

The ECHO

The Newsletter of the Randolph Civic Association

Volume 53, Issue 6

April 2010

Aging for All: What is Our Neighborhood Practice?

by Bob Walker and Christiana Drapkin

Many factors help people in a neighborhood survive and thrive, such as when we do things that help us learn from each other; or when we share what is valuable to us as a community. When we are a diverse people and have developed this common understanding, our diversity is a strength and not divisive. We become good neighbors; we are being a community.

There are many diverse attributes within the RCA neighborhood that can provide us with a wide knowledge base about our community and its members. When shared, we create new knowledge that is otherwise unavailable. One characteristic of diversity that we all face as a neighborhood is learning about our neighbors who are in the later part of life. It is in our best interest as a collective and neighborly community to develop a shared understanding about growing old in Randolph Hills.

Our aged neighbors can be a valuable resource with their insights and knowledge about the history of issues we must face together. We can develop the means to support and in turn, to be supported by them. The recent winter weather, for example, reminds us of our interconnectedness for surviving and thriving. There are many other everyday situations and circumstances, where it benefits

all of us when we work as considerate people. Collectively, we can discover how to address making a life together amidst changing situations and conditions.

A recent report, "Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities and Neighborhood Villages" by the Montgomery County Office of Legislative Oversight, June 16, 2009, cites the following: *(continued on page 9)*

Help Us Cleanup Rock Creek

by Dan Hoffman

The Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF), the Friends of Rock Creek's Environment (FORCE), Randolph Civic Foundation, and our local Boy Scout troop 1083 will again field dozens volunteers to clean up trash along Rock Creek. This

year we will also be joined by the Friends of White Flint in the effort. We

plan to cover the Randolph Hills section of the creek as part of the Potomac Watershed Cleanup on the morning of Saturday, April 10, 2010 from 9am-Noon.

George Gadbois is the site leader for our area and we will be meeting in the *(continued on page 5)*

Please consider being a volunteer and help us cleanup Rock Creek. For more information contact George Gadbois by email at gdbjsjr@aol.com

Upcoming Events

RCA General Membership Meeting: Public Safety in Our Community

April 1st, 2010 8:00pm-10:00pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center

Join representatives from District 1 MCPD, Chief of the Pre-Release and Reentry Services Division Stephan LoBuglio, and Park Police Chief Chief Darien Manley

Rock Creek Cleanup Day

April 10th, 2010 9:00am-12:00pm, Randolph Hills Shopping Center (in front former of the Amazing Saving Location)

Come join your friends and neighbors as we do our part to clean up Rock Creek and our local parks.

RCA Executive Board Meeting

May 6th, 2010 8:00pm-10:00pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center

Planning for summer activities and 2010-2011 RCA membership year

RCA Community Bazaar (formerly the Spring Yard Sale)

May 8th, 2010 8:00am-1:00pm, Loehmann's Plaza

Show up early and claim a good spot! RCA members get a free space; Non-members pay \$10 per space.

RCF Annual Meeting and Spaghetti Dinner

May 17th, 2010 7:00pm-10:00pm, Veirs Mill Recreation Center

Come join your neighbors for dinner! The event is free and all are welcome. RCF will also be hosting the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board. Speakers will be announced in an upcoming Echo.

RCA Executive Committee and Committee Chairs for 2009-2010

President's Message

by Matthew Tifford, RCA President

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Well, it's hard to believe that two years could pass so quickly -- yet here we are, and my tenure as RCA President is over. It's been an amazing two years, with both exciting accomplishments and disappointments. I am very proud of the things we've accomplished in this time. We've brought about major improvements to our local Parks, with a complete renovation of the Waverly-Schuykill Park streambed, now home to ducks, turtles and frogs. This spring we will enjoy the new plantings that line Boiling Brook, and we will be able to stop for a refreshing drink of water at the new water fountain at Randolph Hills Park -- located right next to our brand new playground. Coming soon, there will be a brand new picnic shelter as well. In the near future we will enjoy air-conditioned comfort at the Viers Mill Rec Center, hopefully in time for the June meeting which always seem to fall on unusually hot days! We've improved safety in our parks as well. We worked with Park Police to clear out the vagrants who for a time resided in our park, and had the invasive weeds cleared out so they won't be able to hide back there in the future.

Much of our efforts over the last two years have centered on the White Flint Sector Plan, which will bring enormous change to the surrounding area over the coming decade. Through countless meetings, letters, and phone calls, RCA volunteers gave our community a prominent seat at the table in the decision-making process for White Flint. This newly acquired influence will be of enormous value in the years ahead as we work through the inevitable growing pains of new development. In the plan itself, we worked with the Town of Garrett Park to ensure that both of our communities will continue to have MARC access. While we ultimately were unsuccessful in getting Rocking Horse re-opened as an elementary school, our efforts did force MCPS to accelerate plans for a new addition at Viers Mill Elementary.

This winter's snowstorms also gave us the opportunity to show the value of our association in an emergency. Through our phone contacts and the Yahoo group, we *(continued on page 6)*

RCA Telephone Number: (240)668-4722.

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

Membership in the RCA is \$10.00 per year.

The *Echo* is the official publication of the Randolph Civic Association, Inc., P.O. Box 2202, North Bethesda, Maryland 20852. The *Echo* is published 8 times a year and distributed free to all residents of Franklin Park, Hilltop Square, Montrose Park, Randolph Hills, Randolph Farms, and Westminster. Deadline for submission of articles varies; the next deadline is noted in each issue. If you would like to send an article in for consideration, please email the article to info@randolphcivic.org.

The Randolph Civic Association was formed in 1955 and incorporated in 1958. As stated in the original Articles of Incorporation, the purposes of the RCA are "to stimulate interest in all community problems and improvements that will better the general welfare of the community [and] to pay strict attention to any attempt to lessen the value of property within its borders..."

Web site: www.randolphcivic.org

Neighborhood News in Brief

- **White Flint Sector Plan Update:** The White Flint Sector Plan is in the home stretch. RCA recently scored a victory and successfully reversed a County Council sub-committee decision to remove the Nicholson Court MARC station. The Plan is scheduled to be finalized on March 23rd, between when this Echo goes to press and is delivered. A full recap of the Plan and final changes will be printed in the next edition of the Echo.
- **Here's the Scoop:** As the snow melts in RCA-Land, and our lawns and grassy curbs reappear, it's a good time to remind pet owners to pick up after their pets. Dog waste can carry E. coli, roundworm and hookworm. It's also the law. Dog owners are subject to a \$100 fine by the County for not cleaning up after their pets. Please scoop your poop, so we can all enjoy our outdoor public spaces.

- **Don't miss the Spring RCA Community Bazaar on May 8th from 8am-12pm!**

This event was formerly known as the RCA Community Yard Sale. As always, there will be bargains galore, plus food and entertainment. Booth space costs \$10, but is free for paid RCA members. Hope to see you there!

Do you have a quick bite of news you'd like to share with the neighborhood?

Please feel free to submit a few sentences to info@randolphcivic.org by the deadlines posted on page 15 of this issue. Thank you!



Residents at a past Community Bazaar (formerly called the Community Yard Sale)

What Difference Does it Make if I Recycle?

by Mark Nensel (adapted by permission from an article by Barry Bowman)

As the April 10, 2010, Rock Creek Cleanup event approaches, to be undertaken by the Alice Ferguson Foundation, the Friends of Rock Creek's Environment (FORCE), the Randolph Civic Foundation, Boy Scout Troop 1083, the Friends of White Flint, and -- hopefully -- scores of RCA-Land volunteers, it is worth contemplating what actually becomes of the detritus that we are unable to collect -- the trash that washes down Rock Creek, into the Potomac, into Chesapeake Bay, and finally into the world's oceans.

We pose a question: what's twice the size of Texas and floats in the middle of the Pacific Ocean?

Sounds like a joke -- but the answer is no laughing matter. It's the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, a vast conglomeration of plastic trash that's trapped in the North Pacific by swirling ocean currents. Around 20% of the garbage in the Patch was discarded by ships, including huge plastic spools that can put holes in boats. But 80% of the trash comes from beaches along the coasts of Russia, Alaska, Canada, and California.

Researchers -- for example, biologist Charles Moore, who calls the Patch "a swirling plastic cesspool" -- are concerned that marine ecosystems are being irreparably damaged. All that plastic reduces the amount of ocean plankton, a basic food source for small fish that also plays an important role in the creation of carbon and other biogeochemically created elements. Plankton ecosystems are driven by solar energy. However, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch keeps sunlight from reaching the ocean's surface. No sunlight, no plankton.

The sun's rays hit the plastic instead, breaking it down over time into pellet-sized pieces. Sea turtles and seabirds ingest the colorful plastic items and feed them to their young in mouthfuls of squid or jellyfish. One albatross chick was found to have died from ingesting nearly a pound of indigestible plastic, including disposable lighters, bottle caps, the tops of squirt bottles, plastic syringes (needles included), and hundreds of small plastic pieces.

"That's awful," you might say, "but I don't live on the Pacific Coast. My plastic trash would never end up in the Patch." Maybe not, but it could end up in the Atlantic version. An area similar to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch exists about 300 miles off the East Coast of the United States, and it's nearly as big as the Pacific version, covering an area roughly the distance from Cuba to Virginia.

Think about that the next time you're wondering if you should recycle that plastic bottle!

Guest Contributor: District One Councilmember Roger Berliner

The New White Flint: An Environmental Imperative

On March 23rd, the Council will take final action on the White Flint Sector Plan, a plan that will ultimately transform the White Flint community into a more walkable, bikeable, livable place. Our vision for White Flint is predicated upon a deepening commitment to mass transit, including a new MARC station immediately adjacent to Randolph Hills, which I fought hard to get on your behalf, and replacing Rockville Pike with a lovely grand boulevard that will include state-of-the-art bus rapid transit.

Coupled with the new CR Zone that will guide development in White Flint, the Sector Plan represents a paradigm shift for us as a County, and if implemented properly, will serve as a model for the future of sustainable growth in our community and perhaps for the nation as a whole.

Simply put, we can no longer afford to give into the easy lure of suburban sprawl. There is an environmental imperative for us to grow smarter, to grow more compactly and with less reliance on the automobile in order to reduce our carbon footprint. And I am excited about the potential the White Flint Sector Plan has in this regard. One of EPA's senior officials has praised the White Flint plan for that very reason.

When you look at the area today, it is hard not be struck by the large amount of asphalt. Asphalt is not the highest and best use of this incredibly important real estate. We need less "impervious surfaces" and more trees. The White Flint Sector Plan will provide both. It will transform the proliferation of surface parking lots into a greener, more vibrant network of mixed use development that will produce vast improvements in stormwater management and overall water quality to the benefit of our local watersheds like Rock Creek. Streetscaping and street trees, along with other environmental incentives in the CR Zone will also help to reduce CO2 emissions and absorb some of the heat produced in urban areas. In fact, it is the goal of the plan to double the tree canopy.

I am excited about the potential for the White Flint Sector Plan to transform the White Flint area and offer us a new paradigm for living and I know many of you are as well. As envisioned, the new White Flint will allow people to live and play closer to where they work, to spend less time in their cars and more time enjoying recreational activities and time with family. They will be able to take advantage of the numerous public spaces, bike trails and pedestrian friendly walking paths and public amenities that make a neighborhood feel like a neighborhood -- a library, a recreation center, and a beautiful substantial civic green that serves as a meeting place for the community.

I have worked hard with all the affected communi-

ties to make sure that this plan strikes the proper balance and will improve the quality of life not just for the new people drawn to this vibrant place, but for those of you who live in the immediate area now. Thank you for your positive engagement in this process. You made a difference, and our community is better for it.

[Editor's Note: Roger Berliner is our District One Councilmember and a supporter of the White Flint Sector Plan. Roger has worked closely with the RCA in recent years in order to improve the Plan. Roger and his staff worked hard for inclusion of the MARC station at Nicholson Court and has come out to speak to our community on several occasions. In each issue of The Echo, we will attempt to include an article of special community interest from a "Guest Contributor" who serves as one of our County leaders. We thank Councilmember Berliner for being the contributor for this issue.]

For detailed information regarding the White Flint Sector Plan, please visit www.friendsofwhiteflint.org

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Final Dog Park Update

by Matt Tifford

As most of you know, pursuit of a DEA (Dog Exercise Area) in Randolph Hills Park has been a pet project of mine for the last 18 months. I have been its greatest cheerleader, testifying for it before the Planning Board, meeting with county officials, and writing numerous articles and e-mails in support. Although not a dog owner myself, I believe that a DEA in Randolph Hills Park would be a huge benefit for the community -- increasing safety in the park for all users, and giving the many dog owners in our community a valuable resource. From the beginning, I pursued the replacement of one of the two baseball fields with a DEA. As there are currently six greatly under-used baseball fields in or adjoining RCA land, this seemed like a reasonable exchange.

However, what we learned in the ensuing months was that most of our park lies within the 100-year floodplain, where modern county regulations prohibit construction of any kind. Existing facilities, like the ball fields in Randolph Hills Park, are grandfathered in, but cannot be replaced with other facilities.

So, in an attempt to meet our request, Park officials drew up a plan for a DEA in the only available land that is above the 100 year flood plain. Regrettably, this plan placed the DEA much too close to property owners along Ashley Drive, and at these owners' request the RCA has asked Parks to withdraw the plan.

For now, the Dog Park initiative has been shelved, and the April 8th Meeting has been cancelled. However, there are still some possibilities for alternate sites that could be explored. Feel free to contact me if you would like to pursue them.



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Help us Cleanup Rock Creek

(continued from page 1)

Randolph Hills Shopping Center in front of the building formerly occupied by Amazing Savings. Contact George via email at gbsjr@aol.com now to volunteer and be a part of the cleanup.

Nobody likes to see the plastic bags fluttering in bushes, beer cans in streams, or paper and styrofoam cups littering the hillsides. So please come on out with your friends and neighbors to help our beautiful Rock Creek and all its creatures by cleaning up the creek, its tributaries and adjacent parkland. FORCE focuses on the Rock Creek Watershed in cooperation with the Alice Ferguson Foundation Potomac River Watershed Cleanup.

Slate of RCA Candidates for Office

The following is the Board approved slate that was gathered during the nomination period. A call for nominations was made at the February membership meeting and posted in the previous Echo. Elections will be held on April 1st, 2010 at the membership meeting.

Daniel Hoffman President
Chad Salganick..... Vice President One
David Matera..... Vice President Two
Christiana Drapkin Secretary
Nick Kriesle Treasurer
Steve Feehan..... Director
Karen Helfert..... Director**
Kevin Kline Director**

***The Director seats held by Karen Helfert and Kevin Kline are not up for election in this period. Directors are elected to three year terms. Kevin has one year remaining on his term and Karen has two years remaining. Per our by-laws, outgoing President Matt Tifford will remain an ad hoc voting member of the Board for one year after leaving office.*

DAVID S. SCHLUTZ, D.M.D.



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**RCA Draft Budget for the
2010-2011 Fiscal Year**

Below is the draft budget approved by the RCA Executive Board. The draft budget will be brought for a vote by the membership at the April membership meeting.

Category	FY2011 Budget	
	Credit(+)	Debit(-)
Advertising income	\$5,000	
Bank Fees		\$0
Community Day Donations	\$1,500	
Community Day Expenses		\$1,500
Copy expense		\$400
Echo Printing		\$8,800
Echo Delivery		\$1,100
Echo Mailing		\$50
Insurance		\$700
Mailing expense		\$70
Friends of White Flint		\$40
Membership/Welcome Wagon		\$400
RCA Dues and Donations	\$7,500	
RCA Hotline		\$50
RCF Echo Charge	\$500	
Rec Center rental		\$230
Website		\$95
Yard Sale Revenues	\$100	
Totals	\$14,600.00	\$13,435.00
Surplus (Deficit)		\$1,165.00

Presidents Message
(continued from page 2)

were able to identify residents in need and coordinate volunteers to help them get shoveled out. We also worked with Councilmember Berliner's staff to eventually get all of our streets plowed.

As of this writing, we have finally established the framework for a Neighborhood Watch in our community. While so far we only have part of the neighborhood covered, we will work to expand the network until every section is covered. Please feel free to contact our Public Safety Chair, David Matera, if you would like to join the effort.

I will end with one final thought. We hear with some frequency complaints along the lines of "Instead of the RCA worrying about _____, why doesn't the RCA do something about _____?" In answer to this kind of question, I think it's important that we all understand what the RCA really is. We are an association made up of volunteers, and those who are active in the association give up much of their valuable free time to do what they can to make our neighborhood a better place. We are all very interested in ideas that will help improve our community, but our ability to carry them out is limited by how many volunteers we have willing to put in the time. When you read about an RCA venture in the Echo, realize that this venture was initially proposed by a volunteer, who was then willing to spearhead the effort and try their best to see their proposal through to the end. So, if you have a good idea, please consider coming to a meeting and volunteering to add your efforts to the association to make that idea a reality. You will be welcomed with open arms. We very much hope to see you at the April Meeting!

The next RCA General Membership Meeting is April 1st and the theme is public safety. We will have speakers from MCPD, Park Police and the Pre-Release Center.



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RCA March Executive Meeting Minutes

By Kevin Kline

The possibility of a new dog park generated much discussion on the RCA's Yahoo Group randolphca@yahogroups.com. Via email, President Matt Tifford invited RCA-ers to attend the March 4, 2010, Executive meeting to discuss the dog park. Matt opened the meeting with bad news: the dog park has suffered a serious setback.

The dog park was intended to be located next to the tennis courts in Randolph Hills Local Park. However, nearby homeowners objected, and Parks and Planning will not install the dog park within 50 feet of homes if the homeowners oppose it. Finding an alternate location is difficult. Most of Randolph Hills Local Park is in a floodplain, and Parks and Planning will not build in a floodplain.

The next step is to find an alternate location for the dog park. A dog park is essentially a fenced area (not a building) so why can't it be located in a floodplain? Erin offered to research, and plans to coordinate with the RCA Dog Club, and Parks and Planning.

Chairman David Matera reported on the Public Safety Committee. David researched and reported on recent crimes in RCA-land. Also discussed were loud neighbors on Coachway, and illegal immigrants on Macon Road. RCA-land residents are urged to call the non-emergency Police number at 301-279-8000 to report problems and suspicious activity.

The police say the problem is that people don't call enough - not that they call too much!

A slate of candidates was chosen for the April 8th RCA election. We ask you to volunteer and help us run this great organization!

The budget was discussed. It will be published on the RCA website for RCA-ers to review, and voted on at the April 8th general meeting.

Chairman George Gadbois reported on the Education Committee. The School Board will take testimony on the operating budget April 5 -7, 2010. Michelle Canick may be asked to testify for the Viers Mill PTA; she would also represent the RCA. There are two groups looking to locate a charter school in this area. The founding group Global Garden Public Charter School, Inc. seeks to create a charter school with an International Baccalaureate curriculum. Another group wants to start a Montessori-affiliated school.

In preparation for the November 2010 congressional and local elections, the execs plan on offering a candidates forum. This will be similar to the hugely successful School Forum held at the February general meeting. RCA-ers will hear candidates for local offices, and will be able to ask the candidates relevant questions. These local candidates will address issues that directly affect your neighborhood, such as local traffic, zoning, parks, and much more. Plan to be involved and be informed!

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My Grandparents were original owners in Randolph Hills. They purchased their home on Topping Rd. in 1955, where I spent extensive amounts of time growing up. Sadly, it was sold in 2009 as part of my Grandmother's estate.

Put my extensive knowledge of your neighborhood to work for you! Contact me today.

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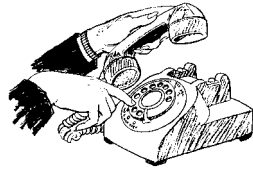
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General Note: The RCA gets a lot of calls about code violations (untagged cars, tall grass, etc). Please note that phone numbers for agencies that handle such matters are published on the website. You don't have to leave your name or phone number. The RCA 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.

02-28-10 (Sun) at 4:54pm. Anonymous. Caller wishes the neighbors in Randolph Hills would be more courteous with their dogs pooping in the yards of others. There have been several incidents in caller's own yard and it's not a polite thing at all. Caller wishes the neighbors wouldn't do it. So, if you could please stop whoever is doing this in Randolph Hills. Please take care of your dog. Thank you.

03-01-10 (Mon) at 11:38am. Via Info@RandolphCivic.org. Hello All: My name is Dr. Christopher Vogelmann and I live at 11815 Ashley Drive immediately behind the tennis courts in Randolph Hills Park. Although I like dogs, I do not own one. With that said, I am vehemently opposed to the establishment of a dog park behind the tennis courts for several reasons:

1) Noise - As I work late hours with patients and do not arise before 7:30 am, I do not want to be disturbed with the noise of dogs in the wee hours of the morning. It's bad enough when tennis players are screaming on the courts at 6:30 or 7:30 am. I do not want to be subjected to any additional auditory disturbances in the morning. I enjoy listening to the birds in the morning on my deck, not the sound of dogs barking in the park.

2) Sanitation - It is inevitable that some dog owners will not clean up after their dogs and that some individuals will simply let their dogs run free in the park no matter what leash laws are in place. It is, unfortunately, human nature for some people to ignore whatever rules are set down. It is likely that dog feces will pile up and create a public health hazard.

3) Traffic - Because there are so few facilities like the one proposed, it is likely that people from outside the immediate Randolph Hills area will drive to this area to take advantage of a dog park. Why do we need additional traffic? I have enough trouble getting out of my driveway with people speeding down Ashley Drive without dog owners' addition to my commuting difficulties.

4) Smell - The wind frequently blows up from Rock Creek into my yard, particularly in the summer. I do not want to be subject to the odor of dog feces while quietly enjoying my back yard. No matter how scrupulous most dog owners may be, as such a dog park would become more popular, the offensive odors would likely increase.

Please register my opposition to this dog park. I would hope that this matter would be voted down such that legal consul would not be required. Thank you for your attention to this matter and the speedy resolution of what, in my opinion, is a very poor idea. (See article on page 5 for an update regarding the dog park.)

03-07-10 (Sun) at 3:10pm. Anonymous. Caller is a resident on Rocking Horse Road. The address in question is 119xx Rocking Horse Road. Just recently, about two months ago, the landlord saw fit to rent to three young college boys. Since then, there have been upwards of 6-8 cars parked outside the house at any given time. Caller is not sure exactly how many people are living there. Please note that this landlord has done this before and rented to college kids who had huge alcohol-fueled parties, which seems to have become the norm here during the summer months. Caller would like to stress to the RCA that, instead of worrying about train whistles and stuff like that, they need to address the noise in this neighborhood and loud music. If these young men start to have alcohol-fueled parties - because they're college boys, they're going to do that - caller is going to take them to court. Caller is going to put a stop to these loud parties in the RCA. Ironically, the people who rent this house and let them do this sit on the RCA Board of Directors. (*The RCA would like to correct the caller. No RCA Board or Committee member owns or rents the home in question.*)

03-01-10 (Mon) at 8:17pm. Via Info@RandolphCivic.org. To the Board and members of the Randolph Hills Civic Association: I first met Dan Hoffman approximately three years ago at the first of what was to become many hearings for the White Flint Master Plan. My first impression of Dan was that of a fairly quiet young man observing and learning about the political process, its players, quietly and consistently representing RHC's interests. Over time I watched his confidence and outspokenness grow while quietly building alliances with business and civic leaders. I have watched Dan grow into an effective community leader who always puts the RCA's interest first. I have grown to admire the dedication and leadership that he has shown for his community and felt that I should share my thoughts with you. Sincerely, Allen Kronstadt, General Partner of the Randolph Hills Industrial Park and Shopping Center.

Aging in Place

(continued from page 1)

As the baby boom generation ages, the number and proportion of seniors in the United States and Montgomery County will rise accordingly. In 2005, seniors (people age 65 and over) represented 12% of the total County population; by 2030, the percent of seniors is projected to increase to 17%.

This ought to be of interest to all of us, since we all get older by the minute. Furthermore, it comes as no surprise that most late-in-life people would prefer to continue aging in their current place of residence among peers and in their familiar surroundings.

The report continues: As a concept, aging in place focuses on both where people live and how they live highlighting quality-of-life issues such as health; housing; safety; and opportunities for education, recreation, volunteering, and socialization. All of us age and will face many common challenges.

The following are some concrete situations for the late-in-life members of our community indicated in the report [the author of this article has edited this list by removing the word seniors -- replacing it with people]:

- Decreased mobility can result in a need for assistance with personal care.
- People often rely on others for all transportation needs.
- People often lack access to health care from transportation or financial limits.
- Home repair and maintenance tasks may become increasingly difficult or impossible for older people.
- Safety challenges may include difficulty hear-

ing smoke detector alarms and difficulty quickly exiting homes; falls; and vulnerability to crime.

- Health needs, decreasing mobility, and limited transportation may challenge people's ability to stay involved in their communities.
- People may have difficulty navigating inaccessible homes or keeping up with mortgage/rent payments, property taxes, or home maintenance costs.

Our RCA neighborhood is rich in cultural diversity: we have neighbors from many family and societal backgrounds, many of whom are involved in civic, religious, economic, educational, governmental, and non-government organizations. Our neighbors can provide powerful insights if we have an effective and efficient practice to address issues related to growing older in Randolph Hills.

If the concept of having courage to be with your neighbor -- to love your neighbor -- fits your interests, why not explore this together. We can discover the role we all have in our everyday practices, by keeping active aging choices in mind.

Please attend the RCF meeting on May 17th (see the calendar on the cover for details) where I'll give a brief exploration of these concerns. Don't hesitate to contact me with your own thoughts and ideas stimulated by this article.

(For more information regarding a potential aging in place initiative in our community, contact Bob Walker by email at amorworks@aol.com and to learn more about aging in place see the Montgomery County report at http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/council/olo/reports/pdf/2009-11_Appendix.pdf)



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For more information, go to <http://randolphcivic.org/echo/media-guide/> and click on the link for "RCA Media Kit". Or, just send an email to Kendra Fletcher at vtkendra@hotmail.com for more information.

President's Message

by Chad Salganik, Interim RCF President

I am pleased to announce that the RCF will once again hold a community spaghetti dinner this year as part of its annual meeting. The meeting will be held Monday, May 17th at 7pm at the Viers Mill Recreation Center. The RCF will also have the privilege that night of hosting the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) as they hold their May meeting in Randolph Hills for the first time. The CAB is a group of citizens and businesses appointed by County Executive Ike Leggett to monitor and report community concerns. Dinner begins at 7pm sharp! Bring the kids. All are welcome and it's free!

Beyond the CAB meeting, the RCF will also have several agenda items of importance that night. First, we will invite a representative of the Friends of the Rock Creek Environment (FORCE) to come speak regarding the state of Rock Creek. One of RCF's priorities is the beautification of RCF neighborhoods and the surrounding environment. That's why we're happy to continue our involvement with the Potomac Watershed Cleanup Day on April 10th (see the article on the front page of this Echo). If you can spare a few hours, please email RCF Director George Gadbois to volunteer (gdsbjr@aol.com).

Also on the agenda will be a concept that stems from a meeting last November where residents voiced their priorities for neighborhood improvement. The idea of building a community village is discussed in more detail in this issue of the Echo by resident Bob Walker and Christiana Drapkin (see front page). At the meeting Bob will discuss his findings on creating an aging-in-place community village to help not only our elderly residents, but anyone who is in need. This topic aligns well with the presence of the CAB, who can provide insights and best practices from other community villages around the county.

Also, on a somewhat administrative note, we will be updating the RCF by-laws and electing new officers at the end of the May meeting. In between now and then, the RCF Board will meet to discuss changes to the by-laws and identify potential new Board members. The date of this Board meeting will be posted on the RCF website. After the new draft by-laws have been developed, they will also be posted prior to the May meeting.

Also, as I mentioned in my last message, we will be making plans on how to use the donations that were directed towards the beautification of our neighborhood entrances and signs. Please get your requests in before April 12th, 2010 in order to have them considered. Email them to info@randolphcivic-foundation.org

News from Girl Scout Troop 1028

by Jennifer Tifford

Girl Scout Troop 1028 celebrated World Thinking Day in grand style this year! Girls in the troop presented their family's favorite dish for a potluck dinner. We enjoyed delicious food and learned about different cultures. Each girl had a chance to show the troop a family heirloom. New girl scouts also received the World Trefoil pin during the evening. We celebrated our diversity and enjoyed great ethnic food.

On Saturday, March 6th, Troop 1028 met with Dr. Harold Williams at the Planetarium on the Takoma Park Campus of Montgomery College. The girls learned how telescopes were made and used. The girl scouts were fascinated with the unique artifacts that surround the inside of the planetarium. The girls learned about many constellations, the earth's orbit, and how the seasons change relative to the sun. Our thanks go to Dr. Williams for the star filled experience!

We finished up our annual cookie sales with the March booth sales. Our troop sold cookies in front of the local Safeway and had a very successful cookie season. We sold cookies this year to help with the cost of our upcoming spring camping trip and to purchase a new tent for the girls to use.

Troop 1028 is a combined troop featuring Daisies, Brownies, and Junior Girl Scouts, and meets at Viers Mill recreation center every-other Thursday. If you have any questions about our troop feel free to contact Jennifer Tifford at tiffordband@gmail.com

For more information about getting your daughter involved with Troop 1028, contact Jennifer Tifford at tiffordband@gmail.com

RCF Executive Committee for 2009-2010

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President	301-881-0283
VACANT	Directors
Vice President	Mike Saunders
Chad Salganik	12107 Hunters Lane
4818 Mori Drive	301-468-9268
202-359-6158	Dan Hoffman
Secretary	4602 Wilwyn Way
Matt Tifford	301-938-7494
11235 Ashley Drive	George Gadbois
301-770-4377	4718 Topping Road
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The Randolph Civic Foundation originated in 1996. It was formed to provide educational and charitable services to the Randolph Community.

www.RandolphCivicFoundation.org - Phone: 301-468-0236

Troop 1083 News

By Ben Pitkin, Assistant Scoutmaster

It was a busy post-blizzard month for troop 1083. On February 14, we went skiing and snowboarding at Ski Liberty. Funny, the snow-making machines weren't on this year. We were there from 11:00 am to 10:00 pm and we wore that poor mountain out. It has a whole year to rest up for our visit next February!

On February 28, 2010, Troop 1083 held its Winter Court of Honor at the Elks Lodge in Rockville. Before the Court began, there was a parents' meeting. We don't know how the boys were able to stay focused on playing football and throwing snowballs outside while there was such a scintillating discussion going on inside, but somehow, they managed. Next was the traditional potluck dinner, which always meets or exceeds expectations. As if by magic, the boys found their way inside just as the serving lines opened. After dessert was the presentation of awards.

This Court of Honor recognized accomplishments occurring between September 2009 and January 2010. In that period, Troop 1083 scouts earned 93 merit badges. Notable among these were 27 badges that scouts must earn to be eligible for the Eagle rank, as well as the final nine merit badges earned by John Pitkin, who finished his scout career with a total of 64. That's reputed to be the troop record...but it probably won't hold for very long!

The program then turned to rank advancement, and included two scouts, Joel Garrett and Ryan Riley, who rocketed through three ranks (Tenderfoot, 2nd class, and 1st class) in that short time span. In addition, two scouts advanced two ranks (2nd class and 1st class): Matthew Kimball and Matthew Tiffany. Furthermore, Mitchell Kuhnsman and Cameron Lett attained Tenderfoot; Cory Byrne attained 1st class; Maxwell DeMulder, Kevin Oakes, and Ben Safford reached the rank of Star; Brady Grundy became a Life scout; and John Pitkin was recognized for reach-

ing Eagle. Congratulations to all!

The following week, on March 7, it was back to work. The troop conducted a full-day junior leadership training session. Older scouts and Venture Crew members imparted their knowledge of leadership, team building, communication, and keeping it fun to an audience of younger scouts who are now entering the middle phase of their scouting experience. No longer the new kids in town, these younger scouts are ready to transition from receiving help and advice, to providing it. Serving in various roles, such as patrol leaders and Cub Scout den chiefs, they will soon enough be the senior leadership in this boy-led troop.

If you are a boy who has finished the fifth grade you can join us. We meet Monday nights at 7:30 at Viers Mill ES, or call Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301-933-0048. Check out the Troop's web page at www.troop1083.org.

For more information about getting your son involved with Boy Scout Troop 1083, contact Scoutmaster Dave Talbott at 301-933-0048 or visit www.troop1083.org

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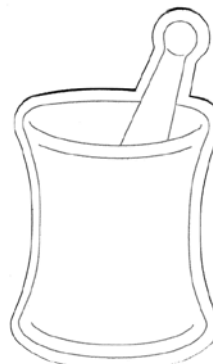
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News from Venture Crew 1083

By Ben Pitkin, Corresponding Secretary

We've heard a rumor there was some sort of winter sports competition going on in Vancouver in February 2010. We're not sure what that was all about, but they were probably just trying to imitate Venture Crew 1083. Who can blame them?

On February 14, the Crew—along with affiliated Girl Scout, Boy Scout, and Cub Scout units—went skiing at Ski Liberty in Pennsylvania. Conditions were just about perfect: the sky was blue, the snow was slick, and despite the crowds, the lift lines weren't so bad...if you knew where to look.

Skiing was great, but curling was really over the top. On February 27 the Crew, along with a guest or two, convened at the Potomac Curling Club in Laurel. By now you've probably seen curling on TV. Looks pretty easy, doesn't it? Oh sure, aiming the stone probably takes some practice; but just pushing it down the ice, and sweeping the ice with those funny brooms, that's probably not much more difficult than miniature golf, right?

Well, not quite. The ice surface is sort of pebbly, so it's not quite as slippery as a skating rink; but it's still ice. If you've got a 40-pound object in one hand and not in the other, you're way off-balance -- and you're on ice. Likewise, if you're running sideways in your sneakers trying to rub the ice with a broom hard enough to affect the

path of a 40-pound moving object, you're a pretty fair bet to take a tumble. What's more, sweeping as hard as you can all the way down the ice, even just once, is tiring enough. After a couple dozen times, you realize curling can be exhausting. At such times, you are reminded that curling is, in fact, a sport.

It is also riotously fun. The time flew by. Never were the words more apt: a splendid time was had by all!

Venturing is open to coed youth aged 14 through 21. Crew meetings are every second Monday night, 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.



We're like this in every picture: smiling ear to ear. Curling's a blast!

For more information about getting your child involved with Venture Crew 1083, contact Crew Advisor Greg Skolnik at 301-942-3755

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C L A S S I F I E D S

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Interested in contributing to *The Echo*?

Email our editor, Mark Nensel, with your story idea. We accept submissions from any RCA member and all skill levels. Just email Mark at marknensel@yahoo.com and get published! Articles should be relevant to RCA neighborhoods and timely. Submission deadlines are listed below.

Note to Contributors:

Deadlines for the remainder of the 2009-2010 Issue year are:

May 2010 April 9th
 June/July/Aug 2010 May 3rd

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

<u>Address...</u>	<u>List Price</u>	<u>Sold Price</u>	<u>DOM</u>	<u>Subsidy</u>	<u>Date Settled</u>
4806 Topping Road	\$329,900	\$329,000	6	\$5,000	04-Nov-09
4818 Oxbow Road	\$314,999	\$325,000	33	\$10,500	23-Nov-09
12112 Lauderdale Drive	\$390,000	\$390,000	2	\$11,000	23-Nov-09
5004 Macon Road	\$299,900	\$319,900	20	\$9,597	09-Dec-09
12109 Putnam Road	\$395,000	\$395,000	7	\$11,000	24-Dec-09
11116 Schuylkill Road	\$339,950	\$325,000	11	\$0	31-Dec-09
11403 Patapsco Road	\$249,900	\$250,000	5	\$0	29-Jan-10
11803 Ashley Drive	\$370,000	\$340,000	87	\$5,000	26-Feb-10

Denise's recent listings and sales...

- 7059 Wilson Lane, Bethesda \$830,000 (L)
- 3906 Underwood St., Chevy Chase \$915,000 (S)
- 10500 Rockville Pike #410, Rockville \$275,000 (L)
- 4607 Coachway Drive, N. Bethesda \$297,500 (L)
- 11427 Schuylkill Road, N. Bethesda \$365,000 (L)
- 4148 Mount Olney Lane, Olney \$430,000 (S)
- 24 Courthouse Sq., #802, Rockville \$235,000 (L)
- 9206 Shelton Street, Bethesda \$600,000 (L)
- 10911 Troy Road, N. Bethesda \$370,000 (L)

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 years of experience as a realtor in the area.

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