perhaps email reminders on upcoming RCA General meetings would increase turnout. During this communication discussion, a March *Echo* newsletter article "RCA Hotline" came up. Two RCA'ers took offense at a caller who compared the RCA to Adolf Hitler's Germany and threatened legal action [bring it on!]. The Execs apologized for not editing this call.

The graffiti on the Randolph Hills (closed) recreation center was discussed. The picnic tables had been moved to the rear of the rec center, to be a hangout for young punks.

(continued on page 4)

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RCA General Meeting Minutes

(continued from page 3)

Volunteers moved the tables back to the front area. Both the Park Police and Park Maintenance were urged to keep up their rounds in Randolph Hills Park.

RCA'er Shaul Kopyto briefed the membership on his efforts to eliminate the tacky snowfence in Rock Creek Park at the intersection of Gaynor and Hunter's Lane. The snowfence is needed to keep people from falling down a gully, but Shaul's photos reveal something more substantial than plastic fencing is required. Parks maintenance has been unresponsive. The Boy Scouts will consider taking it on as an Eagle Scout project, but Mike Saunders will also ask our Councilman Berliner for assistance. The Councilman will also be reminded of the RCA's continuing efforts to save our rec center from being demolished.

Secretary Kevin Kline gave a briefing of nearby zoning and road projects. Most importantly, Randolph Road will be slightly widened and straightened near Dewey Road, just east of Rock Creek Park. Five houses will lose part of their front yards. RCA houses will be unaffected.

The RCA and the RCF are preparing required tax filings – Maryland State Personal Property tax forms. The meeting was adjourned. ■

President's Message

by Mike Saunders

Welcome to Spring. My daffodils and tulips are poking their leaves through the ground and the crocuses are in bloom so it must be true. The rodent in Punxsutawney Pennsylvania (I had to look up the spelling of that town) told us back in February that we would have another 6 weeks of winter and he was probably right this year. As I'm writing this column, I'm also running around the house changing clocks for the spring-ahead daylight savings time change and counting the number of smoke detectors in the house that need a battery change. A trip to the store this afternoon will tell me the most efficient way to buy six 9 volt batteries. Our local fire marshal recommends that we do the seasonal battery change. Did you change your smoke detector battery when the clocks went ahead last month? If not, DO IT NOW! I hate seeing the statistics on deaths in residential fires where children died because they didn't get out because the smoke detectors were not working. That battery change is cheap insurance.

I participated in the mulch delivery by the scouts in the 2nd weekend in March. Good exercise for me and great seeing the number of RCA'ers supporting their scout units. Mulch was sold at a reasonable price and the delivery to the home, placing the bags in the homeowner's location of choice by the scouts is a good "value add" by

Troop 1083 and Crew 1083. I hope you participated this year. The scouts do such good work with the support they get from RCA. I've been involved in scouting for 29 years now as an adult and have never heard of any boy from the RCA sponsored Scout Troop who has been incarcerated. The scouts, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Venture Crew will again be participating in the Potomac Watershed Cleanup this year. Also, we can be proud of our two recent Eagle Scouts, Hafez Taghavi and Edward Huggins. Both provided leadership in completing projects of significant value to the community. Edward's Eagle project provided picnic tables and improvements to the courtyard of our own Viers Mill Elementary School and Hafez's project provided a replacement fence for a critical wetlands area at Meadowside Nature Center. Both of these projects were at no cost to the taxpayer and provided a needed improvement on public property. We're looking for specific projects that can be accomplished here in RCA-Land too.

I would like to recommend that everybody be more watchful of the neighbors and the neighborhood. It seems that we are being invaded recently by outsiders who are looking at this as a nice neighborhood to commit a crime. I've been told that neighborhoods where there are neighbors watching out for their neighbors property and calling the police whenever there is something that looks wrong, tend to be off-the-list for easy picking by the criminal element in our society. If it looks wrong, it probably is and you should call the police. You can call police without being named on the complaint if you want to remain anonymous.

We still have not heard the "official fate" of our Rec Center but I expect that it will be razed because I saw the damage done by 50 years of neglect by MNCPPC. That doesn't say we should sit on our hands and take it. Just remember, this same MNCPPC wants to build a new \$80 million headquarters for itself in Silver Spring. I find it inexcusable that they can't find money to maintain current recreation centers or money to replace them but have no problem proposing that we taxpayers fund a new building in one of the most congested areas in the county with some of the highest land values. Why don't they sell the Silver Spring property and use that money to expand the current HQ at one of the park locations they already own. Go figure!

I encourage each of you to continue writing, calling and emailing your council representatives as well as the Park and Planning office on the subject of our parks and our Rec Center. Roger Berliner is our councilman and at large council members representing us are Marc Elrich, Nancy Floreen, George Leventhal and Duchy Trachtenberg. Ike Leggett and the other council members are getting input and comments from their districts too. John Hench, Acting Division Chief, Park Planning and Stewardship

(continued on page 7)

RCA Treasurer's Report *by Dell Pillers/Cline*

There was very little financial activity in February, as evidenced below. ■

RCA Checking Register 02/09/2008 through 03/05/2008

Date	Num	Payee	Memo	Amount	Balance
		BALANCE 02/08/08			\$ 5,841.03
02/06/08	DEP	Advertising income		68.00	5,909.03
02/19/08	EFT	Verizon: Telephone		-26.27	5,882.76
02/23/08	1051	Quick Print: Echo printing		-1,272.00	4,610.76
		BALANCE 03/05/08			\$ 4,610.76

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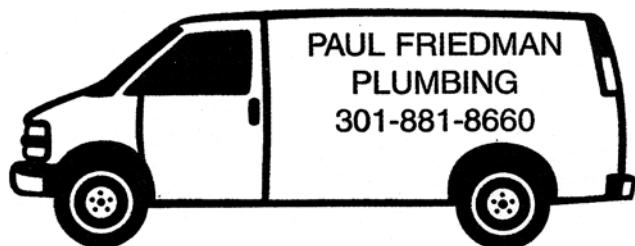
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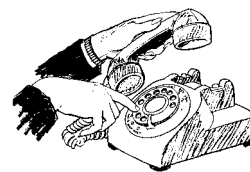
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The RCA Hotline

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**Calls Received February 18, 2008
to March 12, 2008**



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 in the ECHO almost every month. You don't have to leave your name or phone number. The RCA is here to help everyone keep our neighborhood as orderly as possible, so please use these numbers. Please call the RCA as well. We appreciate knowing and learning about our community.

If anyone notices that the hotline is not working, please call Richard Zierdt at 301-881-0283, and/or e-mail the RCA at info@randolphcivic.org. Thanks!

2008-02-21 (Thu) 1:15 pm Not anonymous. Caller would like information on the yard sale and other activities. *[Yard Sale information is posted on the RCA's website.]*

2008-02-24 (Sun) 7:41 pm Not anonymous in Franklin Park. There is a possible change in the traffic pattern at Rocking Horse Road and Randolph Road. What's happening? Will it affect Franklin Park? *[No, because the intent of the traffic restriction has changed. The idea is to limit, rather than prevent, westbound Randolph Road traffic from turning left onto Rocking Horse Road. Gaynor Road traffic will be unaffected.]*

2008-02-25 (Mon) 3:11 pm Not anonymous in Randolph Farms. On the corner of Galena and Macon Road there is a truck that is always parked at that corner on the grass. Caller has asked the driver to move the truck but the driver won't do it. In the meantime, the truck is tearing up the grass.

2008-02-27 (Wed) 10:20 am Not anonymous on Oxbow Road. Caller is commenting on a call last month about trash being brought out on Saturday instead of Sunday night. Caller notes that caller's neighbor, who is elderly and a widower, cannot take the trash out himself and relies on family members to do it. It is more convenient to do this on Saturday. The street looks fine otherwise; the houses are well-kept. The call last month had a kind of negative tone about it as if it were simple to take the trash out on Sunday. Better would be to help our neighbors.

2008-02-27 (Wed) 10:21 am Not anonymous. Caller is wondering if there is an e-mail address for the RCA. Caller knows about the Yahoo group for the RCA, but is there a separate e-mail address? *[Yes. info@randolphcivic.org.]*

E-mails sent here can be reported within these hotline calls if the writer wants, and are treated with the same privacy.]

2008-02-27 (Wed) 12:52 pm Not anonymous on Ertter Drive. Caller's *Echo* was destroyed by the rain yesterday. Can caller receive another copy? ■

President's Message

(continued from page 4)

office, (301) 650-4364, email: john.hench@mncppc-mc.org also needs to be on your email and calling plan as well. Park and Planning is keeping an official log of comments on the plan. Lets' give them some! And lets' keep the pressure up! Here's that contact list again:

Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850
(240) 777-2500
Email: oicemail@montgomerycountymd.gov

Phil Andrews240-777-7906
councilmember.andrews@montgomerycountymd.gov

Roger Berliner240-777-7828
councilmember.berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov

Marc Elrich..... 240-777-7966
councilmember.elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov

Valerie Ervin..... 240-777-7960
councilmember.ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov

Nancy Floreen240-777-7959
councilmember.floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov

Mike Knapp,V.P.....240-777-7955
councilmember.knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov

George Leventhal.240-777-7811
councilmember.leventhal@montgomerycountymd.gov

Marilyn J. Praisner, Pres.....240-777-7968
councilmember.praisner@montgomerycountymd.gov

Duchy Trachtenberg240-777-7964
councilmember.trachtenberg@montgomerycountymd.gov

Snail mail address for all Councilmembers is:
100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850

See you around the neighborhood as I ride my motor scooter more now that it is spring.... Mike. ■

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RCA Community Yard Sale

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RCA/RCF Meetings

RCA/RCF meetings are held the **first Thursday of every month** (except January, July and August) at 8:00 p.m.. Meetings will be held at the **Veirs Mill Rec Center, 4425 Garrett Park Road (intersection of Garrett Park Road and Beach Drive)** until further notice. Usually we alternate between General and Executive meetings. If you are unsure about meeting times and dates, please call the RCA Hotline (301-881-2722) for verification. All are welcome at every meeting. The current meeting schedule is:

April 3, 2008 Executive Committee Meeting

May 1, 2008 General Membership Meeting

June 5, 2008 General Membership Meeting



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Lifestyle Spa	(301) 468-9770
Loehmann's	(301) 770-0030
Parcel Plus	(301) 468-2177
Royal Martial Arts	(301) 770-1007
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RCF NEWS

President's Pen

by George Gadbois

This month there are two topics of interest or concern, but it is too early to provide a report. The first is our neighborhood stream cleanup spearheaded by our Scout groups held on Saturday March 29th. The other is the result of the County's budget as was submitted to the County Council by our County Executive in mid-March, specifically as it pertains to the \$1.2M needed to continue the Middle School Magnet Consortium programs in those schools attended by many in RCA/RCF-land. At press time, results from either were not available.

On a different note, take a moment and think about what it means to be a good citizen. And think beyond voting or displaying your American flag, though they are very important too. Do any of the following come to mind?

- Do your share to make your school, your community, and the world a better place.....
- Take responsibility for what goes on around you.
- Participate in community service.
- Help take care of the environment.
- Be a good neighbor.
- Treat other people with respect and dignity.
- Follow the rules of your family, your school, and your society.

Convince yourself that you're not "too busy" to do some, or all of the above. Then, not to do it once, but keep doing it if you don't already, until it becomes a habit. And if you "don't have time", what is it you are doing that is so much more important?

This is not self-righteousness; this is our responsibility as citizens, which of course is one of the "Six Pillars of Character" along with citizenship itself: Trustworthiness,

Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. The Scouts try to follow a similar set of "laws" in their programs, why not all of us?

Speaking of Scouts, be sure to check out the recent activities of our Scout groups elsewhere in this *Echo*. Please join the RCF at an upcoming meeting. ■

Minutes of the RCF General Meeting

by Kevin Kline, Secretary

March 6, 2008

RCF President George Gadbois opened the meeting with a Treasurer's report: the RCF has a balance of \$71.40. Passed by unanimous vote: the Treasurer's report.

There is a potential date conflict for the planned Spring neighborhood stream cleanup, normally done in conjunction with the annual Potomac Watershed cleanup. Either a new volunteer for the neighborhood cleanup will step forward, or the date will have to change from the usual first Saturday in April, because George has a conflict this year on that date.

The draft RCF by-laws are progressing, and will be voted on before the traditional summer break. The RCF membership increased to 249 persons.

RCF Webmaster Karen Helfert asks the membership to write articles to be posted on the new RCF website. A general discussion on the upcoming website ensued. Passed by unanimous vote: for the RCF to assist the (Boy Scout) Venturing Crew to host its own website.

The Randolph Hills Local Park youth (soccer) field was briefly discussed. Serious adult soccer teams were using the field, but during the winter the field is closed to allow the grass to regenerate. The RCF called the Park Police, who chased off the adult soccer players. Please help yourself, and call the Park Police if you spot professional type soccer players on this youth field. ■

RCF Executive Committee for 2007-2008

OFFICERS

President

George Gadbois
4718 Topping Road
301-770-5386

Vice President

Chad Salganik
4818 Mori Drive
202-359-6158

Secretary

Kevin Kline
4808 Randolph Road
301-230-1486

Treasurer

Richard Zierdt
4707 Coachway Drive
301-881-0283

Directors

Mike Saunders
12107 Hunters Lane
301-468-9268

Karen Helfert
11429 Ashley Drive
301-468-0236

Dan Hoffman
4602 Wilwyn Way
301-938-7494

Matt Shore
11230 Troy Road
301-468-1225

The Randolph Civic Foundation originated in 1996. It was formed to provide educational and charitable services to the Randolph Community.

RCF Web site:
www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org
Phone: 301-881-2722

News from Pack 1081

by Mike Mulcahy



Happy Chinese New Year, readers! Our annual Blue and Gold Banquet was held at Viers Mill Elementary School on Thursday, February 21, 2008. All Cub Scouts, families and friends enjoyed a delicious Chinese take-out feast at this year's Blue and Gold Banquet. Pot-luck items were provided at dinner as well, and tasty treats flew off the dessert table so if you were there, you most likely did not leave hungry. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this event! A special thank you to **Laura Levensgard**, our Blue and Gold Chairperson. In addition, thank you to all the families who provided the added array of side dishes and desserts which were delicious as always. Scout Committee Chairman **Don Gibbon's** PowerPoint slideshow brought back memories as we saw ourselves over the past year in scouting, and a round of applause goes to the Webelos II for performing a puppet skit to the delight of all present.

The presentation of our 45th annual Charter, flag ceremonies, recognition of our adult leadership and a host of awards to hard-working Scouts were among the highlights at the banquet. Webelos Scouts **Matthew Kimball, Cameron Lett** and **Mateo Streed** all earned the Webelos Rank Award. Bear Scouts **Sebastian Jardine** and **Devon Parker** were presented the Bear Rank Award. Wolf Scouts **Pedro Cerriteno, Brian DeOliverira, Mark Kimball, Jordan Pitts** and **Wolfie Woolard** were awarded the Wolf Rank Award. Last but not least, Tiger Scouts **Thomas Alder, Galen Gibbons, Nathaniel Harley, Daniel Hernandez, JoJo Polk, Damien Raber** and **Adrian Streed** earned the Tiger Rank Award. In additions, our Webelos I earned the following Webelos Activity Pins: Engineer – **Matthew Kimball,**

Cameron Lett and **Mateo Streed;** Athlete – **Matthew Kimball, Cameron Lett** and **Mateo Streed;** and Naturalist – **Cameron Lett** and **Mateo Streed.** **Matthew Kimball** was also awarded the Sports and Academic Pin in Snow Ski Sports. Bear Scouts earned Sports and Academic Belt Loops as follows: Skiing – **Devon Parker** and **Sebastian Jardine,** and Chess – **Devon Parker** and **Sebastian Jardine.** Wolf Scouts were presented Sports and Academic Belt Loops and Pins: Art Belt Loop – **Mark Kimball, Wolfie Woolard, Pedro Cerriteno, Jordan Pitts, Zachery Huynh,** and **Brian DeOliveria;** Snow Ski Sports Pin – **Mark Kimball;** Citizenship Belt Loop – **Wolfie Woolard, Jordan Pitts** and **Zachery Huynh;** Citizenship Pin – **Mark Kimball, Wolfie Woolard, Pedro Cerriteno, Jordan Pitts, Zachery Huynh** and **Brian DeOliveria,** and Basketball Belt Loop – **Wolfie Woolard.** Tiger Scouts were awarded Sports and Academic Belt Loops: in Computers – **Thomas Adler;** Bowling – **Thomas Adler,** and in Skiing – **Galen Gibbons** and **Adrian Streed.**

On Saturday, February 16th, our Scouts visited the National Building Museum in Washington, DC. The following Scouts took part in this both fun and educational event: **Thomas Alder, Aidan Gibbons, Galen Gibbons, Nathaniel Harley, Mark Kimball, Matthew Kimball, Damien Raber** and **DJ Terry.** The next day, on Sunday, the 17th of February, the Pack joined Troop 1083 for the annual ski outing to Liberty in Pennsylvania. Conditions were prime on the slopes for our Scouts once again this year and a good time was had by all in attendance. Let's hear it for our skiing Scouts: **Aidan Gibbons, Galen Gibbons, Sebastian Jardine, Mark Kimball, Matthew Kimball, Colin McLean, Devon Parker, Adrian Streed** and **Jordan Pitts!** What a wonderful Scout Weekend it was!

Recently, Cub Scout Uniform Inspections were conducted, and (drum roll, please!...) the winners for the "Best Dressed" in full uniform are: **Aidan Gibbons, Sebastian Jardine, Devon Parker, Preston Polk, Mark Kimball, Matthew Kimball, Wolfie Woolard** and **Mateo Streed.** The winning den, with the highest inspection points, is the Webelos I Den! Congratulations to all our winners!

Near the conclusion of our February Blue and Gold Pack Meeting, a very special award, the Boy Scout Family Award, was presented to the **Kimball-Cropper Family** for their very active participation in Scouting and high level of contribution to Scouting as a family. Hats off to the Kimball-Cropper Family for their dedication to Pack 1081! Thank you very much!

At press time, we're looking forward to some exciting March activities including a Scout outing to see the Harlem Globetrotters perform at the Verizon Center in Washington, DC, a Webelos II overnight campout at Cabin John with Troop 1083, the District Pinewood Derby finals and our Parent/Son Bake-Off. If you are

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interested in learning more about the Cub Scout program for your 1st – 5th grade son, please stop by Viers Mill ES any Monday evening at 6:30 P.M. It's never too late to join! Please visit our website location for more Pack 1081 news and pictures: <http://www.pack1081.org>. ■



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ECHO ADVERTISING EDITOR NEEDED

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

After many years as your *Echo* Advertising Editor, I would like someone to assume this position by the 2008-2009 season. My thought is that we would work together during the 2007-2008 season as a way of easing the transition.

The role of Advertising Editor is very interesting and I'm sure whoever volunteers will find it most satisfying. My phone number is 301-770-7590.

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Troop 1083 News

by Nona Mapes

Spring is here; at least it is for some new young birds in the troop. Not only did **Hafez Taghavi** have an interesting and inspiring Eagle Court of Honor but another senior scout, Edward Huggins, passed his Eagle Board of Review. The Scoutmasters are really crowing with pride this month! The Court of Honor fun started with the scoutmasters carrying Hafez up the center aisle of the Calvary Lutheran Church and School in Silver Spring at 5pm on 16 Feb 2008. He sat majestically above the crowd on a chair held aloft by the Scoutmasters. At least he did until the crowd started clapping and the pole bearers all started laughing as they lowered the chair so he could get out. With the traditional silliness over, the rest of the ceremony was nearly as much fun as it was ceremony. The troop presented the colors, **Ms. Trina Sensenig** gave a short Invocation and the guests were introduced. A real treat was Hafez's special presentation violin performance. Many in the troop had never heard him play but he bowled them over with one classical and one folk selection. Hafez and his parents **Lydia and Ali**, would like to thank **Mr. Matthew Binstead** for acting as Master of Ceremony, **Mr. Mike Saunders** for presenting the certificates, **Mr. Greg Skolnik** for his personal remembrances, and **Mr. Brian McGahey** for his rendition of "the Trail to Eagle". Also special thanks to **Mr. Kyle Blakely** and his father **Bill** for helping with the beauti-

Lunch sure tastes good when you worked all morning delivering mulch.



Troop 1083 and Crew 1083 chillin' at Skyline.

ful candle lighting ceremony. The Court ended with remarks by Hafez and **Mr. Dave Talbot** the Scoutmaster and a final benediction, again by **Ms. Trina Sensenig**. The reception that followed was held right downstairs and the troop really enjoyed their favorite part of scouting, eating and hanging out with good friends with good cause to be proud.

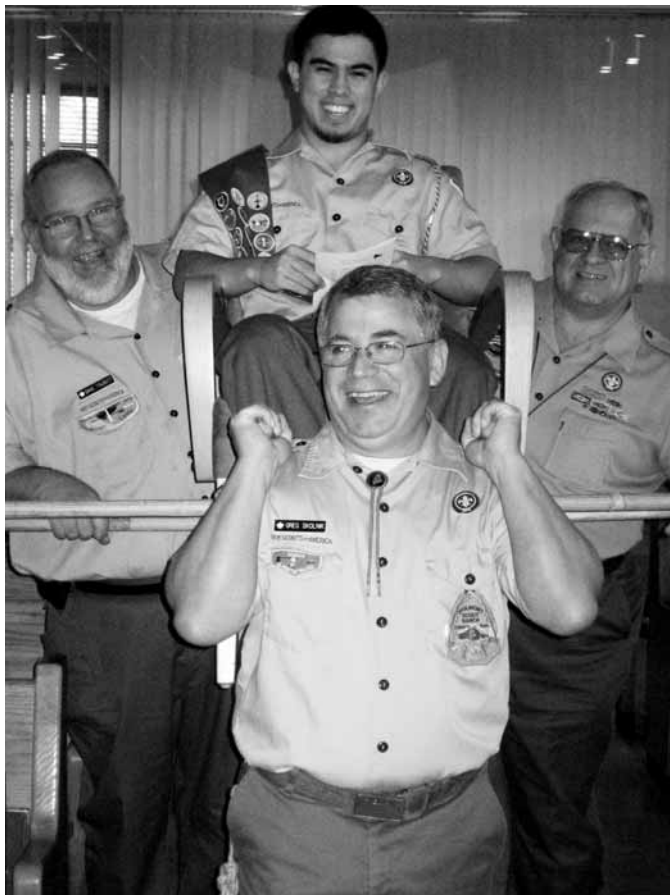
This was by no means all the troop has been up to. The very next day several intrepid souls ventured up to Ski Liberty for a day on the slopes. The troop allowed snowboards for the first time and **Mike Mapes** provided lots of slapstick entertainment as well as instruction for would be boarders. **Mr. Saunders** generously spent much of his time helping several of the boys work on the skiing merit badge. Everyone had a great time and came away tired but happy after 12 hours on the hill. The Scouts who took to the slopes were **Wil Anderson, Jason Beam, Jake Blakely, Kyle Blakely, Anthony Gadbois, Greg Gadbois, Brad Gessford, Brady Grundy, Johnny Hilderbrand, Edward Huggins, Scott Levensgard, Mike Mapes, Patrick Owen, Joseph Owen, John Pitkin, Davis Santos, Eric Uglem, and Andy Wood**.

The Mulch Sales delivery is taking place even as I work on this article. The Troop sold over 3600 lbs of mulch to help support the troop activities and now the boys are sling-ing mulch up on truck beds and down onto driveways and generally getting a good workout while supplying our neighbors a timely service. It is great to see the boys and families all coming together for this effort and the extra help was really needed when the wind picked up and nearly blew the Dining Fly away and the rain turned into torrents. Even with the challenging weather the job was done just as the sun came out.

Next week on the 14-15th we expect to be camping at Cabin John Park for Webelos Weekend. This is an opportunity for Cub scouts who will soon be bridging to camp with the older scouts. It is one of the last activities they do as cubs before bridging to Scouts in April. ■

Top: Hafez plays classical and folk and the Scouts finally see what took up so much of his free time.

Bottom: Hafez's traditional majestic entrance into the Eagle Court of Honor.



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News from Girl Scout Troop 1028

by Leora Hernandez

Bear with me as I become a little reflective for a minute. When I stepped into a leadership role with our troop last year, I had never considered being that involved. I saw a need and was willing to take a chance. I had no idea that each little girl would become "my girl". It is very rewarding to work with our daughters and see them discover the world around them. As they are learning, so am I. Girl Scouts is a rich program that promotes taking care of yourself, exposes girls to new experiences, teaches them to be responsible citizens, and so much more. Now, I see myself being a girl scout for many, many years to come.

The Juniors and Brownies have continued to work together. To help with spring fever we decided to play games. The girls loved playing Hawk and Hen, which is a version of tag, Sheep and Hyena, and more.

We had a Bring a Friend troop meeting that was a big hit with the girl scouts and the friends. They jumped rope and had snacks. During snack time we talked a little about sun safety and then had a fun relay race. The girls had to take turns running and putting on sunglasses, shirts, and a big hat. To bring some of their energy down we taught them about relaxation and how it can help you calm down

if you are afraid or nervous. The girls really impressed me with their willingness to go through a little exercise in relaxation.

We also did some role playing to prepare for our cookie booth sales. Selling cookies does more than just provide funds for our troop. The girls learn about salesmanship, customer service, tallying, and making change. By the time you get this our cookie sales will be wrapping up. In March we had three booth sales. Two were at the Wheaton Plaza Giant and hopefully some of you saw us outside the Safeway at Loehmann's Plaza on March 22, 2008.

Those of you who came to the Randolph Hills Civic Association meeting on March 6, 2008 were treated to a flag ceremony by **Devon, Jazel, and Mayah**. Thank you for letting us be a part of your meeting.

After Spring Break, we will resume our meetings on April 10, 2008. Our focus will turn towards getting the girls ready for camping and other outdoor fun.

Girls in K – 5th grade interested in Girl Scouts? We meet every other Thursday at the Veirs Mill Recreation Center at 4425 Garrett Park Road from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Contact Leora Hernandez at 301-933-0460 (evenings) or Rosi Muehlstedt (hablo Español) 240-603-1847 for more information. ■


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Gardening In Randolph Hills

by Karen Helfert

Spring is here and the garden beckons. Some thoughts about pruning – a typical task home owners think about in the spring.

There are a few simple do's and don'ts which will help maintain your shrubs. Some general information about pruning can be found at:
<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/sumer/factsheets/shrubs/text/pruning.html>

Generally, prune flowering shrubs AFTER they have bloomed. Pruning before they have bloomed will remove flower buds Of course in our area, the deer may have already eaten the buds. Check the internet for specific information about the shrub you are dealing with.

Most evergreens, if their branches are pruned, will NOT grow back in the same way shrubs like azaleas will do. Yews are the most notable exception – making yews easier to manage in the average garden. Information about pruning evergreens:
<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/nursery/430-457/430-457.html>

Many woody shrubs, such as azaleas, should be pruned by cutting individual branches down into the center of the bush. Many shrubs respond to pruning by putting out a bunch of branches at the point the branch was cut. If an azalea is sheared – cutting the ends of branches to form an smooth "surface" – the result is very bushy branch ends. These bushy ends prevent air and light from reaching the center of the shrub and the center foliage dies off, leaving only an outer shell/edge of leaves and flowers and a brown, leafless center. Granted this is more time consuming than shearing the bushes with a pruner. A nice article about pruning azaleas can be found at:

http://www.southernliving.com/southern/gardens/how_to/article/0,28012,598688,00.html

Shrubs developed for hedges – such as privet or boxwood – do fine with being sheared with a pruner. The top should be slightly narrower than the bottom, so sunlight can reach the bottom branches.



Shrubs such as lilac or forsythia should have some old canes (branches) cut out completely to the ground, otherwise they will gradually rot away – bad for the plant. A few canes should be removed each year. Information on pruning lilacs: <http://www.gardener-snet.com/lilac/lilac02.htm>

Information on pruning forsythia:
<http://www.beginner-gardening.com/forsythia.html>

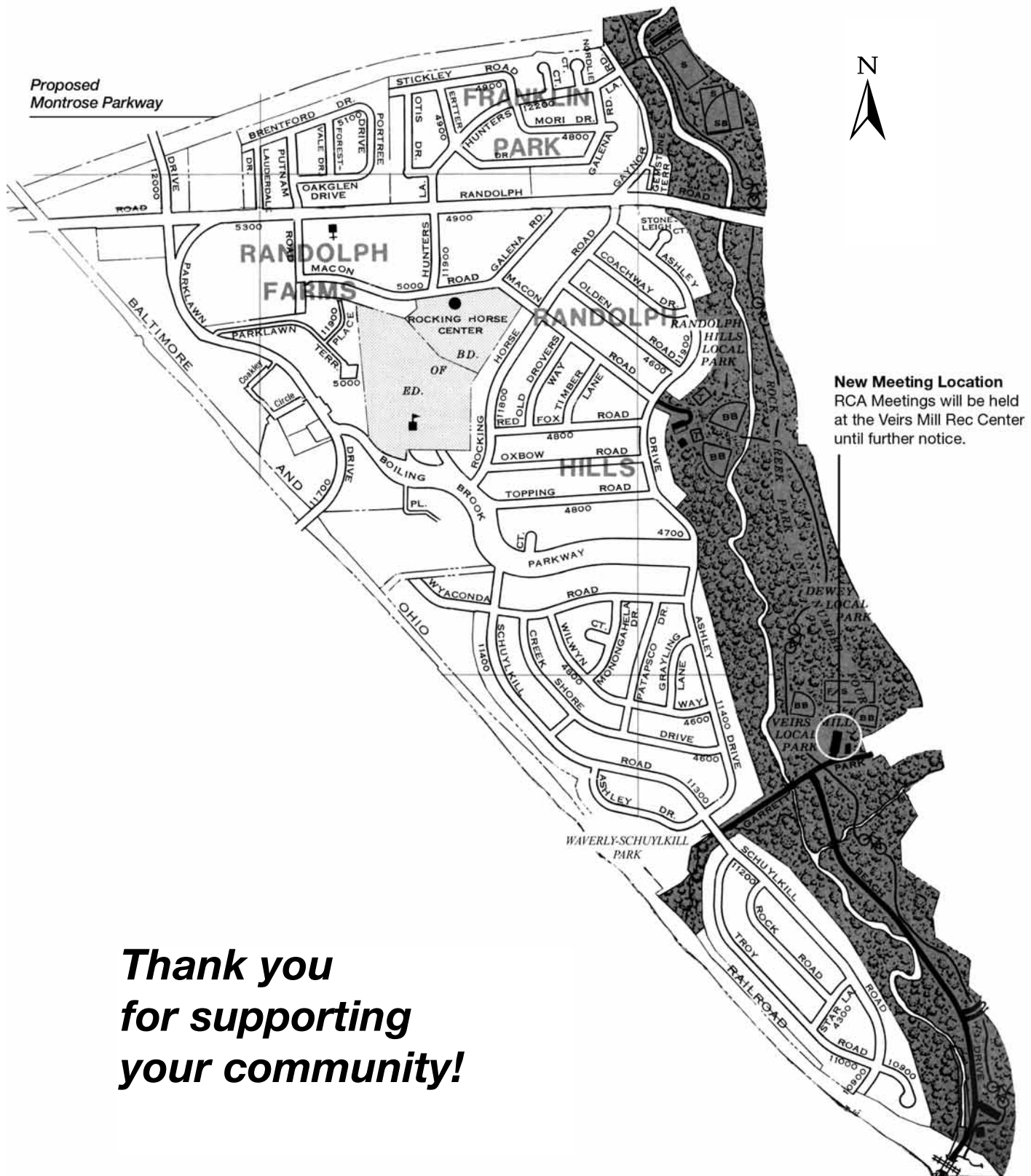
Foundation plantings soften the edges of a home, but if left to grow unchecked can smother a house visually, cover windows (darken interiors), and make the house look smaller. Foundation plantings should be kept pruned below gutter level at the corners and below window level in between corners. Problem is, many houses had cheap evergreens planted by the developers. Once overgrown, these evergreens are almost impossible to prune back gracefully – thus the importance of regular pruning to keep in control. ■

Caveat: Information provided is for general guidance and is not guaranteed to be appropriate in your situation.



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Deadlines for the remainder of the Issue year are:

May 2008 April 5
Jun/Jul/Aug 2008 May 3



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Here's a list of boys and girls willing to perform leaf raking, grass mowing, snow shoveling, general yard work, etc. Negotiate cost and payment with each boy or girl.

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Jennifer Moy 240-672-4921

Anthony Gadbois 301-770-5386


Gregory Gadbois 301-770-5386



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Police: Non-Emergency (Rockville Station)	240-773-6070
Park Police	301-949-3010
<i>(for Randolph Hills and Waverly-Schuylkill Parks)</i>	
Abandoned Cars (on private property)	240-777-3785
Abandoned Cars (on the street)	301-840-2454
Animal Control	240-773-5960
Building Permits	240-777-6200
Consumer Affairs	240-777-3636
Crisis Hotline (24 hours)	301-315-4000
Department of Natural Resources	800-442-0708
<i>(wildlife nuisance problems)</i>	
Disability Resources	240-777-1246
Fire Non-Emergency	240-777-0744
Housing Code Violations	240-777-3600
<i>(for calls about tall grass, broken windows, trash in yard, etc.)</i>	
Large Item Pick-up	240-777-6410
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Telephone Reference	240-777-0001
Metrorail and Metrobus schedules & info.	202-637-7000
Montgomery County Humane Society	240-773-5960
Emergencies only	240-773-5900
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Motor Vehicle Administration	1-800-950-1682
Office of Environmental Policy & Compliance ..	240-777-7700
<i>(noise, burning leaves, hazardous materials, spilled/leaking motor oil)</i>	
Parking Tickets	240-453-0113
Parks: Information & Permits	301-495-2525
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Recreation Information	240-777-6804
School Information	301-279-3391
Senior Citizens (Holiday Park)	240-777-4999
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Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, Franklin Park and Montrose Park Market Update...

Neighborhood Home Sales Settled Since January 1, 2008

Address	List Price	Sold Price	DOM	Subsidy	Date Settled
4826 Ertter Drive	\$399,999	\$399,000	170	\$300	10-Jan-08
12009 Rocking Horse	\$379,900	\$360,000	192	\$10,000	25-Jan-08
4816 Topping Road	\$425,000	\$400,000	92	\$0	08-Feb-08
4625 Gemstone Ter	\$425,000	\$408,000	87	\$0	17-Feb-08
11808 Timber Lane	\$360,000	\$362,075	119	\$22,575	20-Feb-08

*Currently there are 18 listings in the area
ranging in price from \$292,900 to \$529,000. The market
has been picking up... there are 6 homes that
have gone under contract since January 23rd and open houses
have been busy. If you are considering selling or buying a home,
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